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HARLOW Council is bracing itself for more financial turmoil after it was revealed it is facing a potential budget deficit running into millions of pounds.

The news has rocked the Conservative administration which thought it was on track to solve the authority's money worries.

Close scrutiny of the council’s medium term financial strategy revealed that £22.5m will have to be found in order to pay back money the previous administration agreed to borrow to fund various capital projects until 2012/13.

These include bringing the authority’s housing stock up to the Government-set decent homes standards, carrying out maintenance work to council-owned buildings and paying for IT equipment at the Civic Centre.

Although only £6m of money has actually been spent, council chiefs admit they will have to think fast in order to find ways of paying back all of the cash so the work can continue.

continued on page 3

By LOUISE SASSOON, News Editor

Friends share Christmas Day surprise

CHRISTMAS Day was extra special for two friends after they both gave birth to beautiful baby girls.

While most people sat down to roast turkey with all the trimmings, Katie Smith (22), of Great Plumtree, Harlow, and Rachel King (21), of Sherwood House, Bush Fair, were busy delivering a pair of perfect presents.

Rachel, who was due to give birth on Christmas Eve, was the first to go into labour. Daughter Rileigh arrived shortly after 2am on Christmas morning, weighing in at 8lb 12oz.

A little over 17 hours later Katie, pictured left with partner Lee Wilkinson, gave birth to her second child, Darcie-Jayne. She was due on Boxing Day but arrived early and weighed 6lb 11oz.

Rachel, pictured right with partner Reece Vetori (22), told the Star: “It was the perfect gift for us this Christmas.

“I do feel a bit sorry for Rileigh, though. We’ll have to give her another unofficial birthday otherwise she’ll only have the one special day every year!”

Lee, who plays football with Reece, said: “It’s unbelievable they both gave birth on the same day.

“It’s unusual enough to have a baby on Christmas Day but for two friends to share that experience is amazing. We’re over the moon.”

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TWO men have been jailed for cocaine deals worth more than £1m.

John Sheppard (57), of Great Brays, Harlow, admitted two offences of conspiring to supply cocaine and was jailed for five years seven months.

Michael Miller (65), of Kingsland, Harlow, denied but was found guilty of one offence of conspiring to supply Class A drugs. It wrecked people’s lives. And higher up the chain, more serious offences are carried out.”

Prosecutor Cyrus Shroft told the court that on December 18, 2007, a police surveillance of a Stephen Callaghan and Sheppard on the M62 and in Liverpool ended with the latter being stopped in a car with bags of cocaine — 3.95kg at 75 per cent purity, with a street value of up to £400,000.

On December 28, officers watching Miller’s address entered and found 0.75kg of cocaine at a purity of 82 per cent, worth up to £650,000.

Sheppard was also seen at the house and was later arrested.

When interviewed, Miller said he did not know he was carrying drugs and Sheppard made ‘no comment’ replies.

Previously, Liverpool man Stephen Callaghan (48) received eight years at Liverpool Crown Court for related matters.

Parents seek school transfer for boy traumatised by ‘slap’ incident

THE parents of a nine-year-old boy claim he is too traumatised to return to school after witnessing his teacher telling three classmates to slap his best friend for failing to correctly answer a question.

Jack Weatherall, of Church Leys, Harlow, begged his mother and father to remove him from Purford Green Junior School after the incident, which the school has admitted was unacceptable. He has not attended lessons since November 21.

Parents Christine (38) and Chris (37) contacted headmistress Vivien Perri and called for the teacher involved to be dismissed. But they were told she had been suspended and would be returning to work following a short absence.

“I couldn’t believe the teacher wasn’t sacked,” said Mrs Weatherall. “What she did was unforgivable and there was no way we could put Jack through the trauma of going back into her class.”

The couple are now trying to secure a place for their son at William Martin Junior School.

“We have agreed that he needs familiarity at this time, which is why we will only accept a place at William Martin because he has lots of friends there,” she added.

“It’s been very hard on him. He’s not been to school for weeks and we’ve had to try and teach him himself from workbooks. We’ve told the county council this but they’re still not budging."

An Essex County Council spokesman said there were currently no places at William Martin, adding: “There are spaces available in other Harlow primary schools and the council would be happy to progress an application to one of them.

“Alternatively, the family has leave to appeal the council’s decision to refuse a place at William Martin before an independent panel.”

Council’s £22m budget shock

continued from front page

One possibility is selling buildings to raise most of the money but they have already warned council tax could also go up as a result.

Council leader Andrew Johnson laid the blame for the financial problems on the previous administration, claiming it had not drawn up plans to repay the cash.

