



The Harrow Rec Newsletter

News, views and more from your local park

Winter 2018

No 56

Café at last (well almost!)



Photo by Karen Brookes

The café (due March 2017) is now in place but not yet functioning. We hope it will be open by March 2019! Harrow Council is advertising for an operator with catering experience, if you are interested contact Colin Rawcliffe, Strategic Asset Surveyor, Corporate Estate, Harrow Council, Civic Centre, Harrow, HA1 2XA, colin.rawcliffe@harrow.gov.uk

The Steering Group asked to be involved in the selection of the café operator, which was refused but the Council said they would take the following into account:

- the café toilet is available to the public whether or not they purchase anything in the café
- the operator works with us in preventing commuters from parking in the Harrow Rec car park (eg by keeping it locked until 9.30am on weekdays)
- the operator is responsible for clearing litter generated by customers of the café (and maybe a bit more too)
- the operator works with Harrow Recreation Ground Users Association when they have events in Harrow Recreation Ground, to avoid direct competition and to enhance the experience of visitors to the park

Once the operator is appointed we will hope to meet with them.

So please tell us what you want from the café.

AND tell us what you want from Harrow Recreation Ground Users Association?

Members pay £5 a year - that's two coffees in lots of places. We have some money. Should we continue to spend on events or on more permanent features which some would like such as table tennis facilities or additional playground equipment?

Should we actively seek new members? One idea is to have more volunteer street representatives who can canvas their street as well as deliver the newsletter and collect subscriptions.

Have your say at the AGM on 2nd December or email Jane: j.galbraith@ucl.ac.uk

From the Chair

It's been a great year in Harrow Rec with large events (Kites & Bikes, Dog Show, Asian Dance and Music, Fun Day) and less strenuous musical afternoons (Harrow Concert Band, Bob Dwyer's and Portobello Jazz Bands) and two Bug Hunts and Tree Walks, as well as gardening on the first Monday of every month. Many thanks to the Committee and other helpers new and old for giving us such fun and entertainment ... and delicious cakes!

Next year we may replace the Dog Show by the Arts Festival that we failed to put on this year. We shall be looking for talent in visual and performing arts.

Volunteers have litter picked, locked the car park gate (so that now park users have space to park) and locked the Beresford Road and Hindes Road gates (to reduce anti-social behaviour at night). We are grateful to the Roxborough Road Residents' Association and the newly formed Harrow Recreation Ground Crime Prevention Advisory Group for gate locking and unlocking.

Discussions on locking all gates at night are underway but we will need more volunteers and we are concerned not to lock anyone in. A one-way turnstile is a possible solution.

To increase security the Community Gardeners plan to fill in the gaps around the perimeter on Monday 3rd December with prickly shrubs provided by Harrow Council. If you can't come on the day maybe you could help prepare the ground beforehand.

Please contact me with your offers of help and/or good ideas for next year, and don't forget to come to the Tree Dressing and Annual General Meeting on 2nd December and Story Time on 28th December.

Jane Galbraith, HRUA Chair.



Harrow Recreation Ground Steering Group was set up by Harrow Council to work with park users in preparing to apply for the Green Flag Award (achieved in 2005 and every year since).

We continue to work with the Council and are currently revising the *Management and Improvement Plan*. So, if you have any complaints or good ideas now is the time to say.

Any non-profit making organisation that has an interest in Harrow Rec can apply to join the Steering Group. Current members are:

Harrow Recreation Ground Users Association
Harrow St Mary's Youth Football Club
Harrow Bowls Club
Harrow Parkrun
Harrow Ignite Trust
Roxborough Road Residents' Association
Headstone South Safer Neighbourhood Panel
Harrow Tai Chi for Health
Harrow Recreation Ground Crime Prevention Advisory Group



STILL TO COME IN 2018

Sunday 2 December:

Tree Dressing at 2pm

Meet by the cherry tree in the triangle between the Bowls Club, the Sensory Garden and the path from the Cemetery to the Beresford Road entrance.

Followed at about 2.30 by the **Annual General Meeting** in the Green Pavilion

Thursday 28 December:

Story Time with Claudia Mernick at 2.30pm in the Green Pavilion.

