

# Jubilee fun

On Friday 3 June, we celebrated Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

After two years of Covid caution, we were more than ready for A PETRA party! As always, the heroes of the day were estate manager Caroline and the committee members who put so much work into making it happen. The sun shone, the hog roast was delicious, and so many joined us on the green that committee member Jack had to be dispatched to the shops to buy extra emergency bread rolls!

## PETRA News

**Parkhill Estate Tenants & Residents Association**

*Number 176 July 2022*



Havering Council has released a commemorative film, highlighting many of the celebrations that took place across the borough - including here at PETRA. Go to the London Borough of Havering's YouTube channel and see who you can spot!





STAY  
ALERT

CONTROL  
THE VIRUS

SAVE  
LIVES

## Covid update

The government has removed remaining domestic restrictions in England. There are still steps you can take to reduce the risk of catching and spreading COVID-19:

- Get vaccinated
- Let fresh air in if meeting indoors, or meet outside
- Consider wearing a face covering in crowded, enclosed spaces

**For further advice and information on Coronavirus, visit the government's website at [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)**

## In contact

People change their phones more frequently than they used to, so please make sure PETRA has your up-to-date contact details at all times - phone and email. It's important for tenants and leaseholders to comply with, for none of us know when an emergency may occur.

## News in brief

### Rubbish rules

We hate moaning here at PETRA - but not as much as we hate clearing up after irresponsible residents. So can we just remind residents of the correct use of the orange bins.

### The Orange Bins

Orange sacks go in the orange bins (Please do not leave whole boxes beside the bins) In those orange sacks, you can put: clean cans, long life cartons, foil, paper, card, plastic bottles, plastic food tubs, pots, bottle tops, microwave meal trays, cardboard boxes (flattened and folded into the bin).

Please **do not** put the following in the orange bins: food, garden waste, glass, Polystyrene, nappies, batteries and toys.

As well as orange bins, we have bottle banks, paper containers, textile containers and green containers dotted around the estate. If you are unsure about where to put any of your rubbish, please ask a member of staff.

### Lifts update

The lifts replacement project continues to make good progress. There has inevitably been some disruption to residents, especially as the landing areas also require refurbishment as part of the project.

But now that Phase Two has begun, this disruption should now be at an end. That's because with one lift shift completed and now in use, all floors are now accessible. Work on the other lift has begun and should be completed on or around the end of the year.

Everyone agrees the new lift looks very swish, and it is good to know the upheaval is all worthwhile!

### **Traffic calming measures**

And still we await the installation of the traffic calming measures to counter the dangers created by the traffic generated by the construction site on our doorsteps.

Whether we get the zebra crossing and speed humps needed before the building works are completed now begins to look doubtful.

Residents will have received a letter concerning a consultation, but only have until **14 July** to comment. As our wait continues, pedestrians and drivers both, please take extra care on or around the estate's entrance and exit routes.

Meanwhile, concern mounts over the impact of the new build on its neighbours, both here at PETRA and elsewhere.

### **Caroline Edwards writes:**

"On 4 July, I attended a public meeting, where local residents expressed their concerns to the Council. The meeting was quite lively, as you can imagine. Havering said that once the consultation was complete they would be authorising the work to be done.

"But there was also lively discussion regarding privacy, as some residents in Uphaving House complained that the new build residents will be able to look directly into their flats, which isn't acceptable, and contravenes what was originally stated, ie that the new build would be no higher than 3-4 storeys. The build is now 10 storeys high.

"Havering said that they will hold further meetings, and we will keep you informed of these as they happen."

## Sheila says...



### **In the first of a regular column, PETRA's Interim Chair, Sheila Slater, writes about her two new roles**

Life is full of surprises. Had you told me a couple of years ago that I would soon take on two new roles, I'd not have believed you.

The first of those new roles arrived last year when I became Interim Chair of PETRA. I've lived here with my husband Kevin since 2010, and been involved with the committee for many years. But the opportunity arrived to step up, and I thought, "Yes! Why not? With our excellent estate manager Caroline's support, I can do this."