His deputy, Simon Carter, told the Star a great deal had already been done to find most of the £10m needed by next April by raiding budgets and shovelling a number of projects but he said the new crisis was more than frustrating.

He hopes proposals for repayment will have been drawn up by the time the new budget is set in February and said the council would have to be “innovative” in the way it handles the problem.

And in a swipe at the previous Labour and Liberal Democrat administration he said a prudent council would have drawn up suitable repayment methods before agreeing to borrow cash.

However, Labour leader Mark Wilkinson refuted the allegation there was no repayment plan and accused the Conservatives of making excuses in order to cut services.

Liberal Democrat leader Chris Millington added the Tories excuse of blaming the previous administration for problems was “weary thin”.

“Ohobviously in the life of a five-year plan, things change,” he added. “We would have to have made money to pay for it if we were still in administration.”

College ‘progress’

HARLOW College is continuing to improve since being criticised in its last full Ofsted report, according to the education watchdog.

The annual Ofsted monitoring visit found the college had made “reasonable progress” in three out of five inspection areas and “significant progress” in improving outcomes for students on vocational courses.

But the report also warned that students’ poor achievements at A- and AS-level remained a cause for concern, with inspectors bemoaning sub-par success rates and the lack of high grades.

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THousands back call for town relief road

PUBLIC support for a new bypass to ease road congestion in Harlow is overwhelming, according to the town’s MP Bill Rammell who said he attempted to secure Government funding for a relief road linking the A141 and A1 should resulted in an unprecedented number of his constituents joining the campaign.

Bolstered by the backing of more than 2,500 Harlow residents who have signed a petition, the MP has now lobbied regional ministers Barbara Follett and Chris Mole. “I am delighted that residents of Harlow have expressed such overwhelming support for the bypass idea,” he said this week.

“Being able to demonstrate to the ministers who will advise Government on how to allocate transport funding as to the huge level of support in Harlow, and how strongly people feel about the congestion problems in our town, will put Harlow firmly in the forefront of other places,” he added.

Mr Rammell insisted that there is a huge contribution to reducing the town’s current traffic problems, adding: “I would like to thank everyone who signed up for participating.”

A VITAL service offering free advice on debt, benefits and unemployment could become the first casualty in a programme of cost-cutting measures planned by cash-strapped Harlow Council.

The Welfare Rights and Advice Service, currently based at the Advice Centre in East Gate, may be axed unless a suitable bid is forthcoming to keep the service going.

The service was council-run until 2003 when it became an independent charity. However, the authority has continued to co-fund the service with the Legal Services Commission and this year alone paid out almost £500,000.

But as the council faces up to a potential £22.5m deficit, it has decided to cut funding to the discursive service in a bid to help plug the gap in its finances.

Councillor Simon Carter, chairman of the council’s policy and resources committee, said: “Sadly, we cannot continue to fund advice services to the current extent. These services are provided by the council on a discretionary basis which means they are not services we must legally provide.

By CHRIS MOSS

“Countryside is facing many budget pressures and needs to take a hard look at how it funds services while keeping increases in council tax and charges for statutory services as low as possible for our residents.”

WRAS manager Steve Jowett said the withdrawal of funding would be “devastating” for the people of Harlow.

“There is absolutely no question this will have a devastating effect on the thousands of residents who rely on the services we can provide,” he said.

The Conservatives have pushed this decision through without being in possession of the full facts. I really don’t think they realise the terrible impact this will have on the town.”

Harlow MP Bill Rammell, who runs a fortnightly advice surgery from the threatened centre, said he was extraordinarily concerned about the cuts proposed.

“If there is any time not to cut advice and welfare rights services it is in the midst of a huge international economic downturn,” he warned.

“I would urge the Conservatives running Harlow Council to think again and I will be making the strongest representations possible to them.”

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JANUARY

The mother of a young boy who suffered brain damage during birth spoke of her relief after he was awarded a £2.4m settlement from Princess Alexandra Hospital. Robert Jackson, now 9, was left with speech problems and development delays as a result of oxygen starvation during delivery. PAI denied liability for the accident.

A BEREAVED pensioner complained he was sent threatening letters by British Gas demanding payment for a bill he had already settled. Bernie Walker was warned he faced legal action, even though he had confirmation from his bank that he had paid on time. British Gas finally apologised and assured Mr Walker it would not happen again.

SHOPPERS were given a treat on what was said to be the most depressing day of the year when staff at the Harvey Centre handed out 220 notes to help beat the winter blues. However, many thought it was too good to be true and refused to take the free gift.

FEBRUARY

A HARP businesswoman died in an accident at an Italian ski resort. David Monk, who ran the Whitehouse shop in the Harvey Centre, lost control while sliding down a snow-covered mountain on a rubber mat.

