INSIDE: POLICE OPERATION PUTS
DRUG DEALERS BEHIND BARS PAGES 14&15

Town gridlocked as
chase ends in crash

Pursuit ensues after car
fails to stop for police
having left motorway
at junction 7

Exit road from Church
Langley towards M11
closed for 90 minutes
causing traffic chaos

FULL STORY: Page 4 ONLINE: For the very latest in news and sport for your town visit essexlive.news/harlow
THE TOP 10 THINGS TO DO THIS WEEK

PARK LIFE

PARKRUN: CAR PARK, SCHOOL LANE, HARLOW, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, AT 9AM
Take part in the weekly 5km Harlow Parkrun, test yourself against the clock and stay fit this winter. It is completely free to join in the run.

BARD AT HIS BEST

SHAKESPEARE COMES TO STORTFORD: RHODES ARTS COMPLEX, 1-3 SOUTH ROAD, BISHOP’S STORTFORD, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, AT 3PM
Join the Ballet Theatre UK as it brings Shakespeare’s classic comedy A Midsummer Night’s Dream to life on the stage.

There’s more live music at Horn and Half Moon Photo: MARTINE XERRI

Garden, Marsh Lane, Gilden Way, Harlow, Sunday, February 25, from 11.30am to 4pm
Pop on your wellies and explore the charm of the Gibberd Garden in winter and enjoy the display of snowdrops.

TASTY TREATS

HATFIELD HEATH FARMERS MARKET: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, FROM 10AM UNTIL 12.30PM, HATFIELD HEATH VILLAGE HALL
Every fourth Saturday of the month, this market brings together the very best locally produced foods. So why not head down and pick up some fresh homemade produce from baked cookies to venison pies and preserves?

Entry and car parking is free.

IT’S GAME ON

MOLLY’S GAME: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26, AND TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, THESCREEN, BISHOP’S STORTFORD
If you missed the crime drama when it first came out, don’t panic, as this is your chance to see it again. It tells the true story of Molly Bloom, an Olympic-class skier who becomes an FBI target when she begins running the world’s most exclusive high-stakes poker game. The film starts at 7.30pm on Monday and 2pm on Tuesday with adult tickets priced at £8 and £6 for seniors, children, and students.

To book call 01279 710200.

FUN FOR BABIES

BABY RHyme TIME: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, BISHOP’S STORTFORD LIBRARY FROM 10.30AM UNTIL 11AM
Bring your little ones along for a morning of songs and rhymes. The activity is suitable for babies and toddlers of all ages and of course, parents and carers are welcome to join in.

There is no need to book in advance and Rhyme Time is completely free, although at £1 donation is welcome.

Jessica Chastain as Molly Bloom and Idris Elba as Charlie Jaffey in Molly’s Game, which is showing in Bishop’s Stortford Photo: PA PHOTOTENTERTAINMENT ONE / STX FINANCING, LLC / MICHAEL GIBSON

For more information or to book call 01279 710200.
Woman who stabbed man is handed a life sentence
Court told defendant demanded money from victim during attack

By James Gregory
james.gregory@essence-live.news

A WOMAN, believed to be from Harlow, who repeatedly stabbed a man and cut his throat has been given a life sentence. Kelly Gentry, 47, will serve a minimum of six years behind bars for stabbing her victim multiple times, and demanding that he gave her money so she could leave the area.

On the evening of June 23, 2017, Gentry went to the home of her victim, a Mr Marlborough, in Wellesley Road, Clacton, and the pair began drinking together. After a while, Gentry became aggressive, demanding money and threatening the victim with a knife.

She stabbed Mr Marlborough in his stomach before taking money and cards from his wallet. Gentry then stabbed him in his shoulder and chest before slashing his throat after he tried to flee the room.

Alerted. Mr Marlborough passed out but came to at around 5.30am when he alerted a neighbour who called the emergency services.

Gentry, believed to be from Harlow but of no fixed address, was arrested on July 1 and charged with attempted murder the following day.

She denied the charge at Chelmsford Crown Court.

She was cleared by jurors of an alternate GBH with intent charge and she could face a life sentence.

Investigating officer, Detective Sergeant Phil Perry from Clacton CID, said: “This was a horrific attack which left the victim seriously hurt. Fortunately his injuries weren’t life-threatening but the reality is Gentry had tried to cause him harm and the attack could’ve been a lot worse. Gentry is a dangerous woman who was willing to really hurt someone in order to steal from him and prevent him telling the police.”

“I am pleased she is off the streets and is no longer able to pose a threat to the victim or anyone else.”

“I want to praise the victim’s bravery throughout the investigation and court process.”

Kelly Gentry, believed to be from the Harlow area, appeared at Chelmsford Crown Court.

Kelly Gentry, believed to be from Harlow area, appeared at Chelmsford Crown Court

Restaurants closed due to shortage of chicken
ONE of Britain’s most beloved fast food outlets is still recovering from a blunder which saw most of its restaurants closed across the nation.

Nearly every KFC in the country was forced to close their doors over the weekend after running out of ingredients – including chicken.

In Harlow the KFC branch at Harlow Retail Park in Edinburgh Way was able to open on Sunday, February 18, but the branch in the Staple Tye Shopping Centre stayed closed on Sunday night.

Essex branches of the international brand were affected, with the closures being put down to a problem with stock being delivered.

The embarrassing gaffe saw outraged customers take to social media to vent their frustration at not being able to wrap their lips around KFC’s signature dishes.

Response

In response to her query, a spokesman for KFC promised “The Colonel is working hard to get things fixed”.

A spokesman for KFC said the colossal error came down to teething problems with the company’s new delivery partner: “We deliver fresh chicken to our restaurants, but we’ve had a few hiccups with our delivery system at the moment,” he said.

“We’re really sorry for any inconvenience, and we’re working to have all our restaurants back up and running as soon as we can.”

Almost every single KFC in the county was closed to the public over the weekend, with the majority not open for business on Monday.

A statement, published on the KFC website, detailed which restaurants had manage to begin serving the public again.

The company reiterated its position that “teething problems” with their new delivery partner were the cause of the unpalatable error but that supplying fresh chicken to 900 restaurants is “pretty complex”.

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Cars seriously damaged after police pursuit through town

Crash on A414 followed vehicle failing to stop for officers having left the M11

By Piers Meyler
piers.meyler@essexlive.news

A CRASH after a police chase through Harlow left two cars seriously damaged.

Both a dark-coloured and white Ford were left crumpled in the collision that closed off the A414 in Church Langley, Harlow on Sunday (February 18).

Both sets of airbags were deployed and foam was poured on a fuel spillage from the white car, which has been left with serious front end damage.

A police car also suffered some minor damage.

Roundabout

It is not clear which car was being pursued by Essex Police traffic officers when the crash happened at 11am at the Church Langley roundabout.

There were no serious injuries but the exit road from Church Langley towards the M11 was closed for about 90 minutes.

A police spokesman said: “We are currently at the scene of a collision in Church Langley Way, Church Langley, after a car collided with other vehicles at 11am today (Sunday, February 18).

“The car had failed to stop for police having left the M11 at junction 7.

“A woman travelling in another vehicle was assessed at the scene and has been taken to hospital as a precaution.”

Drivers were advised to avoid the area as police closed the exit road from Church Langley towards the M11 whilst inquiries were ongoing.

Anyone with information or dash cam footage is asked to call Chigwell Roads Policing Unit on 101 quoting incident 345 of 18/02.

A police car also suffered some minor damage.

Driver is arrested

A DRIVER was arrested as police found a knife, drugs and money in his car after a crash shut the M11 at the weekend.

The exit slip road on the southbound carriageway was closed at the junction with the M25 on Sunday, (February 18) after a van and a car collided and one of the vehicles caught fire, with a diversion put in place to keep drivers away from the scene.

PC Emily Cross, who is a probationary police constable in Loughton, shared a number of images on Twitter showing the serious damage to one of the vehicles involved.

Also drugs, a knife and a large quantity of cash that the male driver was allegedly found in possession of.

She also confirmed that the man, who was wanted for assault, has been further arrested for possession with intent to supply driving under the influence of drugs and theft of a vehicle.

Damage to the dark-coloured car which was suffered during the incident in Church Langley.

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The long, long wait goes on for suspect in custody

British record holder has still not been to the toilet after 35 days

By Hannah Kane

A MAN suspected of being a drug dealer has gone 36 days without visiting a public toilet to help stop him from passing on the drugs he is allegedly swollowing.

Lamarr Chambers, 24, was arrested by police on Wednesday, January 17, for failing to stop in Ladyshot, Harlow, along with intent to supply class A drugs.

He was held in custody since his arrest as the police wait until he poos out the drugs he is believed to have swallowed.

On Monday (February 19), Chambers appeared at Chelmsford Magistrates’ Court as police applied for another section 152 order, meaning he would remain in custody for a further five days.

Speaking on behalf of the Crown, Kathy Wilson QC said: “Mr Chambers has not properly been to the toilet for some 30 days. You have to consider whether or not he is not taking enough food in order to frustrate the setting of police evidence.

“He is being more than adequately looked after by Essex Police. He has been offered fluids and food. His lights are dimmed at night and he is being reviewed every 24 hours. If the requests to go to the hospital he is taken there. There is reference to him passing stools. It is in fact questionable as to whether any faecal matter was collected.

“He did wipe his bottom and there was a stain on the toilet paper. Had any amount of faecal matter been passed, we would not be in this position today.”

On February 10, after 24 days, Chambers broke the British record for spending the most days in custody while police wait for him to poop.

However, he has been taken to facilities at Stansted Airport in an attempt to defecate.

Defending, Andrew Horsall QC said: “There was an attempt to pass a stool at Stansted Airport. The police were in the same room with their backs turned.

“However, nothing happened.”

Police have gathered evidence to suggest Chambers has in fact swallowed the drugs.

Chambers has been remanded in police custody until Friday, February 23, where he will appear once again in Chelmsford Magistrates’ Court.

Lamarr Chambers was arrested in Ladyshot for failing to stop for police and possession with intent to supply class A drugs.
57-year-old evicted from his caravan is offered new home

Kind-hearted property company offers a small plot of land for John to live on

A MAN left homeless as temperatures dropped well below freezing after his caravan was taken away by Essex County Council has been rehomed thanks to a generous offer from a Harlow property company.

John Jones, 57, lived with his dogs in the Fern Hill area of Harlow before his caravan was seized, making him and his two dogs homeless as temperatures fell to minus 2 in some of the coldest nights of the year.

But Harlow-based business KP Property Development has now offered a small plot of land for Mr Jones to site another caravan – believed to have been donated by a kind-hearted well-wisher.

Robin Pitt, from the company, said: “We read the story and were touched by what we read.

“We had a plot of land which wasn’t in use and offered a place to live for a while.”

A picture of the 57-year-old surfaces online showing the man sitting on an empty site along with his two dogs after the council removed his caravan on Friday, February 9.

Mr Pitt said: “A member of the public we believe has lent him a caravan to live in.

“Basically after I read the story I went down there to find him and it went from there.”

In the wake of the distressing images, an online petition was set up to try and get Mr Jones his caravan back.

Involvement

Soon after being evicted, a generous homeowner had offered Mr Jones a sofa in her home for him to stay on, while other locals gave him food, money and blankets and another looked after his dogs.

The council previously denied having any involvement with the removal of the caravan.

An Essex County Council spokesman had said: “We have no record of removing a caravan from land near Commons Road in Harlow and having heard about it we are concerned about the welfare of John Jones and will be liaising with local agencies to see what help can be offered.”

But the council has since admitted removing Mr Jones’ caravan and issued a court order.

In an updated statement, Essex County Council admitted: “We posted notices regarding an illegal encampment on the roadside in Fernhill Lane, Harlow, after we received several complaints from residents.

“We had previously offered Mr Jones a pitch at the local Essex Countywide Traveller Unit caravan site nearby, which he declined. Last month we visited him to conduct welfare and human rights checks.

“In these cases, a court summons is a last resort.

“When Mr Jones did not attend his court hearing, we gave him an additional 24 hours to respond and then a further 48 hours to leave the site.

“When this time elapsed, his caravan was placed into secure storage and he was given the details of Harlow Council’s housing team for ongoing help and support.

“We understand Harlow Council has been in touch with Mr Jones to offer housing support and our Homelessness Mentors scheme has also been contacted to offer help to Mr Jones.”

The online petition now has more than 38,000 signatures with residents calling on the council to help Mr Jones during the cold weather.

Inquiries

A Harlow Council spokesman said: “We are aware of local people’s concerns about the welfare of a man who has been living in a caravan on land in Harlow. These concerns are being shared on social media and through an online petition.

“We have not removed or had any involvement in the removal of his caravan.

“The land is owned by Essex County Council.

“We are making inquiries with them about what has happened to the caravan and if any support is being provided to the gentleman.

“We work with local organisations to connect anyone who is homeless with local services and help.

“This includes us providing housing support and advice to those who need and want help.”
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Smouldering commercial vehicle to blame for huge delays to motorway traffic

A lorry on fire on the M11 southbound on Tuesday. The road was blocked while emergency services put out the blaze.  
Photos: HIGHWAYS ENGLAND

By Sophie Finnegan
sophie.finnegan@essexlive.news

A LORRY fire on the M11 Southbound blocked the road bringing traffic to a standstill. 

The incident happened between Junction 8 on the A120 near Stansted Airport and Junction 7 on the A414 near Harlow on Tuesday (February 20). 

Fire engines blocked the M11 as crews work to put out the fire in the load of the lorry. 

Traffic was held stationary causing four miles of queues while emergency services work to clear the incident. The fire also caused smoke to blow across the road.

Highways England said they got traffic moving again as soon as it was safe. All lanes were eventually reopened.

Lorry inferno thwarts M11 drivers as big jams build up

TWO of Britain’s largest supermarket chains have had to issue urgent product recalls for some of their common items.

Asda, which has a supermarket at the Water Gardens centre in Harlow, and Morrisons, which has a branch in Broxbourne, have had to recall these products citing fears over potential health risks for their customers.

The Food Standards Agency have shared both of the recalls because of the risks involved, meaning people could potentially suffer allergic reactions stemming from ingredients in the food.

Egg allergy fears after store’s mint sauce is found to be contaminated

It has apparently come to light that Asda’s stocked Laila Mint Sauce contains egg.

However, it is not included or mentioned in any way on the label meaning it could pose a significant risk to people with an allergy or intolerance to egg.

The affected product is the one litre version, with a batch code of PR210617C2 and barcode 50205800854.

It has a best before date of June 21, 2018.

If you have purchased the above product and have an egg allergy you should not eat it.

Instead you can return it to the store where you bought it for a full refund.

Asda store at Water Gardens, Harlow

The Asda store at Water Gardens, Harlow is being recalled because it contains celery.

Again this is not mentioned on the label of the packaging.

Because of this, in a similar vein to the Asda product, there are concerns that this can pose a health risk to anyone with an allergy or an intolerance to celery.

The affected products weigh 400g and have use by dates of 18, 19, 20, 21, 22 and 23 February 2018.

If you have bought the above product and have an allergy or intolerance to celery do not eat it. Instead return it to the store from where it was bought for a full refund.

For further information on both of these product recalls contact Asda customer relations on 0800 952 0101 or contact Morrisons customer relations on 0845 611 6111.

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A MUSIC festival will transport the historic Audley End House back to the 1980s with performances from Jason Donovan, Midge Ure and plenty more.

The huge outdoor show Here and Now – Back to the 80s will bring back to back performances from 1980s icons to the country house in Saffron Walden on Friday, July 13.

Jason Donovan, Midge Ure, Five Star, Hot Chocolate, Altered Images, T'Pau and Toyah Willcox will all play their hits during this extravaganza of 80s pop music.

Giles Cooper, the promoter of the Heritage Live Concert Series at Audley End, said: "We are delighted to be working with English Heritage in resurrecting the summer concerts at Audley End this coming July and the entire GCE Live team is looking forward to bringing a mix of classical music with mainstream pop to the property."

Range

"The fantastic range of artists on the bill for Here And Now – Back to the 80s makes this a very rare and special concert for Audley End."

Since 2001 the Here and Now show has been played to hundreds of thousands of fans across the country – with the organisers claiming it to be ‘the most successful high profile 80s live show in the world’.

Tours have included performances in Australia, The Far East, Japan and across Europe. Jason Donovan rocketed to fame in Australian soap Neighbours, before embarking on a pop career that led to chart-topping hits worldwide such as Too Many Broken Hearts, Sealed With a Kiss, and his duet with his former Neighbours co-star Kylie Minogue on Especially for You.

Midge Ure has received Ivor Novello and Grammy Awards, as well as a platinum of gold and platinum records for his work in bands such as Thin Lizzy, Ultravox, Visage, and of course Band Aid.

He regularly topped the charts in the 80s, be it with Visage (Fade to Grey, Mind of a Toy), Ultravox (Vienna, Dancing With Tears In My Eyes, Love’s Great Adventure) or under his own name (No Regrets, If I Was).

With their dynamic sound and dance routines, Five Star made a sizeable mark on both the UK and US charts in the 80s.

The Pearson siblings became the youngest group ever to top the British charts, beating out a record held by Michael Jackson and scoring a total of six top ten singles with their Number 1 album Silk & Steel, including hits such as System Addict, Rain or Shine, and Find The Time.

Hot Chocolate’s disco era pop saw them have a hit single every year between 1970 and 1984, with tracks such as It Started With a Kiss, So Win Again and probably their most well known hit You Sexy Thing, which became the only song to make the British top ten in the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s.

Tickets go on general sale at 9am tomorrow (Fri, February 23).

VIP options are also available for the show.
Is spring around the corner? Here’s the ch-chilling truth...

Forecasts warn of cold snap that is expected to last weeks rather than days

By James Gregory

With spring on the horizon, you might be forgiven for thinking about summer and warmer days expected in the months ahead. But that could be a lot further down the line, as forecasters in Essex say snow could fall across the county next week.

The Essex Weather Centre has said that cold weather could be hitting the county by this Sunday (February 26) with it potentially lasting for up to three to four weeks.

Forecaster

Tom Defty, forecaster at the Essex Weather Centre, said: “March 1 is technically spring, but it looks like we will see cold weather from Sunday that could possibly last three to four weeks.”

“The repercussions of this are slightly greater than what we’ve seen in recent years.”

“It could snow from Monday, February 26.”

With the cold front expected to last for weeks, Tom has warned Essex motorists to take extra care on the roads.

