

We have lift-off!



A major project to replace all six lifts in our three tower blocks is now underway.

It is estimated this project will take most of this year to complete, and it is already apparent that it will involve more than just the replacement of the lifts themselves.

The project is complicated, in terms of engineering and logistics, so the landings are also having to be refurbished before the new lifts can be installed. It may involve particular lifts and landings being out-of-bounds for periods of time.

Estate manager Caroline is liaising with officials at Havering Council to ensure disruption is kept to a minimum.

Vulnerable residents have been identified, and special arrangement will be made to support them through this period.

Overstrand first

Contractors will work in all three towers simultaneously, but Overstrand's lifts are likely to be the first completed. Lift Specialists Ltd started work on the passenger Lifts (EVEN) at Overstrand House on Monday 17th January.

Protection hoarding was put in place to protect and allow the lift engineers to dismantle the existing passenger lifts.

Similar work is expected to start shortly in Uphavering and Parkview Towers.

Please note: There is a 24 hour helpline which the lift specialists have provided in case of a breakdown. The number is **0870 224 77847**.

Residents will receive updates on the progress of the project directly from Havering, and we hope to include updates here in future editions of the newsletter.

Meanwhile, if residents have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to call Caroline in the PETRA office.



There's a new 12-week programme run by Everyone Active on behalf of Havering Council.

The programme is aimed at helping people to lose weight, increase their energy levels and feel better, whilst reducing their risk of diseases such as coronary heart disease, diabetes and strokes.

Residents who are overweight, according to the NHS definition, are welcome to join the programme. If in doubt, speak to your GP or practice nurse.

Search 'Live Healthier Havering' on the Havering Council website for more details.



Caroline's

viewpoint

Coming back from Covid

Life on the estate has been getting back to normal since the darkest days of lockdown last year.

The PETRA team is operating with a just a few precautions in place to minimise risks. But let's face it, with Omicron doing its best to ruin Christmas for us all, it was good to see the back of 2021.

The latest Covid wave hit us hard. According to the Council's data, between 23 and 29 December, 5,344 people in Havering had a confirmed positive COVID-19 test result. This was 44 per cent more than the previous seven days and the highest weekly infections number they had ever recorded.

We were certainly aware of many residents being affected, though thankfully Omicron proved to be a mild illness.

If Covid is becoming milder with every variant, and the majority of us are fully vaccinated, then surely this year we will 'get back to normal', with the Committee meeting regularly in person, and the return of social events and activities on the estate.

This is vital for the wellbeing of our community, and especially the children, that this happens. As always, the challenge will be recruiting residents willing and able to devote a few hours every month or so to support our social committee and the initiatives they propose.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee

On 6th February, Her Majesty The Queen will become the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, marking 70 years of service to the people of the United Kingdom, the Realms and the Commonwealth.

There will be a four-day UK bank holiday weekend from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June. Could this provide an opportunity for communities like ours to celebrate the historic milestone?

We've always been a patriotic lot here at PETRA - and up for a party! Many residents will remember our midsummer fun days from years past.

Well, rest assured we are monitoring the situation and will let you know of any plans we have at the earliest opportunity. Watch this space, the noticeboards and website for updates.

Regards, **Caroline Edwards**



Coronavirus: Latest Government advice

Coronavirus remains a serious health risk. Stay cautious to help protect yourself and others.

- Let fresh air in if you meet indoors. Meeting outdoors is safer.
- Wear a face covering in crowded and enclosed spaces where you come into contact with people you do not normally meet.
- Get tested and self-isolate if required.
- If you haven't already, get vaccinated - and boosted!

Havering resident coronavirus helpline

If you, or someone you know, have concerns around care, or urgent issues around health and wellbeing please call our free to use helpline: 0800 368 5201

Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm.

Saturday, Sunday and bank holidays 11am to 4pm for emergencies only.

covid19support@haverling.gov.uk

Letterbox Lotto!

Every month we give away three gift vouchers each worth £25 to PETRA residents! Go online to find out more.

www.Petratmo.weebly.com

Time to apply for school?



Are you a parent of a child aged three or four? If so, your child is due to start at an infant or primary school in September 2022 and you should apply now for your child's place.

If you live in Havering, you can apply online. If you live outside of the borough you should apply to the local authority you pay your Council Tax to.