THE Asda store in the town centre was the scene of a bomb scare following a call from a man about an alleged suicide bomber. The culprit later told police he thought it would be funny after he had watched a film about suicide bombers. The area around the Water Gardens was evacuated and an armed response unit along with a police helicopter was called to the scene.

THE Star reported that public toilets close to a primary school in Old Harlow were being used as a venue for illegal sexual activity. Lest graffiti was scrawled on the walls of the block and crude holes had been cut in cubicle walls. The toilets have now been closed down.

AN investigation was started after a patient apparently jumped to his death from a window at Princess Alexandra Hospital.

MARCH

BAA submitted plans for a controversial second runway at Stansted Airport.

THREE properties in Harlow were raided by police, who found more than 1,000 cannabis plants, specialist equipment and 35 bags of the drug worth an estimated £100,000. Four men and one woman were arrested.

THE public outcry when plans were unveiled for Kingsmoor House to be turned into a mosque. The building was already being used as an Islamic centre but proposals to extend it into a mosque, complete with prayer room and domes, were met with hostility. The matter took a sinister twist when some contributors to a Facebook group posted racist and anti-Muslim messages.

APRIL

FURY erupted among workers after a travel call centre closed just weeks after they were promised their jobs were safe. TUI Travel offered more than 200 staff either redundancy or relocation to offices in Surrey, saying the move would bring “significant cost benefits to the business”.

THE parents of a girl born nine weeks prematurely suffered the baby blues when they were separated from their daughter because of a shortage of special care facilities at Princess Alexandra Hospital. Mum Cara Dedman and her partner had to make a 40-mile round journey to Luton to see baby Tru because of a shortage of cots in the PAI neo-natal intensive care unit.

THE toll of rail deaths at Harlow Mill station rose to five when a couple seen arguing on the tracks were struck by a train. Kate Gumble and her boyfriend Dean Pickard were reported to have had a blazing row during which she climbed down onto the rails and he attempted to pull her to safety.

HARLOW Council was put to shame after it emerged that a severely dyslexic woman and two young children were left to fend for themselves after being evicted from their home. Christina Reynolds had received several letters about rent arrears but due to her dyslexia she was unable to read them. In addition, Mrs Reynolds was unaware that a previous job would affect her housing benefit and cause her to fall behind in payments.

MAY

THERE was a public outcry when plans were advocated for a mosque to be built on the site of the old hospital. The building was already being used as an Islamic centre but proposals to extend it into a mosque, complete with prayer room and domes, were met with hostility. The matter took a sinister twist when some contributors to a Facebook group posted racist and anti-Muslim messages.

JUNE

CONSERVATIVE leader David Cameron was the star attraction when he visited Old Harlow to take part in a public question-and-answer session on future Tory policy. About 200 people managed to squeeze into St John’s Arts and Recreation Centre to listen to Mr Cameron’s views concerning how his party proposed to make Britain a better place to live.

HARLOW Council’s scheme to end weekly rubbish collections and introduce wheelie bins sent shockwaves through the town. Many residents were outraged that household rubbish and recycling were instead going to be collected on alternative weeks, spurring pensioners in the town to draw up a petition of objection.

THE Star was the first newspaper in the country to report the plight of Harlow teenager Jade Jacobs-Brookes, who has no birth certificate, no passport and no proof of identity due to a mix-up when she was born while her mother was on holiday in Spain. A temporary passport was issued to ensure Jade got home but when she arrived back in Britain, her parents were told they did not have the right documents to register her birth.

AUGUST

AUTHORITIES declared war on underage drinking when they poured away hundreds of pounds worth of alcohol which had been confiscated during a six-month period.
HARLOW Council caused outrage when it emerged that it had postponed a Second World War remembrance service to paint white lines in a car park where a memorial is situated. The town’s Far East Prisoner of War Association was due to hold a VE Day service but was told it would have to be called off. However, the council finally backed down just one hour before the service was due to take place.

THE town’s secondary schools celebrated after it emerged that students had exceeded Government targets for GCSE results.

COURAGEOUS pensioner Harry Joseph was arrested following allegations that he sexually abused a 13-year-old girl. The case is due to go to trial next year.

STANSTED Airport’s expansion was back in the news when BAA gave the green light to allow an extra 10 million passengers through its doors. The move was welcomed by leading political figures in the town who claimed it would bring prosperity to Harlow.

HARLOW MP Bill Rammell was given the role of minister of state for the Middle East in Prime Minister Gordon Brown’s cabinet reshuffle.

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Sang Wah’s role in theatre’s film screening remit

A RECENT story in Nostalgia asking for memories of Harlow’s first Chinese restaurant prompted several responses.

