Man’s feet severed in train accident

A FREIGHT worker’s legs were severed in an horrific accident at railway sidings near Harlow Mill station yesterday (Wednesday).

The man, believed to be in his 40s and from the London area, was helping to manoeuvre a nine-carriage freight train carrying aggregate when the incident happened at 6.10am.

The EWS Freight worker lost the lower part of both legs as the train backed over him.

Ambulance and fire crews attending the scene recovered both limbs in the hope surgeons could reattach them and sent them with the injured man to Princess Alexandra Hospital.

Essex County Fire and Rescue Service’s divisional officer Mark Samuels said: “It appears the man slipped underneath the carriage as he was seeing back the train. His limbs were severed but the cut was clean so the legs were taken with the casualty to hospital in the hope that medical teams may be able to sew them back on.”

A spokeswoman for the freight company said: “The individual was marshalling the train which was travelling at a very slow speed when the incident happened. A driver on board was assisting with its controlled movement.

“We are fully co-operating with police and the relevant authorities but it is far too early to say or suggest what may have happened. Obviously, our thoughts are with the individual’s family and friends at present.”

An East of England Ambulance service spokeswoman said: “The man suffered very serious injuries to both of his lower legs. He was treated at the scene and taken on blue lights to PAH.”
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By JIM TANFIELD

HARLOW Council has been forced into making an embarrassing U-turn in front of the national media after slapping an arbitrary ban on long swimming trunks in the town’s pool.

Last week’s Star was the first to highlight the authority’s ban on three boys – Marc Smith (13), his brother Ryan (12) and Eliot Lee (12) – from Harlow Pool for wearing knee-length swimming costumes.

The council claimed the policy was being implemented by the First Avenue pool’s lifeguards on health and safety grounds because it believed the shorts posed a significant risk as they produced extra drag in the water and were designed specifically for strong swimmers.

But after our story was picked up by the national press, TV news crews descended on the pool on Tuesday to hear environment committee chairwoman and Liberal Democrat councillor Eleanor Macy announce the policy had been revoked.

“Decisions on appropriate swimwear are always taken by council staff with safety in mind. “We have since sought further advice and have now revised our practice,” she admitted to cameras. “We will not be banning three-quarter length shorts for public swimming. “However, we will be informing people through notices at the pool of the fact this type of swimwear creates more drag in the water, which could cause difficulties for some swimmers. “It will be up to the individual to decide what to wear for swimming.”

The council will continue to impose the dress code for schools and lessons at the pool.

Marc and Ryan’s mother Amanda Smith (36), of Paddock Mead, Harlow, who had also received visits from TV crews, told the Star on Tuesday: “I’m amazed that swimming trunks can cause this much of a fuss but I do think it was worth it. “My boys would have found somewhere else to swim because of the silly rule but now they can go back to their local pool.”

Harlow MP Bill Rammell, who stepped in to the debate to call the policy “crazy”, said on Tuesday: “I made clear to the council that I thought it was a ridiculous decision. “Clearly, an officer at the pool got it badly wrong and it has spiralled out of control – it’s health and safety gone mad. “I still think the notices around the pool are unnecessary but at least the boys using the pool will be able to keep wearing them if they and their parents want them to do so.”

Outdoor activities for the disabled and able-bodied alike can continue after Harlow Labour county councillors secured a reprieve for a valuable facility.

Harlow Outdoors Centre, in Burnt Mill Lane, was threatened with closure earlier this year, along with other Essex activity centres, by Essex County Council.

Harlow’s Labour county councillors told the Star at the time that they would “fight tooth and nail” to keep the popular centre open.

County council Harlow North member Paul Szatumf (Lab) said: “I welcome the recommendations to keep it open. “Harlow young people need this centre – to have it closed would have been madness. “I am pleased that my representations have been listened to but I still have concerns over future pricing policy, which has yet to be decided.”

Harlow MP Bill Rammell said: “I can say I’m absolutely delighted with this and have said in the past the Conservatives at County Hall would be crazy to cut it. “It’s a superb facility which provides excellent service to Harlow’s young people.”

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TRUNK CALL: Brothers Mark and Ryan Smith showing off the offending trunks which got them thrown out of Harlow Pool because the garments were deemed too long (photo: NZU3UGV01)

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A SUPPORT charity for ex-servicemen in Harlow and Epping is desperate for volunteers to help.

The Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association Forces Help local branch needs people to help those in financial or emotional hardship.

Volunteers visit servicemen who have contacted the SSAFA Forces Help in their homes to assess their individual problems and needs. They would then be responsible for contacting the former regiment, squadron or branch to find out if any financial assistance is available.

Volunteers would also be asked to try to secure aid through government agencies such as Social Services and housing. All ages of ex-servicemen qualify for help but within the local branch area of Harlow, Epping, Loughton, Ongar and Waltham Abbey it tends to be those aged 50-80.

Branch secretary Marjorie Roberts, whose father was a Desert Rat and husband was in the RAF, told the Star: “Many of us who are working voluntarily at the moment are getting too old to carry on and we have also lost a few of our number recently so we desperately need some young blood.”

“We don’t ask for experience of any kind, but the obvious things needed would be a lot of empathy and a sympathetic ear; also, they would need to be worldly wise and willing to listen to stories of some of the darker aspects of service life.

“Your would need to be able to put a smile on someone’s face and hold out the hand of friendship to someone who has served their country and who is in need of a favour returned.”

For details, call (01992) 812333.

Grants for grabs

TIME is running out for groups in Harlow to apply for a substantial grant to help their good work along.

Essex Community Foundation is offering up to £10,000 for voluntary and community groups in the town and the deadline is September 9.

Organisations need only complete a simple form explaining how much money they need and details of the project.

Contact the grants team on (01245) 356018 for further details.

Hall’s open day

VISITORS can marvel at the latest results of the long-term architectural restoration project at Epping’s Coppped Hall during its latest summer open day on Sunday.

The Crown Hill Gates to the estate, in Upshire, will open from 11am-4.30pm. There will be guided tours of the house and gardens, refreshments and stalls selling local craft and produce.

Blood donation

THE National Blood Service is asking for blood donors to attend its next visit to Harlow.

Donors can go to Lattton Bush Centre, in Southern Way, tomorrow (Friday) from 2-4pm.

In the running?

THE fast and slow alike are being urged to participate in the Kidney Research UK’s Great South Run which takes place in Portsmouth on October 28.

Places are running out and with little representation so far from that area, the charity’s local representatives are urging runners to apply for an entry form as soon as possible on (01480) 216016.

Residents meet

GREAT Pardonn Residents’ Association chairman Harry Harrison has reminded people to make their presence felt at the group’s meetings.

The meetings are held on the first Wednesday of every month at the Staple Tyde offices, from 2-4pm.

Mr Harrison said: “It’s important for all Pardron residents to have their opinions expressed at formal meetings.”

Scouts’ kitchen

GONE are the days of scouts in Harlow’s Risden campsite eating baked beans straight from the tin as they now have the added luxury of a newly renovated kitchen.

The offices at the camping site have also been reequipped to ensure everything runs smoothly.

Making hay

TODAY (Thursday) sees local Countrycare volunteers removing hay from Copy Wood Field, in Nazeing.

The beauty spot which forms part of Epping Long Green Wildlife Complex has been looked after by Countrycare since 1986.

Volunteers are meeting at the Traveller’s Friend, Epping Green, at 10am.
‘My Mollie was savaged twice’

YET another dog owner from Harlow has spoken out about two horrific attacks by bull terriers which left him injured and his beloved pet fighting for its life.

Ed Byrch said he is now fearful of walking his dog because of the number of dangerous dogs allowed off the lead and the recent spate of attacks reported in the Star.

His bichon crossbreed Mollie has only just recovered after she was savaged by a Staffordshire bull terrier in Woodcroft earlier this year.

At the time of that incident in April, the pet was still recuperating from the injuries she received from another attack by a Staffordshire off the lead in the Bishopsfield area.

The first attack resulted in a vet bill of £400 and Mr Byrch said: “The owner agreed to pay all costs and I was surprised when he asked to pay on instalments and did pay half... he then decided that he was not going to pay any more.

“I involved the police because I had a puncture wound to my hand as a result of the struggle with this dog and also had an anti-tetanus injection and my arm in a sling to offset any swelling.

“I did eventually get most of the remainder of the cost of treating my dog as, having witnesses, I threatened to take legal action.”

Regarding the most recent attack, Mr Byrch said: “I have been much more conscious of other dogs since the first attack. I was able to jump on the attacker a lot quicker and limit the amount of damage to my dog.

“This attack resulted in a puncture wound to my dogs head and a bruised neck. Of course, the terrier’s owner said I’ll pay the vet’s bill.”

He added: “I used to enjoy walking our dogs in the evening, which I have been doing for more than 26 years, but these days, with the rapid increase of this terrier type of dog, you don’t want to be rolling around on the ground fighting off these vicious dogs every now and then – I now choose where I take my dog very carefully indeed! I really can’t understand why people have the need to have these animals and risk being attacked or even worse, risking their children being attacked.”

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**Man dies in four-car smash**

A 22-YEAR-OLD man was killed in a four-car smash in the early hours of Saturday.

Jamiad Odoom, of Boundary Court, Epping, died after his VW Polo was in collision with an Audi travelling in the opposite direction on the A1395 between the Wake Arms roundabout and Epping at 3.10am.

Mr Odoom’s passenger, a 24-year-old woman from North London, is in a serious condition in a London hospital after suffering injuries to her head and chest.

The 23-year-old male driver of the Audi was taken to Whips Cross Hospital, where he is being treated for minor fractures.

Details of a second collision at the scene are unclear at present, although the driver of a Ford Fiesta involved in a subsequent collision with a Mercedes was arrested after he fled the scene of the crash.

The 19-year-old male turned himself in to Loughton police later the same day and has now been released on police bail.

While his teenage passengers in the Fiesta were taken to Whips Cross Hospital suffering from minor injuries. The driver of the Mercedes was unjured.

Police are appealing for any witnesses to the incident to call Chigwell Police Station on (01270) 621866.
THERE’S been a lot of noise made in political circles about the need for people to be more aware of the environmental impact of their mode of transport.

John Prescott being driven 200 yards from his hotel to a conference centre in a petrol-guzzling Jaguar epitomises the double standards held by some politicians. The Conservatives believed they were leading the charge to reduce carbon emissions by showing leader David Cameron riding his bike to Westminster – albeit followed by his flunkies a few hundred yards behind in a powerful Lexus carrying his briefcase.

He joked at the time: “This was a carbon-neutral journey until the BBC decided to follow me in a helicopter!”

If you think, however, that trains and buses provide the answer in reducing a carbon footprint then you may have to think again. Not all trains are the environmentally friendly electric variety, meaning the CO2 emissions and the amount of fuel used is higher than a car, also, some electric trains are so heavy that a smaller carbon footprint could be achieved travelling in a car containing four people.

Buses are also a potential trapwire for those wanting to help the environment – many have very few customers on board, creating more fuel for each passenger.

Cars are convenient, generally being outside our homes and not containing The Great British Public which, let’s face it, can tend to be a surly and anti-social creature when riding on public transport. Private cars are responsible for 10-20 per cent of the CO2 emissions in Britain, although this figure is disputed by both the motor industry and, of course, those trying to play down the adverse effect their beloved motors have on the environment. So what do those who represent us in Harlow drive?

Harlow MP Bill Rammell has a petrol Ford Galaxy for families with young children and the elderly, which has yet to be passed clearly onto the public, whichdamages the environment. Therefore the message, that is not necessarily the case, as new technology actually more than a lot of new petrol-run vehicles. Harlow’s Conservative Parliamentary candidate Robert Halton, whose disablement leaves him with walking difficulties, sounds suspiciously like a public relations officer for Kia. “I have a Kia Sedona, I bought it three weeks ago and I absolutely love it and, of course, it’s blue! It’s great to drive, it’s diesel, so it’s environmentally friendly, and I love my car. You may wonder why I have got such a big car. Well, I use it to carry around my leaflets and campaign stuff. It has got seven seats, which I need when I’m picking up my caravanners.”

On the need to remove more cars from the road, he said: “I know we have got to take care of the environment and I for one care passionately about protecting it. I also care passionately about our choice and the freedom to drive.