“When talking weeks rather than a couple of days. It is going to have a big impact on everybody’s life – we all know the impact of snow on trains and roads.”

Forecasters say there is a 90 per cent chance of a severe cold spell in the coming weeks, when temperatures could plummet to -10 degrees Celsius during the night. Tom added: “It could get as low as -10 at night time but also below freezing during the day – that’s pretty severe.”

There could also be a wind chill of 15-20.”

This snow scene, taken by town resident Ruth King, shows Harlow Town Park

Man died in hospital after contracting sepsis

A 62-YEAR-OLD man from Harlow died in hospital after contracting sepsis, an inquest has heard.

Kevin Doyle, who had a history of ill health including thrombotic complications and heart disease, was admitted to the Princess Alexandra Hospital in Harlow in October. However, he soon developed complications in his treatment and was transferred to a hospital in Camden, London.

Sadly he passed away on December 8 last year. A preliminary cause of death listed sepsis as well as his other ailments as the reason behind his passing.

Infection

Sepsis is a life-threatening condition that arises when the body’s response to infection causes it to damage its own tissues and organs. Common symptoms include fever, increased heart rate, increased breathing rate and confusion. Treating sepsis in hospitals has recently become a topic that has been brought to the nation’s attention in the last few months. A BBC programme highlighted how a number of NHS trusts across the country had failed to adequately spot the signs of sepsis in enough time to treat it.

Two days have been set aside for the full inquest into the death of Mr Doyle – June 12 and 13. At a preliminary inquest hearing on Friday (February 16), Senior Coroner for Essex Caroline Beasley-Murray extended an invitation to the full inquest hearing to Mr Doyle’s family.

Mrs Beasley-Murray has also requested information from the relevant NHS trust over whether a serious incident investigation had been carried out.

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Marvel Storage Box
50 x 30 x 40cm. 261328
£29.95

4 Drawer Tower
83 x 38.5 x 39.5cm. Black. 793402
£11.97

30L Underbed Storage Box
60 x 56 x 15.5cm. Clear box with black lid. 410881
£4.10

50L Storage Box
71 x 44 x 23cm. Clear. 100735
£12.66

Sumatra Storage Box
64 x 145 x 73cm. 382666
£9.98

Eco Bubble Wrap
375mm x 25m. Green. 441333
£7.40

Store it Out Ultra Garden Storage
134 x 177 x 113cm. 382661
£235

Garden Pro Masterstore Metal Shed
190 x 150 x 80cm. 375163
£119

Compact Workbench
110 x 54 x 140.5cm. Includes pegboard & 20 pegs. Total capacity 360kg. 392634
£49

19” Technician Case
375119
£18.88

52L Heavy Duty Cardboard Box
30.5 x 41.5 x 43.8cm. 414336
£1.60

50kg 4D Drawer Tower
83 x 38.5 x 39.5cm.
£11.97

9D rawer Tool Chest
392086
£89

15 Drawer Tool Trolley
72”.
£550

50kg 4D rawer
Tool Trolley
72”.
£9.91

19” Technician
Case
375119
£18.88

12x2 Storage Unit
39 x 76 x 76cm. White. 374317
£25

50L 52L Heavy Duty
Cardboard Box
30.5 x 41.5 x 43.8cm.
£1.60

55L Storage Box
60 x 40 x 37cm. Clear. 410184
£5

50L Underbed
Storage Box
60 x 40 x 37cm.
£5

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F.O.I. REVELATIONS: Document shows what happened during music event 12 things no one wanted you to know about last V Festival

ALLEGED lapses in security after reports of a murder suspect in the arena and a dramatic decline in ticket sales are just two of the shocking revelations highlighted in an internal V Festival document obtained by the Essex Chronicle.

The document, circulated between Essex Police, Chelmsford City Council and V Festival organisers, also shows a concerning drop in the ages of people who had been taken ill from drugs – most markedly a new craze involving Ketamine – at as low as 15 years of age.

The minutes from the safety advisory group responsible for overseeing the last V Festival at Hylands Park last year, also reveal how even with his megastar status Jay Z, who headlined on Sunday, was not allowed to land his helicopter at the site.

As speculation grows over the future of a summer music festival in Hylands Park, the Chronicle has delving into the details over what might have triggered the decision by Virgin to pull out of the two-day festival.

A Freedom of Information request to Chelmsford City Council for the full meeting notes from its Safety Advisory Group (SAG) has revealed a worrying catalogue of drugs, assaults and serious misgivings over the quality of security after a man wanted for murder was allegedly sighted among thousands of revellers.

The FOI has also uncovered criminal incidents at the festival including a sexual assault and an attack with an hammer.

Here are the 12 most shocking things we learnt from the document:

■ BRADLEY BLUNDELL ‘SEEN PARTYING NEAR THE MAIN STAGE’

Bradley Blundell was reportedly seen by a festival-goer One of the county’s most wanted fugitives was allegedly seen partying with thousands as Pink headlined the main stage at the festival in Hylands Park just two weeks after it is claimed he shot dead popular Chelmsford bodybuilder John Ferdague. The 18-year-old allegedly fired the gun that delivered the fatal wound which killed the 34-year-old electrician from Galleywood, on August 5 last year, but has evaded capture ever since.

A reward of up to £10,000 is being offered to anyone providing information that leads to his arrest.

According to the briefing note, setting out what had been reported overnight between Saturday and Sunday morning (August 19-20) there was frustration among Essex Police officers that security had not communicated the seriousness of the information that had been passed to them.

It is a member of the licensing authority at Chelmsford City Council had reported that Essex Police were unhappy with the attitude of on-site security “after a member of the public reported that Bradley Blundell has been seen in the arena and he was wanted for murder.

“Apparently security told the person to report the issue direct to Essex Police,” it said.

■ YOUNG WOMEN USED CAMPSITE AS A BASE TO PERFORM SEXUAL FAVOURS FOR DRUGS

The 2017 festival at Hylands Park was the first time organisers had provided luxury camping accommodation at the site where about 26,000 had been camping over the two-day event, headed by and Jay-Z. However, it has now been revealed that concerns over women performing sex acts for drugs had been so great that security had been redeployed to clamp down on any illicit behaviour across the whole camping site.

“She had also received information that young women were performing sexual favours for drugs but had been so great that security had been redeployed to clamp down on any illicit behaviour across the whole camping site,” the briefing note claimed.

■ CHILDREN AS YOUNG AS 15 WERE GETTING HIGH ON A MIX OF HORSE TRANQUILLISERS AND PRESCRIPTION ANXIETY DRUGS

V Festival revellers as young as 15 were getting high on a potentially fatal mix of horse tranquillisers, ecstasy and strong medication available only on prescription.

Festival welfare staff said they were concerned at the sudden use of ‘Ket-bombs’ – involving taking ketamine or MDMA in a drink and then using a prescription drug for anxiety – Xanax – to bring themselves back up again.

Staff added they were concerned that those seeking help after taking drugs or alcohol were much younger than in previous years.

■ TICKET SALES HAD PLUMMeted

Figures in the document, obtained through a Freedom of Information request, revealed a staggering 25 per cent drop in ticket sales compared to the previous year.

In 2016 there were 10,000 day tickets sold for Saturday, 12,000 for Sunday and 13,000 weekend tickets as well as 50,000 camping tickets, bringing a total of 96,000. However there were just 26,000 campers, compared to 63,000 in 2016 with 21,000 day tickets sold for Saturday, 16,000 day tickets for Sunday and 8,000 weekend tickets – a total of 71,000.

■ A FUNDING DISAGREEMENT LEFT NO POLICE PATROLS

The Police had submitted a request for special police services (SPS) in the region of £100,000 compared to an SPS budget of £138,000 for 2016.

However agreement with the police could not be reached on the level of SPS. Therefore the police refused to provide any SPS for 2017, according to the document.

■ WOMAN SEXUALLY ASSAULTED IN TENT

According to the briefing notes, a woman had taken a man to her tent where she was then sexually assaulted.

She had lost her phone but had managed to contact her mother who came to pick her up.

When security received this information and contacted the police, the girl was already in the police station reporting the assault.

However no scene for the assault, which happened between Saturday night and Sunday morning, was established.

Essex Police has been contacted for comment.

■ JAY-Z WAS TOLD TO PARK HIS £18M HELICOPTER IN A LOCAL’S GARDEN

Jay-Z had requested to leave the V site via helicopter – a Sikorsky S-92 worth £18 million.

But the hip-hop superstar was told he would not be allowed. Even at 11pm on Sunday when JAY-Z finished his set it would have been difficult to transport him to nearby farm land.

The plan was for the rapper to land on St Patrick Day’s land at 7pm and then land the helicopter on the Hylands Park site at about 10.50pm for an 11pm departure.

However, due to only one fire unit being allocated to helicopter landings, it would have meant the helicopter would have needed to land there if it was going to take off from there.

It was later confirmed that he would not be able to land in the park as it was too large to safely land at a required distance from the crowd.

The Sikorsky S-92 is one of the most expensive commercial helicopters, boasting an on-board bathroom and luxury fixtures and furnishings.

■ CONCERNS OVER THE WATER SUPPLY

There were fears there may have been enough water for V Festival revellers after a drop in levels at a nearby reservoir.

By November 2016, the reservoir level was critically low, causing Essex and Suffolk Water to worry there would not be enough supplies for the festival.

However, this was later resolved after water was redirected.

■ SYSTEM TO CALL POLICE DID NOT WORK PROPERLY

An issue arose with calling into 101 for police response, leading to delays in information exchange and police response.

■ A MAN WAS ATTACKED WITH A HAMMER

A man was attacked with a hammer in an early morning brawl between two groups of campers.

The incident happened in the campsite at 5am on Monday, August 21, after the two groups clashed.

■ SOME FESTIVAL STAFF WERE NOT VETTED

Essex Police advised that they had received a total of 740 vetting requests in the month before the festival.

The briefing note, dated July 14, revealed Essex Police’s frustration with the organisations who had submitted 740 requests for vetting leaving them with insufficient time to carry out the work.

It was then decided that those with security industry authority badges would not be vetted.

Essex Police added that the vetting procedure did not work and requested that a policy be put in place for vetting for future events.

■ PYROTECHNIC DEVICE SET THE STAGE ALIGHT

A small fire on Stage 1 was caused by burlap igniting from a pyrotechnic.

The fire was dealt with quickly and similar pyrotechnics were not used.
The Harvey Centre has launched a brand new food quarter with the hopes that it will help make Harlow a “bustling town once again”.

The shopping centre, which is located in the centre of town, marked the occasion with a free family event for shoppers on Saturday (February 17).

The Terrace is the new food quarter that will be the home of some of Harlow’s most popular restaurants and a Cineworld Cinema.

The area now boasts restaurants including Sticky Sisters, Burger Priest, Burger King, Kung Fu The Real China Oriental Buffet and Subway.

It has been a busy period for The Harvey Centre, with Cineworld launching back in December 2016 and the openings of Sticky Sisters and Burger Priest at the end of 2017. A number of the restaurants were offering special discounts during the free family event on Saturday. These were aimed at bringing more customers through their doors.

Sticky Sisters handed out balloons and mini-eggs for the children, plus there was a sample table outside the restaurant for shoppers to enjoy.

Subway offered discount and meal deal vouchers, while Burger Priest handed out £5 meal deal flyers and Burger King offered free ice cream samples, dress-up crowns and colouring books to shoppers.

Kung Fu The Real China Oriental Buffet and Cineworld also got involved in the action, with the restaurant offering a 10 per cent discount on the day and Cineworld offering £1 off popcorn when purchasing tickets.

Sticky Sisters was giving out free samples at the launch of the food quarter in Harlow.
OPERATION Raptor was set up by Essex Police in May 2014 with the goal of disrupting and dismantling any gangs who travel to Essex planning to deal drugs and cause violence.

In the first two-and-a-half years of the operation, teams in the north, south, west and local policing areas made more than 1,300 arrests and seized in excess of £172,000 cash.

Looking at 2017, police arrested over 100 people and secure well over 100 years in custodial sentences for offenders including possessing drugs, possession with intent to supply and being concerned in the supply of heroin, cocaine, crack cocaine, cannabis and amphetamine.

Here are the faces of all the criminals connected to the Harlow area, who were jailed during 2017 as part of the operation:

**DAVID JOSEPH**

Jailed for 4 years

Joseph was sentenced to four years after he exploited a vulnerable man by using his home as a base to play drugs.

Officers from the Harlow Community Policing and Operation Raptor team visited a property in Rundells, Harlow in July 2016 with concerns for the welfare of the man living at the address.

During a four-day trial, Chelmsford Crown Court heard the door to the property was opened by 25-year-old Joseph, who was one of several gang members who had taken over control of the man’s property and was using it as a drugs base.

Joseph, of Brandon Street, South London, was searched by officers and found in possession of cannabis and £220 cash, before a further search of the flat revealed 26 rocks of heroin and crack cocaine, along with another £310 cash.

**JOMARDI MCPHERSON**

Jailed for 3 years and 7 months

On November 16, 2016, police officers attempted to question Jomardi McPherson but he ran off, before later being caught in Bushfair, Harlow.

He was found in possession of 1.7 grams of heroin and one gram of cocaine and cannabis. McPherson, 22, of Applewood Drive, Plaistow, appeared at Chelmsford Crown Court for sentencing on Thursday, February 16.

He received two years and one month in prison for two counts of possession with intent to supply Class A drugs and one count of possession with intent to supply Class B drugs.

**AMIR MOSTOFI AND GLEN ELAMO**

Jailed for a combined total of more than 6 years

Officers from the West Operation Raptor team were on patrol in the Town Park area of Harlow on October 4, 2016, when they received reports that drug dealers had gathered and a suspected deal was about to take place.

The police went to the area and saw a group of what was believed to be drug users approaching a vehicle.

The driver of the car was 26-year-old Mostofi, who panicked and dropped an object in his lap and attempted to drive the car away while his passenger, 20-year-old Elamo, tried to escape on foot.

They were stopped and searched by officers, where wraps and rocks of the Class A drugs heroin and cocaine were found, as well as mobile phones and more than £200 in cash.

Both men were arrested and charged with one count of possession of a Class A drug with intent to supply

Elamo, of Station Road, East London, and Mostofi, of Downe Court, North London, admitted the charges. Elamo was jailed for three years and six months, while Mostofi was handed a three-year prison sentence.

**BANA HABTEGIORGIS**

Jailed for 2 years and 6 months

Bana Habtegiorgis, 27, of Longfield, Harlow, was sentenced after admitting supplying Class A drugs with intent to supply when she appeared at Chelmsford Crown Court.

The court heard officers searched the flat at Longfield, Harlow, on May 25, 2016. Several people, including Habtegiorgis, were found inside the home. They were all searched and when Habtegiorgis was moved from the sofa where she was sitting, officers found a parcel which contained 44 wraps of crack cocaine and 28 wraps of heroin.

She was arrested and declined to make any comment during her subsequent police interview.

She was charged and admitted supplying Class A drugs and was given a 30-month jail term.

**DESIRE JOHNSON**

Jailed for 2 years and 6 months

On Friday, February 17, 2017, officers on patrol in the Pittman’s Field area of Harlow spotted 25-year-old Johnson with a group of people, including known drug users.

After noticing the police officers, Johnson left the group and began walking away. She was stopped and questioned by the officers, during which she admitted supplying drugs to the group.

She was arrested and taken to a...
property in Pittmans Field where she had been in the months leading up to her arrest. A search of the house uncovered 154 wraps of Class A drugs in a bag belonging to Johnson. Johnson, who is from the West Midlands, was charged and admitted two counts of possession with intent to supply Class A drugs when she appeared at Chelmsford Crown Court in April 2017 and she received a 36-month jail term.

**MOHAMMED REHMAN**

**Jailed for 3 years and 3 months**

Two drug dealers were sentenced after being caught red-handed by officers from the West Operation Raptor team.

Officers were patrolling the Madder Road area of Harlow on March 7, 2016, when they spotted a group of known drug users near School Lane, Harlow. He was stopped by police and searched and found to be in possession of cannabis. He was jailed for three years and three months.

**AJAUN RILEY AND ISHMAIL KELLY**

**Jailed for a combined 6 years and 2 months**

Chelmsford Crown Court heard officers were patrolling the Longfields area of Harlow in January 2017 when they noticed a number of individuals leaving a property known to be linked to the supply of drugs.

One man who left the house ran off when approached by officers, he went into the property and carried out a search. Inside, police found 25-year-old Ajau Riley and 25-year-old Ishmail Kelly preparing small blue wraps of drugs on a bed with a one-year-old child present.

The pair and the room were searched and officers found 96 wraps of crack cocaine and 24 wraps of heroin. Kelly also had £345 cash in his pocket.

A search of the house also uncovered mobile phones, scales and bags used to weigh and package drugs, more than £1,600 in cash and a CS gas canister.

Riley, of Hood Close, Croydon, admitted two counts of possessing a Class A drug with intent to supply and was jailed for two years and eight months, while Kelly, 25, from Camberwell, South London, was found guilty after a trial at Chelmsford Crown Court of two counts of possessing a Class A drug with intent to supply. He was jailed for three years and six months.

**BRADLEY BOATENG**

**Jailed for 6 years**

Police officers spotted 20-year-old Boateng leaving a house in The Brians, Harlow. He was stopped and searched and found to be in possession of a five-inch combat knife.

They carried out a search of the house that Boateng had come into custody, where he was found to have 33 rocks of crack cocaine and heroin.

A warrant was also executed at Boateng’s home in Fairview Close, Walthamstow, where officers found a further £380 in cash, six bags of cannabis and letters making references to gangs. Boateng was charged and pleaded guilty to possessing a Class B drug, possessing a knife in a public place, possession of a Class A drug with intent to supply and breaching a Criminal Behaviour Order. He was given a total of six years in prison and the court ordered the forfeiture of the cash, knife and drugs.

**JEFF PINDI-CAMARA**

**Jailed for 3 years**

Acting on information, the West Operation Raptor team searched a house in The Dashes, Harlow on Sunday, June 25, 2017. They found 19-year-old Jeff Pindi-Camara asleep on a sofa. They searched him and found 42 rocks of crack and heroin in his boxer shorts. He was also found with cannabis and cash.

Pindi-Camara, of Blackshaw Road, London, was charged with two counts of possessing a Class A drug with intent to supply and was found guilty after a trial at Chelmsford Crown Court. He was jailed for three years. The court also ordered the forfeiture and destruction of the drugs and cash.

**RYAN FINDLAY**

**Jailed for 5 years and 9 months**

Findlay, 25, was a drug dealer from London who visited Harlow 24 times in just one month to ply his trade.