Regular correspondent Ron Bill recalled how a business meeting there saw a major development in the town’s theatre remit.

He writes: “In 1966, when The Playhouse was under construction, consideration was given to the future film content of the programme. I knew John Hunley, then chairman of the British Film Institute.

“At that time, the institute was establishing a chain of regional film theatres in the major cities in the UK. I arranged for Martin Lawn, first chairman of the theatre trust, and myself to meet John in the Sang Wah for a meal and chat.

“He agreed that evening to provide £7,400 for the cost of the 16mm and 35mm projectors for The Playhouse and to recommend to the BFI board that Harlow should have a regional film theatre at The Playhouse, which they approved.”

Among other readers sharing was Valerie Crockett, who booked a table for her and her husband, saying: “We had a lovely meal, the restaurant staff were so very nice and helpful.”

BACK to the future this week, to 1983 when the NASA space shuttle Enterprise flew over Harlow as part of a world tour.

The shuttle flew in piggybacking on a Boeing 747 airliner on June 5, landing at Stansted Airport.

Hundreds of people from Harlow and the surrounding area swarmed to the airport to catch a glimpse of the craft.

It was commissioned by NASA as a prototype and was used on test flights to prove the shuttle could fly in the Earth’s atmosphere, although it never actually went into space.

The shuttle stayed at the airport for two days, in which time interest was so strong in Harlow that Thurston Aviation Service ran a helicopter service from the town’s helipad to Stansted for those who wanted to see it.

Some people were even lucky enough to witness the shuttle in the air as it was flown over Harlow to its next destination.

The Museum Of Harlow’s David Devine told Nostalgia he was working at the STL building, now Nortel, in London Road when he saw the shuttle.

“We were told it was due in that day and we were all going to be flying over that part of Harlow so we were all allowed to go out on to the roof and watch it. We could see it quite well and it seemed to be quite close by at the time.”

FROM THE PAGES OF THE STAR . . . 25 YEARS AGO

TRAIN FARE INCREASE UNJUSTIFIED

British Rail’s fare increases are unjustified, according to Harlow Commuter Association. They will mean an increase of £49 a year for the journey from Harlow Town to Liverpool Street and around £35 on the annual ticket to Oxford Street.

EXPANSION: THE BIG CLASH

Plans to expand Harlow over the next 10 years are likely to be rejected by Essex County Council. But Harlow Council says the expansion is vital if the town’s falling population is to be stabilised.

PRIZED SERVICES COULD GO

Services in Harlow as they exist today could crumble within the next few years because of Government plans to cut local authority spending. That is the view of Stan Newens, the town’s former Labour MP.

DON’T IGNORE THE JOBLESS

Unemployed centre supervisor Dave Barend's New Year resolution is to ensure the town’s jobless are not ignored in 1984. He told the Star that not enough was done in 1983 to make people aware of their plight.

Has anything in the columns of this week’s Nostalgia jogged your memory? Why not share them with Star readers by writing to Nostalgia, Harlow Star, 6 West Gate, The High, Harlow, Essex CM20 1JW or send an email to star@hertsessexnews.co.uk

The Museum Of Harlow’s David Devine told Nostalgia he was working at the STL building, now Nortel, in London Road when he saw the shuttle.

“We were told it was due in that day and we were all going to be flying over that part of Harlow so we were all allowed to go out on to the roof and watch it. We could see it quite well and it seemed to be quite close by at the time.”

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FROM THE PAGES OF THE STAR . . . 25 YEARS AGO

TO THE EDITOR

I have been very impressed recently by the ‘Nostalgia’ pages of the Harlow Star, and wondered if any readers would like to share their memories of Harlow 25 years ago.

Has anything in the columns of this week’s Nostalgia jogged your memory? Why not share them with Star readers by writing to Nostalgia, Harlow Star, 6 West Gate, The High, Harlow, Essex CM20 1JW or send an email to star@hertsessexnews.co.uk.
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Free Credit on every bed (0% APR). Minimum deposit 20%. Credit subject to status. This advert is the copyright © of Dreams plc 2008.
A DAREDEVIL family are to take to the air for a sponsored skydive which will also serve as a memorial to a family member who died of cystic fibrosis.

Sam Patten (21), of Lower Meadow, Harlow, her sister Carly (19), of Tyneley Croft, and her cousin Kelly Patten (25) are taking on the challenge to raise funds for Cystic Fibrosis Trust following the death of Sam’s step-sister Samantha Mansfield, who died in March at the age of 19.

Samantha was a former pupil of Burnt Mill School and was brought up in the town.

