



## Press '3' for entry

**A new intercom system has been installed at the basement entrance of both the Parkview and Overstrand towers.**

They allow residents to 'buzz' people in via their mobile phones, which ring automatically when someone rings their bell.

If the resident is content to let the visitor in, all they have to do is press 3. With the huge increase in home deliveries we've seen of late, this is proving very convenient for residents and delivery drivers alike.

No issues have been reported regarding the new system, and feedback has been positive. If you have not yet chosen to be incorporated into this system but would like to be, just let Caroline know. She will check she has your up-to-date number, and set it up for you.

## Learning to live with Covid

**The success of the vaccine programme means we can now get back to living life the way we used to. But with Covid still around, rebuilding community spirit could be a challenge.**

Lockdown has ended, and all remaining restrictions are being lifted. Social distancing and face coverings will no longer be required - though of course you can choose to continue with these precautions if you so wish.

Realistically, Covid is still going to cause problems, even if severe illness becomes a rarity. Individuals and families will be affected, and this may, of course, impact on PETRA. We will just have to 'ride with it', taking sensible precautions along the way.

Therefore, along with all other businesses and services, PETRA is getting back to normal. Caroline and the guys have returned to their regular working patterns and hour of duties, and the office is open to visitors. And yes, we look forward to hosting actual meetings of the Committee soon! And perhaps even... social gatherings. Remember those?!

### Get together

This might prove more difficult than you would think. Have people lost their appetite for meeting up with other people? Have we all settled for watching a never-ending succession of box sets rather than living life for real, in the company of others? We must hope not!

Organising social events and activities – especially for the children on the estate – should be fun, with staff and residents joining forces to make stuff happen.

But all too often in recent years, the burden has fallen on one or two broad pairs of shoulders (usually called Caroline and Jan). This has to change.

Caroline said recently she hoped we could organise a summertime event of some kind, giving us all the chance to get together and have some fun. That is only going to be possible if residents step forward to help plan, promote and host such an event.

You don't have to be a member of the Committee to help out, just a resident who cares about this place we all call home.

Can you help? Do you have some ideas for what we could do? If so, please pop by the office for a chat with Caroline.

## Scared of your partner or ex?

**Talk to us any time, day or night.**

Freephone 24 hour National  
Domestic Abuse Helpline

**0808 2000 247**

Confidential  
non-judgmental support

Or reach us online:  
[www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk](http://www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk)

**Refuge**

For women and children.  
Against domestic violence.

**STAY  
ALERT** 

**CONTROL  
THE VIRUS**

 **SAVE  
LIVES**

## The Government's roadmap to easing lockdown: step 4

All adults can now book a COVID-19 vaccination.

### From 19 July:

- From **16 August**, if you're fully vaccinated or under 18, you will not need to self-isolate following close contact with someone who has COVID-19. You'll still need to take a PCR test (a test for people with symptoms of coronavirus) and if it is positive you will need to self-isolate.
- Masks will become voluntary in all settings, including shops, hospitality and public transport. You should exercise your personal judgement.
- A requirement to self-isolate after testing positive or after coming into contact with an infected person will remain in place for those who are not fully vaccinated.
- But those who are double-jabbed - as well as under 18s in England - will no longer have to self-isolate **from 16 August**.
- All businesses that remain closed - including nightclubs - will be able to reopen, with no caps on capacity.

- The requirement for people to work from home if possible will be dropped.
- The school bubble system will be scrapped in England **from 16 August**.

### Havering Resident Coronavirus Helpline

If you, or someone you know, have concerns around care, urgent issues around health and wellbeing or lack of access to supplies including food and medicine 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**.

Email: covid19support@havering.gov.uk



## Winter fuel grants

This coming winter there are three major schemes residents should know about ahead of the autumn. You may be eligible for one of more of these grants.

### Winter Fuel Payment

A Winter Fuel payment is a one-off, tax-free payment of between £100 and £300 made during the winter to help with heating costs, it is made to households with someone over Pension Credit age.

Most people born on or before 26 September 1955 will usually qualify for a payment in 2020/21. For details go to:

[www.gov.uk/winter-fuel-payment](http://www.gov.uk/winter-fuel-payment). Or call The Winter Fuel Payment helpline on **0800 731 0160**. You'll need to know your National Insurance number and your bank or building society details.

You only need to claim once. After this, you should automatically receive a payment every year, as long as your circumstances don't change.

### Cold Weather Payment

You may get a Cold Weather Payment if you're getting certain benefits or support for mortgage interest. You'll get a payment if the average temperature in your area is recorded as, or forecast to be, zero degrees celsius or below for 7 consecutive days. You'll get something in the region of £25 for each 7 day period of very cold weather between 1 November and 31 March.

This year's scheme is due to start in November 2021. You'll be able to check if your area is due a payment in November 2021. For more details, visit: [www.gov.uk/coldweather-payment/whatyoull-get](http://www.gov.uk/coldweather-payment/whatyoull-get)

### Warm home discount scheme

Did you know you might be eligible for a saving of up to £140 off your electricity bill for winter 2021/22 under the Government's Warm Home Discount Scheme? The money is not paid to you - it's a one-off discount on your electricity bill, between September and March.

You may be able to get the discount on your gas bill instead if your supplier provides you with both gas and electricity. Contact your supplier to find out. The discount will not affect your Cold Weather Payment or Winter Fuel Payment.

### Eligibility

The scheme opens on the 18 October. There are two ways to qualify for the Warm Home Discount Scheme:

- You get the Guarantee Credit element of Pension Credit - known as the 'core group'.
- You're on a low income and meet your energy supplier's criteria for the scheme - known as the 'broader group'.