Mic's Meanderings

Perhaps I shouldn't have mentioned the weather in the summer newsletter. Although Fun Day went very much as planned, the last musical jazz concert and the tree walk/bug hunt were affected by rain. Fun Day numbers were slightly down on previous years but all attending enjoyed themselves. The tug of war results were split this year and the mini-marathon was won by a visitor from South Oxhey.

As it was a wet day for the jazz we reverted as we have done in the past to having a jazz club atmosphere in the pavilion. Surprisingly, bearing in mind the rainy day, approximately forty people caught the vibes and there was much foot tapping.

The tree walk and the bug hunt also went ahead despite the damp with John and Simon describing trees and shaking bushes as if it had never rained.

So on to the AGM preceded by the tree dressing. Come on you mums, dads and children - what decorations can you make to hang on our traditional tree. All donations gratefully received and some may even last to December 2019!!!

As always, your committee thanks you our members for all your support with our events and looking forward to whatever next year brings. At least when you come to the Rec, there's no talk of Brexit, Trump or the EU.



See you at the AGM - there's the formal notice on the back page but don't forget that we don't do formalities except when we are totally obliged to do so!

Mic Sayer, Vice-Chair of HRUA

Mince Pies



You don't have to wait for this time of year to enjoy a mince pie. But that classic mix of sweet and stodge seems best suited to the winter time.

So here's a really easy recipe that anyone can try. Obviously, you can make your own filling - and that's really good. But most of us don't have the time so shop bought ready-made mince from a jar can be just as good. Splash out a bit and buy the best - it's so much cheaper than ready-made pies that shops sell - and you can control the sugar.

Pastry: 350g plain flour, up to 350g butter or margarine, up to 50 g caster sugar, milk or water to mix - food processor is easiest! Roll out to desired thickness - thin can be better. Using a large pastry cutter, shape the bases and fill the oven tins. Filling is next - don't overfill. Then the tops - medium cutter. Crimp down with a fork and brush with water/milk.

Then place in an oven pre-heated to 200C/180C fan/gas mark 6 for 18 to 20 minutes. Turn out as quickly as you can. But wait a bit to eat them as the filling can be very hot!

Enjoy. On your own or sharing.

**Annual General Meeting
Sunday 2nd December 2018,
in the Green Pavilion,
Harrow Recreation Ground
at approx. 2.30 p.m.
(following the Tree Dressing)**

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of meeting held on 3/12/2017
3. Officers' Reports including the Treasurer's Report
4. Café: update from Harrow Council
5. Election of Committee**
6. Events Programme for 2019

Following the meeting there will be an open discussion on any issues raised by those attending.***

Copies of the 2017 minutes, the Treasurer's Report and the Chair's Report will be available at the meeting or can be obtained in advance from Jane Galbraith (see Contacts below).

**** Instructions for Nominations to the Committee**

Nominations for the Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and other Committee members may be made at the meeting or by email or by post to Jane Galbraith (see Contacts below).

Each nomination must have a proposer and a seconder. Please give the names and addresses of the proposer and seconder.

Currently the Committee consists of Jane Galbraith(Chair), Rosa Garcia (Treasurer), Mic Sayer (Vice-Chair), Karen Brookes (Events Organiser), Bhawna Saini, (Membership Secretary), Tony Levene , Neal Lankester, Alex Lankester, Lynda Small, Gerry Devine, Jean Hendrick, Lawrence Mathias, Jim Leith, Salma Kwaja, Lillian Hall, Ilona Buttinger.

CONTACTS

Website: <https://harrowrec.org.uk/>

Jane Galbraith, Chair: j.galbraith@ucl.ac.uk , 78 Roxborough Road, HA1 1PB

Mic Sayer, Vice Chair: 020 8427 2448

"To Autumn" by John Keats

written in 1819 (first of three verses)

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;
Conspiring with him how to load and bless
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eves run;
To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees,
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;
To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells
With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,
And still more, later flowers for the bees,
Until they think warm days will never cease,
For summer has o'er-brimm'd their clammy cells.

October Sky



photo by Karen Brookes

LOST & FOUND

in

Harrow Recreation Ground
Be it wallets, chains or keys
Bags, bicycles or books
Whatever you've lost or found
Please contact Karen Brookes

karenbrookes@hotmail.co.uk

M: 07889 861 196