The trio say the charity needs money to fund research for a cure for the disease. But before they can take part in the jump they need to raise £1,200 and are currently just under the £500 mark.

Kelly, who has already set up a Facebook group to spread word of their challenge and drum up support, said: “The trust has been really good and we have spoken to them and they have encouraged us to do the skydive. It would be nice to be able to give something back.”

The skydive is scheduled to take place in February.

Sam added: “We would like to spread the message as far as we can. If anyone wants to find out more about the illness and the charity we are raising funds for, they should visit the website.”

If you would like to sponsor the Pattens, visit their website at www.justgiving.com/kellyamandaandcarynpatten.

Keep on donating

BLOOD donors can now keep donating beyond their 70th birthday after service chiefs decided to remove the age limit prohibiting older donors.

The decision was taken because of the improved health and fitness of older donors and paves the way for an additional 15,000 donations to flow into the blood service each year.

Lynda Hamlyn, chief executive of NHS Blood and Transplant, said: “Our older donors are amongst our most loyal and many of them want to keep giving beyond their 70th birthday.”

“We continually review our donor criteria and given the steady improvement we have seen over recent years in the general fitness of our older donors, it is now safe for us to remove our upper age limit for donation.

“Those who have donated in the past two years will be able to continue giving as long as they meet our donor selection rules.”

To find out more about becoming a blood donor, call the helpline on 0845 7711711 or log on to www.blood.co.uk.

Dedicated team

A GROUP of volunteers who assist visually impaired patients in hospital were recently rewarded for their work.

The Harlow Sight Support Team, which works at the town’s Princess Alexandra Hospital, was presented with the team prize at the annual volunteers’ Christmas lunch.

Two individual prizes were given to Christine Clarke, who supports the medical secretaries, and William Harris, who sits on the meet-and-greet desk and also assists the staff on Harvey Ward.

Hospital staff were asked to nominate those they felt deserved an award in recognition of the services they provide.

The individual winners received cheques while the sight support team was presented with a plaque which will be displayed in the eye unit.

Robert Powell, chairman of the PAH NHS Trust, said: “We really value the contribution that all our volunteers make. Their dedication and commitment is unquestionable and without them the hospital would not be what it is.”

For more information about becoming a volunteer, contact pat and public involvement co-ordinator Linda Howard on (01279) 827040.
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ANNE GEORGE BLAKE 

A devoted husband, dad and granddad passed away peacefully at Puttenham Nursing Centre on 21st Dec. Always in our thoughts. Ruth, Bath, Colin, Michael and Leon. All enquiries to Daniel Robinson, Wych Elm, Harlow.

ALICE MAUD DANVERS (1919-2008) 

Passed away suddenly on 23rd December 2008. 

The funeral will take place at Parndon Wood Crematorium on Friday 9th January 2009 at 2.30pm.

All our love Michael & Douglas.

All flowers and enquiries to Daniel Robinson & Sons, Wych Elm, Harlow, CM20 1QI. Tel: 01279 426990

WALTER FRANKHAM 

Formerly of Windmill Fields passed away peacefully on December 22nd 2008 aged 96 years.

Funeral to take place on Tuesday January 13th at 1pm at Harlow Crematorium and afterwards at the Fox, Matching Tye.

Floral tributes or donations if desired to Alzheimer’s c/o Co-operative Funeral Care, 20 High Street, Old Town, Harlow. CM17 9DR. Tel: 01279 441444.

LOUISE MAUD BASTOW 

Passed away 2nd January 2008

Still missing you.

Love Pauline, Ronald, Patrick and Gordon

In Memoriam

LOUISE BASTOW

Happy 16th Birthday

LOUISE DAVEY

Happy 21st Birthday

21st Birthday on 2nd January

Enjoy your day.

Love you lots. From Nana your family

LOUISE DAVEY

1st Birthday

Happy 1st Birthday

Girling

Love you, Nanna, Chris, Grandad Dave and all the family

21st Birthday

Happy 21st Birthday

2nd January

Have a lovely day.

Lots of love Mum, Dad, Rac, Rob and family

LAUREN WELFARE

Happy 13th Birthday

All our Love, Mum and Dad

ALEC LEADER.

2nd January 1998

My Wonderful One

Your Kimmie

xxxx

Alec Leader

LOUISE LOHSE.

Eileen. Wemention your name, and speak of you often, you are so loved dear Mother, you are not forgotten. Mark & Mandie.

LOUISE LOHSE.

Eileen. 3rd January. Those we love we never lose, for always they will be loved, remembered and treasured. Always in our memory. Love always, Debbie.


ALEC LEADER.

2nd January 1998

Phil

LOUISE LOHSE.