He was stopped by police officers in August 2017 in a car in School Lane, Harlow, which was suspected of being linked to drug dealing.

Officers approached the car and arrested Findlay. He was taken into custody, where he was found to have 33 rocks of crack cocaine and heroin.

A search of Findlay’s home in Isledon Road, Holloway, found cannabis, money and various drug paraphernalia.

A warrant was also executed at Findlay’s home in Isledon Road, Holloway, found cannabis, money and various drug paraphernalia.

He was charged with two counts of possessing a Class A drug with intent to supply and a further charge of possessing cannabis.

Findlay pleaded guilty to the charges at Chelmsford Crown Court and was jailed for five years and nine months.
Bereavements

Happy Birthday Daughter

Happy 60th Sue!

To the best mum and wife there is. Wishing you a wonderful 60th birthday on 26th February - hope you enjoy all your celebrations! All our love, Steve, Adele & Elliott xxx

Happy 40th Birthday

Wells Sarah

Congratulations on your special day
Love from all the family

SHARE A DECADE OF MEMORIES WITH YOUR FAMILY & FRIENDS

Golden Wedding Anniversary

Florey John and Carol

Congratuations on your 50th Wedding Anniversary. We are very proud of you. With much love from Mel, James, Alice, Molly, Ness, Andy and Joshua XX

Bereavements

Happy 40th Birthday

Sara Olivia King

Hope you have a great day on the 23rd February with love always

Doreen Mary Hogbin

“Doll”

Passed away peacefully on 28th January 2018 aged 87 years.

Beloved wife of Sue, loving mother to Clive and mother-in-law to Eugenie. Devoted Nanny to Jackie and James. She will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. The funeral service will be held at St James the Great Church, Thorley, on Tuesday 6th March at 11 am.

Alternatively, please visit the ‘In Memory’ page at www.drobinson.co.uk

Doris Serona Cole

Passed away peacefully on Saturday 16th February 2018 aged 98. She will be sadly missed by all her family. The funeral service will be held at Great St Mary’s Church, Sawbridgeworth on Wednesday 28th February 2018 at 3.00pm followed by interment in Sawbridgeworth Cemetery.

Flowers may be sent to Daniel Robinson & Sons, 79/81 South Street, Bishop’s Stortford, CM23 3AL or on-line In memory pages at www.drobinson.co.uk

Dorothy Jean Hutchinson

Passed away on 28th January 2018 aged 87 years.

Beloved wife of Eric, loving mother to Kelvin and mother-in-law to Maureen. Devoted Nan to Jacqui and Mark. She will be deeply missed by all her family and friends. The funeral service will be held at St. Mary’s Church, Sawbridgeworth, on Tuesday 6th March at 11am. Family flowers only please or donations to “Friends of St James” c/o Daniel Robinson & Sons, 79/81 South Street, Bishop’s Stortford, CM23 3AL or on-line In memory pages at www.drobinson.co.uk

David Richard Corbett

Passed away on 18th February 2018. Sadly missed by his wife, family & friends.

Funeral service to take place on Saturday 10th March 2018 at 10.45am.

Family flowers only but donations gratefully received for Alzheimer’s Society may be sent c/o Daniel Robinson & Sons, 79/81 South Street, Bishop’s Stortford, CM23 3AL or on-line In memory pages at www.drobinson.co.uk

Thomas Philip Keenan

07.08.1938 - 30.01.2018

aged 79 years. Dearly loved husband of Jennifer, father of James and Abigail and grandfather of Jack, Toby, Alix, Daisy, Sam, Freddy and Max. Sadly missed, will forever be in our thoughts.

For all Funeral enquiries please contact Daniel Robinson & Sons.
Tel: 01279 655477

David Richard

CLUNE

Teresa

Passed away peacefully on Friday 2nd February at Princess Alexandra Hospital. Loving mother to Margaret, Raymond, Jacqueline and Adrian and a much-loved grandmother, great-grandmother and neighbour.

Vigil at 5:30pm on Monday 26th February at St James with St. Luke’s Church, Perry Road, Harlow.

Funeral Mass at the same church at 2:15pm on Tuesday 27th February followed by Committal at Parrond Wood Crematorium at 3.15pm.

Family flowers only but donations gratefully received for the Papworth Hospital Charity via Teresa’s In Memory page at www.drobinson.co.uk or by cheque c/o Daniel Robinson & Sons, Wych Elm, Harlow CM20 1QD or Tel: 01279 426990.

Doris’ family would like to thank all at Alexandra Hospice and Daniel Robinson & Sons.

John and Carol

CLARK

Christopher James

CLARK

‘CHRIS’

Sadly passed away on 3rd February 2018 aged 56 Years.

The beloved Wife to Chris, Mum to Tom, Charlie, Ryan & Nathan, wonderful Nan to his Five Grandchildren, Sister to Gary & Kevin, Sister-in-Law to Tracy & Hayley, and Daughter to Beryl. She will be sadly missed by all her family and many friends.

Funeral Service will be held at Parrond Wood Crematorium on Thursday 1st March 2018 at 1.00pm.

Family flowers only please. If desired, donations, made payable to ‘Cancer Research UK’ may be sent to c/o Daniel Robinson & Sons, Wych Elm, Harlow CM20 1QD or Tel: 01279 426990.

Alternatively, please visit www.justgiving.com/fundraising/chris-loved62

PETER ROY CLARKE

(Murphy)

Sadie passed away on the 8th Feb 2018 aged 86 and will be dearly missed by his wife Iris and family.

Funeral to take place Wed 28th Feb 12.15pm at Parrond Wood Crematorium, Harlow.

Happy Birthday Daughter

Happy 60th SUE!

PREATER SUE

To the best mum and wife there is. Wishing you a wonderful 60th birthday on 26th February - hope you enjoy all your celebrations!

All our love,

Steve, Adele & Elliott xxx

Happy 40th Birthday

Sarah WELLS

Congratulations on your special day
Love from all the family

YOUR MEMORIES ARE NEVER FORGOTTEN ONLINE

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YOUR MEMORIES ARE NEVER FORGOTTEN ONLINE

Golden Wedding Anniversary

Florey John and Carol

Congratuations on your 50th Wedding Anniversary. We are very proud of you. With much love from Mel, James, Alice, Molly, Ness, Andy and Joshua XX

Bereavements

Christopher James CLARK

‘CHRIS’

Sadly passed away on 26th February 2018 aged 52 years.

Beloved Son, Brother, Uncle and Best Friend. He will be sadly missed by all his Family & Friends.

Funeral Service to be held at Parrond Wood Crematorium on Monday 26th February 2018 at 10.45am.

Flowers or Donations, made payable to ‘Diabetes UK’, may be sent c/o Daniel Robinson & Sons, Wych Elm, Harlow, CM20 1QD or Tel: 01279 426990.

Alternatively, please visit the ‘In Memory’ page at www.drobinson.co.uk

James Alfred Arthur GOTOBED

(‘Jim’)

Sadly passed away 12th February 2018.

Aged 91 years.

Loving Husband to Margaret, Father to Tim, Father-in-law to Janet, Grandad to Craig, Jayne & Alex.

Funeral Service to be held at Parrond Wood Crematorium on Monday 19th March 2018 at 1.45pm.

Family flowers only.

If desired, donations, made payable to Alzheimer’s Research UK may be sent c/o Daniel Robinson & Sons, Wych Elm, Harlow, CM20 1QD or Tel: 01279 426990.
JUNE MAWBEY

Sadly passed away at St. Clare Hospice on 13th February 2018.

She will be very deeply missed by her daughters Jane and Anna in law Stephen, grandson Matthew and great grandchildren.

Funeral service to take place at Parndon Wood Crematorium on Friday 2nd March at 12.15pm.

Family flowers only; donations to St Clare Hospice c/o Daniel Robinson & Sons, Wych Elm, Harlow, CM20 1QP. Tel: 01279 426990

Alternatively please visit the ‘In Memory page’ at www.drobinson.co.uk

Bridget (Bridie) MATTHEWS

Marie, David, Patricia and Denise would like to sincerely thank relatives and friends for their expressions of sympathy, love and support on the recent death of their Mum. Thank you to Father Peter Harris for his kind words and comforting service in celebration of Mum’s life. Thanks also to Daniel Robinson Funeral Directors for their caring and professional service.

Megan FRIER

Guess what, our Mogs is in 21 today Happy Birthday my darling, with much love from your Nanna xxxxx

WRIGHT

John Ronald

Passed away suddenly on Wednesday 17th January 2018 aged 59 years.

Much missed Brother and Friend.

Funeral Service to take place at Parndon Wood Crematorium on Monday 22nd February 2018 at 3.15pm.

Family flowers only but donations to MIND should be sent c/o Daniel Robinson & Sons, Wych Elm Harlow Essex CM20 1QP.

Tel: 01279 426990

or via our In Memory Pages www.drobinson.co.uk

WIN LAMBERT

Carole and Stephen would like to thank all relatives, neighbours and friends for attending their mum’s funeral. Thank you for all the lovely cards and messages of condolence, it has been a great comfort to them. Special thanks to Celebrant, Debs Heywood, for her all her support and dedication in making their mum’s funeral service so special and to everyone at Peasgood & Skeates for their help and guidance.
Opportunity is not to be squandered

THE new jobs created by the Enterprise Zone and the arrival of Public Health England are welcome indeed. But it is the local economies of towns such as Epping, Bishops Stortford, Hertford, Sawbridgeworth and beyond that will benefit if, as is likely, the professional and highly-skilled employees they will attract choose to make these towns their home. Their high earnings will be spent in the cafes and shops and on services in their home towns at the evenings and weekends.

Harlow has worked hard to create these jobs. It must work equally hard to improve the cultural, night time and weekend offer so that the town becomes an equally desirable place to live as well as work, a comparable experience to the market town or city life available in the commutable area. This includes exploiting its incredible sculpture collection, supporting the Playhouse, encouraging independent restaurants and cafes (whilst curbing the growth of fast-food outlets) and perhaps most importantly recognising and extolling the qualities of the physical fabric – the houses, hatches and community buildings, the cycle tracks, landscape and public art which make up the Harlow experience. Then, as Harlow grows on its outskirts, it does so around a strong, vibrant core.

Led by our council and by our cultural, religious and business leaders, we must reimagine all of life, not only a 9-5 job, in this historic new town. To not do so will be to squander a once in a generation opportunity.

Chris Snow
Orchard Croft, The Stow
No longer proper policing service

DO we have enough police officers in Harlow? I am told that we currently have forty-seven full-time police officers in our local policing team which is directly controlled by our local commander. That is not sufficient enough to deliver local policing services to our communities. Why not? Well 47 is estimated to be 17 officers light based on the figures given to me. Will Harlow get those extra police officers? I suspect not given the fluid nature of recruitment, retirement, and promotion within the service.

Add to that the number of officers just leaving the service in disgust and frustration because of the austerity cuts and you can start to understand how this mendacious government has engendered a feeling of low morale and ambivalence in this most vital public service.

In short, the residents will pay even more this year for fewer policing services in their communities. I have been, and indeed continue to be, supportive of the local police service and in fact actively supported the introduction of local neighbourhood policing in my area.

Indeed the local residents group that I started over 25 years ago encouraged police officers to attend its meetings.

It worked particularly well in my area because with a demographic of elderly and retired residents’ overt neighbourhood policing was and still is essential. Unfortunately now what we get is "cover policing" whatever that actually means.

Policing in general and neighbourhood policing in particular is important for a sustainable and cohesive society in this country but sadly the residents are not receiving a proper policing service at the moment due to the actions of this current government.

I have therefore decided to cut legal aid, close our local courts, reduce the number of prison officers and privatise part of the probation service just adds to my conclusion that the justice system is in perpetual meltdown.

If it wasn’t so serious, it would be laughable.

Gary Roberts, Carters Mead, Harlow

Faith in human nature restored

I WOULD like to express my opinion on the case of John Jones, the gentleman who had his home taken away by Essex County Council.

After I was targeted with abuse online via members of spotted Harlow, for defending bipolar sufferers and mental health I had lost my faith in human nature and in people in this town.

Then I heard that local kind, generous lady: Charlie Ellis, had offered homeless John a home for him to stay on. Local residents gave him food, money and blankets and a kind lady looked after his dogs.

Charlie and some other kind locals were targeted on Facebook with hate mail, regarding their help towards John and his situation.

What is wrong with some people? Why would people do that to someone being generous and kind to somebody in need?

I can say is well done Charlie Ellis and all the others, who defended and helped John.

Nobody should be homeless, and as for the people who sent hate online abuse, it shows a lack of empathy for human kind and it makes good people shine brighter.

Well done to all the good, kind people, who helped and signed the petition to get John his home back.

Good luck to John in his new home, which was kindly donated by local company K.P Property Development.

Clare Harrison, Church Langley

£29 to belong to EU is a bargain

I GOT something through in the post the other day telling me how much tax and national insurance I paid in the last tax year.

On the back there was a breakdown of how much of the money I paid went on various cures, for example, welfare, pensions, defence etc.

Of the just over £4,000 I paid from my modest salary (I’m a journalist), £29 went on Britain’s membership of the EU. £29 – that’s all.

It was the smallest amount listed in that breakdown of payments, almost £20 less than the £242 I paid towards the interest (just the interest) on our national debt.

For so all those who were taken in by stories about the supposedly eye-watering amounts Britain was paying into the EU, it wasn’t really that much after all.

£29 – I’ve spent more than that in the supermarket.

Or, to put it another way, £29 divided by 365 days equals a daily cost of less than 8p.

Quite a bargain for all the benefits that EU membership brings us, and nothing compared to the cost we will all have to pay for leaving the EU.

Stephen Wilkinson

By email

WEBCHAT

The hot topics our readers have been discussing on social media this week

32 Things you only know if you grew up in Harlow in the 90s

Clare Hobbs: Staple Tyre with its cool joke shop, boutique, dance shop, sweet shop, and a hardware shop that used to have lots of unusual erasers, and kids bits and bobs and a moody shopkeeper that used to watch all the kids like a hawk.

Emily Louise Tovell: Odeon the old days most of these things to do there’s not missed the town having the Odeon the old swimming pool the market up town I watch all the kids like a hawk. Have lots of unusual things to do there’s not missed.

Jo Swaep: the old days most of these places were good. Harlow ain’t got a place to go now in our town looks like dodgy decor!

Michelle Walker: RIP my thoughts and prayers are with your family xx

Karen Bowman: Thoughts and prayers going out to his family rip Billy xxx

Siany Ashleigh Benge: RIP Billy has been named in a pond in Harlow.

RIP Billy

RIP sorry

RIP Billy

RIP Billy

RIP Billy

RIP my hearted and always cared for family, RIP.

Sarah’s cafe, the Odeon, Stow cafe, the Odeon, Stow Quazer. They were good days.

Michelle Walker: RIP my thoughts and prayers go out to his family

Karen Knight: Thoughts are with the family rip Billy xxx

Joanne Preston: Everyone had their parties at The Maypole!! Miss that place... even the dodgy decor!

Clare Hobbs: The old cycle museum with access to the grounds for a walk and a picnic.

Sheila Palmer: Fantastic market.

The man found dead in a pond in Harlow

Jo Swaep: RIP Billy shine bright gone but not forgotten , you will be sadly missed by family and friends you'll never be forgotten sweet dreams xx

Rach Richardson: RIP thoughts and sympathy to all your family Billy.

Mary Butterfield: RIP for the loss too the family so sad.

Jeano Turner: Rip Billy thoughts and prayers are with all your family at this sad time x

Michelle Walker: RIP my thoughts and prayers go out to his family

Karen Knight: Thoughts are with the family rip Billy xxx

Mary Wells: Thoughts and prayers going out to his family rip Billy.

Julie Richardson: RIP Billy you’s left us but never forgotten thoughts are with your family xx

Maryann Smithers: Prayers are with his family and friends.

Alan Vinny Webb: Rip Billy boy, a cheerful cheeky chappy who will be sorely missed.

R.I.P Billy

Good luck to John in his new home, which was kindly donated by local company K.P Property Development.
TALKING POINT

Getting to grips with the online tormentors

THE BIG QUESTION:

There is no specific law in the UK that makes cyberbullying illegal, does this need to be addressed?

LABOUR

Eugenie Harvey

LIKE most people, I can remember feeling intimidated and occasionally bullied by older, tougher, seemingly cooler kids when I was at school. I was an easy target – ‘the fat kid’.

Thankfully, my school took the problem seriously. It also nurtured our skills to build self-esteem, so I came out of it relatively unscathed.

But I still remember the relief of getting home from school and feeling “safe” from my tormentors.

Today, the situation is pretty much reversed for our children – bullying is a hot topic in schools and from the earliest age teachers are working with children to stamp it out.

Our seven-year-old is very clear that his school, Churchgate Primary, has a zero tolerance of bullying. But for our older child, the pressure often begins when she leaves school and enters the social media world – where sexting, cyber bullying, intimidation, exclusion, online sexual abuse are rife.

And like pretty much every other teenager, she expects her time in this world to have no adult interference or supervision.

We don’t allow our kids to walk around the streets unprotected. Then why do we let them roam around the world of social media without protection?

At a conference in London last year, school leaders were warned by mental health experts that time spent messaging friends on Snapchat and Instagram can be just as dangerously addictive for teenagers as drugs and alcohol, and should be treated as such.

Is it any coincidence, then, that our young people are experiencing sky rocketing levels of depression and anxiety? Some are being treated for technology addiction.

In 2008 Gordon Brown, asked the child psychologist Professor Tanya Byron to investigate the impact the internet and video games were having on children.

Her report made 38 recommendations for making the online world safe for children, including a call for voluntary regulation of websites.

A decade later, the Conservative government’s internet safety strategy is only now in the process of developing a code of practice for social networks and fewer than half of Byron’s recommendations have been fully implemented.

Meanwhile, the online world has moved on: Instagram, Snapchat, WhatsApp and video conferencing apps did not exist a decade ago; today 83% of 12 to 15-year-olds have a smartphone, and half of all children have a social media profile by age 12, according to Ofcom.

This government says it wants the UK to be the safest place for children to go online, and yet it’s not able to keep pace with the developments in the industry.

The time has passed for the industry to monitor itself.

The government must make social media websites stick to a mandatory code of practice and give an independent regulator the power to fine those that break the rules.

It is the only way to provide our children and young people with the protection they need and deserve.

It is the recommendation of the NSPCC and it’s difficult to think there is a parent that would disagree.