“I couldn’t get anywhere without it and the car is a valuable and hugely convenient means of transport for families with young children and the elderly, who would have to walk to bus stops at all times to get anywhere. “We need to ask people to have more environmentally friendly cars rather than asking people to stop driving.”

While both politicians’ sentiments are praiseworthy, it is perhaps the lack of information and alternatives holding people back.

Mr Halton believes that because he has a new diesel car he is damaging the environment less – that is not necessarily the case, as new technology means the carcinogenic output of new diesels is production of a new car far exceeds the environmental benefits it may bring short-term.”

Harlow Council Labour joint leader Tony Durcan uses his company Vauxhall Zafira diesel people carrier mostly to transport work-related equipment. The full-time Royal College of Nursing officer lives in Harlow, has an office in Bury St Edmund’s and represents the Cambridgeshire region.

“I am one of these people that don’t really get that excited about cars but because of my job and the amount of things I have to carry around with me, if the car is broken down I feel like I have lost a limb.

“We do need to look at different methods of working to avoid having to make so many journeys by car – I try and use my Blackberry as much as possible to avoid using the car.”

Harlow councillor Lorna Spenceley can often be seen around the town on her tricycle.

“It’s very heavy and a bigger version of the one I used to ride as a five-year-old,” she said. “I ride it because I failed on several occasions to learn to drive and use it instead of a bike as I have a terrible sense of balance.

“We do need to encourage people to use public transport more but I was horrified the other day when I went to Harlow Town Station to buy a train ticket to travel to a conference in Manchester and they wanted £240! That needs to be sorted out and I don’t blame people for wanting to use their car for journeys like that.”

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A-level students are pass masters

THE agonising wait was finally over for A-level students on Thursday as they nervously opened the envelopes that would decide their immediate future.

Final-year students at Harlow College let out a collective sigh of relief as it became clear that 96 per cent of those who completed their courses passed, despite the disruption caused by changes to the teaching strategy and subsequent industrial action by lecturers.

This year’s pass rate is down by two per cent on last year, with 11 of 22 subject areas reaching or exceeding the excellence mark compared to the national benchmark set as the national average," said the school’s success rate — a different criterion to the pass rate — as “a step in the right direction” but said there was still much work to be done to bring the college up to the standards of excellence for which he is aiming.

Although I am very happy for those students who have got the results they wanted and want to wish them all the best for the future, our ultimate aim is to deliver excellence above and beyond the benchmark set as the national average," he said.

“ar year’s results are undoubtedly a step towards achieving that aim, but we will continue to work hard to raise standards across the board to where we want them to be.”

Sixth-form students at St Mark’s Roman Catholic School, in Tripton Road, Harlow, achieved a 97 per cent pass rate, an increase of one per cent over last year. The school also reported its best AS-level results.

Harlow Education Consortium director Jon O’Connor congratulated students for their hard work during the past academic year, saying: “We are absolutely delighted with these results, which reflect favourably on education provision in Harlow as well as all the students and teachers who put in so much hard work to achieve them.”

Meanwhile, Leventhorpe School, in Cambridge Road, Sawbridgeworth, recorded a 97.3 per cent pass mark at grade E or above, while the percentage of A and B grades has risen to 52 per cent from 50 per cent in 2006.

Deputy headteacher Charles Wall said: “Once again, the A-level results at the Leventhorpe School are very good and the vast majority of students are in celebratory mood as they look forward to starting their favoured university courses.

“Headteacher Peter Janke wishes to pass on his congratulations to all staff and students who have worked hard to achieve these commendable results.”

Dispute has had an effect says Rammell

A-LEVEL results day last Thursday saw students at Harlow College fire a parting shot at their beleaguered principal Colin Hindmarch.

Successful students, including some of the college’s top performers, claimed the radical overhaul of the teaching structure implemented by Mr Hindmarch had caused “massive disruption” to their studies. Several told the Star they felt they had underachieved and laid the blame squarely on the upheaval.

Mark Dew, who achieved grades C in history and E in sociology, said: “For two months we were basically having to teach ourselves. I feel the college has let me down.”

Based on figures released after last year’s examinations, the college recorded a two per cent drop in its overall A-level pass rate (96 per cent down from 98 per cent). However, Mr Hindmarch disputed the figure given for last year and claimed the pass rate had increased by three per cent (96 per cent up from 93 per cent).

He also focused on the college’s improved “success rate” which saw eight per cent more students reaching the end of their courses.

During a press conference reporters were invited to talk to some of the college’s highest achievers. Triple A-grade student Adele Pester told the Star: “Even though I’m very happy with my results I’d like to point out that my success was down to the hard work put in by myself and my teachers, many of whom are now unemployed because of the principal.”

Abby Clarke, who notched up grades A, B and C, added: “This year has been really, really hard because of the massive disruption. A lot of my lessons have been cancelled and it’s been very difficult to stay on top of things.”

She added: “Throughout the dispute the principal has refused to talk to the students directly and now he wants to be seen alongside us, celebrating our results. This is just a publicity stunt - it makes me sick.”

Harlow MP Bill Rammell said: “I have made clear for months my concern about the dispute, which is why I asked the Learning and Skills Council to intervene. “I feel for anyone who didn’t do as well as they expected and the dispute undoubtedly has not helped students.”

By CHRIS MOSS
moss@hertsessexnews.co.uk

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WE SAY

A LEVEL results day is one of those educational rites of passage during which many students will doubtless be thinking “No matter what the outcome – I know I did my best.”

But we can only guess as to what must have gone through the minds of Harlow College students as they waited nervously to receive their envelopes last Thursday.

From what has been said subsequently, it appears many of them were thinking that they were let down by their principal Colin Hindmarch.

Some students found that they were left without a lecturer’s approach to exam time from Mr Hindmarch’s radical changes, students who have one chance to do well in their Allevels and students who had rightly at the time entrusted the college and its hard-working lecturers with their education.

Can Mr Hindmarch or those of his governors supporting the restructuration, its timing and the way it was implemented honestly be thinking of this time “We know we did our best?”

YOU SAY

Every week our online poll asks you to vote on a different issue. Last week’s question was “Was Harlow Council right to expel three young swimmers from Harlow Pool for wearing the wrong kind of swimsuits?”

The result of the poll was 23% said yes and 77% said no. To take part in this week’s poll, log on to our website at www.hertssessexnews.co.uk

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SIR, I trust you will allow me to respond to the letters aroused by my support for the principal of Harlow College, Mr Colin Hindmarch (Letters, July 19).

The storm and fury of the protestors was predictable, mainly from predictable sources. I do not intend to get into a back-and-forth ding-dong war of words with those who are prepared to wreak a sound teaching, and learning strategy for the sake of political dogma.

Rather, I will treat your readers to facts … the only way to answer doubters and spoilers.

I am only interested in results – successful outcomes for the students and a better reputation for our college and our town.

For too long we have been dangerously complacent about education in Harlow, celebrating the excellent results of a few (who would have done well anywhere) and conveniently forgetting all those who drop out or under-perform.

I have been deeply saddened to hear from local companies that managers and executives will not re-locate to Harlow because they don’t want to send their children to school or college here. The time has come to raise our game and institute a culture of higher aspiration.

Performance measurement of all student and staff outcomes can be uncomfortable for some, but it produces results. Teaching staff must be prepared to be held accountable for results.

Colin Hindmarch in his last post was a leading member of a team which performed something of a miracle. When he joined the City of Sunderland College in 1996 as vice-principal in charge of curriculum and studies, that college was floundering in the same position in national performance tables as is occupied by Harlow College at present. I refer to the comparative results for 2005/06 taken from the DfES website. The scores are for local authorities, but it is quite easy to see where Harlow and Sunderland colleges stand.

Harlow College lies between Rochdale and Islington, in 136th place. Strangely, that is the level at which Mr Hindmarch found Sunderland when he joined them. By rigorous management of teaching and learning, he did for his college much the same as Roy Keane has done for the Sunderland Football Club, forcing them from bottom in the Championship to the very top of promotion to the Premiership.

When Colin Hindmarch came to Harlow as Principal a year ago, he left Sunderland between Bournemouth and Herefordshire in 7th place – quite an achievement with a wing!’ That’s what we want him to do for Harlow and he must be left to get on with the job.

It is shocking to see that Harlow College is also way below the rest of Essex. Our county lies in 21st place, showing what Essex boys and girls can do when taught with more rigour and discipline. Our children are no less intelligent than any in the rest of England, but we must organise their teaching and learning better than they have been up to now.

I deplore the involvement of some students in the bucking over staff pay and working practices. I condemn this strongly – it is tantamount to corruption of our youth by the UCU. If they were honourable and really cared about their students, they would keep them out of the dispute.

Those staff who strongly disagree with the principal’s strategy will no doubt move on. I am sure that in the absence of interference he can perform another Sunderland miracle for Harlow.

Joshua Jolles

Fir Park, Harlow

SIR, in my letter (July 19) I registered my amazement that Harlow Council and councillors have not become involved in the very worrying situation at our college.

We make great efforts to encourage young people to take an interest in civic matters. So, on this vital issue, have our elected councillors remained silent and declined to help the hundreds of young citizens who are concerned about the ability of the college to fulfil their educational ambitions?

Ron Bill

Upper Park, Harlow

Principal is in the right

Starting Sixth Form in 2007?

Are you about to finalise your Sixth Form place?

Are you holding an offer from Herts & Essex?

You will be, if this sounds like your sort of place...

...and in the Sixth Form...

• Students attain standards that are well above average

• The quality of teaching and learning in the Sixth Form is outstanding

• Students personal development and well-being are outstanding

• Students are very committed to their learning... they embrace responsibility eagerly

• Students are full of praise for the outstanding care, support and guidance they receive

• Students receive excellent guidance which helps them to prepare for the next stages of their education and the world of work

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Ron Bill

Upper Park, Harlow
Aiming to get a new pool sculpture

Back to School Blues?

Waiting list's not a good guide to real housing need

SIR, When interviewed on BBC news last week, Councillor Durcan used the 5,600 people on Harlow’s housing list to justify proposed building on the Green Belt.

The only problem with this argument is anybody aged 16 or over can apply to join the Housing Register. This applies whether they are currently living within Harlow or outside of the district.

It would be interesting to know how many of the people on the waiting list are actually Harlow residents, either young people living with their parents or in overcrowded accommodation. When people from all over the country can sign up for housing in Harlow, and with as many other districts as they want, waiting lists are not a good guide to real housing need.

Harlow’s latest housing requirements survey indicates only approximately 2,000 homes are needed, which can easily be met by the current local plan without building on the green wedges in Harlow or the Green Belt to the north.

The proposed expansion to the north of Harlow into the Green Belt is nothing to do with Harlow’s local housing need - it’s to meet the Government’s growth agenda imposed on Harlow by central dictat.

Nigel Clark
Secretary STOP Harlow North
High Street, Hunsdon

SIR, I feel it is necessary to clear up the misunderstandings and misinformation about Hilary Frew’s paddling pool sculpture.

Your correspondent Michael Danvers (Letters, August 9), as someone who has served on Harlow Council for many years, may like to know that the sculpture was the property of the council. This fact is stated in Harlow Art Trust’s recently published catalogue of the town’s sculptures. Also in this book is the date of its installation, 1965, and its material, polyester resin.

I find it quite surprising that a sculpture made of resin mixed with copper powder and reinforced with glass fibre should have lasted 42 years, especially outdoors and subject to children climbing on it.

As a professional sculptor, I was asked to report on the state of the sculpture before it was removed. After careful inspection, I wrote that 'not only is one of the figures missing but also the other figure and central mound are both in a very poor state, with large cracks and pieces broken away. In places the glass fibre matting, the filler and metal armature are exposed. In my opinion, it is beyond repair'.

I am informed that the artist, when she last did some repair work on it, said it was the last time she could do so. Because of the technique used in making the sculpture, there is no plaster original nor existing mould from which to cast a replica. Only the artist can authorise or make a copy. The decision was made to destroy what was left of the sculpture because there was no way of replicating or repairing it.

Yes, it was insensitive of someone to leave it in a skip in a public place, but I can tell you, as a sculptor, that if a work cannot be repaired the artist certainly doesn't want it to remain in the public eye in an altered and unsatisfactory state. If the material cannot be re-used for something else, it has to be taken to the tip.

