

Just in case...



Recent reports on the flooding in Rainham have served to remind us just how destructive water damage can be, making this a good time to remind residents of Havering's excellent home insurance scheme.

Our tower blocks are unlikely to be affected by excess rainfall any time soon, but that does not mean we never experience flood damage. Remember, these tower blocks are over 50 years old. Their infrastructure, including plumbing, is inevitably vulnerable to wear and tear.

Sure enough, there has been several flooding incidents in our

three blocks over recent years, Usually caused either by burst concealed pipes in an above flat, or occasionally by the carelessness of its residents.

White goods and electrical equipment of all kinds are particularly vulnerable to being irreparably damaged. So too are ceilings and carpets. Taking out home contents insurance is a simple way of ensuring that when this happens, it's not the end of the world.

Havering's scheme, made in partnership with Aviva, can cost you as little as 50p a week. Not a bad price for peace of mind. For details, search 'home contents insurance' on the Havering website, or pop by the office for a chat with Caroline.

Traffic calming measures

There is still little to report regarding the building site on the grounds of the former sheltered housing complex. Some work appears to have been done on preparing the foundations for the new builds, but that's about it.

This means the inconvenience we are experiencing continues, as does, sadly, dangerous driving on the



estate. There was a near-miss involving a visiting car and a seven year old recently, near the bend in the road where the junction used to be before it was blocked off.

Following her raising of these concerns with the contractors and Council, Caroline has recently attended meetings with them to plan appropriate traffic calming measures, and it has been agreed that speed humps and a zebra crossing will be installed. This work should commence shortly.

In the meantime, please ensure you – and your children – take extra special care as you come and go.



Have your say

This column is traditionally reserved for PETRA's Chair, Suzanne Vine, or our estate manager Caroline Edwards. But perhaps it's time that changed? Perhaps it's time you had your say?

Tenant Management Organisations like ours are supposed to be all about empowering and representing the views of the estate's residents.

What better way to do this than by providing a platform for residents to express their views on all matters pertaining to life on the estate, and the running of their TMO?

Sometimes residents may want to compliment PETRA's staff for the good work they do. Sometimes, they may want to make constructive suggestions as to how things can be improved. Either way, contributions of this sort will always be welcome.

If you would like to write a short piece for inclusion here in a future edition of the newsletter, please let Caroline know. She and Andrew, our editor, will be happy to help you draft your article.

This invitation is open to old and new residents alike, and all ages - because your viewpoint matters.

The PETRA team

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.

Did you know?

Havering residents who have had BOTH doses of their COVID vaccinations BEFORE 10th April 2021 can now attend for a booster vaccine at: Raphael House, RM1 4HP

8.30am - 4.30pm No need to book - just walk in

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

Social update

We had hoped to hold some social events this autumn, now that the pandemic appears to be almost over, but given the continuing uncertainty and our wish not to take any risks with our more vulnerable residents, we have decided against it for the remainder of this year.

Sad to think of another Halloween do and Christmas get together being missed by our young families and old folk alike, but we look forward to us all enjoying some good times together in 2022. Our new social events sub-committee including Lesley, Toni and Raigan have already began planning! Meantime, this below might interest some of our families.



Ghoulish puppet making

Puppet making of your favourite Halloween characters, whether it's a cute ghost, a friendly witch or an adorable black cat. Your puppets will be made from recycled materials, paints and ghoulish googly eyes to finish off your scariest but nicest characters. Wednesday 27th October, 10-12pm, ages 5+ £6 per person. Venue: Rainham ROYALS To book: arts@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

Call to de-clutter

For fire safety reasons, Havering has a zero tolerance approach to clutter being left in communal areas, and for some time now we have been reminding residents of the need to keep the landings completely free of such clutter.

Shopping trolleys, bikes, prams, all must be kept inside of your property. Even door-mats are no longer allowed.

The Council checks that these rules are being strictly applied, and your tenancy is at risk if you disregard them. Please take the necessary action now to avoid having items confiscated and disposed of and your tenancy put at risk.

Lifts to be replaced

Work on the replacement of the lifts in each of the three towers is due to begin in January.

The work will take place in all three towers simultaneously. One of the lifts in each block - visiting odd or even floors - will be working throughout the project, so as to minimise any inconvenience.

Caroline will assess what support is needed by individuals with mobility issues, and if you have any such concerns, please feel free to contact the office.

Dogs on leads

A reminder that while on the estate, all dogs must be kept on a lead.