Eileen. It is with great sadness that we announce the sudden passing of our Mum, after a brief illness on Saturday 20th December, 2008 aged 81. A wonderful, kind, loving and devoted Mum and Grandmother to her family, who will be sadly missed. The funeral service will take place at Parndon Wood Crematorium on Tuesday January 6th 2009 at 11am. and will be followed by her burial at Pymoor Cemetery. Mum was committed into the Church on Tuesday 6th January, 2009 at 6.00pm. Flowers and enquiries to Daniel Robinson & Sons, Wych Elm, Harlow.

ALEC LEADER.

2nd January 1998

Phil

VIRGINIA FRANCIS

Mel, Ciaran & Family with their team friends thank you for attending the Funeral. Please acknowledge the acts of kindness only if you wish.

JOY MAY

Have a lovely day 2009 is going to be your year.

Love you lots, Mum & Gary xxx

ALANGEORGE (1919-2008)

Passed away peacefully on 22nd December 2008. An age 96 years.

Funeral will take place at Parndon Wood Crematorium on Tuesday 6th January 2009 at 11.00am in St. Thomas More’s Catholic Church, Harlow followed by her burial at Pymoor Cemetery. Mum was committed into the Church on Tuesday 6th January, 2009 at 6.00pm. Flowers and enquiries to Daniel Robinson & Sons, Wych Elm, Harlow.

ALEC LEADER.

2nd January 1998

Phil

Happy Birthday.

Lots of love Ethan & Wayne

xxxx

ALEC LEADER.

2nd January 1998

Phil

ALAN & EILEEN MCMANUS (1929-2008)

(Formerly of Wedhey, Harlow).

Passed away peacefully on Saturday 19th December 2008 aged 79 years.

Funeral will take place at Parndon Wood Crematorium on Tuesday 6th January 2009 at 3.30pm.

All enquiries to Daniel Robinson & Sons, Wych Elm, Harlow.

JOHN RUSSELL (1919-2008)

Passed away peacefully on Friday 19th December 2008 aged 89 years.

Funeral to take place at Parndon Wood Crematorium on Tuesday 6th January 2009 at 11.00am.

All enquiries to Daniel Robinson & Sons, Wych Elm, Harlow.

ALANCESTERS (1919-2008)

Passed away peacefully on Saturday 20th December 2008 aged 80. Amsterdam, New York.

Funeral to take place on Wednesday 7th January 2009 at 11.00am.

All enquiries to Daniel Robinson & Sons, Wych Elm, Harlow.

ALANCEDER.

2nd January 1998

Phil

ALANYEATON (1919-2008)

Passed away peacefully on Friday 19th December 2008 aged 91 years.

Funeral to take place at Parndon Wood Crematorium on Tuesday 6th January 2009 at 11.00am.

All enquiries to Daniel Robinson & Sons, Wych Elm, Harlow.

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All enquiries to Daniel Robinson & Sons, Wych Elm, Harlow.

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Passed away peacefully on Saturday 20th December 2008 aged 80. Amsterdam, New York.

Funeral to take place on Wednesday 7th January 2009 at 11.00am.

All enquiries to Daniel Robinson & Sons, Wych Elm, Harlow.

JOHNSON (1919-2008)

Passed away peacefully on Friday 18th December 2008 aged 89 years.

Funeral to take place at Parndon Wood Crematorium on Tuesday 6th January 2009 at 11.00am.

All enquiries to Daniel Robinson & Sons, Wych Elm, Harlow.

JOHNSON (1919-2008)

Passed away peacefully on Friday 18th December 2008 aged 89 years.

Funeral to take place at Parndon Wood Crematorium on Tuesday 6th January 2009 at 11.00am.

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YOU may have seen the television news reports about the Italian man who had to be rescued after trying to row across the Pacific Ocean.

Alex Bellini spent 10 months at sea and rowed more than 9,000 miles before bad weather forced him to call for help just 65 miles from his intended destination in Australia. Bellini set out on the epic voyage from Peru in South America back in February. Had he successfully completed the trip, he would have become only the fifth man in history to row across the world's biggest ocean.

He was rescued by a tugboat from New Zealand after using a satellite mobile phone to contact his wife, Francesca, and ask for help. He finally reached dry land on December 13. Despite being so close to his destination, he was too exhausted to row the 22ft-long boat any further. He had survived for more than 300 days on dried food and ocean water from which he had to remove the salt before he could drink it.

He had also grown a bushy beard and lost a lot of weight. Once safely on shore, he said he was looking forward to getting back to Italy and tucking into his favourite foods: tiramisu and apple cake. And speaking of cake, Bellini said he was still happy with the journey he had made despite the fact that he was unable to complete it.