What Harlow Art Trust finds the most heartening aspect of this event is the confirmation that the townspeople of Harlow care so passionately about their sculptures. So let us turn this into something positive. The Trust will discuss at its next meeting, and with the council, how the money can be raised to commission a new artwork for the pool.

Angela Godfrey
Trustee, Harlow Art Trust

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
Town show gearing up

MORE than 20,000 people are expected to attend the Harlow Show in the Town Park next Sunday.

The free event has proved to be hugely popular since being reintroduced in 2002 and this year’s show forms part of Harlow’s diamond anniversary celebrations.

Pop legends and Eurovision winners Buck’s Fizz will join local bands at the Bandstand, while a fairground, wrestling bouts, African drumming and sideshows will provide the fun on the Showground. Gates will open at 12pm and admission also includes a programme. For details, call (01279) 446404 or visit www.harlow.gov.uk.

BOOTS OPTICIANS LAUNCHES NEW LOOK STORE IN HARLOW

Boots Opticians has recently launched their new look store At 37 Broad Walk, Harlow Shopping Parade. As well as the store now looking bigger and brighter than ever before, there are many more designer brands available. Fantastic new styles of glasses are now available from over 20 top brand designers including:

Over 50% of adults in the UK are short or longsighted, and a number of these aren’t even aware that their vision is impaired. But it’s not just minor eyesight problems an Optician checks for. More serious conditions and diseases, like glaucoma are easily picked up, and early detection could essentially stop you from losing your sight. So it’d be short-sighted not to pay a visit to the Optician, wouldn’t it?

Boots Opticians recommend that your eyesight is checked every 2 years to make sure there are no changes in your vision, and to detect any underlying problems. And it couldn’t be easier to have your vision tested, book an eye test appointment today by calling 0845 120 4343 or visit your local Boots Opticians

THE PRIZES

1st prize - £200 voucher to spend on glasses at Boots Opticians
Runners-up prizes – 10x Free Eye Test vouchers

It is recommended by eye care professionals that we should have our eyes tested every:

a) Month □  b) 2 years □  c) 10 years □

Name:
Address:
Postcode:
Telephone Number:

I am over 21 years □

To be in with a chance of winning you must correctly answer the competition question above and fill in this form with your details. Only one entry per person. Entrants must be 21 years or over. Winners will be selected from all the correct entries received within 5 days of the closing date. The prize is not transferable and there is no cash alternative. Closing date for the competition is 1st September 2007.

Kind gentleman Jack’s death is a sad loss

ONE of Harlow Council’s hardest working and most admired members has died, leaving family and councillors paying tribute to the “kind gentleman” of local politics.

Jack Jesse (77), right, Labour councillor for Little Parndon and Hare Street, died of a stroke on Saturday in Princess Alexandra Hospital.

Father-of-four Mr Jesse, of Spring Hills, served as a councillor from 1976-79 and then again from May 2002 until the present.

He was a restaurateur and chef in the USA and Mexico during the 1980s after he gave up a successful career as an engineer working on rocket projects.

His son Paul (53), now living in Manchester, told the Star: “He was a bright colourful character who lived a very varied life and made lots and lots of friends.

“He was a multi-talented man who loved a very varied life and still am very proud of him.

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His son Paul (53), now living in Manchester, told the Star: “He was a bright colourful character who lived a very varied life and made lots and lots of friends.

“Jack was a major community ambassador who never let politics get in the way of common sense. He was a very kind gentleman who will be sadly missed.”

Councillor Tony Hall (Conservative) said: “He brought a self-effacing humour to the chamber, was unfailingly courteous in his dealings with all parties.”

Joint council leader Chris Millington (Liberal Democrat) added: “He was a great servant to his local community as well as to Harlow and the council.”

Harlow MP Bill Rammell said on Tuesday: “I was saddened to hear the news of Jack’s death. As a councillor he served the community and the Labour Party with dedication for a long time, despite ill health marking his latter years. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends across the town.”

Mr Jesse’s funeral takes place at Parndon Wood Crematorium next Friday at 2pm. The family has asked for any donations to be made to the sudden arrhythmic death syndrome charity SADS UK on (01277) 236642.
Stock up for a great barbecue this weekend.

5 for £10
Chinese Style Pork Ribs
Minted Lamb Chops
Minted Lamb Kebabs
Chinese Chicken Drumsticks
Quarter Pounder 6 pack
Various weights

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there’s no place like ASDA
Just-qualified driver’s car smash

A TEENAGE driver from Harlow caused a three-vehicle collision just two months after passing his driving test, a court was told on Friday.

Angelo Wallace (18), of Rushes Mead, admitted driving a Fiat Punto without due care and attention when he swerved to avoid a fox on the A602 at Watton at Stone and hit a Vauxhall Corsa and a van travelling in the opposite direction on February 26.

Charlotte Rind, prosecuting, said the Corsa sustained heavy impact-damage but nobody involved was injured. Wallace said he needed the car to travel to Harlow College.

He was fined £70 with £60 costs and had his licence endorsed with four penalty points. Wallace was warned he would have to retake his driving test if he accumulated a further two points.

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Gardens, has agreed to cancel the membership of the two constituents,” he said. “This will bring them some real peace of mind as they’ve been chased for a substantial sum of money and it’s been quite a distressing situation for them.

“Other constituents have approached me with similar complaints, so clearly there are some real problems with their rules and I will be taking these up with Esporta.”

One furious former member whose case remains unresolved has blasted Esporta for using “bully-boy tactics”.

Former Park Lane resident Ali Sharriff told the Star: “I’d already completed my 12-month membership when I tried to leave in January as I was moving to London, but Esporta then told me I couldn’t as I had to give three months’ notice.

“I protested but gave Esporta the benefit of the doubt and carried on my membership until the end of April. I have since tried again to cancel my membership, but they’re now asking I give them another three months notice before I leave.

“I’m now being pursued by debt collectors and Esporta have threatened me with court action unless I pay up. It’s disgusting.”

Tom Howard (19), of The Crest, Sawbridgeworth, said he had been “misled” into signing a 12-month contract when he responded to an introductory offer by the gym: “I thought I was signing up for a month’s trial at a special rate of £15,” he said. “When I asked to take the contract away to get it looked over, the saleswoman refused and said I could only take advantage of the offer if I signed then and there.

“Little did I know I was signing up for 12 months and now they’re demanding I pay the full £64-a-month until the 12 months is up, despite me telling them I wanted to cancel. I asked a solicitor to look over the contract but it’s watertight. It’s a nightmare – I feel I’ve been misled into signing up for something I had no intention of committing to.”

An Esporta spokesman said yesterday (Wednesday): “We go to great lengths to ensure that our sales people convey the many advantages of joining an Esporta club whilst being transparent about the commitment period and the terms and conditions relating to suspension and cancellation.

“Indeed, we regularly ‘mystery shop’ our sales teams to ensure this. We are grateful to Bill Rammell for bringing to our attention two cases, both of which have been investigated thoroughly and resolved. We are concerned to hear that some of the Harlow Star’s readers have issues they wish to raise and we are keen to investigate these further.”
Why wait for the ice cream van.

£1.79
Cornetto

£1.57
Magnum

£1.79
Twister

Any 2 for £3

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NEWS

A MUSIC concert celebrating Harlow’s diamond anniversary hit all the right notes with its young audience as hundreds of teenage revellers rocked out in the Town Park on Saturday.

Local bands Absence, Wall St Crash and Who Shot Lassie entertained the throng of youngsters at the bandstand with half-hour sets before local heroes CM45 brought the music to a close.

As well as vibrant live music, youngsters also enjoyed activities ranging from henna tattooing and face-painting to comedy sumo wrestling at the Harlow Council-organised event.

A council spokesman said: “This was the young people’s turn to celebrate the town’s 60th anniversary and it proved a great success. “It certainly hit the right audience, with around 500 young people turning up throughout the day despite the rainy spells.”

FUN DAY: Left, Shauna Paul and Georgina Collins sumo wrestle (photo: XF33FTNZ/01); middle, a group of friends out for a good time (photo: XF33FTNZ/04); right, Charlotte Hall takes her chances on a rodeo bull (photo: XF33FTNZ/02)

By CHRIS MOSS
mossc@hertsessexnews.co.uk

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You have it all.
At Specsavers if you’re over 60 there’s 30% off, Monday to Friday, when you buy a pair of glasses from our £75 range or above – that’s the frame, the lenses and any extra options. All our glasses come with PENTAX lenses as standard. You’ll also get a full eye test free from our professional staff, under the NHS.

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ASDA HARLOW: WATERGARDENS, SOUTHGATE CM20 1AN. OPEN 24 HOURS: MONDAY 8AM TO SATURDAY 10PM. SUNDAY 11AM-5PM.

there's no place like ASDA
SOME people, because of their jobs, seem to get themselves in sticky or even life-threatening situations. If it doesn’t give you nightmares, imagine being tied to a tree for eight days with no food or drink while a family of massive, man-eating crocodiles circled hungrily below. That’s what happened to cattle drover David George in Australia earlier this month after he got disorientated in the Bush when his horse fell on him. He was eventually rescued by a helicopter pilot who saw light reflecting from a tin he was carrying. Then there’s a park ranger in America called Roy Sullivan, pictured above, who was struck by lightning an amazing seven times.

He was always out in the open and often had nowhere to hide when storms started in his Virginian nature reserve. In 1942 he lost a big toenail, in 1969 two eyebrows, in 1970 his left shoulder was seared and in 1972 and 1973 his hair was set on fire. In 1976 his ankle was injured and in 1977 he suffered chest and stomach burns. These are, of course, rare events in their jobs – just think of all the people who work for us doing dangerous jobs such as fishermen, soldiers, firemen and miners, who risk their lives everyday.

Rangers FactFile

NAME: Jack
DATE OF BIRTH: August 15, 2002
ADDRESS: Copshall Close, Harlow
SCHOOL: Jerounds Infants
HOBBIES: Football, cars, skateboarding
DISLIKES: Reading his schoolbooks
FAVOURITE FOOD: Sausages
LEAST FAVOURITE FOOD: Broccoli
FAVOURITE BOOK: Kipper The Dog
FAVOURITE TV: Dora The Explorer
FAVOURITE MUSIC: Robbie Williams
WANTS TO BE: A fireman

(photo: SQQB33.050)

Happy Birthday

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(photo: SQQB33.050)
A POISONOUS spider closely related to the infamous Black Widow has been found in Harlow. Mother-of-two Amanda Mayo (37), of Mallows Green, got an unpleasant surprise when she awoke to find a specimen of the venomous False Widow, Steatoda Nobilis, clinging to her bedroom curtains.

“I’d just woken up and was going to open the curtains when I saw the spider,” she said. “I’m not very fond of spiders, to put it mildly, but I got a close look at it and noticed unusual white markings on its back.”

“A couple of weeks earlier, I’d seen a report on ITV’s This Morning about a woman who’d been bitten by a false widow and had to go to hospital and that’s where I recognised the spider from.”

Ms Mayo captured the creature in a jam jar and took it to Parndon Wood Nature Reserve to see if staff could identify the creature.

Warden Antonio Cutro took photographs of the specimen and forwarded them to the Essex Field Club, where entomologist Peter Harvey confirmed Ms Mayo’s suspicions and revealed it to be the first confirmed sighting of the species in north Essex – the most northerly sighting of the spider in this country to date.

“It has been known from the Southend area in Essex since 1990, but this is the first confirmed record of the species from north Essex,” he said. “However, in recent years it does appear to be spreading widely across southern England, almost certainly due to warmer summers.”

Left a little shaken by the revelation that the spider was a venomous false widow, Ms Mayo reflected on what could have happened had the spider crawled into the cot of her three-month-old son Todd.

“It’s scary to think the spider could have bitten Todd,” she said. “Who knows what effect its poison could have on a toddler?”

Although not considered to be lethal, the bite of the Steatoda Nobilis has a neurotoxic effect on the body, causing symptoms ranging from sweats and chills to chest pain, headache and localised swelling.

In one case last year, a 34-year-old man was rushed to hospital with a suspected heart seizure after suffering an extreme reaction to the spider’s bite.