INDEPENDENT

Jon Clempner

CYBERBULLYING and online harassment is undoubtedly a problem, for young people, in schools, in the workplace and in public life.

Cyberbullying of young people can have a devastating effect, impacting their education, mental health, and in extreme circumstances leading to taking their own life.

In public life, campaigners and elected representatives, particularly women, are subject to online harassment and threats of physical violence and rape for simply expressing a point: Is current UK law adequate to deal with these or should specific legislation be enacted?

There is a range of current law that addresses this area from the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 and the

Public Order Act 1996, to legislation covering electronic communications specifically, such as the Communications Act 2003.

With the exception of some specific issues related to Child Sexual Exploitation (such as online grooming), which do need addressing, the issue is not the lack of suitable legislation, it is the willingness of internet providers, public bodies, investigators and prosecutors to take the issue seriously, investigate allegations, and take the necessary action.

There needs to be a joined up, properly funded, and broad strategy to address cyberbullying.

This needs to cover education and public awareness campaigns, including specific training for police, teachers and youth workers, supporting organisations such as Bullying UK and the National Bullying Helpline, adequate mental health support and resources for young people who are victims, and resources in schools.

In short, the law, while not perfect, is not the problem. Our attitude, and willingness to tackle cyberbullying and online harassment, is.

WHAT QUESTIONS DO YOU WANT ANSWERED?

Every week, we’ll be putting your questions to representatives of each of your main local parties. So get involved! Email your questions to get the issues that matter to you on the agenda.

EMAIL YOUR QUESTIONS TO COMMUNITY@HERTSESSEXNEWS.CO.UK
YOUR CHARITY NEWS

Bears set for busy year after outlining big plans for 2018

TO enable it to continue its voluntary life-saving work, supporting the ambulance service to deliver enhanced pre-hospital care to patients across Essex, Bears has additional key focuses.

Over the next year to 18 months, the Essex emergency medical charity is determined to grow, enabling it to provide more pre-hospital care to the people of Essex.

Bears wants to increase the number of autonomous responding doctors and paramedics, increase the number of shifts that the Enhanced Care Car covers and increase the training opportunities for their volunteer medics.

Ultimately the charity aims to create fundraising groups across the county, which will volunteer either individually or collaboratively, to raise funds to and help save lives.

If you are interested in knowing more about Paul Gates, chairman and critical care paramedic, Kelly Gooby and Dr Ian Gibson MBE volunteering for Bears, the charity would love you to make contact.

To accommodate its anticipated growth, the charity has the immediate need to source and secure its first administration headquarters.

Aside space to carry out from the day-to-day administration and operational work, it also requires premises to do training, store equipment and be a base for both its Enhanced Care Car and Community Awareness Vehicle.

If you are an individual or a local business and feel that you may be in a position to be able to offer support to the charity, by way of funding a base or able to allocate some space at a minimal cost, the charity would like to hear from you.

If you are a club or organisation and wish to know more about the charity’s voluntary life-saving work, it can arrange for one of its doctors or paramedics to give a talk to your members, outlining how and at what stage Bears are activated and ultimately the level of care that the charity provides.

For further information visit www.bearsmedics.org.uk or email: lisa.thomas@bearsmedics.org.uk – or you can call 07910 018874.

You would be barking mad to miss dog-friendly fundraiser

PUPPY love is in the air at St Clare Hospice as the charity prepares for its annual Winter Walkies event.

The 5km dog walking fundraiser will be taking place at the Hastingswood-based hospice this Sunday February 25, 2018.

Walkers can also sign up on the day.

Be aware that the route is not suitable for pushchairs or wheelchairs.

This year’s event is kindly sponsored by Epping-based vets, Forest Veterinary Centre.

For more information and to register, call Emma Broadbent on 01279 773754, email emma.broadbent@stclarehospice.org.uk or see stclarehospice.org.uk/event/winter-walkies

EMAIL YOUR NEWS TO US AT COMMUNITY@HERTSESSEXNEWS.CO.UK

Families are gearing up for this weekend’s Winter Walkies fundraiser
Youngsters have a ball searching for owner of lost shoe

ONCE upon a time, Prince Charming found a shoe – and wrote to pupils in Harlow asking for help in finding the owner.

Pupils in Turner and Hockney classes at Little Parndon Primary Academy wrote back to the prince, asking for more information about the shoe.

Prince Charming replied, telling pupils the shoe was seven cubes long.

Stephanie Galliers, Early Years Foundation Stage teacher, said: “Hockney and Turner Class became very busy and measured their own shoes and everything else in sight to try to find out who the shoe belonged to.

“Both classes replied to Prince Charming sending all of their measurements and asking if we could meet him. A couple of moons later, Prince Charming sent a reply, thanking us for helping him and saying he would love to meet us, too. He invited us to a ball in the ballroom.

“We all made shopping lists of food we would like, cooked and dressed up for an amazing event.

“Prince Charming – executive principal Allan Osborne - arrived on his horse and we danced the hour away until the clock struck 12 and Prince Charming had to rush off before his coach turned into a pumpkin.”

Mr Osborne is leader of the West Essex hub of schools in the Burnt Mill Academy Trust.

Mrs Galliers said: “All the work we have done this term was aimed towards this event. It gave the children a purpose for learning and made learning fun.”

Students dressed up for the ‘amazing ball’ to find the owner of the shoe

Stunning Beauty and the Beast brings the house down

ST MARK’S West Essex Catholic School’s annual musical production played to packed houses last week as children and adults enjoyed splendid performances of Beauty and the Beast over a two night run. In addition, 250 primary school children from five local schools enjoyed a performance especially for them.

Produced and directed by Head of Drama, Rachel Chisnall, the production was engaging and full of fun.

Emma Knudsen was perfect in the role of Belle, James Heinz a suitably fierce, yet sensitive, Beast and both were well supported by strong performances from the other principal players.

The musical accompaniment, performed by staff and pupil musicians under the direction of Sarah Kinsella, brought to life Alan Menken’s beautiful score and the school hall was transformed by a stunning set created by Art Technician Sharon Carroll, who also made some very imaginative costumes.

With a cast of 52 across all age groups, who had rehearsed after school and at weekends, the production gave actors, singers, dancers and musicians a special opportunity to showcase their many talents.

Rachel Chisnall said: “The extremely enthusiastic response from visiting primary school pupils and the paying audience exceeded all my expectations and I am incredibly proud of all those who were involved in the production.”

Some of the cast of 52 from across all age groups
HOLD THE FRONT PAGE:
Budding reporters inspired to launch school newspaper

WANNABE journalists made the front page when they visited the Guardian newspaper.
Year 6 pupils from Little Parndon Primary Academy, in Harlow, took a trip to the London newsroom of the national tabloid.
Reporters and sub-editors talked the 60 pupils through the process of putting a newspaper together, explaining how to gather and write stories and design pages.
During a workshop, pupils put together their own newspaper front pages and were challenged to complete their work to a tight deadline.
The trainee reporters researched and wrote stories focusing on science and the environment, before sub-editing the articles, writing headlines, selecting images and completing their pages. Jayne Lilley, lead practitioner, said: "Visiting the Guardian newspaper was amazing for the children. "Visits like this give real meaning to what children are learning at school. "They have been so inspired by their day at the Guardian that pupils are now keen to launch their own school newspaper."

Production team spotlight falls on Academy's Year 8 tech students

A SHOW’s production team was made up of 12-year-olds for the first time.
Year 8 students at Burnt Mill Academy, in Harlow, took charge of the lighting, sound and projection for a recent production.
They were supporting Year 9, 10 and 11 students who performed 'DNA', the set text for this year’s GCSE drama course. Phil Watson, lead practitioner in drama, said: "Our senior drama company auditioned for roles in the full-length production. "For the first time, a Year 8 tech team added the design aspects, which are an important part of the GCSE course."
The black comedy explores the nature of human violence through a group of teenagers.
Mr Watson said: "It is hard-hitting and challenging to the audience."
The audience included students from fellow Burnt Mill Academy Trust School, Royal Docks Academy, as well as GCSE and Trinity Arts Awards students from Burnt Mill.

Year 8 students at Burnt Mill Academy in Harlow took charge of the lighting, sound and projection for a recent production.
Pupils swap Passmores for Paris in perfect trip

PARIS, the city synonymous with sophistication and style, was the destination for 29 lucky students from Passmores recently. The students’ arrival in the City of Light was heralded by a sighting of the Champs-Élysées and their first glimpse of the Arc de Triomphe. Later there was an opportunity to climb the 210m tower of the Tour Montparnasse, and visit Sacré Coeur, the Louvre, and France’s most iconic landmark, the Eiffel Tower.

But as well as sightseeing, the students made the most of the opportunity to practise their French when they visited the local shops and experienced authentic French cuisine at a restaurant in the district of Montmartre.

Francophile and Passmores head of modern foreign languages Yvonne Corkery said: “I was thrilled because the coach company that took us said that in the 25 years they had been taking schoolchildren abroad, ours had been the nicest and most well-behaved.

I have to say, the students’ attitude to learning was excellent, and the trip was amazing. It really was an unforgettable experience, or as they say in France, une expérience inoubliable!”

Canons Brook welcomes Euro star Sophia to golfing ranks

Canons Brook golf club is proud of all its junior members and the latest young golfer to join the club in Harlow is no exception.

Sophia Fullbrook, who lives in St Albans, won the U12 European championships in 2017, at the event held in Scotland where more than 630 children from 52 nations play in competitions across all ages.

Sophia has followed her coach and new head golf professional James Blake to Canons Brook from Redbourn golf club in Hertfordshire, where James has been teaching Sophia since the age of five.

James says: “She is such a really great girl and an amazing golfer to work with. “She is very competitive and focused when she plays and has lots of fun with her friends when at the golf club practising.

“On only the third time of her playing Canons Brook she nearly had a hole in one by hitting the flag from 140 yards away on our par-three seventh hole.”

If you have a child that would like to give golf a try, James runs group lessons on Saturdays at Canons Brook and evening lessons at Totally Golf store in Templefields, Harlow, on its state-of-the-art indoor golf simulators.

For more details, call the pro shop on 01279 418357.

YOUR NEWS

We compile our Community News pages two weeks in advance of publication. If you’d like to include a future event please make sure you tell us in plenty of time so our readers can come along.
‘We help people to leave a legacy for their loved ones’

IN its 125th year of trading it still has traditional service and values, but it also has some very modern methods. Over the past three years the Daniel Robinson & Sons firm has invested in the development of new computer software which enables it to collect online donations via its website; this complements its continued collection of cash and cheque donations.

Each year the number of donations grows, the online donation option helps because it’s quick and easy to do. Unlike national online donation sites, Robinson & Sons doesn’t charge donors for using this service and there is only a minimal charge by the external card processing agency.

There are huge benefits to collecting the donations online, where the beneficiary organisation is a registered charity. Its software automatically produces a declaration for gift aid for the donor to complete, as long as they are a UK taxpayer.

Gift Aid adds a further 25 per cent of the value of your donation to the amount that the charity receives. This increases every £1 to £1.25 and every £100 to £125, quite a substantial amount.

In total over the past year, the firm has collected donations for 299 different charities and organisations, processed 9,864 donations in total and collected and forwarded a staggering £428,883.89 on behalf of families.

Overall, an amazing £16,881 was raised in gift aid – £29,816 of this was collected via the software. It is particularly good news that the charity that benefited the most was the local Harlow hospice, St Clare’s.

Gary Neill, the managing director, says: “We continue to work to ensure that families get the best possible service. Investing in the software and in improving our systems means that donations received in memory of loved ones are maximised. “It’s something that we know families want and they are always our first priority. This is a service that we have never charged for as we see it as helping people to leave a legacy for their loved ones.”

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Durian Duran were at the heart of the New Romantic music scene 40 years ago. MARION McMULLEN showcases the music stars who gave their fans a licence to frill

WHAT did Princess Diana, the New Romantics and the Paris designers have in common? The answer is a little bit of lace.

Princess Diana often sported a chic frill at her neck during the early 1980s, while the New Romantics bands and their followers opted for lace jabots, mufflers and ruffles. The Paris fashion designers of the period also used lace with outrageous extravagance in their evening gowns.

Duran Duran celebrate their 40th anniversary this year and Simon Le Bon, John Taylor, Andy Taylor, Roger Taylor and Nick Rhodes captured the look of the era when they started.

The Birmingham group enjoyed success with hits such as Rio, Save A Prayer and Girls On Film and later opted for a more restrained look for their music videos.

Planet Earth became their first chart success in 1981 and the self-titled debut album came out later the same year.

Within two years, the group were being mobbed by fans as they arrived at Heathrow Airport and they were awarded a star on the Hollywood Walk Of Fame – next to John Lennon’s.

The New Romantics decade gave people the chance to dress up and release their inner dandy by mixing brocade, damask or chiffon liberally mixed with lace.

Simon Le Bon later said: “I submitted to hedonism.”

Adam And The Ants went one step further in the fashion stakes by adding a pirate look matched with native American-style warpaint. Adam even wanted to bring out a make-up line for men at one point.

He said: “To me, style is consistency.”

The group had their first number one hit in 1981 with Stand And Deliver – with the opening lines reflecting the growing importance of the link between fashion and music by declaring: “I’m the dandy highwayman who I was and discovered all these things – and the look of the era when they started.”

The distinctive-looking David Sylvian, who fronted Visage, brought out Fade To Grey in 1980 and was an influential figure in the New Romantics movement, appearing in the music video for David Bowie’s hit Ashes To Ashes.

Boy George and Culture Club arrived at Heathrow Airport and later the same year.

As Duran Duran singer Simon Le Bon once said: “I feel sorry for the 80s because it was never able to be anything much more than the hangover to the party that was the 80s.”

Music fans happily replicated the fashion choices of their favourite bands and the new looks flourished as part of the club scene.

Newspapers and magazines all gave tips on how to achieve the New Romantic look and how to find bargains at market stalls and secondhand shops.

Colour, make-up and lashings of lace all helped to make the flouncy-cuffed fashion popular among young fans, making them stand out from the crowd. It was a chance to go over the top and be extravagant as you danced the night away.

As Duran Duran singer Simon Le Bon once said: “I feel sorry for the 80s because it was never able to be anything much more than the hangover to the party that was the 80s.”

Looking flash and grabbing your attention. It was a credo that the 80s generation agreed with and Adam And The Ants spent weeks in the UK charts.

Spandau Ballet with brothers Gary and Martin Kemp, John Keeble, Steve Norman and singer Tony Hadley began the 1980s with To Cut A Long Story Short and enjoyed success over the decade with songs such as Chant No 1 (I Don’t Need This Pressure On), True, Gold and Through The Barricades. Their New Romantic wardrobe included everything from embroidered waistcoats and cummerbunds to pearl necklaces and cravats.

One of the looks even featured knickerbocker-type trousers matched with white socks.

Boy George and Culture Club added to the fashion scene when they appeared in 1982 with Do You Really Want To Hurt Me, George shocking many with his coloured make-up and ribbons in his hair. He later said: “To me, I think of the 80s as being this glorious decade where I discovered who I was and discovered all these amazing things... punk rock, electro music, fashion, all of that.”

Japan, fronted by the distinctive-looking David Sylvian, were around at the start of the decade and championed an androgynous look.

Welsh-born singer Steve Strange, who fronted Visage, brought out Fade To Grey in 1980 and was an influential figure in the New Romantics movement, appearing in the music video for David Bowie’s hit Ashes To Ashes.

He passed away in 2015 at the age of 55 and many of the singer’s New Romantic contemporaries attended his funeral. Spandau Ballet dedicated their concert at the Sanremo Music Festival to him on the day of the funeral.

Ultravox experimented with various fashion styles throughout the 1980s with singer Midge Ure sporting a black leather look to perform
FRESH FROM THE SUCCESS OF A TOP 10 ALBUM, ROCK BAND LOWER THAN ATLANTIS PLAY ESSEX IN APRIL. BASSIST DECLAN HART TELLS DARYL WEBBER HOW THEY REGAINED CONTROL OF WHAT THEY DO

It’s been a while since Lower Than Atlantis did a full tour of the UK but they’re making up for lost time with 22 dates across the country this spring including a gig at Chinnerys, Southend in April. The Watford four-piece are still on a high after their latest album, Safe In Sound, hit the top 10 last year and playing an arena tour with Enter Shikari. But they’re also looking forward to getting back to their roots according to bassist Declan Hart.

“We’re going to places we haven’t been to in five or six years, and some places we’ve never been to before, so we’re all excited about that. Our last headline tour was just seven or eight shows so this is much bigger.

More than 10 years into their career, the band have plenty of material to draw on for their live show. Will they be concentrating on more recent stuff for the gigs?

“It’ll be songs from across all the albums,” says Dec. “There’ll be 18-20 songs in the set. We’ve been saying it’ll be a greatest hits set without any hits! We haven’t started rehearsing yet but it’ll be a good mix of everything we’ve done.” They might not have a string of hit singles to their name but Lower Than Atlantis are a very successful band and they must be chuffed with the reaction that Safe In Sound got on release last summer. Did they expect it to go top 10?

“If you try to get a top 10 you’re probably doing something wrong,” says Dec. “No one knows for sure what makes a record good. You just try to write the best songs you can.

Dec says singer/guitarist Mike Duce tends to come up with a lot of the songs but it’s not always the case. Anyone can come up with a riff or idea that may lead to something. Once they’ve got seven or eight demos they’re happy with, then the band start thinking about how they can work them up and how an album might come together.

Given the confident songwriting of Safe In Sound, it’s a surprise to find that making the album was far from a smooth process.

“Safe In Sound was hard,” says Dec. “We got to the stage where we thought if this doesn’t work, then we’ll sack it all off. We put too much pressure on ourselves. In the end we realised we just have to do our own thing and not worry about anything else. I think every band breaks up and gets back together all the time. It’s what happens when the pressure is on and tensions run high.”

It may have been a bumpy ride but it’s certainly been worth it and Dec says it’s hardened the band’s resolve to do things their way and “The band always had a DIY/ punk ethos but we did start to lose it five or six years ago when we signed to Island and started doing things we didn’t really like and we got dropped. Now we’re back in control of what we do. We have our own studio where we can work on our songs without any outside pressure.

So Lower Than Atlantis are in a good place in 2017?

“We’re definitely in a good place now,” says Dec. “I think we’re in the best place we’ve been for a while. Things have improved a lot, we’re all a lot happier, things are a lot smoother now. We make it as real as possible. People can tell when what you do is contrived. We just focus on doing the best we can.”