“I didn’t put the cherry on top of the cake, but the cake is very good, very big and I will never forget about it,” he told waiting reporters.

Fact File
NAME: Benjamin (member 599)
DATE OF BIRTH: January 1, 2004
ADDRESS: Chippingfield, Harlow
SCHOOL: Fawbert and Barnard Primary
HOBBIES: Gardening
DISLIKES: Going to bed
FAVOURITE FOOD: Brussel sprouts and broccoli
LEAST FAVOURITE FOOD: Mushrooms
FAVOURITE BOOK: The Gruffalo
FAVOURITE TV: Tom and Jerry
FAVOURITE SONG: I Saw Mummy Kissing Santa Claus
FAMILY: Brother, Daniel (2)
WANTS TO BE: A builder
(photo: VJKLQM3J/01)

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RETAILER OF THE YEAR!
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As you contemplate your prospects for 2009, January, you can see more on the move than you might imagine. However, that doesn't mean that everything will go as planned, so to speak. It's important to stay in touch with the world of business development, especially if you are on your own and have to be particularly energetic. That starts when you start to plan your day. Make sure to discuss the possibilities that you see with your friends and family. Call now for your in-depth forecast…

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If you have a business, you will need to plan your week carefully. It can be easy to lose sight of the big picture, but by setting clear goals and making a plan, you can achieve your objectives. Call now for more information…

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Panto on a heigh-ho!

HEIGH-ho, heigh-ho, the annual panto’s all systems go!
New Pantomime Productions’ Snow White And The Seven Dwarfs continues its run at The Playhouse in Harlow this week.

Complete with a pure heroine, an evil queen, a dashing prince to the rescue, a colourful band of dwarfs and a dame, the panto contains all the best-known songs from the classic animated Disney film.

Former EastEnders actress Michelle Gayle stars as Fairy Crystal, alongside former Gladiator Trojan, aka Mark Griffin. Snow White And The Seven Dwarfs continues at The Playhouse, with matinee and evening performances until January 11.

For full details of prices and ticket availability, call the box office on (01279) 431945.

THE JIMMY HENDRIX AWARD FOR RIFFS AS BIG AS MOUNTAINS goes to … The Stolen Coda and JB3. Ladies and gentlemen, we have a tie! That’s right – both bands are blessed with the cosmic ability to make their guitars weep, sing and probably do the Hoovering at the same time, while somehow managing to avoid the proggish excesses of month-long solos, bizarre trousers and comedic ramblings. Well done!

THE ELVIS PRESLEY ’68 COMEBACK SPECIAL AWARD FOR TRIUMPH IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY goes to … The Square, for making a triumphant return to the forefront of Harlow’s blossoming live music scene when all seemed lost. While Essex County Council couldn’t trust the average gig-goer to multi-task – i.e. drink and watch bands at the same time – possibly because they might spill some and make the floor all slippery, the SquareOne Partnership re-opened the bar, opened another bar, and built yet another bar. Oh, and they put some quite spectacular bands, club and comedy nights on too, lest we forget.

THE DAVID BOWIE AWARD FOR MOST ASTONISHING COSTUME CHANGE goes to … Club Quattroz, for its remarkable overnight transformation from a glitzy R&B hangout frequented by the perma-tan bling brigade to the rowdy rock’n’roll sweat-pit we’ve grown to love. It took guts, guile and an awful lot of spray-paint to make it this far, but here’s hoping it never looks back.

THE ‘THEY SOUND A BIT LIKE VAMPIRE WEEKEND, DON’T THEY?’ AWARD FOR BEST NEWCOMERS goes to … Monday Arms, for sounding a lot like Vampire Weekend and thus being rather good. It’s been a tough old year for the ‘Arms – growing tired of the modish hip punk snarl of their early material, they’ve completely revamped their sound and are getting ready to blow you away in the New Year with some blissful, jaunty pop-punk.

THE JOE STRUMMER WOULD BE PROUD AWARD FOR BEST EP goes to … The Summons, for their easy-skanking, roots rocking, no-calypso, ska revivalist, body-popping (that’s enough – Ed) math-rock reggae debut EP. Wasteland. A heathy brew of brooding dub guitar, rumbling boom-bass and gloriously laconic vocals, this bobs, weaves and rocks like a boxer on hot coals.

Babes and Bullets

Frank Miller’s The Spirit is loose

Local news on video

www.harlowstar.co.uk
Spirited cop back from the grave as a ladykiller

THE SPIRIT
certificate 12A, running time 1h42m

After sharing the director’s credit for Sin City with Robert Rodriguez, comics guru Frank Miller goes solo for this adaptation of his own updating of Will Eisner’s pulp character The Spirit. From the extensive use of green-screen filming with artificial environments, dropped in to the largely monochrome palette with bursts of colour, it looks as if he’s lifting Sin City’s style wholesale. Blending elements of film noir with adventure and romance, The Spirit is the story of a young cop who’s killed only to return from the grave as the mysterious crimefighter The Spirit (Gabriel Macht).