If your child attends a school nursery then please remember that you must still apply online for a place in the Reception year.

Free childcare

Are you missing out on free childcare for your 2 year old? You may be entitled to claim a maximum of 11 hours free childcare per week throughout the year, or a maximum of 15 hours per week during term time.

You may qualify if you have a child aged two years (funding will be available from the term after their second birthday), or your family is living on a low income or claiming income based benefits.

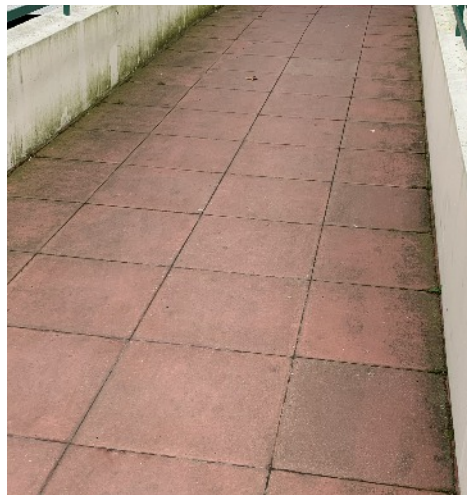
For more information and to apply please visit **www.havering.gov.uk/earlyyears**

Traffic calming measures

We still await the installation of the traffic calming measures mentioned in our last newsletter.

The delay has been caused by the numerous administrative procedures at the Council's end, but it is hoped the proposed zebra crossing and speed bumps will be in place by the end of march. In the meantime, please continue to ensure you – and your children – take extra special care on and around the estate's access roads.

Mossy walkways



Paths can be slippery as it is during these winter months.

The 'mossy' green growth on some of our walkways can make matters worse, so we will be cleaning and reappointing these pathways in the near future. In the meantime, careful how you go, everyone!

Intercomm system - phone numbers

Parkview and Overstrand's intercom systems allow delivery drivers to contact residents via their mobile phones when a delivery is being made.

Scared of your partner or ex?

Talk to us any time, day or night.



For this system to work efficiently, PETRA needs to have everyone's up-to-date contact details. If you change your phone, please remember to make sure Caroline has your

PETRA'S VISION

A safe, pleasant neighbourhood where people want to be part of a vibrant, caring community

Parking for heroes



Havering Council has extended the Havering Hero parking permit scheme until 31 May 2022.

This means if you are a key worker who currently has a Havering Hero parking permit which was due to expire 31 December, you can renew it now.

Renewals and new applications should be made online using the MiPermit scheme as parking permits are now virtual which means you do not get a paper permit to display on your vehicle.

The Havering Hero permit enables critical key workers to park for free for up to three hours in resident parking bays or Council car parks, when carrying out their duties. These workers include those working for the emergency services, domestic carers, social care key workers and volunteers working for Havering Council's community hub or for voluntary sector partners.

University of the Third (u3a) Havering

u3a is a UK-wide collection of locally-run interest groups that provide opportunities for those no longer in full-time work to come together and learn for fun.

Havering U3A next plan to meet at 2.30pm on Wednesday 9 February at St. Michael's

Church Hall, Main Road, Gidea Park.
Doors open at 2.15pm.

John Gordon will be speaking on the subject, "My time as a Professional Photographer."



Other forthcoming local events include:

- Wed Mar 9th Charlie Haylock on "The Origins of Surnames"
- Wed Apr 13th Joan Luck on "Seventy Years a Musician"
- Wed May 11th Andrew Baker on "Making Sense of Today's World"

For more information go to the Havering u3a website at:

www.u3asites.org.uk/havering/home



Keep the faith,
everyone.
It's coming...

Events

Coffee mornings

Cancelled until further notice. We hope to resume them as soon as possible.

Committee meetings

The next meeting of the Committee is due on Monday 31 January, at 6.30.

CONTACTS

PETRA

Opening Hours: 7.30am - 1600pm
(Closed 12pm - 13.00 for lunch)

Suzanne Vine, Chair

Caroline Edwards, Estate Manager
Bradley Pavey, Repairs and
Grounds Maintenance Officer
Tim O'Shea, Part-Time Repairs
and Maintenance Officer

All based at the PETRA office

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Website: www.havering.gov.uk

Out of Hours Emergency telephone
number: 01708 756699

(We answer the PETRA office
phone up until 5pm.)