Lower Than Atlantis play Chinnerys, Southend, on Saturday, April 14. Find out more about the band at www.lowerthanatlantis.co.uk.

Soulful delights

Soul II Soul have announced they’re coming to the Cliffs Pavilion on May 10 in Southend as part of the Club Classics Vol 1 30th anniversary tour. The double Grammy Award winning and five-time Brit Award nominated band had huge hits like Keep On Movin’ and Back To Life. Tickets for the tour are on sale now.
FOOD & DRINK

IF you’re in need of a super-quick supper, but one that’s fresh, lively and really good for you, this monkfish dish should tick all the boxes.

INGREDIENTS:
(Serves 2)
- 250g monkfish fillet or tail membrane removed and cut into 3cm thick medallions
- A handful of coriander leaves, chopped
- A handful of basil leaves
- A handful of chilli, deseeded and chopped
- 1 tsp sea salt
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1 tsp ground almonds
- 1 tbsp lemon juice
- 1 tbsp olive oil

METHOD:
1. Preheat the oven to 160 degrees C/Gas Mark 3.
2. Greaseproof paper. 20cm springform cake tin
3. Reduce the temperature to 140 degrees C/Gas Mark 2.
4. Make room for a magnum
5. Don’t put wine in the freezer
6. Invest in stemware
7. Tasting notes

THE Wine Show presenters Amelia Singer and Joe Fattorini have partnered with luxury cruise line Celebrity Cruises to decant some of their wine wisdom on buying, serving and tasting. Here are their tips to make your friends think you’re a wine buff...

1. Get the temperature right
2. Break the rules

A FEW RULES TO HELP YOU PASS AS A WINE EXPERT

Don’t have a midlife crisis over your diet

HE key to really eating well, and not forcing yourself to eat sad salad after sad salad – particularly when you hit the mid-life stage – is to focus on taste and flavour.

Well, this is what cookbook authors Mimi Spencer, 50, and Sam Rice, 48, believe: “Just because something is healthy, you don’t have to eat it – we’d rather get our greens fix from a nice watercress soup than a wheatgrass shot.”

The food writer friends first met at the school gates are now celebrating the paperback version of their recipe collection, The Midlife Cookbook, which dishes up recipes big on taste as well as nutrition, targeted for those facing middle-age. Here, they talk us through their inspirations and approach.

■ What nudged you to tackle the middle chunk of human life in cookbook form?
■ How have your own tastes shifted in the past 20 years?
■ Why, traditionally, do you think midlife has been relatively ignored?
■ Why have you decided to move into midlife cooking now?
■ What would you say is the key to having a healthy and delicious midlife diet?
■ What is the link between diet and your health?
■ How have your own tastes shifted in the past 20 years?

AEROSPACE FOODS

Mimi Spencer and Sam Rice, authors of The Midlife Kitchen, tell ELLA WALKER their thoughts on cooking, eating and living well as the years tick by

THE key to really eating well, and not forcing yourself to eat sad salad after sad salad – particularly when you hit the mid-life stage – is to focus on taste and flavour.

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“ONE of our Midlife mantras is to embrace variety – and the sheer abundance of flavour, texture and colour here will clearly do wonders for you,” say Mimi and Sam.

INGREDIENTS:
(Serves 2)

1 small carrot, peeled and cut into thin strips, shaved or shredded
1 small courgette, finely sliced or cut into thin strips
50g red cabbage, very thinly sliced
50g sugar snap peas, sliced
1/2 a pepper (orange, yellow or red), deseeded and thinly sliced
2 spring onions, sliced diagonally
1 mild red chilli, deseeded and thinly sliced

A handful of bean sprouts
A handful of coriander leaves
4 handfuls of mint leaves, plus sprigs to serve

METHOD:

1. Preheat the oven to 180 degrees C/Gas Mark 3.
2. Mix well, using your fingers to incorporate the filling ingredients and blend.
3. To serve:
   - A handful of fresh raspberries
   - More honey for drizzling

TO SERVE

250g ricotta cheese
150g thick Greek yoghurt
400g can pumpkin puree (100% pumpkin)
60ml runny honey
2 large eggs

1 tbsp sesame oil
1/2 tsp ground cumin
1/2 tsp salt
1/2 tsp ground ginger

1 tsp olive oil

1cm piece of fresh root ginger, peeled and finely grated

1 lemon grass stalk, taken outer layers removed, finely chopped

To serve:
- 25g peanuts, crushed
- 2tbsp sesame seeds
- Mint sprigs

INGREDIENTS:

(Serves 8)

125g Midlife LSA (see below) or ground almonds
2 tbsp ground ginger
75g Medjool dates, pitted and finely chopped
2 tbsp coconut oil, melted if solid
1 egg white, lightly whisked

For the Midlife LSA (makes approx 12 tbsp - store in the fridge):
6 tbsp flaxseeds (another name for linseeds)
4 tbsp sunflower seeds
2 tbsp white almonds (skin on)

METHOD:

1. Place all the vegetables and herbs in a large bowl and mix well.
2. Place all the dressing ingredients in a jar, seal with the lid and shake well until combined.
3. Pour the dressing over the salad and toss well, then arrange on a serving plate. Top with the peanuts, seeds and extra mint sprigs and serve.

INGREDIENTS:

(Serves 8)

50g milk chocolate
50g dark chocolate
150g butter
350g sugar
3 eggs (size 2)
1 tbsp milk

METHOD:

1. Line and grease an 18cm springform cake tin with greaseproof paper.
2. Using a coffee grinder or spice mill, pulse the Midlife LSA ingredients in batches until finely ground.
3. For the base, combine the LSA (or ground almonds if using), ground ginger, dates and coconut oil in a bowl. Mix well, using your fingers to create a crumb, ensuring the dates are evenly distributed. Press the mixture firmly into the bottom of the prepared tin, then brush it with egg white and bake for 10 minutes. Remove from the oven and set aside to cool completely.
4. Reduce the temperature to 160 degrees C/Gas Mark 3. To make the filling, put the ricotta cheese into a blender and whizz until completely smooth. Add the remaining filling ingredients and blend.
5. Pour the filling over the cooled base, then bake for 50 minutes until the cheesecake is cooked through but still has a bit of a wobble in the middle. Turn off the oven, leaving the cake inside to cool completely. Transfer to the fridge and chill for at least two hours to firm up.
6. To serve, place on a dish and top with the raspberries. Drizzle with honey just before serving. For those with a sweeter tooth, serve with a little extra honey on the side.

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• Three nights’ dinner, bed and English breakfast accommodation at a hotel in the Torquay area
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LADY BIRD (15) ★★★★★

Indie actress Greta Gerwig’s magnificent directorial debut is a sublime coming-of-age comedy drama set in turn of the 21st-century Sacramento.

Although Lady Bird isn’t strictly autobiographical, Gerwig draws on fond memories of her Californian hometown for a beautifully observed valentine to mother-daughter relationships and youthful exuberance, infused with unabashed warmth for her well drawn characters.

The writer-director has a sharp ear for the ebb and flow of pithy conversations and she has attracted a stellar cast led by Oscar nominees Saoirse Ronan (above) and Laurie Metcalf as the spunky title character and her hard-working mother, who generate friction every time they are in close proximity.

Lady Bird is a near perfect confluence of direction, writing and performance. Being incredibly picky, there are a several instances when Ronan’s accent falters and her melodic Irish lilt comes through loud and clear, which momentarily breaks the gently intoxicating spell cast by Gerwig’s film.

Damon Smith

THE GOLDEN VOYAGE OF SINBAD

SPECIAL SCREENING: Regent Street Cinema, London, Sunday, February 25, 3pm

A fantasy classic gets a rare big screen outing this weekend at the historic Regent Street Cinema in the West End. The Golden Voyage Of Sinbad (1973) follows the mythical sea captain and his crew as they come across a strange flying creature carrying a golden tablet that leads them on an adventure involving an evil magician, strange and frightening creatures, and the fountain of youth. With monsters created by revered special effects master Ray Harryhausen, Golden Voyage is a shining example of fantasy movie-making before the digital age. Along with the screening there’ll be a Q&A with one of the film’s stars, Caroline Munro (also an iconic Bond girl) and Ray Harryhausen’s daughter Vanessa, hosted by BAFTA award-winning filmmaker John Walsh.

For more details and bookings, go to www.regentstreetcinema.com

I, TONYA (15) ★★★★★

There was a time in the early 90s when Tonya Harding reached suffocating levels of fame that were not far behind Princess Diana and Michael Jackson in their intensity. Unfortunately for her that fame wasn’t just about her exceptional ability as a figure skater but became about her rivalry with fellow US ice skater Nancy Kerrigan and the lengths she would go to in order to win. She was the American dream embodied and then twisted into a jealous, violent nightmare – or at least that’s the way it was perceived at the time.

We first see Tonya as a three-year-old dragged onto an ice rink by her fearsome, foul-mouthed mum LaVona (Allison Janney) to demand that coach Diane Rawlinson (Julianne Nicholson) take her on. Taken aback by LaVona’s brazen attitude and industrial-strength language, the coach protests that Tonya is too young for coaching but when she sees her skate she realises she is a rare talent.

Years of relentless training have honed Tonya’s raw talent until she’s an international competitor but she’s not like the other composed, self-contained skaters in their expensive costumes. She’s a brash, opinionated, self-confessed redneck who just doesn’t fit very well into the prim and proper image of female figure skaters. Tonya (played as an adult by Margot Robbie) is bullied and physically abused by her mother from an early age and then by her jealous, controlling husband Jeff Gillooly (Sebastian Stan). For her, being hit, being bad-mouthed, being degraded are the norm and to survive she’s become a forthright, uncompromising character who fights for what she wants. This makes her a divisive figure in the buttoned-down world of ice skating but she’s in the mix for medals in the 1984 Winter Olympics at Lillehammer bringing her onto a collision course with Kerrigan.

Robbie puts in an astonishing performance as Tonya Harding embracing her fiercely determined, confrontational, emotionally wired character with real gusto. Dressed in some truly abnormal and spectacularly unflattering late 80s, early 90s fashion, Robbie gives it her all and totally convinces on and off the rink.

Equally impressive is Allison Janney as one of the most brutal, self-centred characters you’re likely to see on the big screen this year. Who needs a supervillain when you’ve got a mum like this? She’s relentlessly cruel and resentful, sniping and snarling at Tonya constantly. Her only redeeming feature is that she’s occasionally funny though this is unintentional. Sebastian Stan’s Jeff is just as despicable though his insecurities and personal frailties are nearer the surface.

Jeff’s bungling, self-delusional pal Shawn (Paul Walter Hauser) is worth a mention to because he’s hilarious: A grown man still leaving at home but pretending to be a spy master and terrorism expert. No wonder his and Jeff’s plot to psychologically undermine Nancy Kerrigan goes so horribly wrong.

So the performances are great and the story really is gripping, especially as I only remembered vague details of the actual events of the time. How accurate they are probably depends on whose story you want to believe – and that’s the point. One aspect of the film that troubled me a little on viewing and even more afterwards was the depiction of domestic violence. It is pretty much constant and, after the initial shock, you kind of get used to it. It’s normalised which shows how it was for Tonya but still left me feeling uncomfortable. That may well be the point but it sat awkwardly with the black humour at times.

The film-makers may argue that it was all part of Tonya’s life, the violence, the excitement, the competitiveness, the emotional highs and lows, but it made me feel a little queasy. Difficult viewing at times, but compelling. DW
PUZZLE TIME

Pathfinder
Beginning with the top highlighted letter, follow a continuous path of words associated with the given subject. The trail goes through each letter once, twisting up, down and sideways, but never diagonally.

Film franchises
ARIEKPCKTHEARD 
MECHINAABOTFHEI 
PNNATKTNIELBURED 
IELACHEVSEITUNO 
EMBOLAROCASPMII 
NINNEEHMYRSOISS 
YRRHAMOYTEDIMSE 
POITIONRORANAN 
TTFATACATMIROJO 
ENDLDNIRSINATAC 
ROBSESTRYOTEBRE 
HEMEUFEYONNABIH 
LLAJRHTDSTPIFT 
RSEUOASNARASROS 
AIRTHEFTAWARATE

Two Speed Crossword
This two-speed crossword has two sets of clues, but just one grid. If you can’t solve the Cryptic clue, try the Quick.

Cryptic
Across
6. Wind resulting from unsettled weather (5)
7. The sequence of command (5)
8. Respect for a regal method of self-expression (5)
10. Tense, as all human beings are (6)
12. They suffer periodic reversals in time (11)
15. Diligence with which one may seek a job (11)
17. The publication that is bound to last (6,6)
19. Growing or burnt timber (8)
21. An awkward brute to disparve (7)
22. Lacking means of entry? (7)

Down
1. Fish uncooked in the centre ... (5)
2. ... and a fish not fit to be served up (3)
3. A friend much changed (6)
4. One who claims to be a teacher? (9)
5. Secures somehow and saves (7)
8. For him to lace is unusual (8)
11. Shouted loudly and summoned troops to help (6,3)
13. He tries to prevent ill-feeling (6)
14. Orator greatly respected by MPs (7)
16. Result is put to wrong use (5)
18. Wicked devil beheaded (9)
20. Reserved pitch (9)

Quick
Across
6. Intertwine (7)
7. Arrange (5)
9. Wonder (3)
10. Flawed (6)
12. Egg timers (11)
15. Job request (11)
17. Rigid shell (4,5)
19. Burnt residue (3)
21. Refute (5)
22. Lacking (7)

Down
1. Fish (5)
2. Pat (8)
3. Pal (4)
4. Academic (9)
5. Salvages (7)
8. Jewish sect member (6)
11. Cried (6,3)
13. Medical practitioner (6)
14. Addresser (7)
18. Bad (4)
20. Timid (3)

Scribble pad

Split Decision
Cross out one of the two letters in each divided square to reveal a completed crossword grid.

Sudoku
There is one simple rule in Sudoku. Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9, and must each 3 x 3 box.

Easy

Hard

Last week’s solutions

Pathfinder
Silver birch, Sycamore, Weeping willow, Blackthorn, Quaking aspen, Eucalyptus, Giant redwood, Magnolia, Monkey puzzle, Mahogany, Scots pine, Elderberry, Ginnel Oak, Ralabab, Douglas fir, Horse chestnut, White poplar, Hawthorn, Copper beech, Cypress, Wild Cherry, Hornbeam, Crab apple.

Quiz

Matthew Macfadyen and Hayley Atwell starred in which recent BBC1 dramatisation of an E M Forster novel? What was the stage name of actress Harleean Carpenter, the original ‘Blonde Bombshell’? What name is given to a Welsh assembly in which bard and minstrels compete for prizes? Of which fruit is morelo a variety? Which unorthodox American chess player beat Boris Spassky in Reykjavik in 1972 to become world champion? What was the nickname of American president Dwight D Eisenhower? By what name is the mouth organ also known? The Shires and Sunnies are sects of which religion? Of which mineral is asbestite a form? Which famous basketball team was founded by Abraham Saperstein in 1927 to play exhibition matches?

Words square

Codeword

Two-speed crossword

Word rate:
15 words - average; 20 words - good; 25 words - very good; 30 or more - excellent.
This distinctive property in Old Harlow has plenty of character and is in a quiet spot but is within walking distance of the nearby railway station. See pages 34-35.
The unlikely combination of a barn conversion which is within walking distance of a mainline train station into London has just come on the market.

The three-bedroom brick-built conversion offers a wealth of character and has an atmosphere which is hard to find elsewhere.

The location in Curteys, Old Harlow, is the ideal choice for anyone looking for a bit of peace and quiet yet isn’t prepared to leave the rat race behind.

The area consists of six barns in the courtyard with a strong community feel. It’s only a few minutes away from the town’s shopping hub and ten minute’s walk from Harlow Mill station.

Hidden behind the house is a large open green space, protected by The Marigolds Trust, meaning that you will always only be a few steps away from nature.

Perhaps the most impressive room in the house, the living room is a great open area with natural light coming through the double-height ceiling.

There are two good-sized bedrooms – one on the ground floor and the other located upstairs. Also upstairs is an additional third single bedroom benefiting from slanted ceilings.

The master bedroom has an en-suite bathroom while downstairs there is a shower room. There is adjoining a study area with plenty of potential.

The kitchen is well-equipped and and leads onto the garden patio. As with the rest of the house, the garden is spacious and very well-maintained. It has a garden shed and gate giving access to the courtyard.

The Barns is available for £650,000 and is being marketed by Howick & Brooker, in High Street, Harlow.

For more details call them on 01279 949074
The BBC TV drama McMafia recently concluded its glorious but terrifying romp through the murky world of global organised crime, a story based on the book of the same name written by journalist Misha Glenny.

Starring Happy Valley actor and potential next James Bond, James Norton, pictured, it tells the story of Alex Godman, a British banker of Russian descent who gets himself and his business dragged into a web of Israeli, Russian and Mexican criminality.

Many of the episodes featured Norton strolling down a cobbled street to the London home of his character, who runs a City investment firm. In real life the road is Cranley Mews, a posh back street in West London off the Fulham Road.

Eagle-eyed fans of the drama, will recognise this south-west facing mews property. To live here would stretch the purse strings of even a City banker, as the luxe property is currently available to rent for an eye-watering £1,095 a week.

It has three bedrooms, air conditioning throughout, a garage, fully fitted kitchen and Velux windows with rain sensors. Cranley Mews is a great spot, we love the pretty mews houses, and it’s in a wonderful location near Gloucester Road - its use as a filming location for McMafia has certainly added an extra frisson,” says Gabriella Gyngell from letting agent Strutt & Parker (020 3504 6823).

The garden lodge was used as a games room by Denise

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A

cress, singer and TV presenter Denise Van Outen has sold her
Home Counties farmhouse for £1.4 million after deciding to
return to London.

Denise moved to the property with her then husband, Casualty
star Lee Mead, to enjoy a more
bucolic lifestyle. The pair later divorced, but
remain friends and their marriage produced a
daughter, Betsy.

Denise is reported to have moved to Hampstead
where seven-year-old Betsy attends school.

Denise is busy with her career and love life too.
The former Big Breakfast star, who recently began
dating oil broker Eddie Boxshall, appears regularly
on ITV’s Loose Women and does the voiceover for
ITVBe’s The Only Way Is Essex.

Denise’s farmhouse is in Kent and has just gone
under offer through agent Jackson Stops, which
says there was keen interest in the property.
The 17th-century home is in a picturesque
setting in the village of Biddenden near the historic
but small Kentish town of Cranbrook.