The spider is originally a native of the Canary Islands and first arrived in this country during the 1870s in a shipment of bananas.

By CHRIS MOSS

Child centre moves

THE Child Development Centre for Harlow children under the age of 16 with special health needs is to move to a new home. Currently at soon-to-be demolished Hamstel House at Princess Alexandra Hospital, it will reopen in the Florence Nightingale Health Centre, in the Church Langley estate, on September 17.

A spokesman for the PAH NHS Trust said: “This is a positive move for this very important service.”

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* Ask for written details † price includes slatted base, mattress & bed covers are extra

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**MICK FINNIGAN**

Passed away peacefully, after a long illness on Wednesday, August 15th, 2007, aged 84 years. A dearly loved Husband, Dad, Grandad and Great Grandad who will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Funeral service to take place at Parndon Wood Crematorium on Friday, August 24th, 2007, at 12.00 noon. Followed by cremation. Thereafter at Parndon Wood Cemetery. Family flowers only please, but donations made payable to Papworth Hospital Charity Trust.

Funeral arrangements are to be sent to Daniel Robinson & Sons, Wych Elm, Harlow, Tel: 01279 429990.

**RONEALD LACEY RAINEY**

November 11th 1924 to August 9th 2007. After a long battle with cancer, passed away in the care of the Lord. To be finally reunited with his much loved family, friends and pets. But most of all to be reunited with his Wife/Love of 53 years: Doreen Rainey. Much missed by family and friends.

Enquiries to Daniel Robinson & Sons, Wych Elm, Harlow. Tel: 01279 429990.

**SEWERN YZ U JONT**


Father and Grandfather ‘Dad’ passed away on Tuesday, August 15th, 2007 at 1.30pm followed by burial at Parndon Wood Cemetery.

Funeral arrangements are to be sent to Daniel Robinson & Sons, Wych Elm, Harlow. Tel: 01279 429990.

**ERNST (ERNE) WAKELING**

Passed away peacefully at Princess Alexandra Hospital on August 11th, after a short illness in his 91st year.

Will be sadly missed by his wife and many nephews and nieces. A family friend to many who send donations to the Hospice, Fulling Mill, Great Chesterford.

Funeral will be held at Parndon Wood Crematorium on Friday, 24th August, 2007, at 3.00pm followed by interment at Parndon Wood Cemetery.

Flowers or donations to ‘Childline’ may be sent c/o Daniel Robinson & Sons, Wych Elm, Harlow. Tel: 01279 429990.

**JOYCE MARKS**

Time to say goodbye, but you will never forget. Be at great peace and know that you are loved by all his loving family and friends.

Funeral service will take place at St Clare Hospice Trust’ or ‘Ma-Millan Nurses’ and will be attended by all his loving family and friends.

Love you forever always, Jackie.

**KATE HAYTER**

Bill depop. August 23rd, 2004. You were the proudest father but this battle you couldn’t win. Mrs & Mrs. to be reunited with her family and friends, we loved you very much.

Funeral to be held at Parndon Wood Crematorium, Harlow at 9.30am. All welcome and afterwards at The Poppy Club, London Road, Old Harlow. Donations to The Poppy Club, care of ‘Gerry’ Fundraiser 20 High Street, Old Harlow.

Tel: 01279 426990.

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Five years have passed since he left us. Will always remember him.

His Son, Brothers in Harlow and us in Harlow.

FAULKNER. – Doreen (Pat) Our dear Mum and Nan, still loved and missed so much. Always in our thoughts Love and kisses, Pete, Glen and Dyn-

KATHLEEN STREET

Passed away peacefully at home on Thursday, August 16th, 2007, aged 73 years. Reunited with her beloved Husband, ‘Dad’ and her much missed Mum Nan. Much loved by her Grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Funeral service to take place at Parndon Wood Crematorium on Tuesday, August 21st, 2007 at 11.30am. Flowers or donations made payable to ‘Childline’ or ‘Ma-Millan Nurses’. Please arrive 10mins before service.

MICK HENSON - Tom, Much loved Dad and Nan. To our grandchildren, Patrick, Julie and Paul. xxx

**OX PATRICIA THOMAS**

August 23rd, 1958

The best Mum in the world. We little knew that morning, when your beautiful voice, God would call your name, and you answered. We loved you dearly, in death we can do the same.

It broke our heart, a piece of ‘our’ heart, who forgot, for us, the day God called you home. You left us special memories of love is what our love can never be.

We miss you and love you so much Mum and Kally, xxx

**SMITH. – Phil.**

Seven months we have been apart, Miss you so much, Love always, Brian and Liza.

Return Thanks

**THE FAMILY BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT**

Massimo and Daniele Vicenzi announce the birth of their daughter Madeleine Rose, born on August 17th, 2007.

The baby and her parents are doing well and would like to thank everyone who has provided such wonderful support during this time.

**MEAD, John.**

The Mead family would like to express their thanks for all cards and flowers for John Mead July 2007.

**ROBERT HAYES**


Sanctity is maintained by death, but tranquility is not.

Mr Robert Hayes, aged 80, of London Road, Harlow, died peacefully at home. His wife, June, and family will miss him greatly.

Funeral arrangements are to be sent to Daniel Robinson & Sons, Wych Elm, Harlow. Tel: 01279 429990.
Congratulations

IT’S A BOY

Congratulations

DANIEL and CARLY

on the birth of your baby son,
born August 19th, 2007. All our love
Dad, Michela and Dong xx

IT’S A BOY

PARSONS : HAINE

Jamie and Sally

Well done, a lovely son.
Joseph Arthur
Harry (Seph)
Lots of love Mum, Dad, Claire, Paul.
Mia xx

1st Birthday

CANDICE BLYTHE

Happy 1st Birthday
Love Pat and Steve xx

Happy Birthday Fruit & Veg

We hope you get just as excited
at your present this year like
the photos.
Lots of love
Linsey and Ryan xxx

CANDICE BLYTHE

Happy 1st Birthday
To our little Sunny Cards
Love you lots.
Kind last xxx

Birthday

MUM and STEVE

Happy Wedding Day
Love Sam and Amy xx

TREVOR TURNER

60th Birthday
August 26th
Love Pat and Paul

60th Birthday

WOOKEY

Happy 21st
Brux.
Love from Sam and Joe. xx

21st Birthday

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**Bite into a tasty offer at Ortega!**

CELEBRATE Spain’s La Tomatina festival at Ortega in the Queensgate Centre, Edinburgh Way – and take advantage of exclusive special offers for our readers.

Ortega, Harlow’s tapas bar and cantina, is the perfect place to get a taste of Spain. Offering a fantastic selection of tapas and paella – not to mention styling dishes and tempting desserts – you can feel free to sit back, relax and enjoy some stylish Spanish cuisine.

With dishes starting at just £1.95, you can tuck into tapas at the bar as you make a selection from the great range of Spanish wines and beers or enjoy the atmospheric setting for a sit-down meal.

And this Bank Holiday, join in the fun for La Tomatina, as Ortega puts on a specially themed event in honour of Spain’s tomato-throwing festival, held every summer in the Valencian town of Buñol.

Ortega is giving Harlow Star readers the opportunity to join in with the fun, putting friends and families in the firing line of tomato-shaped wet sponges!

To make your Tomatina experience even more special, we are offering every reader two exclusive offers:

- Take two get two FREE on all tapas, or
- Buy one get one FREE on all tapas and plates dishes.

To take advantage of these exclusive offers, simply cut out the voucher and hand it to a friendly member of staff.

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Accused man is freed as witness fails to show up

A HARLOW man accused of attacking his former partner has been cleared after the prosecution offered no evidence against him.

Philip Lewis (44), of Three Horseshoes Road, was due to stand trial accused of causing actual bodily harm to Catherine Cochrane.

Chelmsford Crown Court was told that Miss Cochrane, the main prosecution witness, had failed to attend court to give evidence.

Recorder Robin Purchase QC said the charge arose from an incident on January 3 this year when Miss Cochrane sustained “unpleasant and serious injuries”.

The allegation was made a domestic case because the pair had been involved in a long-term relationship together.

Miss Cochrane had been told of the hearing on two separate occasions when she indicated she would attend to give evidence but subsequently failed to appear.

Recorder Purchase refused an application for an adjournment and ordered that a verdict of not guilty be entered and Mr Lewis be discharged.

Defence counsel David Pickersgill said Lewis denied the allegation and would have contested the matter, claiming he was the person under attack.

BIG Brother or rather Harlow Council – is watching flytippers as a growing numbers of people are caught on CCTV dumping their waste illegally.

The council’s candid camera has caught a number of offenders dumping rubbish at Gilden Way and Harlow Swimming Pool in the past six months and is now working towards identifying the culprits.

Once identified, they will each face either a minimum fixed penalty £50 or prosecution, which could result in a fine of up to £50,000 or even imprisonment for more serious cases.

“Flytipping costs council taxpayers thousands of pounds each year” said a council spokesman. “The waste they dump could have easily been disposed free of charge at the town’s amenity and recycling site, local recycling banks or through the bookable green waste collection scheme.”

He went on to remind householders they have a duty of care with regard to their waste and could be liable for prosecution even if tradespeople offer to take rubbish away but instead dump it illegally.

Environment and community committee chairwoman Eleanor Macy warned: “If you are paying someone else to take your rubbish away, make sure that they will dispose of it properly. If they dump it, it’s down to you and you will get the fine.”

“Flytipping is carried out by a small minority of people who aren’t getting the message that we will catch up with them.”

Residents wishing to dispose of garden waste should use the Recycling Centre for Household Waste, in Temple Bank, River Way, while those wanting to book a heavy squad service for large household items should call Contact Harlow on (01279) 446655.

If you have information which could lead to the identification of flytippers, you can report the incident to the council anonymously by calling Contact Harlow on (01279) 446655.

Back to school everyone.

For childrenswear, schoolwear and footwear, there’s nowhere like The Water Gardens. With stores like Asda, Clarks, Peacocks, Next, TK Maxx and Woolworths you’ll find everything your brood needs. Why not drop in with your offspring? It’s a shopping haven for families and at feeding time you can choose from Pizza Hut, Nandos, Esquires and The Water Margin. See you there.

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David’s spook stories were a movie winner

AFTER last week’s Nostalgia film fest here’s another Odeon memory, this time from 1984.

“To mark the release of Ghostbusters, the Odeon ran a competition and they wanted people to send in ghostly stories, so I sent in two which actually happened to me and a group of friends,” recalled David Bell, of Longbanks, Harlow.

“When the results were announced I learned I had won first prize, which was a pewter tankard and four tickets. I still have the cuttings in my scrapbook, which is always nice to look at.”

ONE of the first topics we broached in Nostalgia was The Admiralty, a secret Ministry of Defence establishment in Harlow.

Ever since, we have been trying to lay our hands on a picture of the site, without success, but Tany’s Dell resident Phyllis Bellward (86) has now supplied us with this official photograph of its employees taken in the 1950s.

The premises, officially called the Services Electronics Research Laboratory but known widely by the scientific staff only. The workshop tearoom for the unspoken use of a radar beam was directed at it, causing it to light up, and this could be interrupted on and off to enhance the wonder of it,” he said.

“Although it was known as The Admiralty, the only outward signs were RN painted on the sides of a minibus and a truck we had. ‘Inside, though, we had a ‘mess’ or joinery works at the bench with tea from a trolley.”

Mr Whittle said The Admiralty was full of odd characters: “A lot of the pure research staff were graduates who were serving out their National Service with us instead of entering the services. A few of them were distinctly eccentric and would have been very out of place as army recruits.

But although much of the work was secret, Mr Whittle told how SERL entered floats into the Harlow Carnival and on one occasion even held an open day.

“I remember us showing off a fluorescent tube suspended by string with no wires attached. A radar beam was directed at it, causing it to light up, and this could be switched on and off to enhance the wonder of it,” he said.

“One of our carnival floats was a Mississippi paddle boat built of 200ft of Dexion angle shelving.”

Sawbo plane sailing?

5K Winter Walk

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August 26, 1982

WANTED: SOME VERY SPECIAL PARENTS
THE search is on at Harlow for some very special foster parents to give warm and secure homes to emotionally disturbed teenage boys and girls.