*"Our recent Platinum Jubilee celebration was wonderful"*

The role is full of challenges, like monitoring the building works going on over at the former site of the residential

home, liaising with the Council, and encouraging PETRA residents to get more involved, especially with our social activities and events. I'm sure I'm not alone in thinking our recent Platinum Jubilee celebration was wonderful.

Meanwhile, I changed jobs recently. After 35 years in the motor trade, doing everything from working in bodyshops, to sales and driving, I decided to train as a care assistant.

During the pandemic, I delivered cars to healthcare workers, including doctors and nurses, and it was hearing about the work they were doing that inspired me to make the change.

Now six weeks into my new job, I often visit up to nine housebound elderly people every day, and the difference I'm able to make is very rewarding.

For example, one elderly client, who has dementia, and who is often very confused and agitated, relaxed and felt calm when I began playing the old song 'We'll Meet Again' for him. He began singing, and we even had a little dance together! His daughter was delighted, and amazed. She hadn't seen her dad looking so happy in years.

### **"Working with people and helping them live their best lives"**

Two new roles. Quite different in some ways, but both about working with people and helping them to live their best lives. It helps that I approach everything with a positive, can-do attitude. I look to the future of PETRA with that same attitude. Let's make our community the very best it can be.

**All The Best,  
Sheila**



**PETRA'S VISION**  
A safe, pleasant  
neighbourhood where people  
want to be part of a vibrant,  
caring community

## Events



### Energy rebate

**As the cost of living crisis hits home, make sure to take the financial support on offer**

If you are a Council Tax band A to D household who does not pay Council Tax by direct debit, there is now a form that you can complete on Havering Council's website to get the Government's £150 energy rebate.

This will enable you to apply for your rebate to be paid into your bank account or your Council Tax account.

The aim is that these households receive their payment within ten working days of making their online application.

For more information including how to apply, go to the Havering website - [havering.gov.uk](http://havering.gov.uk) - and search Energy Bills Rebate 2022. Alternatively, contact Havering's Council Tax customer services team on 01708 433997 and someone will be able to help you complete it.

### Winter Fuel Payment

If you were born on or before 25 September 1956 you could get between £250 and £600 to help you pay your heating bills. This is known as a 'Winter Fuel Payment'.

You will get your Winter Fuel Payment automatically (you do not need to claim) if you're eligible and either:

- get the State Pension
- get another social security benefit (not Housing Benefit, Council Tax Reduction, Child Benefit or Universal Credit)

If you do not get either of these, you may need to make a claim. You can make a claim for a Winter Fuel Payment from 1 August 2022.

If you've got a Winter Fuel Payment before, you do not need to claim again unless you've deferred your State Pension or moved abroad.

**For more information, go to [www.gov.uk/winter-fuel-payment](http://www.gov.uk/winter-fuel-payment)**

### Supporting young people

Havering Council is looking for volunteers to support young people living in care.

Known as independent visitors, they will provide befriending support to young people up to the age of 18 living inside and out of the borough. Can there be a more worthwhile thing to do?

The next training course will run over four evenings from 6pm to 8pm on July 11, 18, and 25, and August 1. For more information, and to apply, go to the website - [havering.gov.uk](http://havering.gov.uk) - and search 'Havering Independent Visitors Service'.

## Letterbox Lotto!

### Prize **DOUBLES!**

**We've made a few changes to Letterbox Lotto, to encourage more of you to visit the website at least once a month.**

**Now, every month, we will give away one £50 shopping voucher to the lucky household whose number appears on the website...**

**But only if you spots your number on the website and report seeing it to the office.**

**Play Letterbox Lotto today at [www.petratmo.weebly.com](http://www.petratmo.weebly.com)  
Good luck!**

**Free swims** for school-aged children through to the end of the summer. Sessions are available for booking at Sapphire Ice and Leisure, Central Park and Harrow Lodge Leisure Centres. You can book your kids' free sessions on the Havering website.

### Committee meetings

- **Monday 25 July, 6.30pm**
- **Monday 26 Sept (AGM), 6.30pm**

### CONTACTS

#### PETRA

**Opening Hours: 7.30am - 1600pm  
(Closed 12pm - 13.00 for lunch)  
Sheila Slater, Interim 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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Out of Hours Emergency telephone  
number: 01708 756699  
(We answer the PETRA office  
phone up until 5pm.)**