There is an Aga in the kitchen, a wood-burning
stove in the lounge and Jackson Stops says the
oak-beamed property was enlarged by Denise and
now includes four bedrooms, three bathrooms, a
separate lodge (used as a games room by Denise),
a three-car oak-framed garage and several
outbuildings as well as paddocks and
woodland.

While many
Millennials today
yearn to be
celebrities or pop stars,
there was a time during the
mid-19th century
when the equivalent cool
careers for many young
Victorians were poetry or
painting.

Bearded hipster Dante
Gabriel Rossetti was both a
gifted painter and poet and
became famous for
starting a new art
movement.

The son of Italian
immigrants, he became one
of London’s most
fashionable figures and
helped to launch the
pre-Raphaelite painting
style. His paintings in
particular still hold huge
cultural significance
today and key galleries in
many of our cities,
including Tate Britain in
London, hold and often
exhibit their large

collections of his work.
Rossetti’s signature
style featured pouting
women with long slender
limbs and billowing hair
and dresses, images
which are still frequently
used in commercial and
cultural works today.
His personal life was a
little less beautiful to

behind. As shown in Ken
Russell’s 1967 TV biopic
starring Oliver Reed,
after the death of his wife
he slowly sank into a
state of depression, drug
addiction and alcoholism,
dying in 1882 at just 53
years old. His place of
birth, at a house on
Hallam Street in London’s
Fitzrovia, is marked by an
official Blue Plaque.

Rebuilt after
the Second World War, Rossetti
House is now a block of
flats and one of the
top-floor apartments is
available to rent for £715
a week.

For more information,
contact Kay & Co (0207
486 6338).

KUBRICK’S ROAD TO FAME

Hollywood director
Stanley Kubrick’s
1968 sci-fi epic
2001: A Space Odyssey is
considered one of the
greatest films ever made
and was largely
conceived and filmed in
the UK. Kubrick moved
here in 1961 after
becoming disillusioned
with the Hollywood
production system and
concerned about
rapant crime in his
home city of New York.

Kubrick, inset above,
had several addresses
before settling in 1978 at
Childwickbury Manor,
near St Albans, that his
widow Christiane still
lives in today.

Kubrick’s reputation
has continued to grow
following his death in
1999, including much
praise for his final film
Eyes Wide Shut starring
Tom Cruise and Nicole
Kidman. He would
hopefully also be
pleased to discover a
car road has been named
after him.

Builder Weston Homes,
which is redeveloping
part of the former
Denham Film Studios
site into a luxury
housing estate of 224
houses and apartments,
has named one of its
thoroughfares Stanley
Kubrick Road. The new
street was unveiled
recently by Kubrick’s
daughter, Katherina,
above. Apartments at
the development start at
£330,000, houses from
£699,000.

Contact Weston Homes
(01279 873300).

A FASHIONABLE
PLACE TO STAY

Celebrity tailor Ozwald Boateng
OBE, pictured, started out
making clothes with his mother’s
sewing machine but ended up
rebooting the classic suit and
becoming one of the UK’s fashion
giants.

His signature style has attracted
rock-and-roll legends including Mick
Jagger and Jimmy Page, as well as
celebrities like Graham Norton and
Spike Lee, and he now commands a
multi-million-pound fashion empire
with an HQ on
Savile Row.

Boateng has also
become one of the
go-to costume
designers for TV
shows and films and
has worked on
costumes for
Ocean’s Thirteen,
Tomorrow Never
Dies, Sex and the City,
Ugly Betty and The
Matrix.

During the 1990s, he
helped define Cool
Britannia and dressed Peter
Mandelson, while often popping into
No.10 for meetings with Tony Blair.

Politics may have moved on, but
Boateng remains popular. Anyone
hankering after a super-stylish
bespoke suit makes his shop at No.30
Savile Row a must-visit even if, for
the average man in the street, a suit
can cost a month’s wages. His
made-to-order shirts alone cost
£345.

As well as making clothes for the
world’s wealthier smart dressers,
Boateng also likes his properties to
be stylish too. His former home in
London’s Mayfair is now available for
rent and is a six-bed, eight-bathroom,
three-reception-room terraced house
on Chandos Street off Oxford Street
- just a brisk five-minute walk to his
store.

Available to rent through Knight
Frank (020 3435 6440) for £5,000 a
week.

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Big ideas for small spaces...

Feeling squeezed at home? Topology designers Athina Bluff and Amy Brandhorst share their seven top space-enhancing hacks with Gabrielle Fagan.

Interior designers and award-winning bloggers, Athina Bluff and Amy Brandhorst from Topology (topologyinteriors.com), have joined forces with Habitat to help the nation maximise the space in their homes.

While there’s nothing anyone can do about the bricks and mortar and dimensions of the property you live in, their seven home hacks could help you make the best of the space available, meaning rooms feel larger.

Read on for their space-enhancing secrets...

SHINE A LIGHT
“Ensure you have multiple light sources within a room to maximise light at night,” says Athina.

“You should aim to have around six light sources around the room, which will ‘replace’ natural daylight and allow light to flow through the space. “Enhance the effect with mirrored surfaces, which will bounce light around. Those and metallics, which reflect warm light, will create a sense of more space.”

BE FREE WITH FLOORING
“An easy trick for floors is to continue the hallway flooring into your small room. Creating a visually unbroken flow of space will make it appear as though it’s one big area, and creates an illusion that the floor is expanding,” points out Athina.

CREATE COLOUR HARMONY
“Try painting walls, skirting boards and door frames all the same colour. Painting them different colours can actually break up a space and emphasise the shape and (small) size of the room,” says Amy.

“If they’re all the same colour, they’ll blend into one and make the room appear bigger.”

MAKE A GREAT REFLECTION
“Hang a mirror opposite a window. It’s simple but extremely effective – both in terms of cost and visual impact,” suggests Amy.

“The mirror will reflect natural light and instantly brighten up your space, as well as making it appear larger. “If you’re feeling creative, play around with different shapes or multiple mirrors to reflect as much light as possible. More light equals more sense of space.”

MAKE THE MOST OF MULTI-FUNCTIONAL FURNITURE
“Opt for dual usage furniture that can be folded or expanded to suit your needs,” says Athina. “If there’s only two of you most evenings, opt for a folding table which, with an extension, turns into a four-person dining table for entertaining.

“Check out sofa bed options, which can easily turn a sitting room into bedroom for guests. Always consider storage in items like ottomans, pouffes, trunks, coffee tables. If there’s a design that also hides clutter (the enemy of small spaces), choose it!”

EMBRACE THE DARK SIDE
“This is one for the brave! Don’t be afraid of going dark in small spaces,” advises Athina.

“It may sound counter-intuitive, but dark shades – navy and grey – can actually disguise the perimeters of a room and blur boundaries which extend the space. Don’t feel you can only use ‘Brilliant White’ to achieve a sense of more space. Walk on the dark side – trust us, it works!”

**Your Home**

An alcove turned into a feature with shelves to display treasures...

**YOUR HOME**

An alcove turned into a feature with shelves to display treasures...
An alcove turned into a feature with shelves to display treasures

**WORK THE WALLS**

“As you don’t have a lot of floor space to play with, think upwards and make use of walls instead,” advises Amy.

“Floating shelves, clothes hooks, wall-mounted magazine racks and bike hooks will allow you to store things like folding chairs, or display belongings without cluttering the floor.

“Make use of dead space, such as corners, and have wall-mounted shelves.”

FOR further hacks and inspiration from Athina Bluff and Amy Brandhorst of Topology Interiors visit habitat.co.uk/smallspaceliving

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**Kota three-seater sofa bed, £395; Bonny side table, £80**

**Euan black/yellow metal marble overreach floor lamp, £225**

**Honovi compact sofa bed, saffron yellow fabric, £1,300**

**Astrid large black metal & glass ceiling LED Light, £190**

**Maya pair of copper touch lamps with cream fabric shades, £20**

**Oken white folding coffee table with removable tray top, £85**

**Polished wood flooring reflects the light and enhances a feeling of space**

**One colour for the backdrop brings a sense of harmony and cohesion to the setting**

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**A reflection in a mirror adds another dimension in a bedroom and also reflects light.**

**Tatsuma bed frame £375; Max bedside table, £180; ride rug, £350; Washed grey sateen cover set, £90; Paulista bed set, £150; Nixon cushion, £25**

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Velvet revolution

This luxurious fabric has shed its garish 70s connotations to become the must-have texture for 2018. Here DAN BEAVAN picks out his favourite plush products

*All prices correct at time of going to press. You can follow Dan on Twitter @danbeavan

**For the Drop**
Indigo drop serving bowls
Caroline McGrath, £21
[carolinemcgrath.co.uk](http://carolinemcgrath.co.uk)

**Sheer Class**
Retro glass bowl, £18
The Contemporary Home
[tch.net](http://tch.net)

**Floral Trance**
Petals white decorative bowl, large, beige, £49
[beandliv.com](http://beandliv.com)

**Salad Days**
Keswick mottled salad bowl in peashoot enamel
Garden Trading, £10
[gardentrading.co.uk](http://gardentrading.co.uk)

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From top: Arabella shell pink velvet 50cm x 50cm cushion, £35, raggedrose.com; Terry’s Fabrics, velvet cushion in teal, £59.99, terrysfabrics.co.uk

Urbanara, Samana velvet curtain from £55, urbanara.co.uk

From left: Fitz cocktail chair in primrose, £269, swooneditions.com; Lilac velvet footstool £71, audenza.com

Left: Savannah upholstered winged ottoman bed, £539, Timesleep.co.uk

Right: Patch cut out sofa, £749, ScS, scs.co.uk

Very velvet chaise longue, lifestyle, £620, frenchbedroomcompany.co.uk

You can follow Dan on Twitter @danbeavan

Urbanara, Samana velvet curtain from £55, urbanara.co.uk

*For the Drop*
Indigo drop serving bowls
Caroline McGrath, £21
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Retro glass bowl, £18
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**Salad Days**
Keswick mottled salad bowl in peashoot enamel
Garden Trading, £10
[gardentrading.co.uk](http://gardentrading.co.uk)
You’ve finally got your lounge looking lovely – now the challenge is to keep it that way.

But homes aren’t just for show, they’re for living in, which means spillages and scuffs will happen, and those beautiful, brand-new covers and carpets will eventually get grubby. After all, what’s the point spending ages hunting down your dream sofa, if you can’t drape yourself over it with a smooth glass of red after a busy week? And why bother indulging in that extra fluffy rug if you’re not going to sit on it for Friday night movie marathons?

Instead, there are things you can do to help tackle stains, marks and general build-up. Add these expert tips to your list.

**RULE NUMBER ONE: ACT FAST**

Ideally, you don’t want to leave spillages to soak in – taking quick action is usually the best bet.

“Over a sofa’s lifetime, we know that however hard we try, accidents happen and spillages can occur. Quick action can help minimise the risk of permanent stains. As soon as a spill occurs, take a kitchen roll or a clean towel to soak up as much of the excess spill as possible, and then consult your manufacturer’s care guide to treat the rest of the spillage,” advises Simon Nicholson, furniture buying director at sofa and carpet specialists ScS (scs.co.uk).

**REMEMBER: BLOT DON’T RUB**

Rubbing a spillage is never a good idea – or you could end up ‘spreading’ the stain.

“Blotting is a quick and effective way to treat the rest of the spillage, then vacuum it up – hopefully lifting the stain in the process,” advises Simon Nicholson.

Another method is to mix a tablespoon of liquid dishwashing detergent with a tablespoon of white vinegar and two cups of warm water. Then apply this to a clean cloth and repeatedly blot the stain, alternating with a separate dry cloth, until the stain lifts.

**Baking soda is popular when trying to clear up a stain.**

**STAIN SOLUTIONS**

From red wine and coffee to everyday dirt and grime, **ABI JACKSON** asks those in the know for their top tips

**KNOW WHEN TO CALL IN THE PROFESSIONALS**

“Everyday stains and spillages are fine to deal with yourself. Liquids like cordials and hot drinks can be removed with a little gentle persuasion,” adds Glen. “Things like red wine and orange juice are better handled by the professionals once you have tried the ‘blot, don’t rub’ approach.”

The experts at ScS also advise seeking help from a professional upholstery cleaning service or visiting an upholstery specialist, who may be able to offer a specialist cleaning kit for stubborn stains, or if the manufacturer’s care guide recommends it.

This is especially important with fabrics that are delicate or require specialist care and cleaning methods. And Simon adds: “However tempted you may be, never machine wash the [sofa] covers, even if they appear to be removable.”

**BE CAREFUL ABOUT THE PRODUCTS YOU USE**

This might sound like a no-brainer, but make sure you check that any cleaning products you’re going to try are definitely suitable for your sofa/fabrics. If in doubt, call the manufacturer’s customer helpline, or pop into a specialist store to ask for advice.

The same applies when using substances that might seem completely harmless, like water. “Many people think using water to clean their carpets will mean fresh, bright floors, but over time, the repeated wet cleaning can wash out wool’s natural water-proofing, resulting in the carpet acquiring a hard, crusty feel,” says Peter Hollier, a cleaning expert with home appliance manufacturer Vorwerk, who sell a range of products designed to make light work of deep-cleaning your home (kohold.vorwerk.co.uk).

“Water can also cause the carpet fibres to shrink and stretch and the dye to bleed, leaving a less-than-luxurious finish. So, if you are going to clean your carpets with water, it’s important you don’t use too much and you dry the carpet quickly.”

**FACTOR IN SOME THOROUGH DEEP-CLEANS**

To really keep carpets and rugs looking their best, the experts advise routine deep-cleans twice a year, or when required.

“Carpets collect a lot of dirt and dust over time, from children running in with their shoes on after they’ve been to the park, pets rolling on the floor, and not forgetting the countless times food or drink has been spilled.”

Regularly vacuuming your carpets will result in the top layer of dust and grime being sucked out, however, you are leaving behind worn in dirt and allergens that only a good deep-clean can remove,” says Peter.

“So, in addition to regular vacuuming, your carpets and rugs need a deep-clean to remove stubborn dirt that’s become embedded in the fibres. We believe dry-cleaning is the best solution, with a powder-based cleaning agent that you sprinkle on the carpet, massage in and then vacuum away.

“It might take a little longer than other cleaning methods, but it will ensure you achieve the desired results without damaging your carpet in the process.”

You can often run the vacuum over your sofa too, and the Solfology experts suggest: “For extra TLC, we recommend a weekly wipe down with a slightly damp cotton cloth and a quick vacuum with the soft tip brush attachment.”
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Guardian are delighted to offer this spacious 3 bedroom house that is ideally located for Harlow town with its shops and amenities. The property is available early May. EPC - D. Available early May

Seymours
£1195 PCM

Guardian are delighted to offer this spacious 3 bedroom house that is ideally located for Harlow town with its shops and amenities. The property is available early May. EPC - D. Available early May
Fantastic for both first time buyers and investors alike, Guardian are proud to be offering this one bedroom flat in the very sought area of Dadswood, situated in the town centre.

EPC: C

Dadswood, Harlow
£160,000

Guardian are delighted to offer this impecullately presented one bedroom first floor flat in the ever popular Markhall Moors area of Harlow.

EPC: D

Tanys Dell, Harlow
£165,000

On the market with Guardian, well maintained two bedroom semi-detached house in the available location of Pittmans Field, Harlow. Two good sized bedrooms, family bathroom and hallaway in a quiet cul-de-sac, this is a brilliant time buy or investment.

EPC: D

Pittmans Field, Harlow
£245,000

Guardian are delighted to present a three bedroom mid terrace house in Berecroft. Great first time buy or investment, current tenant paying £1,095.00 pcm. Double glazing, gas central heating. Downstairs WC and three good sized bedrooms.

EPC: C

Berecroft, Harlow
£250,000

Guardian are delighted to offer this rarely available two bedroom mid terrace house in a quiet, cul-de-sac location in sought after Archers.

EPC: C

Archers, Harlow
£270,000

Guardian are delighted to offer this three bedroom detached family oriented property in the sought after, private area of Albert Gardens, Church Langley.

EPC: E

Albert Gardens, Church Langley
£340,000

Guardian are delighted to offer for sale this end of terrace family home with easy access into North London! A three bedroom end of terrace.

EPC: D

Taylifers, Harlow
£275,000

Coming to the market with Guardian is this well maintained 4 bedroom town house located near to the town centre as well as shops and schools.

EPC: E

Pittmans Field, Harlow
£290,000

Guardian are delighted to offer this new opportunity to acquire this three bedroom detached family oriented property in the sought after, private area, of Albert Gardens, Church Langley.

Immaculate

Bynghams, Harlow
£395,000

Guardian are delighted to offer two bedroom end of terrace house in Vicarage Wood. Perfect for first time buyers and investors, currently tenant in the property since March 2011. Double-glazed throughout, gas central heating, large garden with block built shed.