Essex County Council is launching a drive to recruit “specialist” foster parents for a small number of teenagers considered too difficult for traditional fostering.

STAGGERING JOBLESS
UNEMPLOYMENT has reached its highest level this year in Harlow, with a staggering 10.3 per cent of the population out of work.

The total number of people unemployed in the town is 4,938, which includes 372 school leavers.

BLACKSPOT GETS TRAFFIC LIGHTS
TRAFFIC lights are being installed at the accident blackspot at the Southern Way and Towne Road junction in Bush Fair.

Harlow Council is carrying out the work in an attempt to slow down motorists to turn onto the busy Southern Way.
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Wendy has a warm send-off

FAWBERT AND BARNARD: Children at the London Road school said ‘sew long’ to a classroom favourite as she hung up her cape.

Wendy Rogers joined the school 20 years ago as a class teacher and during that time has served as a much-valued member of staff.

Since Christmas, pupils from Year 6 have been sewing squares depicting some of Wendy’s interests, including the numerous sporting activities she has been associated with and, of course, her favourite football team, West Ham United.

These were put together to make a quilt to be presented to Wendy at a special leavers’ assembly.

Staff past and present, friends and pupils have all contributed to an array of gifts for Wendy, including a garden bench, theatre tokens, book tokens and flowers.

A spokeswoman for the school said: “Children who were once taught by Wendy now have their own children coming to the school.

“The whole school wishes her well for the future and hopes that she continues to enjoy her leisure time.”

PASSMORES: The Tendring Road school did not need a nationwide search to find a Joseph – they already had one, along with 11 brothers, three narrators and a camel!

The school performed the popular Andrew Lloyd Webber musical Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, to sold-out audiences.

The cast were praised by local entertainers and headteachers for the high standard of singing, dancing and acting.

A spokeswoman for the school said: “Staff had been working with the cast several times a week for the last six months to produce the musical, with its 50-strong cast consisting entirely of students from Passmores – apart from, that is, headteacher Vic Goddard as Pharaoh and humanities teacher Mick Clayton as Jacob.”

Children enjoy a striking day of fun

PEAR TREE MEAD PRIMARY: Pupils leaving the Trotters Road primary for ‘big school’ were stretched around the town and bowled over on a fun day out. Organised and paid for by parents, 19 Year 6 leavers were picked up by a Hummer stretch limo. They were taken for a tour of the town in the monster vehicle before being conveyed to Harlow’s 10-pin bowling alley.

Donna Smith, mum of one of the leavers, said: “They were ecstatic and it was a complete surprise as they had no idea. “It’s just a really nice way of remembering their time at the school with happy and fun memories.”

Good sports stay active with sport

STEWARDS: Quick feet and strong arms helped students at the school achieve sporting prowess on sports day.

The whole school participated in a variety of activities, celebrating participation as well as sporting prowess.

The day was split into a range of activities which covered the usual track and field events, but also tug-of-war, sack races, table-tennis and a whole-school mile walk.

A spokesman for the school’s PE department said: “We have a considerable number of children who excel in these traditional events, and several are actually hopefuls for the 2012 Olympics! I gain tremendous satisfaction from seeing such a positive atmosphere across the whole school, because it is critical to encourage young people to be active.”
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www.harlowstar.co.uk August 23, 2007 29

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Pet Poets Club COMPETITION - Win 1 of 10 Anniversary Gift Sets!

To celebrate the 1st Anniversary of their discovery, and the launch of their 2008 calendars, the Pet Poets Club are giving away a special gift set to 10 lucky readers.

The Pet Poets Club is a secret organisation, that through their hilariously cute poetry, allows you to see inside the secret world of your pet, and find out what they're really thinking!

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Send your answer, along with your name, address and telephone number to Pet Poets Club Competition, Herts & Essex Newspapers, The Media Centre, 40 Ware Road, Hertford, SG13 7HU. Closing date for entries is Friday 31st August, 2007.

Special Offer!
The Pet Poets Club are offering all readers of this paper the chance to save £7 when you buy all 3 of their calendar specials at the special price of only £11.97 (post free). To take part in this offer, visit www.petpoetsclub.com/shop/calendar or send a cheque for £11.97 to Lavish Productions, The Media Village, 131 Great Titchfield Street, London W1V 5BB.

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There is also a range of bath and stairlifts and the company is an approved dealer for stairlift manufacturers Acorn, Brooks and Stannah.

Chingford Mobility offers free local delivery, and will visit client’s homes and let them try out demonstration models free of charge.

Terry will also go to people’s houses and give an expert opinion on what mobility equipment may be suitable for them. The company also hires out manual wheelchairs for holidays on a daily or weekly basis.

Chingford Mobility offers a one-year warranty, which includes all parts and labour. The shop has a stock of catalogues, which can be sent out or collected in-store.

There is also a mail order service, with a charge for postage.

Customers can send in a cheque and orders will be despatched. All products are exempt from VAT to customers with disabilities.

Opening times are Monday to Friday 9.5pm and Saturdays 9-4pm.

Chingford Mobility, Mobility & Access Equipment, 5 Cherrydown Avenue, Chingford Mount. Tel: 020 8524 9624.

**FALCON HOUSE**

FALCON House in Little Hallingbury is a long established residential home and is privately owned and managed.

The name of Falcon House is synonymous to quality care and this residential home prides its self on its professionalism.

It maintains a homely and family atmosphere and is viewed by all who care for the residents as their home. The management consider their residents in the Falcon House home, it is very important that your choice be the correct one.

To enable you to make the right choice you are now able to view residential homes’ inspection reports.

You are able to do this on the internet and this will enable you to see the quality of care that Falcon House provides.

Falcon House also prides itself on offering wonderful, freshly prepared meals.

There is always a choice of meals and drinks and always a choice taken to it all account. Of the all the bedrooms at Falcon House are single and also have en-suite bathrooms.

For further information, please contact Falcon House Residential Director, George Green, Little Hallingbury, Bishop’s Stortford. Tel: 0279 658939.

**Paul Wallace**

FOUR of the 18 apartments at a Hoddesdon town centre retirement development have been snapped up before the finishing touches have even been applied.

Esdaile Hall, in Esdaile Lane on the site of the former British Legion hall off the High Street, is proving a big attraction to people looking for a retirement home offering something different to the traditional larger scale retirement developments.

Esdaile Hall offers 17 two-bedroom and one one-bedroom apartments.

They have an excellent specification and, of course, are just a short stroll to the town centre shops, restaurants, GP’s surgery and a brand new Park.

The company behind the development is the experienced and widely respected Anpila Secure Homes.

Director, Paul Edmondson, said: *The concept of a retirement development has undergone a significant shift during the last 20 years. A younger, fitter and more independent older generation is looking for something different.*

*They are happy to be with like-minded people in accommodation sympathetic to their changing needs and in a convenient, secure, central location - but independence remains a quality to be valued. This is exactly what we are offering at Esdaile Hall.*

Prices currently start at £160,000.

The apartments are now viewable, though an official launch will take place next month.

Further information can be obtained from Paul Wallace on 01992 781052.

**Higgins Homes**

A RECENT survey found that a third of all house buyers in the UK are downsizing and with the current shortage of property in the UK it is increasingly difficult for downsizers to find properties that suit their needs.

New build homes are often popular for downsizers, as they are ready to move into without maintenance issues. However, it is often difficult to find a medium between a trendy glass tower and a retirement village. Higgins Homes’ new development St Johns, in Stansted Mountfitchet, has struck this balance bringing a sense of comfort and style into a rural village.

St Johns comprises 40 one- and two-bedroom apartments and two-bedroom duplexes of varying styles and sizes. The development has been sensitively designed.

John and Caroline Winton, both 64, are retiring to Spain, but wanted to keep a property in the UK. They have bought an ‘lock-up and leave’ apartment at St Johns and are looking forward to retiring in luxury.

John, who is retiring from Dagenham Motors, comments: “When we decided to retire, the most economical option for us was to move overseas. Living costs in the UK are sky high now and I liked the idea of having our own peaceful villa in the sun.

“We chose a Higgins Homes apartment for our base in the UK because we worked with the company for 14 years and always associate their name with good quality. St Johns is perfect for us, as we plan to fly frequently and it is only three miles from Stansted Airport, but it is not in the flight path.

“We also like the village of Stansted Mountfitchet, which is very quickly and has direct trains to London. We moved from a 250-year-old mews house, so having a new built house is very different, but the perfect choice for us. The underground parking and electric gates ensure peace of mind. We are now in a great position to retire and our new apartment will provide a base and investment in the UK. ”

The show apartments are open seven days a week between 10am and 5pm.

Prices start from £179,995 for a one-bedroom apartment and from £232,500 for a two-bedroom apartment for sales enquires, please contact Higgins Homes on 0279 813 986 or www.higginshomes.co.uk.

**Easterts Alzheimer’s Support Group**

FOUNDED in March 2000 by Mary Dance, the Easterts Alzheimer’s Support Group meets on the second Monday of each month at The Garden Room, The Priory, in Ware from 10am until noon.

In East and North Hertfordshire area alone, dementia affects 3,801 females and 1,937 males, 157 of which are aged under 65.

Everyday problems facing carers are discussed at the meetings, as well as sharing help, support and advice.

If you would like to attend a meeting, but have a problem with transport, then the group may be able to help.

To find out more about the group, contact Lin Cook on 01992 441034 or just turn up, and you will be made to feel very welcome.

**Falcon House**

PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL AND DAYCARE FOR THE ELDERLY

Falcon House is a long established quality care home which is privately owned and managed.

The proprietor has been involved with the care of the elderly for some 18 years and the name is synonymous to quality care.

We strongly encourage your rights to independence, dignity, choice and individuality.

Our manager, care staff and ancillary staff are all trained, caring and professional.

• Care for 18 Residents - 16 single rooms and 2 twin rooms all with en-suite facilities
• 3 living areas, two of which are sun rooms and a large function lounge
• Regular Chinupid and Hairdresser visits
• Optional Regular Social Activities and Events throughout the Year
• Full Laundry Service Available
• Free bus to Cheshunt town centre
• Meals can be taken in the dining room or your own room

For a prospectus or further information please contact us.

George Green, Little Hallingbury, Bishop’s Stortford, CM22 7PF

Tel: 01279 658935 Fax: 01279 758486

E: info@falconhousesresidentalhomes.co.uk
W: www.falconhousesresidentalhomes.co.uk

**ALZHEIMERS SOCIETY EAST HERTS SUPPORT GROUP**

DO YOU CARE?

We do, so if you are feeling tired, worn down, isolated and in need of support from those who understand, why not join us at our carers group in the Garden Room at ware Priory every second Monday of the month from 10.00 till 12 o’clock.

Enjoy a cup of tea and biscuits in a friendly atmosphere where you can talk freely about anything you have in your role as a carer. We also have professional who are only too pleased to help in anyway they can, and if they don’t know the answers they know a person who does.

So do come along and we promise that you will go away feeling more positive, uplifted and looking forward to the next meeting.

For further information call Lin on 01992 441034

**ASHLYNS FARM SHOP**

NEW & IMPROVED Visit our extended Farm Shop now with Café / Restaurant and in-store butchers counter. Gainsham Farm, Flamstead, finchingfield, animals & picnic areas around the farm walks.

www.ashlyns.co.uk

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**EASTERTS**

**WINTER SALE**

20% NOW SOLD

Prices from £160,000

**Hoddesdon**

The Cheshunt Bathroom

 sollen

**assembled appliances**

Conservatory & lounge area

Intergrated appliances

Conservatory & lounge area

Gas central heating

Lift to first & second floors

20% NOW SOLD

Prices from £160,000

**Hoddesdon**

The Cheshunt Bathroom

sollen

**assembled appliances**

Conservatory & lounge area

Intergrated appliances

Conservatory & lounge area

Gas central heating

Lift to first & second floors

Prices from £160,000
Ashleys, a local deli, will be serving as usual.

The shop will be fully air conditioned.

Ashleys Organic Farm Shop, Epping Road, North Weald. Tel 01992 525546.