There have been incidents recently of an aggressive dog being left free to harass other dogs and their owners. If you wish to let your dog off its lead, please walk across to the park.

Spitting

Ant-social behaviour comes in many forms but few are more disgusting than deliberate, targeted spitting, such as happened in recent incidents on a stairwell in one of our towers.

The low-lives responsible for this behaviour need to be caught, and when they are, antisocial behaviour orders will be Issued - to them personally if they are residents, or to the resident responsible for their presence on our estate.

If you witness behaviour of this sort, please report it to the office immediately. This will allow us to examine any CCTV evidence, and then act.



Local hub

According to Havering's website, their flagship community hub at Harold Hill has just celebrated helping over 1,000 people since opening. The hub is currently based in the old Housing Office at Chippenham Road, until the Harold Hill Library location is ready.

Well, we think of the PETRA office as a kind of community hub - but then again, you can never have too many hubs! So if you haven't been yet, Havering's one might be worth a visit.

Their website tells us the hub offers:

- Career advice and help with applying for local jobs at Havering Council, Tesco, Greggs, Superdrug and many more.
- The opportunity to get your weekly essentials from the Community Food Shop with £15 worth of shopping for only £5.
- Recipe ideas from a local chef to create delicious, great-value meals.
- Advice from your local police about staying safe in your home – and pick up your free safety gadgets.
- Community health champions offering advice on how to improve your wellbeing.

Worth checking out, we suggest. The Council says plans are in development for further community hubs to be established across the borough.

HAVERING CREATES

INCLUSIVE ART CLASSES FOR DISABLED ADULTS

5 WEEK PROJECT FOR ALL AGES 18+
BEGINNING WEDNESDAY 13TH OCTOBER
SOUTH HORNRCHURCH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
1.30-3.30PM
COST: £5 PER SESSION
PARENT/GUARDIAN/CARERS ARE WELCOMED TO STAY FOR THE SESSION



To book:
arts@havering.gov.uk



A five week arts programme is set to launch in October 2021 in South Hornchurch. These tailored sessions for adults with disabilities will take place on Wednesday afternoon, 1.30pm from October 13th.

For more information and registration:
arts@havering.gov.uk
Venue: South Hornchurch Community Centre,
Nelson Road, Rainham RM13 7RD

PETRA'S VISION

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

Songs for life

If you care for someone with dementia, or know someone who does, this might be of interest to you.

Havering Singing For The Brain is a weekly music and social club that takes place every Wednesday between 10:30am and 12:30pm at St Michael's Church, Main Road, Gidea Park, Romford, RM2 5EL.

Run by the Alzheimer's Society, these sessions are a chance to meet with others facing the same challenges, to sing and to chat. Refreshments and advice are both on hand, and it costs £5 per couple to attend. New members are very welcome and their first session is free.

For further information contact Lisa on 01708 938432 or 07502 260099 Monday - Friday between 8am - 5.30pm. Or email: lisamarie28@hotmail.co.uk

Christmas is rubbish!



Well, not really. Not the holiday, anyway, but all the refuse we generate around the big day is, literally, a load of rubbish. A HUGE load of it. And this can create big problems for PETRA and the refuse collection guys.

PETRA will once again be ordering a skip, to provide additional capacity, but can residents please take care to dispose of their rubbish responsibly. That means:

- putting stuff in the right bin
- not putting bulky or unbagged waste in the skips
- in the case of cardboard boxes and other bulky items, reducing them to their smallest possible size.

If we ALL act responsibly, there shouldn't be a problem.

PETRA's Christmas Arrangements

Please take note:

- Friday 24th December will be a half day. The office will be closed from 12 noon.
- The office will re-open on Monday 3rd January.
- On Monday 27th and Tuesday 28th December, residents will need to ring the out of hours number in cases of emergency.
- On Wednesday 29th, Thursday 30th and Friday 31st, Caroline and team will be on call – again for emergencies only.

Events

Coffee mornings

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

Committee meetings

The Committee have resumed their in person meetings. We held our AGM in early October and our next meeting is due on Monday 29th November at 6.30pm.

There will be no meeting in December.

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
www.petratmo.weebly.com

Homes and Housing,
Havering Council. Tel: 01708 434000

Email: homes@havering.gov.uk
Website: www.havering.gov.uk
Out of Hours Emergency telephone number: 01708 756699
(We answer the PETRA office phone up until 5pm.)

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

Refuge

For women and children.
Against domestic violence.