Contact us today to arrange your viewing

Tanys Dell, Harlow
£189,999

Church Langley

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UNIT 4, CHURCH LANGLEY WAY, CHURCH LANGLEY
01279-410084

East Park
O.I.E.O • £285,000
• Two Bedroom Mid Terrace House
• CHAIN FREE
• Two Double Bedrooms
• Close to Town Centre
• 0.5 Miles to Harlow Mill Train Station
• EPC Rating: D

Belfield Gardens
SOLD • £300,000
• A Two Bedroom End Of Terrace House
• CHAIN FREE
• Two DOUBLE Bedrooms
• Private Driveway
• Situated in A Residential Cul - De - Sac
• EPC Rating: C

Doulton Close
O.I.E.O • £220,000
• Three Bedroom End Of Terrace House
• CHAIN FREE
• THREE DOUBLE Bedrooms
• Driveway For One Vehicle
• EPC Rating: D

Challinor
SOLD • £335,000
• A Three Bedroom Semi-detached House
• CHAIN FREE
• 30ft Heated Swimming Pool
• Cinema Room and Gym/ Sauna
• Detached Annex In The Rear Garden
• EPC Rating: F

Denby Grange
SOLD • £375,000
• A Four Bedroom Detached Family House
• Downstairs WC
• Separate Kitchen, Living and Dining Rooms
• Conservatory
• Garage
• EPC Rating: Awaiting

Davenport
SOLD • £420,000
• Four Bedroom Semi Detached House
• CHAIN FREE
• Three Double Bedrooms
• En-suite to Master Bedroom
• Driveway For Two Vehicles
• EPC Rating: C

School Lane
O.I.R.O • £425,000
• A Five Bedroom Semi-Detached Family Home
• CHAIN FREE
• 30ft Heated Swimming Pool
• Cinema Room and Gym/ Sauna
• Detached Annex In The Rear Garden
• EPC Rating: F

Old Road
£670,000
• A Five Bedroom Semi-Detached Family Home
• CHAIN FREE
• 30ft Heated Swimming Pool
• Cinema Room and Gym/ Sauna
• Detached Annex In The Rear Garden
• EPC Rating: F

Ashworth Place
O.I.R.O • £375,000
• Three Bedroom Detached House
• Garage & Driveway For Two Vehicles
• Double Glazing Throughout
• Fitted Family Bathroom
• Fitted Wardrobes To The Master Bedroom
• EPC Rating: D
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WESTBURY RISE, CHURCH LANGLEY £585,000
- Four Bedrooms
- Two Receptions
- Kitchen/Family Room
- Conservatory
- Detached House
- Double Detached Garage
- Immaculate Home
- EPC Rating: D

THURSTANS, HARLOW £575,000
- Four/Three Bedrooms
- Three Receptions
- Premium Location
- Detached Double Garage
- Detached Home
- Stunning Conservatory
- Large Garden Plot
- EPC Rating: D

Challinor, Church Langley £475,000
- Four Bedrooms
- Two Receptions
- En-Suite Bathroom
- Double Driveway
- Detached House
- Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- Cloakroom & Utility
- EPC Rating: D

Albert Gardens, Church Langley £450,000
- Four Bedrooms
- Garage & Driveway
- Well Presented
- Chain Free
- Detached Home
- Two Reception Rooms
- Conservatory
- EPC Rating: TBC

Millersdale, Harlow £429,995
- Four Bedrooms
- Two Receptions
- Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- Garage & Drive
- Detached Home
- Long Gardens
- Cul-De-Sac Location
- EPC Rating: D

SPARROWHAWK WAY, NEWHALL £349,995
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Well Presented
- Overlooking New School
- NHBC Warranty
- Link Detached
- Kitchen/Corner
- Driveway
- EPC Rating: B

LATTON GREEN, HARLOW £339,995
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Receptions
- Chain Free
- Semi Detached
- Potential To Extend (STPP)
- EPC Rating: TBC

ABBEYDALE CLOSE, CHURCH LANGLEY £284,995
- Two Bedrooms
- Modern Kitchen
- Lounge/Diner
- Alcove Parking
- Terraced House
- Westerly Garden
- Popular Location
- EPC Rating: C

SPRUCE HILL, HARLOW £279,995
- Three Bedrooms
- Well Presented
- Lounge/Diner
- Ground Floor WC
- Middle Terrace
- Popular Location
- Fitted Wardrobes
- EPC Rating: TBC

RADBURN CLOSE, HARLOW £275,000
- Three Bedrooms
- Popular Location
- Two Receptions
- Chain Free
- Middle Terrace
- Southerly Garden
- Potential Driveway
- EPC Rating: TBC
### Selection Of Properties From Our Lettings Portfolio

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fir Park, Harlow</td>
<td>£1,350 p.c.m</td>
<td>Three Bedrooms, Available Now, Recently Decorated, Link Detached, G &amp; D, EPC Rating: TBC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coalport Close, Church Langley</td>
<td>£1,250</td>
<td>Three Bedrooms, Cloakroom/WC, Modern Kitchen, EPC Rating: D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church End, Harlow</td>
<td>£775 p.c.m</td>
<td>One Bedroom, Lounge/Diner, Ground Floor, Apartment, Available in February, EPC Rating: D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hornbeams, Harlow</td>
<td>£600 P.C.M</td>
<td>Studio Flat, Own balcony, Close to Train Station, Unfurnished, Top Floor, White Goods Available, EPC Rating: C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bullfinch Road, Harlow</td>
<td>£1,800 p.c.m</td>
<td>Four Bedrooms, Balcony, Garage &amp; Drive, Detached House, En-Suite, Available Now, EPC Rating: B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old London Road, Church Langley</td>
<td>£1,400 p.c.m</td>
<td>Three Bedroom, En-Suite Shower, Unfurnished, Garage &amp; Drive, Semi Detached, Available NOW, EPC Rating: C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northbrooks, Harlow</td>
<td>£995 p.c.m</td>
<td>Two Bedrooms, Lounge/Diner, Close to Town, Unfurnished, Terraced House, Southerly Garden, Available In March, EPC Rating: D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aynsley Gardens, Church Langley</td>
<td>£950 p.c.m</td>
<td>Two Bedrooms, Lounge/Diner, Unfurnished, Ground Floor Maisonette, Allocated Parking, Available Mid March, EPC Rating: E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milwards, Harlow</td>
<td>£725</td>
<td>One Double Bedroom, Lounge/Diner, Modern Kitchen, First Floor Apartment, Well Presented, EPC Rating: D</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Contact Information:**
- Phone: 01279 216216
- Email: info@rjestateagents.co.uk
CHELSEA GARDENS, HARLOW £559,995

- Five Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Southerly Garden
- Tandem Garage & Driveway
- Detached Home
- Quiet Cul-De-Sac
- WC & Utility Room
- EPC Rating: TBC

RUSHTON GROVE, HARLOW £409,995

- Four Bedrooms
- Two Receptions
- Large Conservatory
- Garage & Driveway
- End Terrace Home
- Well Presented
- Loft Extension
- EPC Rating: D

THE MAPLES, HARLOW £319,995

- Three/Four Bedrooms
- Two/Three Receptions
- Garage En Bloc
- Popular Location
- End Terrace Home
- Ground Floor WC
- South Westerly Garden
- EPC Rating: TBC

MALKIN DRIVE, CHURCH LANGLEY £294,995

- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge/Diner
- Cloakroom/WC
- Garage To Rear
- Terraced Home
- Croudace Build
- Southerly Gardens
- EPC Rating: C

THE DOWNS, HARLOW £274,995

- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge/Diner
- Utility Room
- Chain Free
- Terraced Home
- Close To Town Centre
- Modern Kitchen
- EPC Rating: D

LONG LEY, HARLOW £264,995

- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge/Diner
- Popular Location
- Chain Free
- Terraced Home
- Private Garden
- EPC Rating: E

TITHELANDS, HARLOW £159,995

- One Bedroom
- Lounge/Diner
- Communal Garden
- Chain Free
- First Floor
- Maisonette
- Juliette Balcony
- EPC Rating: TBC

SYCAMORE FIELD, HARLOW £139,995

- One Bedroom
- Lounge/Diner
- Popular Location
- Chain Free
- First Floor Flat
- Secure Door Entry System
- Lots Of Storage
- EPC Rating: TBC
CHELSEA GARDENS, CHURCH LANGLEY £549,995
- Six Bedrooms
- Two Receptions
- En-Suite Shower
- Garage & Drive
- Utility & W.C
- Riptide Swim Spa
- EPC Rating: TBC

PARK AVENUE, HARLOW £499,995
- Four Bedrooms
- Three Receptions
- Large Gardens
- Garage & Driveway
- Semi Detached
- Extended Property
- Rarely Available
- EPC Rating: TBC

DENBY G range, CHURCH LANGLEY £425,000
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Receptions
- Immaculate Home
- Garage & Drive
- Detached Home
- En-Suite Shower
- Cul-De-Sac Location
- EPC Rating: TBC

Chelsea Gardens, Church Langley £385,000
- Three Bedrooms
- Garage & Driveway
- Two Receptions
- Chain Free
- Detached Home
- Popular Location
- Southerly Garden
- EPC Rating: TBC

Challinor, Church Langley £384,995
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Receptions
- Private Rear Garden
- Garage & Drive
- Detached House
- Immaculate Home
- En-Suite & W.C
- EPC Rating: D

REDWING WAY, NEWHALL £334,995
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Open Plan
- NHBC Warranty Remaining
- Semi Detached
- Quiet Cul-De-Sac
- Immaculate Throughout
- EPC Rating: B

PRIORY COURT, HARLOW £330,000
- Four Bedrooms
- Recently Redecorated
- Driveway
- Overlooking Latton Common
- Town House
- Ensuite To Master
- Private Close
- EPC Rating: B

THE FORTUNES, HARLOW £319,995
- Four Bedrooms
- Kitchen/Diner
- Utility Room
- Chain Free
- Terraced House
- Large Corner Garden
- Poplar Location
- EPC Rating: D

BLACKBUSH SPRING, HARLOW £259,995
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Lounge/Diner
- Large Rear Garden
- Popular Location
- Modern Kitchen
- End Terrace
- Westerly Garden
- EPC Rating: B

RUSHES MEAD, HARLOW £254,995
- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge/Diner
- Modern Kitchen
- Off Street Parking
- Terraced House
- Westerly Garden
- Close To Amenities
- EPC Rating: C

ASH TREE FIELD, HARLOW £249,995
- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge/Diner
- Popular Location
- Chain Free
- Middle Terrace
- Close To Town Centre
- Southerly Garden
- EPC Rating: B

Denby Grange, Church Langley £425,000
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Receptions
- Immaculate Home
- Garage & Drive

CHELSEA GARDENS, CHURCH LANGLEY £549,995
- Six Bedrooms
- Two Receptions
- En-Suite Shower
- Garage & Drive
- Utility & W.C
- Riptide Swim Spa
- EPC Rating: TBC

PARK AVENUE, HARLOW £499,995
- Four Bedrooms
- Three Receptions
- Large Gardens
- Garage & Driveway
- Semi Detached
- Extended Property
- Rarely Available
- EPC Rating: TBC

DENBY G range, CHURCH LANGLEY £425,000
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Receptions
- Immaculate Home
- Garage & Drive
- Detached Home
- En-Suite Shower
- Cul-De-Sac Location
- EPC Rating: TBC

Chelsea Gardens, Church Langley £385,000
- Three Bedrooms
- Garage & Driveway
- Two Receptions
- Chain Free
- Detached Home
- Popular Location
- Southerly Garden
- EPC Rating: TBC

Challinor, Church Langley £384,995
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Receptions
- Private Rear Garden
- Garage & Drive
- Detached House
- Immaculate Home
- En-Suite & W.C
- EPC Rating: D

REDWING WAY, NEWHALL £334,995
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Open Plan
- NHBC Warranty Remaining
- Semi Detached
- Quiet Cul-De-Sac
- Immaculate Throughout
- EPC Rating: B

PRIORY COURT, HARLOW £330,000
- Four Bedrooms
- Recently Redecorated
- Driveway
- Overlooking Latton Common
- Town House
- Ensuite To Master
- Private Close
- EPC Rating: B

THE FORTUNES, HARLOW £319,995
- Four Bedrooms
- Kitchen/Diner
- Utility Room
- Chain Free
- Terraced House
- Large Corner Garden
- Poplar Location
- EPC Rating: D

BLACKBUSH SPRING, HARLOW £259,995
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Lounge/Diner
- Large Rear Garden
- Popular Location
- Modern Kitchen
- End Terrace
- Westerly Garden
- EPC Rating: B

RUSHES MEAD, HARLOW £254,995
- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge/Diner
- Modern Kitchen
- Off Street Parking
- Terraced House
- Westerly Garden
- Close To Amenities
- EPC Rating: C

ASH TREE FIELD, HARLOW £249,995
- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge/Diner
- Popular Location
- Chain Free
- Middle Terrace
- Close To Town Centre
- Southerly Garden
- EPC Rating: B
Howick & Brooker

Gothic House, Station Road, Old Harlow, CM17 0AP

£200,000
HADLEY GRANGE, CHURCH LANGLEY
• One Bedroom
• Own Rear Garden
• Ground Floor Apartment
• EPC Rating: D

£225,000
SOUTHERN LODGE, NEWHALL
• Two Bedrooms
• First Floor Flat
• Warden Assisted
• Chain Free
• EPC Rating: D

GUIDE PRICE: £269,995
DAVENPORT, CHURCH LANGLEY
• Two Bedrooms
• Kitchen/Diner
• South Facing Garden
• Mid Terrace
• EPC Rating: C

£289,995
THE CHANTRY, HARLOW
• Three Bedrooms
• Mid Terrace
• Downstairs W/C
• EPC Rating: D

£319,995
GUILFORDS, OLD HARLOW
• Three Bedrooms
• Refurbished Throughout
• South Facing Garden
• End Of Terrace
• Chain Free
• EPC Rating: TBC

£324,995
WOODHILL, HARLOW
• Three Bedrooms
• Garage On Bloc
• Popular Location
• Lounge/Diner
• EPC Rating: TBC

£349,995
VINCE DUNN MEWS, OLD HARLOW
• Three Bedrooms
• Town House
• Two Bathrooms
• Immaculate Interior
• EPC Rating: B

£395,000
ALLENS GREEN, SAWBRIDGEWORTH
• Two Bedrooms
• Open Plan
• Off Street Parking
• Mains Services
• EPC Rating: D

£399,995
HEATHCOTE GARDENS, CHURCH LANGLEY
• Three/Four Bedroom
• Garage Conversion
• South Facing Garden
• Detached Property
• EPC Rating: E

£430,000
THE BARNS, OLD HARLOW
• Five Bedrooms
• Semi Detached
• Courtyard Setting
• Walk To Station
• EPC Rating: E

£449,995
NORTHBROOKS, HARLOW
• Three Bedrooms
• Link Detached
• Garage & Driveway
• Semi Detached
• EPC Rating: C

£525,000
HAWKENBURY, HARLOW
• Three/Four Bedrooms
• Semi Detached
• Garage & Driveway
• Heavily Extended
• EPC Rating: C

£650,000
THE BARNES, OLD HARLOW
• Three Bedrooms
• Two Bathrooms
• Semi Detached
• Private Location
• EPC Rating: E

£895,000
LATTON COMMON, H & B
• Five Bedrooms
• Three Receptions
• Courtyard Setting
• Detached
• EPC Rating: C

£895,000
GOODERHAM HALL, TATTON STREET
• Four Bedrooms
• Link Detached
• Double Garage
• EPC Rating: B

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property Type</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Residential Sales &amp; Lettings</td>
<td>The Old Post Office 4-6 Church Street, Sawbridgeworth, Herts</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HERONS WOOD, HARLOW £475,000
- FOUR BED DETACHED
- LARGE EXTENSIONS
- GARAGE & DRIVEWAY
- CLOAKROOM
- UPVC D/GLAZED WINDOWS
- GAS HEATING
- LARGE Plot
- INTERNAL PHOTOS ONLINE

ABBEYDALE CLOSE, CHURCH LANGLEY £297,500
- TWO BED SEMI
- GARAGE & DRIVEWAY
- SOUTH FACING GARDEN
- SOUGHT AFTER LOCATION
- UPVC D/GLAZED WINDOWS
- GAS HEATING
- VIEWINGS RECOMMENDED
- INTERNAL PHOTOS ONLINE

HARE STREET SPRINGS, HARLOW £349,950
- THREE BED SEMI
- GARAGE & DRIVEWAY
- SOUGHT AFTER LOCATION
- CONSERVATORY
- GAS HEATING
- UPVC D/GLAZED WINDOWS
- INTERNAL PHOTOS ONLINE
- VIEWINGS RECOMMENDED

CHAPEL FIELDS, HARLOW £260,000
- TWO BED SEMI
- CUL-DE-SAC LOCATION
- MODERNISED THROUGHOUT
- NO ONWARD CHAIN
- GAS HEATING
- UPVC D/GLAZED WINDOWS
- VIEWINGS RECOMMENDED
- INTERNAL PHOTOS ONLINE

SHELDON CLOSE, CHURCH LANGLEY £335,000
- TWO BED HOUSE
- GARAGE & DRIVEWAY
- LARGE GARDEN
- CONSERVATORY
- GAS HEATING
- UPVC D/GLAZED WINDOWS
- INTERNAL PHOTOS ONLINE

SEYMOURS, HARLOW £155,000
- ONE BEDROOM FLAT
- FIRST FLOOR
- GREAT LOCATION
- PRIVATE ENTRANCE
- IDEAL INVESTMENT
- GAS HEATING
- UPVC D/GLAZED WINDOWS
- VIEWINGS RECOMMENDED
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24TH & 25TH
FEBRUARY 2018

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ROAD TEST: Volvo V60 Polestar Automatic by David Ward

WHEELS

I t’s exactly 20 years ago this year that Volvo caused quite a stir in the motorsport world by winning the British Touring Car Championship with their 850 Estate – the first-ever and still only-ever estate car to win such a prestigious racing series. At the time the Swedes were trying to prove that they could make exciting-to-drive, sporty family estate cars and move away from the public’s then perception that they only made boring old cars for retired people.

The image changed and although the 850’s successors – the 850T-SR and then the V70R – were subsequently dropped from dealer showrooms they are now back in the same frame again with the new Volvo V60 Polestar.

Using the technical know-how from their colleagues at Polestar Motorsport, this new up-market road-going performance estate car is taking on the well-established sports-style estates from rivals like Audi, BMW and Mercedes-Benz. It will set potential sports-minded buyers back the best part of £49,665 for the privilege which is far cry from the £23,747 for the current entry-level V60, known as a T4 Business Edition, but they are like chalk and cheese.

The big question is whether this fifty grand Volvo is worth it and will buyers get a true performance estate car at the end of the day? The answer is yes because it delivers an impressive sports driving experience from its two-litre 367bhp supercharged and turbocharged engine and does so in a far more subtle and rewarding fashion than most of its rivals. For starters it doesn’t look that much different from the latest normal V60 range apart from some minor body styling changes (like an extended front-lip spoiler plus a new roof spoiler and diffuser) while at the back there are two distinctive sports exhaust pipes plus discreet small blue badges at the front and rear are all that reveal it’s a Polestar model.

The previous six-cylinder, three-litre engine has been dropped in favour of a twin turbo two-litre and the Polestar backroom boys clearly know what they are doing when it comes to transforming an average looking medium-class estate car into a genuine sports performance estate.

Apart from now having a Haldex electro-hydraulic four-wheel-drive system on board they’ve added a new intercooler with high-tech ECU settings, created a far stiffer suspension setting too lowering the car by 3mm over the more conventional model amongst other mechanical tweaks. To help stop the car – it will accelerate from 0 to 62mph in 4.5 seconds and has a limited top speed of 155mph – they’ve installed bespoke 371mm Brembo front-disc brakes and it sits on 20-inch alloy wheels and Michelin Pilot Super Sport tyres.