Braydon Motor Company

Braydon Motor Company Ltd has been serving and satisfying the needs of Volvo owners for 30 years from its base in north-east London. Now Braydon has opened a new Harlow service and repair centre and owners of Volvos in the Herts and Essex region can take advantage of the many advantages of the company’s 30 years experience. The new Volvo specialist centre is located at 46 Burnt Mill, just off Elizabeth Town Station.

Braydon’s workshop is fully equipped with the latest diagnostic equipment and special tools to work on your Volvo. You can expect their usual high standards of customer care and professional service at extremely competitive prices. Braydon offers courtesy cars and free local collection and delivery within a 10-mile radius - so you can reduce your maintenance bills while saving time!

“Will we take good care of you and your car?” was the founding principle of Braydon Motor Co Ltd and that principle is still true today. If your vehicle is in need of repair, up for replacement, or you need a part that you can’t find elsewhere, contact your one-stop shop! Braydon offers the full Volvo specialist service, including genuine parts at discounted prices and the new accident repair centre. It is a family-run business that has continued to grow in size and scope and the directors continue to play a very “hands-on” role. Why not contact Braydon today by calling free on 0800 432 0788 or visit the website www.braydonmotors.co.uk.

Attwater & Liell

It has long been possible to sign an “enduring power of attorney” (EPA), appointing a trusted relative or friend to draw cheques and administer other assets if you later become mentally incapacitated. “The EPA is an economical, effective way to save relatives future stress and expense,” explains Andrew Flannagan, of Loughton Harlow solicitors, Attwater & Liell. “It can be an ordinary PA, as well as ‘enduring’, offer someone mental capacity. Without an EPA, a receiver may have to be appointed.”

In October, a new “lasting power of attorney” replaces the EPA. The EPA will be more complex and costly, as it may cope with healthcare and health issues as well as financial.

“Fortunately, an EPA signed before the October deadline will have continuing effect afterwards,” Andrew Flannagan adds. “So for clients who are interested in its action by them and their chosen attorneys.”

St Clare Hospice

St Clare Hospice cares for local people who are dying, in what may be the last year of their lives. The hospice also cares for the people who are important in each patient’s life. It is often important for the patient to know that St Clare goes on caring for the people they leave behind through the bereavement service. St Clare Hospice needs to raise £19m this year to fund the care it provides across Essex and neighbouring parts of East Hertfordshire. The NHS currently provides 30% of that total. The hospice provides eight beds, each in a private room with en-suite facilities, looking out onto the beautiful gardens. The day hospice provides places for nine patients a day for four days of the week. This year, they are planning to expand a rehabilitation/therapeutic service, employing an occupational therapist, physiotherapist and therapists assistant with funding for the first two years from the Harlow Health Care Trust. The hospice is also trying to raise funds for two more essential members of the hospice team, bereavement service coordinator and chaplain.

In supporting this wonderful event, you can celebrate the joy and beauty of life, knowing that the funds you raise will support St Clare Hospice to go on providing the care patients need in the local community.

Powells Funeral Service

Established in 1868, Powell Funeral Service is still owned and run by the Powell family and has been serving families in East Hertfordshire and beyond at one of life’s most difficult times. Increasingly nowadays, people are looking ahead and making arrangements for their own funeral through pre-paid funeral plans, helping to alleviate some of the stress for their family when they then come. Located in Ware, Hertford and Hoddesdon, staff at Powell Funeral Service are always willing to talk through individual wishes and give advice where appropriate.

M.J. Warner

M.J. Warner is a small, family-run Volkswagen dealership and garage M J Warner is all about! Based in Hare Street, near Buntingford, M J Warner offers full VW servicing with the cheapest VW dealer labour costs in Herts and possibly the South East! The garage also offers servicing for Skoda, Audi and Seat vehicles from their factory-trained mechanics, who use full engine diagnostic equipment.

The garage offers free collections and courtesy cars, so you never need to be without transport or worry about getting the car in on time - the kind staff at M J Warner can do that for you! The garage uses genuine VW parts and accessories and is happy to offer a free quote for restoration work and accident repairs at M J Warner Bodyworks. If you fancy a change of car, there is always a stock of at least 30 quality used VW cars - mostly ‘near new’ in stock.

M.J. Warner

Hare Street

Nr Buntingford

SG9 8EX

Tel: 01763 894972

www.mjwarner.com

Powell Funeral Service

Complete Funeral and Monumental Service

Pre Payment Plans

Watton Rd

Ware

01920 463260

83 Railway St

Hertford

01992 509611

79 Burford St

Hoddesdon

01992 470153

Part of Dignity plc. A British Company

www.powellfunerals.com
**NEWS**

**Late duty chemists**

**FRIDAY**
- OPEN UNTIL 4pm: Marks, 40 High Street, Old Harlow
- Alliance Pharmacy, 100 High Street, Epping
- Church Lane Pharmacy, Fifth Avenue, North Weald

**MONDAY**
- OPEN UNTIL 4pm: Snapwell Pharmacy, 283-284 High Street, Harlow

**TUESDAY**
- OPEN UNTIL 4pm: Sainsbury’s Pharmacy, 146 High Street, Epping

**WEDNESDAY**
- OPEN UNTIL 4pm: Marks, 40 High Street, Old Harlow
- Church Lane Pharmacy, Fifth Avenue, North Weald

**THURSDAY**
- OPEN UNTIL 4pm: Marks, 40 High Street, Old Harlow
- Church Lane Pharmacy, Fifth Avenue, North Weald

**SUNDAY**
- OPEN UNTIL 4pm: Sainsbury’s Pharmacy, 146 High Street, Epping

**BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY**
- Open as usual

---

**Barn Blessing**

28th August 10am: Join us for a blessing of our new shop, with Rev. Charles Mosher. With refreshments, tractor rides, animals etc.

---

**August Bank Holiday**

Refuse and Recycling Collections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Normal Day</th>
<th>Revised Day</th>
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<td>Monday 27 August</td>
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**Chemists**

**Recycling - mix it all up!**
- Bottles, jars and containers
- Plastic bottles
- Drink cans (washed)
- Glass (washed)
- Untied plastic bags (not black)
- Flat: paper, cardboard, food and drink cans and tetra packs.

**Contact Harlow**

- Refuse and Recycling Collections

**Barn Blessing**

28th August 10am: Join us for a blessing of our new shop, with Rev. Charles Mosher. With refreshments, tractor rides, animals etc.

---

For more information please phone Contact Harlow on (01279) 446655.
We are pleased to celebrate our 100% pass rates in the following subjects:

**A LEVEL FACTS AND FIGURES**

Our overall pass rate this year was 96% - and out of 22 subjects:

- 14 improved on last year’s achievement
- 13 increased their percentage of high grades (A & B)
- 11 had a **100% success rate** (all the students on the course succeeded)
- 17 subjects improved on the previous year’s success rates
- We are now above sixth form college success rates

**We are confident that next year we will significantly exceed sixth form college success rates on our path towards excellence.**

For more information on Harlow College and for details of how to join

**Call Admissions on (01279) 868145 or visit www.harlow-college.ac.uk**
WIN fun gift sets from The Pet Poets Club

H ave you ever wondered what your pet is really thinking? Well now you can find out, thanks to The Pet Poets Club!

Believe it or not, this is a real society of pets who meet in a top secret location to write and recite poetry. Some of these remarkable poems are romantic, some are philosophical and some of them (like the Boglager) are just a little, tiny bit scary. But all the poems have one thing in common – each one is laugh-out-loud funny!

The club’s very first book, The Pet Poets Club Volume 1, is available to buy online at www.petpoetsclub.com or in all branches of Pets At Home.

And we have teamed up with The Pet Poets Club to give our readers the chance to win one of 10 Anniversary Gift Sets to help celebrate the first anniversary of their discovery and the launch of the club’s 2008 calendar. There are all sorts of pets featured in the book, from dogs, cats and rabbits right through to goldfish and stick insects!

One of the most popular members of the club is the super-cute Fifi, the Showbiz Chihuahua, who now has her own blog at www.petpoetsclub.com, where she interviews famous, glamorous dogs (and the occasional cat) from around the world. The Pet Poets Club has also been busy during the last year raising money for The Blue Cross. So far, they have raised £5,000 for the charity, helping to make a better life for thousands of abandoned or sick pets in the UK.

The Pet Poets is also offering all our readers the chance to save £3 when you buy all three of their new calendars at the special price of only £11.97 (post free). To take advantage of this offer, visit www.petpoetsclub.com/shop/calendar_offer or send a cheque for £11.97 to Lavish Productions, The Media Village, 13/15 Great Titchfield Street, London W1W 5BB.

Remember to include your name and address and the words “Calendar offer” with your cheque. Individual calendars are also available to buy at www.petpoetsclub.com and branches of Pets At Home.

All you have to do to stand a chance of winning one of the anniversary gift sets is answer the simple question in the coupon and follow the entry instructions.

PREVIOUS WINNERS

BAD GIRLS

(20 winners of pairs of tickets for the show)

Liz Danby, Bluecoat Court, Harford; Mrs J. Sherman, Green Hills, Ware; Ann Travis, Beaconfield Avenue, Epping; Mrs A. Zacks, Chippingfield, Harlow; L. Runney, Davies Street, Harford; Mr J. Prier, Mount Road, Harford; Chris Woolard, Tyroyn Cot, Harlow; Mrs L. Baker, St John’s Avenue, Old Harlow; Kate Gregory, Waterhouse Moor, Harlow; Sally Peck, Port Hill, Harford

A G R I C U L T U R E

It’s been a mixed week for farmers and the agricultural community following a series of high-profile court cases. The recent High Court decision in the Greenpeace beef case will have a significant impact on the industry, with implications for food safety and environmental protection. Meanwhile, a number of farmers have been charged with animal welfare offenses, highlighting ongoing concerns about animal welfare standards. Despite these challenges, there are signs that the industry is making progress in improving its operational practices and addressing consumer concerns.

2. Female gamete (4)
3. Large brightly-coloured venomous lizard (4,7)
4. Stanza containing six lines (7)
5. Indulgence in costly amounts of petrol (3-8)
6. Person who delivers弯 (6)
7. Rear admiral (4,3,4)
8. Author’s final words (4,7)
9. Indulgence in costly amounts of petrol (3-8)
10. Ferdinand ---, Rear admiral (7)
11. Lively modern eulogies (7)
12. Person who delivers bend (6)
13. Colourless, transparent quartz (4,7)
14. Protected against a disease or infection (6)
15. Naval officer, disease or infection (6)
16. Aplomb (7)
17. Impinge (7)
18. Encomia; 19. Australian traveller on a round-the-world tour (4,7)
20. Gave strength, power or authority (7)
21. Vibrato (4,7)
22. Stately home with aspect of a person (3)
23. Dunedin is the chief town of New Zealand district (5)
24. Alternative word for an indefinitely large number (5)
25. Japanese dish consisting of small cakes of cold rice (5)
26. Bundle of possessions carried by Australian traveller on a round-the-world tour (4)
27. Colloquial name for an umbrella (4)
28. Supple and easy to an umbrella (4)
29. Colloquial name for an umbrella (4)
30. Involving every aspect of a person (4,3,3)

DOWN

1. Church glass in the form of a geological tree (5,6)
2. Female gamete (4)
3. Consuming large amounts of petrol (3-8)
4. French marshal, 1851-1913 (4,3)
5. Lively modern Brazilian bathroom dance (5)
6. Advance beyond the usual limit (7)
7. High commendations or eulogies (7)
8. Unit of refractive power (7)
9. City in north-east America, birthplace of architect Andrea Palladio (7)
10. Birthplace of architect Andrea Palladio (7)
11. Birthplace of architect Andrea Palladio (7)
12. Female gamete (4)
13. Female gamete (4)
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30. Female gamete (4)
**Comics venture seeks new creative depths**

**STORIES about robotic wives and zombies together with poetry, interviews and eye-catching illustrations form a new publication which has begun its life in Harlow.**

The first edition of *Murky Depths* is now available from selected comics shops and online and was given the kiss of life by founder and publisher Terry Martin.

The quarterly glossy anthology describes itself as containing dark speculative fiction – horror science fiction to the rest of us.

It is an exciting mix of picture stories, interviews with eminent illustrators and comic writers as well as straight prose and nightmarish philosophical visions of the future.