How you apply for the Warm Home Discount Scheme depends on how you qualify for the discount. For more details, go to: [www.gov.uk/the-warm-home-discountscheme](http://www.gov.uk/the-warm-home-discountscheme)



## 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](http://www.Petratmo.weebly.com)**

## Bradley's reminders



Please can everyone take note: bulky rubbish should NOT be left against or near to the container doors. The reason for this is obvious. Please show consideration.

Also a reminder that the orange bins are for recycling waste only. Please DO NOT put black sacks and domestic waste in them.

And finally, when parking your car, please try to avoid parking right up against, or even over, the curb. When cutting the grass, cars parked like are an OBSTRUCTION. As you know, we like to keep the lawns neat and tidy here at PETRA. Your cooperation will be much appreciated.

## Building site

While little or no actual building appears to be taking place on the site of the former sheltered housing complex, a new perimeter fence is now in place.

As expected, this has meant that our access road is now out of action, with the development encroaching still further on the estate. As well as beginning the squeeze on the number of parking places we enjoy, this has created a dangerous bend in the road where the junction used to be.

The junction served to slow drivers down as they looked to see if the way was clear for them to proceed. Now, there's just a sharp bend to add to the one a little further

up the road on your way out. Formula One enthusiasts would call this a 'chicane', but this road is not a racing track, and nor do we want it to become one!

The dangers have been further heightened by people working on the site parking their cars around the top bend, narrowing the road in places and creating blind spots.



Caroline has witnessed speeding in this area and we are concerned for the safety of residents, not least the children.

"I have spoken with the project manager for the development and expressed our concerns" says Caroline. "He has agreed to install some temporary, rubber speed humps to ensure drivers continue to comply with the 5 mph speed limit on the estate."

These speed humps will be removed after the completion of the building works, by which time we should have had our access road back eliminating the dangerous corner in question.

However, while there is likely to be increased traffic on the estate in the weeks and months ahead, much of it parked on the main road leading into the estate, please ensure you – and your children – take extra special care, as you come and go.

## No Barbecues...



We know that summer weather makes the idea of them especially attractive, but BBQs are not allowed on this estate. This rule is in place for good reasons - everyone's safety and wellbeing.

BBQs on balconies are especially dangerous. The proximity to flammable materials – on the balcony and inside the flat – is the most obvious danger. But so too is the wind, which can whip around these towers, sending a fire's embers here, there, and everywhere. This has happened on this estate. We must ensure it never happens again.

BBQs outside may not be so dangerous, but they can often cause damage, produce litter, and create fumes not everyone will find pleasant.

So please, no BBQs. We have a lovely park on our doorstep. If you fancy an outdoor meal, why not break out the Tupperware boxes and take a picnic over there, disposing of any rubbish in the bins Provided (of course).

**PETRA'S VISION**

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

**Events****Savouring Havering**

Harrow Lodge Park

Havering Council's **Hidden Gems** is a campaign to highlight everything that makes our borough special and unique, from our parks, green spaces and wildlife to our unique history, local businesses and community champions.

So, if you on Twitter, why not respond to Havering's request that we all tweet our Favourite local place or hidden gem. Send a picture or video and some details to [communications@haverling.gov.uk](mailto:communications@haverling.gov.uk) Or just tweet your favourite with the hashtags **#Havering #HiddenGems**

**Mums' Guide**

Have you heard of the website **Mum's Guide To Romford**? It provides information 'from bumps to teens' for parents and carers in and around Romford, with people sharing their ideas regarding the best parks to visit and favourite activities for parents and families in the locality.

With the summer holidays coming, their website might be worth checking out at [www.Londonmumsguideto.co.uk/romford](http://www.Londonmumsguideto.co.uk/romford)

**Have you read...?**

Did you know that Havering libraries are part of the nationwide **Reading Friends** Initiative? Library staff can contact anyone requesting a weekly call to chat about favourite books, authors, radio news or newspapers.

The scheme is especially targeted at those who may be living alone or are otherwise isolated or housebound. Residents can sign up to the scheme on their own behalf, or on behalf of someone they know.

**READING FRIENDS**

Once signed up, you will be connected via telephone with one of their lovely, specially trained befrienders - whether for a weekly chat to discuss varied topics or simply to share memories, thoughts and perhaps even read some great books together. It is hoped these conversations will foster friendly companionship and lessen the impact of social isolation and loneliness.

There is also a **Reading Friends Poetry group** (via Zoom) held on the first Wednesday of every month from 4:30pm till 6pm, running until 1st December 2021

To take part in either of these befriending services please email: [libraryevents@haverling.gov.uk](mailto:libraryevents@haverling.gov.uk)

**Coffee mornings**

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

**Committee meetings**

Formal meetings remain off the agenda for the moment, but we hope to resume them soon. Caroline and Suzanne will keep members informed.

**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**  
**Tel: 01708 475358**

**Email: [petratmo@aol.com](mailto:petratmo@aol.com)**  
**[www.petratmo.weebly.com](http://www.petratmo.weebly.com)**

**Homes and Housing,**  
**Havering Council. Tel: 01708 434000**

**Email: [homes@haverling.gov.uk](mailto:homes@haverling.gov.uk)**  
**Website: [www.haverling.gov.uk](http://www.haverling.gov.uk)**  
**Out of Hours Emergency telephone number: 01708 756699**  
**(We answer the PETRA office phone up until 5pm.)**