 Naturally the ride is on the firm to hard side for such a sporty car which means it is a bit on the harsh side and drive with spirit around twisty ‘B’ roads and the like and you can feel every bump in the road, but it’s road grip and overall road holding is outstandingly good, urging the driver to continue driving in such a manner. On first starting it up, there’s a wonderful raucous rumble from the twin exhaust pipes and keeping it on automatic driving mode – there are paddles on the steering wheel to change up and down manually if wanted – it has a fair turn of speed when demanded. The eight-speed automatic gearbox is also impressive with such quick and responsive up and down gear changes that are smooth while the highly-tuned twin-turbo engine again is smooth and quite subtle in the way that it delivers its full 367bhp.

It really is an enjoyable fun and fast sports estate car to drive which delivers everything one would need but in such a subtle way and not in-your-face style as most of its rivals in this category.

Inside the cabin the dark charcoal leather-covered seats with neat but discreet blue-stitch trims, give exceptionally good all-round lumbar support and there’s good head and leg room both front and rear and all-round vision is good.

 Obviously there’s plenty of standard kit on the car, such as reversing camera, parking sensors, sports console and shining alloy pedals for the driver, climate control, good infotainment system with a seven-inch screen that offers all the usual links to sat nav and other driving aids and is quite simple to use. For audio buffs, there’s an impressive Harman Kardon sound system as standard with 12 speakers and all the usual communication links too like Bluetooth.

As for body colours they are all quite subtle too with just a choice of four – black, blue, silver or white – with the test car in what Volvo calls Busting Blue which would be my own choice if buying.

Nice to see the now Chinese-owned Volvo team turning the clock back and bringing to the current market a radically updated sports saloon from the loveable old 850 series from way back when.

For anyone looking for this kind of upmarket sporty estate car, then the new V60 Polestar is well worth serious consideration.
Ask any one of the growing throng of SUV drivers what made them switch from a hatchback, saloon or estate model and there’s usually a combination of factors.

Styling apart, they always include the all-round aura of confidence gained from a raised driving position and, often topping the list, a feeling of safety.

When it comes to the latter, Japanese brand Subaru is well placed to attract buyers to its XV compact crossover model.

The latest XV, unveiled at the 2017 Geneva Motor Show, has been scooping safety accolades since its launch last summer – including the Grand Prix Award for achieving the highest score on record in Japan’s New Car Assessment Programme crash safety evaluation tests.

Perhaps more appealing though is something called Eyesight, Subaru’s optical advanced collision avoidance technology.

While systems from other manufacturers use various sensors like radar, microwave or camera, EyeSight operates via a pair of camera lenses to the left and right of the rear-view mirror that together create a stereoscopic image.

A core feature is Pre-Collision braking which reliably captures pedestrians in dark clothing in unlit areas – such as the countryside – and when needed initiates emergency braking.

Up to a speed of 28mph accidents can be completely avoided and the severity significantly reduced at higher speeds.

That’s not all though. Subaru’s rear vehicle detection system is also fitted as standard on the XV, offering blind spot detection, lane change assistance and help with reversing.

Otherwise, changes to the XV present a pretty much completely new vehicle from the one launched in 2012.

For one thing, it is built on the company’s new global platform which has been engineered to be 70 per cent more rigid, in turn making the car’s body and chassis rigidity and stronger.

That becomes more apparent when you drive the SV, which is more engaging and agile as a result.

The latest models come with a newly-developed 2.0-litre direct injection Boxer petrol engine and all-wheel drive is standard on every car along with the marque’s X-MODE system which boosts its off road ability.

We averaged 36.2 miles per gallon over 500 miles of mixed motoring that included a high percentage of urban travel.

That fuel return may not match the official 52.3mpg figure of the 2.0-litre diesel that’s also up for grabs, but it wasn’t too shabby for a car that spent most of its time with a full complement plus baggage aboard.

And to that end the XV is designed to both accommodate and please. The tested model’s seats – in black and grey with attractive orange stitching – are comfortable, there’s excellent rear passenger space and a centre rear passenger isn’t compromised by a rigid perch.

Headroom is excellent all round, the dash is simple and well laid out with piano black and alloy inserts and there are plenty of stowage options varying from cup holders in the rear armrest to containers in all four doors.

An elegant shape, smart alloy wheels and a pair of satin roof rails are icing on the cake for a vehicle that deserves to hold its own in the compact SUV arena.

Prices are from £22,495.
TOTAL ECLIPSE

There might be a lot of negativity around car sales right now but launches of new and revamped vehicles show no signs of abating.

Now that might reflect the long lead-in time attached to producing new vehicles, but car company bosses remain bullish and none more so than Mitsubishi, which has just brought the Eclipse Cross to market.

Big things are expected of this compact SUV which, let’s face it, will be up against some very good cars (think SEAT Ateca, Peugeot 3008 and Nissan Qashqai) in what is the most popular segment of the market.

It’s a very stylish car for a start, which is always a major factor for user-choosers. After all, a little peer group envy never goes amiss. And despite those rival models I think the Eclipse Cross has more than a dash of sexy coupé about it: much like the Range Rover Evoque, in fact.

The second big plus, then, is it won’t cost you anywhere near as much as the Evoque or, say, a BMW X4. And it’s got far more useable space than another car I really like - the Toyota CH-R, launched last year.

QUALITY

Of the Japanese brands you could say Mitsubishi just quietly gets on with it; obviously very strong already in its 4x4 and pick-up offerings and content to concentrate on producing quality vehicles and let them do the talking for them. But what the Eclipse Cross does instantly is fill out the offer to the consumer.

This is a car which slots between the Mitsubishi ASX and the much larger Outlander, which means the company is competing in a far wider market. And it’s marked out by a stylish, angular look that has it stand out from the crowd.

The tapered roofline, short overhangs and muscular front and rear fenders help create the sporty, coupe, feel. It’s a handsome car viewed from all angles and the rear end is equally distinctive although I fear some will balk at the split rear windscreen.

I understand this has allowed the steep roof angle which adds to the car’s attractiveness overall but I know some will question visibility out of the rear window (à la Honda Civic), although in practice I didn’t find it a problem.

Given the fierce backlash against diesel engines, it’s interesting to note that the only one available at launch is a turbocharged 1.5-litre, four-cylinder petrol engine, although a 2.2 diesel will be along later in the year.

On my drive I found this one of the biggest delights - the car drove incredibly smoothly and was supremely quiet. With very little, if any, wind noise intruding, the cabin was a lovely place to be on our travels.

Th Eclipse Cross can be ordered as a front-wheel drive or all-wheel drive vehicle and with either a manual or a CVT gearbox; the latter contributing to the 0 to 62mph sprint speed dipping below the 10 second mark. For those who think continuously variable transmission is the work of the devil because of noisiness and a tendency to be sluggish in getting the power down, I’m glad to report my experience was very positive.

On my evaluation route there was always enough power in hand to complete overtaking manoeuvres safely and the car went in to and around corners without any noticeable adverse body roll.

The Eclipse Cross is available in three trim levels - Eclipse Cross 2, Eclipse Cross 3 and Eclipse Cross 4 - and is comfortably specced. The entry-level version, for example, offers features such as a touch-pad controller, Smartphone Display Audio that is compatible with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, rear view camera, DAB radio with six speakers, cruise control, climate control air conditioning, LED Daytime Running Lights, Bluetooth connectivity for hands-free calls, 16-inch alloy wheels, privacy glass and heated door mirrors.

The 3 builds on this by adding 18-inch alloy wheels, a heads-up display, heated front seats, front and rear parking sensors, dual-zone climate control, keyless entry and keyless start, electrically folding door mirrors, silver side sills and an electronic handbrake on automatic versions, while the top of the range 4 has leather plus electrically-adjustable driver’s seat, electric opening panoramic roof, Rockford Fosgate Premium sound system with nine speakers and a suite of advanced driver assistance systems including LED headlamps, 360-degree parking camera, Blind Spot Warning, Rear Cross Traffic Alert, Lane Change Assist and Adaptive Cruise Control (automatic only).

I have to say I found it slightly disappointing that there is no sat nav system anywhere in this, but Mitsubishi will argue that with all models being smart phone enabled, you can use the mapping services provided.

But while Google mapping or Apple maps (the two I use) have many advantages, including being up to date, it does rely on a data connection being available or downloading maps in advance.

Having said the car is spacious (and it is), with rear seats that slide to increase leg-room where needed, boot space is not class-leading (448 litres with all seats in use). However, the rear seats do split and fold for those times when you need extra.

Overall, the Eclipse Cross is a welcome addition . . . good-looking with a real feel of quality inside, decent to drive, and very comfortable. The Mitsubishi Eclipse Cross is priced from £21,275 to £29,750 on the road.
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<tr>
<th>Model Description</th>
<th>Colour</th>
<th>Miles</th>
<th>Warranty</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<td>Silver</td>
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<td>Black</td>
<td>12,000</td>
<td>Kia Warranty until 03/2023</td>
<td>£15,995</td>
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**AVGO x-press 5 door 1.0 VVT-i Manual. Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (Urban 56.5 (5.0), Extra Urban 78.5 (3.6), Combined 68.9 (4.1)). CO2 Emissions 95g/km. All the prices and CO2 figures quoted are from official EU regulated laboratory test results. These results are provided to allow comparisons between vehicles and may not reflect your actual driving results.**

---

**Details:**

- **Model:** KIA x-press 5 door 1.0 VVT-i Manual
- **Fuel Type:** Petrol
- **Engine Size:** 1.0 litres
- **Transmission:** Manual
- **Fuel Consumption:** Urban 56.5 mpg, Extra Urban 78.5 mpg, Combined 68.9 mpg
- **CO2 Emissions:** 95g/km
- **Price:** £129 per month

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**Customer Information:**

- **Customer:** Steven Eagell
- **Address:** Steven Eagell Toyota, 200–210 Dunmow Road, Bishop's Stortford CM23 5HW
- **Contact:** Tel: 01279 654 335

---

**KIA Antietam:**

- **Address:** Steven Eagell Toyota, 200–210 Dunmow Road, Bishop's Stortford CM23 5HW
- **Contact:** Tel: 01279 654 335

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**KIA Motability:**

- **Contact:** Tel: 01279 654 335

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**KIA Warranty:**

- **Term:** 7 years
- **Mileage:** 100,000 miles

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**KIA Financial Services:**

- **Contact:** Tel: 01279 654 335

---

**KIA Web:**

- **Website:** www.steveneagelltoyota.co.uk

---

**Manufacturer:**

- **Model:** KIA x-press
- **Type:** 5 door 1.0 VVT-i Manual
- **Fuel Type:** Petrol
- **Engine Size:** 1.0 litres
- **Transmission:** Manual
- **Fuel Consumption:** Urban 56.5 mpg, Extra Urban 78.5 mpg, Combined 68.9 mpg
- **CO2 Emissions:** 95g/km

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**Approval Date:**

- **Date:** February 22, 2018
- **Location:** Steven Eagell Toyota, Bishop's Stortford
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**</p>
**Public Notices**

**Essex County Council**

(Back Lane, Nazeing)

(Temporary Prohibition of Traffic) Order 2018

Notice is hereby given that the Essex County Council has made the above Order under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

**Effect of the Order:**
1. To temporarily close the various lengths of road in the Harlow District as specified in the schedule to this Order.
2. A temporary ‘No Stopping’ restriction will be introduced on both sides of carriageway on the above lengths of roads for the duration of the closure to facilitate the works. Signs will be installed indicating where the No Stopping restriction will be in force.

**The District of Harlow (On Street) (Waiting, Loading and Parking) (Consolidation) Order 2011** will be temporarily amended to include the temporary ‘No Stopping at Any Time’ restriction and suspend any existing parking and waiting restrictions on the above roads for all times.

Access will be maintained for emergency services. Diversion routes will be signed at each location and reasonable access will be available for all trade and residential property.

**Effect of the Order:**
1. To temporarily close that length of Dobbs Weir Road, Roydon in the District of Epping Forest, from a point approximately 430m southwest of its junction with Bellts Lane for a distance of approximately 76m in a southerly direction. The closure is scheduled to commence on 15th March 2018 for 5 days, or where stated on a valid permit (ZP01097927-2/261/15/FLR - GTC). The scheduled dates may vary for these works with appropriate signs showing and/or displayed on www.roadworks.org. The closure is required for the safety of the public and workforce while gas connection works are undertaken by GTC.

An alternative route is available via Bellts Lane, Nazeing Common and vice versa.

The Order came into effect on 15th February 2018 and may continue in force for 18 months or until the works have been completed, whichever is the earlier.

(Various Roads, Harlow District)

(Temporary Prohibition of Traffic & Clearway) (No.2) Order 2018

Notice is hereby given that the Essex County Council has made the above Order under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

Effect of the order:
1. To temporarily close the various lengths of road in the Harlow District as specified in the schedule to this Order.
2. A temporary ‘No Stopping’ restriction will be introduced on both sides of carriageway on the above lengths of roads for the duration of the closure to facilitate the works. Signs will be installed indicating where the No Stopping restriction will be in force.

The Order came into effect on 15th February 2018 and may continue in force for 18 months or until the works have been completed, whichever is the earlier.

(Third Avenue, Harlow)

(Temporary Prohibition of Traffic) Order 2018

Notice is hereby given that the Essex County Council intends, not less than seven days from the date of this notice, to make the above Order under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

Effect of the order:
1. To temporarily close the various lengths of road in the Harlow District as specified in the schedule to this Order.
2. A temporary ‘No Stopping’ restriction will be introduced on both sides of carriageway on the above lengths of roads for the duration of the closure to facilitate the works. Signs will be installed indicating where the No Stopping restriction will be in force.

The Order will come into effect on 1st March 2018 and may continue in force for 18 months or until the works have been completed, whichever is the earlier.

**Location Description**

**Schedule**

**Diversions**

From A414 to A1025 Third Avenue, A1025 Third Avenue, A1025 Second Avenue, A1169 Southern Way, Abercornble Way – a distance of approximately 2597m

**(Dobbs Weir Road, Roydon)**

(Temporary Prohibition of Traffic) Order 2018

Notice is hereby given that the Essex County Council intends, not less than seven days from the date of this notice, to make the above Order under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

Effect of the order:
1. To temporarily close that length of Dobbs Weir Road, Roydon in the District of Epping Forest, from its junction with Avenue Road for a distance of approximately 188m in a westerly direction. The closure is scheduled to commence on 19th March 2018 for 2 nights, or where stated on a valid permit (ZP01097345-2/261/15/FLR - Essex County Council). The scheduled dates may vary for these works with appropriate signs showing and/or displayed on www.roadworks.org. The closure is required for the safety of the public and workforce while carriageway machine surfacing works are undertaken by Essex County Council.

An alternative route is available via Dobbs Weir Road, Sedge Green, Pecks Hill, North Street, Nazeing Road, Nazeing New Road, New Nazeing Road, Station Road, High Road, High Street, Charlton Way, Conduit Lane, Dinant Link Road, Essex Road and vice versa.

The Order will come into effect on 1st March 2018 and may continue in force for 18 months or until the works have been completed, whichever is the earlier.
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DREAM DEBUT FOR HAWKS STRIKER FOY

New loan signing nets twice to earn valuable draw

HARLOW Town boss Danny Chapman believes his side’s three game unbeaten run will help instil a new found confidence amongst his players in their battle for survival in the Bostik League Premier Division.

New signing Matt Foy made a sensational debut in Saturday’s 2-1 draw at Worthing, scoring either side of half-time to salvaged a point for the Hawks.

Foy is a striker who came through the youth ranks at Cambridge United, before signing a professional three-year contract.

He has had loan spells at St Neots Town and most recently at Lowestoft Town.

The result left second from bottom Harlow two points above Grays Hill Town.

“It was a very big result for us on Saturday not just in terms of getting a point, but also for the mental state of the players,” said Chapman. “Worthing have been going very well of late and going 1-0 down after 27 minutes wasn’t the start we wanted.

“The boys showed character and endeavour to get it back to 2-2 and in the second half we could have nicked it and got the win. For the boys the performance has deserved wins and not draws.

“The performances are there and the attitude is right. We will turn these draws into wins.”

Chapman said Foy would prove an important asset to the side.

“We played against Matt a couple of times during this season, he’s a pro at Cambridge United and was on loan at Lowestoft. He’s someone that we noticed and we’ve brought him in.

“He’s made a great debut – he’s very calm and collected and I believe he will be able to add goals alongside Alex Read to start winning us games.”

The Hawks boss has also signed Oregon-based wing-back Jordan Norville-Williams on work experience terms from Cambridge United.

“Jordan comes highly recommended,” said Chapman.

“Hawks manager John McGreal was impressed enough to sign him on loan.”

Foy turned the corner but you can use that to your advantage.

“We need to pick up more points. We just need to push ourselves a little bit more and turn these draws into wins.

“I’d like to think we have turned the corner but you can only look from one game to the next in the position we’re in.”

“Hawks’ other new signing, centre back Jack Fowler from Grays Athletic, had the misfortune of injuring his ankle in his first training session and is likely to face at least a couple of weeks on the sidelines.

200M GOLD FOR SHEMAR

HARLOW Athletic Club member Shenar Boddins raced to gold in the 200m at the BUCS championships, running in the colours of his university St Mary’s.

He went through three rounds of 200m to reach the final. He won his heat in 22.7sec to progress to the semi-final, which he won in a personal best time of 21.45.

A SCORING spurt in the final 25 minutes proved too late for Harlow as they lost 41-34 at home to Woodford in last Saturday.

The result left second from bottom Harlow two points above Braintree.

A PUPIL from St Marks Catholic School, Harlow has showed her fighting spirit after picking up a gold medal in a Swedish tournament.

Schoolgirl champion Jade Huggins, aged 14, and a member of Hoddesdon Boxing Academy took part in the Golden Girl Championships – one of the largest women’s tournaments in Europe featuring fighters from 26 countries including Australia, Mongolia and Russia.

Huggins was looking to add to her experience of boxing internationally and she produced a flawless performance to out point French title holder Lina Gardarin (Team France).

Boxing in the Class C U42kg final, Huggins made the centre of the ring he own.

She pumped the jab continually towards Gardarin, also landing straight back hands to which the French girl had no answer too.

The work rate shown by Huggins was simply overwhelming at times and at times the referee edged closer, looking to administer a standing count just to give Gardarin a breather.

“Jade has remained unbeaten in her short amateur career and the importance of participation in this event puts her in good stead for European selection for England in a few weeks,” said Hoddesdon Boxing Academy head coach Sab Leo.

“She is now 5-0, national champion and Golden Girl Box Cup medalist and will only develop into a talented individual.”

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