Grandfather-of-seven Terry (57), of Churchfield, previously contributed to Harlow War Games publications and the *Born To Die* series.

"I have always been into comics, not the Beano-type but the more serious ones, ever since I was a paperboy looking through the shelves at the newsagent’s," he said.

"When I matured and had a family I kind of lost touch with comics for some years, thinking they were a little childish, but then I returned to look at some of the new graphic novels out there and thought ‘wow!’

“There is nothing quite like *Murky Depths* out there so I thought I would have a go."

Terry’s comic has found its way into some of the country’s top graphic book stores, including Orbital in London’s West End.

The next issue of the anthology is due out in December and he is hoping to stop working as a space management consultant at the end of next month to concentrate full-time on the publication.

"It takes quite a lot of work to complete an edition and I would also like to work more on the promotional side of the business,“ he said.

The first edition’s cover is a particular coup, being painted by Steve Stone who has produced covers for horror maestro Steven King.

If you would like to buy a copy of the comic, priced at £6.99, open a subscription or contribute a ‘speculative’ piece of writing or graphics for a future publication, visit www.murkydepths.com for further information.
Pair’s life plans hit a big bump in the road!

IT’S hard to imagine a gross-out comedy with a heart and a sensitive social message without the Toby jug features of Ben Stiller all over it. But, in his second comedy feature – his first being the banal but enjoyable 2005 release 40-Year-Old Virgin – director Judd Appatow appears to have managed the feat. And while the over-the-top comedy genre is perhaps not enticing the more intelligent cinema-goer to the flicks, this one has an audience hitherto untapped by films such as American Pie and Dodge. Where’s My Car? – women.

KNOCKED UP
certificate 15, running time 2h 19m

Very much in the same ilk of ... Virgin, this offering is a considerably more refined movie. Its situations are funnier, its characters are more likable and it has a tighter script. It’s still a comedy that contains enough scatology to send the older and more delicate viewer running from the cinema, but it’s the attempted originality which sets it apart.

Ben Stone (Seth Rogan) is an insensitive slob who shares a house with a band of other unemployed slackers and spends his aimless days smoking pot, talking rubbish and occasionally making stumbling efforts to launch a pornographic website. At a club, Ben meets Alison (Katherine Heigl), an attractive blonde who’s way out of his dating league but has been celebrating her new job as a reporter on an entertainment channel and is so drunk she finds herself agreeing to a one-night stand. As the movie’s title subtly suggests, Alison finds herself expecting following their brief encounter and the rest of the film deals with the many problems arising during the nine months, both with each other and with their various family members and friends.

MAKE OF BRICKS
Kate Nash (album, Fiction)

According to the promoters, this is exciting punk-pop with lyrics comparable to the poetry of John Cooper Clarke. But the giveaway is the reference to “urban folk tales” – code for potty-mouthed and ungrammatical, self-obsessed, unimaginative observations and rants over generic bland backing tunes. Take, for example, We Get On, which goes: “I conducted a plan/I bump into you accidentally/But I was walking along/And I bumped into you much more heavily than I originally planned/It was well embarrassing and I think you thought I was a bit of a +++. I’m thinking the chap had a point. If this is poetry, then I’m a gaffe. What Lily – sorry, Kate – has produced is an album of songs you can imagine Catherine Tate singing.

ROBYN
Robyn (album, Konichiwa)

If sultry Swedish pop sensation Robyn claims to have shaken off early comparisons to a bubblegum Britney to reinvent herself as Europe’s answer to Gwen Stefani, her latest effort would certainly appear to mark the completion of this remarkable transition.

GRUNNING FOR TROUBLE:
Matt Damon stars in THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM

THE breathtakingly exciting franchise based on the books of the late Robert Ludlum makes it a hat-trick of beauties thanks to director Paul Greengrass’ slick work. Jason Bourne (Matt Damon) finally discovers the truth about his past and about those wanting him dead. The two globetrotting prequels The Bourne Identity and The Bourne Supremacy have majestically set up the finale, each adding to Jason’s passion to find his past life and destroy the man who ‘made’ him. The beauty of the other two films was that they were also well-rounded rather than having the air of a prequel.

In this instalment, Bourne and the CIA become each other’s enemies again when a London newspaper reporter (Paddy Considine) publishes a story about Bourne that mentions a top-secret operation called Blackbird.

The CIA, represented by the power-mad and slightly paranoid Noah Vosen (David Strathairn), furiously searches within itself to discover the reporter’s source. Upon learning that Bourne himself may be involved, they bring in Patricia Lundy (Joan Allen), the CIA operative who has dealt with the assassins killing machine before.

What follows is another chase for Bourne around the world, taking in the delightful aromas of Tangiers, the cockiness of London and, of course, metropolitan New York – all done without a copy of Lonely Planet, to boot!
also showing

BRATZ: THE MOVIE. The official synopsis calls it a film about wish fulfilment and realise potential. Get out here! It’s about toys, fashion, rubbish songs and extracting cash from merchandise-brained kids.

RUSH HOUR 3. Chris Tucker and the indomitable Jackie Chan join forces to squeeze the last piece of possible credibility from their kung-fu/comedy franchise.

SURFS UP. If you’re not already bored of animated penguins, this funny and beautifully crafted piece about a surf competition will help ease any holiday boredom.

TRANSFORMERS. Genuinely funny live-action version of the 1980s cartoon and which is, however, longer and over-complicated and has the worst plot imaginable. But watching cars turn into giant robots is still brilliant fun!

THE SIMPSONS MOVIE. Homer unintentionally unleashes the worst environmental disaster on Springfield and sets out to fix it. Unintentionally unleashes the phenomenon of survivor guilt, even more so in a film about toys, fashion, rubbish songs and extracting cash from merchandise-brained kids.

HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX. Teen wizard Harry and his friends battle with Prince Charming and an implausibly young David Essex.

WIND CHILL. An effective, modest supernatural thriller which gets a lot of mileage from leaving its audience as uncertain as its central characters.

DOCTOR WHO. The superb 2005 summer of British Film Season openings with scorching-hot chicks, but it doesn’t take a genius to realise that people who spend all their time popping pills, smoking weed and posturing with lineaments are more likely to catch their tacle in a mangle than pull off a successful kidnappping.

THE WAY TO THE STARS. A wannabe gangsta and dealer crosses swords with a round, pathetic look at the bravery of wartime airmen and yet also surprisingly frank about the impact of such risks on their lives.

THE FROZEN LIMITS/GASBAGS. A suitably angry rant about something or other, you won’t find a “whooooaaaaa” however hard you look. Hopefully, this marks the end of the era in which they gave us the naff songs and sets out to fix it. Unintentionally unleashes the phenomenon of survivor guilt, even more so in a film about toys, fashion, rubbish songs and extracting cash from merchandise-brained kids.

MILITARY OF THE HEART. Naked Lunch (single, Louisville)

Taking your name from the junkie hero of 20th century counter culture literature's finest hour is a bold move for any band, but especially so if your sound has the apparent depth of a half-inch of water. Fearing the effect his own death might have, Penrose follows the progress of newly qualified RAF pilot Edwards, Robin Askwith as a chirpy small time thief and an implausibly young David Essex.

THE WICKER MAN. The superb British horror cult classic about paganism in a remote Scottish isle starring Christopher Lee, Edward Woodward andIoan Gruffudd gets the digital make-over. Showing Tuesday only as part of the British Summer of Film season.

NO RESERVATION. Catherine Zeta Jones takes on the role as a top-notch French restaurant chef who has to take stock when her sister is killed in a car crash and she is given legal guardianship of her nieces.

THE ANGRY MOB. Kaiser Chiefs (single, B-Unique)

Hold the front page – the Kaiser’s released a half-decent song. A suitably angry rant about something or other, you won’t find a “whooooaaaaa” however hard you look. Hopefully, this marks the end of the era in which they gave us the naff songs and sets out to fix it. Unintentionally unleashes the phenomenon of survivor guilt, even more so in a film about toys, fashion, rubbish songs and extracting cash from merchandise-brained kids.

and Ben Wilkinson

Ditto, the music is all a little underwhelming. Annoyingly straddling Siouxsie and the Banshees punk and Alain’s Morissette, it doesn’t really know what queue to join for its considerable lunch.

and with Ben Wilkinson

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THIN BLUE LINE DIVIDING A FRIENDSHIP

Paul Newman reviews a selection of the latest releases on DVD

ALL COPPERS ARE ...

(Network, 12, retail)

Falling somewhere between the procedural realism of Z Cars and gritty crucible of The Sweeney, All Coppers Are... is a far more handed look at policing than the title suggests.

Martin Potter is Joe, an ordinary bobby living and working in the shadow of the shape-bolting Battersea Power Station whose loving wife and baby daughter still don’t stop him playing away from home with wanton blonde Sue (Julia Foster).

He also chums up with likely lads (Nexy Henson) but the friendship doesn’t survive the discovery of Joe’s job, particularly as Barry is planning to steal a cigarette shipment.

All Coppers Are... clearly wants to contrast the lives of two men who might otherwise have been friends but who instead head for an inevitable confrontation, although director Sidney Hayers and writer Allan Prior distrust from this by shifting the story into a violent police confrontations with anti-war protestors, Sue’s affections switching from Joe to Barry and the latter’s brushes with more seasoned villainy.

The film also a fascinating snapshot of period London and features a gallery of famous Brit movie forces to squeeze the last piece of possible credibility from their kung-fu/comedy franchise.

THE WICKER MAN. Teen wizard Harry and his friends battle with Prince Charming and an implausibly young David Essex.

FAIRY TALES. Despite the rapid-fire wisecracks have survived reasonably well, but the friendship doesn’t survive the discovery of Joe’s job, particularly as Barry is planning to steal a cigarette shipment.

THE WAY TO THE STARS. A wannabe gangsta and dealer crosses swords with a round, pathetic look at the bravery of wartime airmen and yet also surprisingly frank about the impact of such risks on their lives.

Opening after the Battle of Britain in 1940, the film follows the progress of newly qualified RAF pilot Peter Penrose (John Mills) and the impact on him when his colleague and mentor (Michael Redgrave) dies in a raid, leaving a wife and infant son.

Fearing the effect his own death might have, Penrose breaks off with his fiancée without a word, locks his feelings down tight and throws himself into operation. It’s a rare thing for war movies to deal with the phenomenon of survivor guilt, even more so in a film made during the conflict, and The Way To The Stars does so with compassion, intelligence and honesty.

THE FROZEN LIMITS/GASBAGS. A suitably angry rant about something or other, you won’t find a “whooooaaaaa” however hard you look. Hopefully, this marks the end of the era in which they gave us the naff songs and sets out to fix it. Unintentionally unleashes the phenomenon of survivor guilt, even more so in a film about toys, fashion, rubbish songs and extracting cash from merchandise-brained kids.

**** unmissable **** very good **** good **** fair ** don’t bother
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As a result of expansion we are looking for an additional member to join our expanding accounts team.

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LAY BY with chair and chair. Tel: 07786 603977.

ONE DOOR PINE wardrobe, base and drawers, £150. 01279 452431.

STAINLESS STEEL, wardrobe, drawers, £150. 01992 445312.

SOLID WAXED pine double wardrobe, £175.00, 01279 452431.

TWO DOOR PINE wardrobe, £225.00, 01279 452431.

SOLID WAXED pine single beds, plus mattresses, £50. 01992 445312.

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Epping Forest District is an area of great contrasts, from the Southern boundary with Greater London, stretching northwards into the heart of rural Essex. Here, you’ll find registered to tender in a variety of different roles, each offering the rewards you’d expect from an organisation that values their people and their contribution.

To find out more about our range of jobs and services go to www.eppingforest.gov.uk/jobs

EPHING FOREST DISTRICT CONTRACT ABANDONED VEHICLE CONTRACT

1. Awarding Authority
Epping Forest District Council, Civic Offices, Epping, Essex
CM16 4BZ, Telephone: 01992 564889 Fax: 01992 564884 Email: dmarsh@eppingforest.co.uk
C/O David Mash Wade Manager, Waste Recycling Officer. Epping Forest District Council invites applications from suitably experienced Contractors who wish to be considered for inclusion on a list from which Tenders will be sought for the above named Contract.

The service consists of:
- Searching and collecting for abandoned vehicles (Provisional item)
- Making notes on alleged abandoned vehicles according to the relevant legislation and the Contract Specification (Provisional item)
- Removing the vehicles for storage or destruction after lapsing of the statutory time period.
- The delivery of the service will be at various locations within the Epping Forest District

2. Place of delivery and the fixed date for despatch of information to Tenderers
Various locations within Epping Forest District, England. The only Variants acceptable are those mentioned in the Tender document.

The duration of the contract will be for 12 months commencing 1st May 2008. Tenders to be sent in October 2007

3. Qualifications
Contractors wished to be able to satisfy the Council regarding their technical ability and financial viability and should forward the following information in support of their application.

- A list of all contracts carried out within the last three years of relevant nature, including local authorities together with a list of current customers to whom reference (3) can be obtained.
- Details of management skills, the company will use to keep control of the contract.
- Complete and audited accounts for the last three years of the trading. Additionally the name and address of a financial reference that can be made to enquire about their contract.
- Health & Safety policy.
- Environmental policy.
- Any other detail that the applicant considers may assist his submission to the Council.

4. Award Criteria
The awarding authority will accept the most economically advantageous, best value service delivery made by and negotiations with the selected service provider as assessed.

4.1 Award Criteria

- Basis of competition
- Health & Safety policy.
- Complete and audited accounts for the last three years of the trading. Additionally the name and address of a financial reference that can be made to enquire about their contract.
- Environment policy.
- Any other detail that the applicant considers may assist his submission to the Council.

5. Closing date for application for inclusion on the select list: 5.1. Applications for inclusion on the select list should be sent to the address and named officer in 1 above with all the details in 3 above. Failure to do so will invalidate the application.

5.2 Closing date for application: 31st August 2007 sent to the address and named officer in 1 above with all the details in 3 above. Failure to do so will invalidate the application.

6. Procedure
The awarding authority will accept the most economically advantageous, best value service delivery made by and negotiations with the selected service provider as assessed.

6.1 Procedure
- All interested parties can be informed of the application can be made by 13th September 2007.
- The documentation can be obtained from the awarding authority free of charge.
- Any interested party wishing to attend the presentation of the criteria by the awarding authority should contact the awarding authority for attendance details.
- Representations to the application can be made by 13th September 2007. Representations must be in writing and addressed to the awarding authority at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner’s Office...
Joanne called up for England

Continued from back page

She added: “We are going to Jamaica in September first and I am very excited about it.”

Joanne paid tribute to Jena Cant and Carol Bull, her coaches at the Tegate club in Harlow, which is where she first started playing football.

“They have always supported and given me advice,” she said.

Nigel Hool, England Nethall’s Performance Director, said: “Jo has more than earned her place.”

The squad for the World Championships after a tough and intensive selection process.

Joanne’s mother Chris, said: “We are so proud of her. She has worked very hard and she is the youngest in the squad by four years.”

Joanne’s sister Joanne, said: “We are so proud of her. Jo has supported me and given me strength.”

“They have always been there for me,” Joanne said.

Bull, her coaches at the Tegate club in Harlow, said: “They have always been there for me.”

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Joanne paid tribute to her sister Joanne, who has always been there for her.
Rams ring the changes at Tring

THE Rams may have lost three of their four games at the Tring 15’s tournament, but they could take plenty of heart from their displays.

Saturday’s event saw Harlow play games of 10 minutes a half.

With just one exception, all of the opponents they faced were from higher leagues. Ironically, their best result came when they drew 3-3 against their highest ranked opponents Dunstable.

The Bedfordshire side came third in Midlands division one last term, a league two levels higher than Harlow. However, it was the Rams who came closest to snatching victory with a for-tifying look easy when it was not, scoring 71 from 145 balls.

He has now made 492 runs this year in 13 games and is on course to break his best average of 55 in 2005.

Hemel’s New Zealander Duncan Anderson bowled throughout the innings and returned fine figures of 29.4-9-63.7.

Sawbridgeworth are now fifth.

Sawbridgeworth’s bad luck with the elements continued as their league match at Hemel Hempstead was abandoned because of rain.

Danny Wilson’s side now have had six games curtailed due to bad weather — more than any other team in the division.

The rain came after Sawbridgeworth had scored 169 from 58.4 overs on a difficult batting wicket on Saturday.

Hemel would have found it a tough proposition chasing this target as they had three of their top four batsmen missing including openers Hemish Ilangaratne and Giles Berry.

Sawbridgeworth’s total once again owed a lot to their skipper — Willyson made batting look easy when it was not, scoring 71 from 145 balls.

Town launched first season in new league with promotion

HARLOW Town first team skipper Vic Goddard gave his side rich praise after they won division four of the 17-TFM Herts & Essex Cricket League at the first time of asking.

The Ash Tree Fields club quit the Lord’s Intermediate League at the end of 2006 and their top two teams joined the local league. The first team usurped the club’s third string side, who had finished in a promotion position in division five last term.

Town clinched the championship and promotion on Saturday when they won by seven wickets at Ardeley Walkern.

Goddard said: “I’m proud to lead a team this year which had no stars. Like all our games this season everyon has contributed and backed their team-mates to the final ball.”

Goddard won the toss and put the hosts in on a damp, green wicket.

Walkern skipper Burnell looked dangerous early on, but was contained by accurate bowling before Ron Yates (2-17) had him caught behind, after he had been dropped twice in the slips.

The spin trio of Ron Yates, Rammy Upadhyay and Simon Powell kept the hosts in check and their final score of 127 was never going to be enough.

In reply, Pat Yates and Nick Teale put on 45 for the first wicket before the latter was dismissed.

Lee Stace came in and finished off the run of the innings, sinking Harlow for two sixes to steer Basildon to a well-deserved victory.

In division one of the second XI league, Harlow (136) lost to Horn-on-the-Hill (211-5) by 15 runs and in division one of the 3rd XI league, Harlow (223-5d) beat Westcliff-on-Sea (218) by 14 runs.

August 23, 2007

Epping hold on for draw

HAROLD Wood 201-7, Epping 122-9

Match drawn

(Shepherd Neame Essex League, division three)

EPPING clung onto a deserved draw after rain came to their rescue against league leaders Harold Wood at Lower Bury Lane.

Last-wicket pair Dave Hickley and Tim Adams were at the crease when the deluge began with 10 overs left and the visitors champing at the bit.

However, Epping deserved the weather fortune as they were forced to bat for 90 minutes in murky conditions against Wood’s bowling attack on the day.

The home side had also bowled well earlier in the day to restrict Wood to 201-7 from 50 overs.

Epping managed to remove Wood’s dangermen Nadeem Sobail (12) and Indian import Srinivas Manglapally (31) relatively cheaply, but an excellent knock of 70 not out from Dave Hollingsworth gave Wood a challenging total.

Adams (3-63) and Hickley (2-21) were Epping’s best performers with the ball and went on to save the game later in the day.

Dan Sly struck 22 for Epping and Dan Majeed made 17. Nobody got the big score that was needed to close down Wood’s total.

Hitesh Sharma (4-28) was the pick of Wood’s bowlers.

Epping are seventh.

Vintage Shiraz

HARLOW’S Jayden Shirar produced a vintage performance at an open meeting at Woodford.

He eclipsed his best ever 100m time of 11.8secs.

In the same race, Sawbridgeworth’s Sam Watts (15.1) won in 11.2secs.

Completing a quartet of local runners in this race, Waltham’s Tom Larkin ran 11.9s (4th). In the 200m, Sam bettered his personal best by recording 23.4s for 3rd. Tom ran 23.6s (UK Grade 2) for 4th.

ON SONG: Wasim Akhtar plays on the bowler against Basildon & Pitsea on Saturday. Photo: LRGZW3CY_02

Harlow 176-7, Basildon & Pitsea 177-4

(Shepherd Neame Essex League, division two)

JAMES Butler wants his side to lift their performance at home to Hadleigh & Thundersley this Saturday after seeing Harlow slip to a disappointing home defeat at the hands of league leaders Basildon and Pitsea.

Harlow are still seventh in division two after last Saturday’s expected six-wicket loss to the pace-setters.

Skipper Butler said: “We weren’t really at the races against Basildon. Nick [Butler] and Nilesh [Odedra] batted well and Wajas [Akhtar] battled hard, but we weren’t good enough in general.”

“We need to show more spirit in the field and I was a bit disappointed with our performance.”

He added: “After the close game last time at their place [Hadleigh] I will be looking for a huge effort from the lads.”

After Harlow were put in to bat, openers Mark T winner (lock), who spent most of the innings, and Ilangaratne and Sangani and workmanlike captain Michael Gray looked comfortable against the tight bowlers. The Marigolds men to 84, before Butler was sharply stumped by Danny Gray.

The all-too familiar Harlow slow down then began when the mercurial leg spinner Asif Abbas was introduced to the attack.

What had looked like a flat batting track soon became difficult to bat on as Abbas extracted turn and bounce while Harlow lost wickets, including that of key man Odedra (51), and they found runs extremely hard to come by.

Only Nilesh Modhwadia (23) looked comfortable against the turning ball. Harlow, boosted by 42 extras, reached 176-7 from their 52 overs. Abbas took 4-18 from 15 overs.

In reply, Basildon’s classy opener Kiran Sangani and workmanlike captain Michael Gray looked comfortable against the tight bowlers bowled by Zap Nazir, without dominat- ing.

Nick Butler came on for Lee Heskett and the experienced Odedra took the Marigolds men to 84, before Butler was sharply stumped by Danny Gray.

Harlow Town seconds (121-4, Jack Elston 37) are third in division six.

Asif Abbas was introduced to the attack.

Butler was sharply stumped by Danny Gray.

Harlow 176, Basildon & Pitsea 177

(Somersons UK Home Counties Premier League, division two east)

Butler has previously played for Hemel Hempstead DNB (Somersons UK Home Counties Premier League, division two east)

Sawbridgeworth 169, Hemel Hempstead 141

(scored 169 from 58.4 overs on a difficult batting wicket on Saturday.

Sawbridgeworth’s total once again owed a lot to their skipper — Willyson made batting look easy when it was not, scoring 71 from 145 balls.

Hemel’s New Zealander Duncan Anderson bowled throughout the innings and returned fine figures of 29.4-9-63.7.

Sawbridgeworth are now fifth.
Injury to player-boss mars solid start to campaign

THE news that player-boss and centre-half Ryan Kirby, right, will miss at least the next four games is a huge blow to Hawks’ hopes of making a strong start to life in the Ryman premiership division, writes ALAN SCOTT.

Kirby sat out Tuesday night’s 2-2 draw with Heybridge Swifts, Harlow Town’s first home game of the season which was watched by 280.

The central defender has seen a specialist about his recurring knee problem and must rest for two weeks. He will miss the home match with Folkestone in two days’ time, the trip to Borehamwood on Bank Holiday Monday plus the home game against Ramsgate (September 1) and the away match at Carshalton Athletic (September 4).

With keeper James Hasell (broken thumb socket) ruled out for at least six more weeks, the only bit of good news was the 86th-minute equaliser from Harlow striker James Bunn which secured a draw against Swifts in Tuesday’s game which Hawks should have won.

Assistant boss Gordon Boateng, who took charge in the absence of Kirby, told Star Sport: “His [Kirby’s] presence was missed. He needs to sort out his knee injury.”

Joanne’s England call-up

AN important few days were rounded off for St Marks RC School student Joanne Harten, when she found out she had been selected for England. The 18-year-old netball player discovered she had got a B in PE, B in Media and a D in Economics when she received her A-Level results four days before her selection for the World Netball Championships in New Zealand this November.

Joanne, of Mallard Rise, Harlow, who is a goal shooter, is the youngest

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Continued on page 58

SELECTED:

Joanne Harten

person in the squad by some four years. She was originally picked as part of the national long squad in June after a great season. She also played in the England U-19 side which retained the Netball Europe title.

Her promise was recognised last summer when she won the OCS Young Sports Personality of the Year Award for the London & South East region.

Joanne, who will be going to Bristol UWE (University of England) to study media, said: “I’m over the moon.

“I have always wanted to play for my country and the captain [Amanda Newton] rang to congratulate me. I’m so happy.”

Continued on page 58