His arch enemy The Octopus (Samuel L. Jackson, sporting a haircut more villainous than his character) is planning to destroy The Spirit’s beloved Central City while pursuing his own shot at immortality. And as the masked crimefighter tracks his nemesis through rundown warehouses, dank catacombs and fog-shrouded waterfronts, he also has to run a gauntlet of beautiful women (including Scarlett Johansson, Sara Paulson, Paz Vega, Jaime King and Stana Katic) who variously want to seduce, mislead or kill him.

He’s further tangled up emotionally with Sand Saraf (Eve Mendes), a jewel thief with dangerous curves who’s the love of his life turned bad – but can he redeem her before she finishes him off?

YES MAN
certificate 12A, running time 1h44m

For Carl Allen, life is going nowhere until he learns to say ‘yes’!

Based on the book by Danny Wallace, Director Peyton Reed’s comedy follows the cantankerously negative Carl (Jim Carrey, pictured at right), who’s always refused every opportunity.

All this changes when he signs up for a self-help programme based on the premise of saying ‘yes’ to anything and everything. It’s not long before Carl has a whole new world of opportunity open up for him, from all-night parties and learning Korean to binge jumping and flying lessons. It’s also working wonders for his career and personal life. But could his new and relentlessly upbeat approach to living actually be too much of a good thing?

still showing

AUSTRALIA Epic Outback romance set on the eve of the Second World War.

BEDTIME STORIES Adam Sandler tries to come in on tales that come true.

MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA The New York Zoo escapees head for their homeland.

TWILIGHT Angry teen vampires and humans fall in love.

Empire selects the best DVD releases of 2008

The action film as stripped-down myth

IN a year of so many great movies, it’s almost unfair to proclaim only one of them the best but, push comes to shove, Sylvester Stallone’s RAMBO takes the title for sheer exhilarating entertainment and for pulling off the finest resurrection since Burke & Hare were in business.

Shackled to a pair of gormless Robert Downey Jr ensured IRON MAN got a flying start, closely followed by Ed Norton in THE INCREDIBLE HULK.

In fact, it was the year’s big studio finales that made the superheroes sight, translating the characters from their three-colour origins with an often dazzling combination of wit, style and action. Jon Favreau’s genius casting of Robert Downey Jr ensured IRON MAN got a flying start, closely followed by Ed Norton in THE INCREDIBLE HULK.

Chris Nolan’s classy, grizzly THE DARK KNIGHT and Guillermo del Toro’s fantasy extravaganza HELLBOY II: THE GOLDEN ARMY.

It was also a strong year for drama.

CONTROL, perfectly captured the tragic life and incredible music of Joy Division’s Ian Curtis and a similarly bleak post-Thatcher British landscape was brought vividly to life in the groundbreaking RADIO ON, fans of crime thrillers had their plates heaped with sterling work from Philip Seymour Hoffman in THE DEVIL KNOWS YOU’RE DEAD. Ben Affleck showing he’s better behind the camera than in front of it with GONE BABY GONE and David Fincher offering a tense time machine back to 1960s San Francisco in ZODIAC – DIRECTOR’S CUT.

and Daniel Day Lewis gave a simply incredible portrait of amoral ambition in Paul Thomas Anderson’s THERE WILL BE BLOOD, a saga of family, greed, religion and oil.

With the West still gripped by anxieties as diverse as terrorism, peak oil and economic collapse, it’s no surprise that horror films had another solid year; best of the crop was Frank Darabont’s relentless, downbeat adaptation of Stephen King’s THE MIST, while the hugely impressive CLOVERFIELD showed just how good first-person shocker could be.

The double bill Grandhouse was unfortunately split into its constituent parts, missing the point but at least allowing us to enjoy Kurt Russell’s lunatic turn as a killer stunt driver in Quentin Tarantino’s over-teal DEATH PROOF and Rose McGowan fighting off a goofy zombie outbreak with a machine gun false leg in Robert Rodriguez’s PLANET TERROR.

Bit director Neil Marshall starkly plundered Escape From New York and Mad Max 2 for the trsity excitement of DEAD SET, while Ricky Gervais’s angsty LA BELLE ET LA BÊTE.

It was also a year with rich pickings on the documentary front, particular Michael Moore’s expose of the US health system’s many shortcomings in SICK, John Pilger’s sobering THE WAR ON DEMOCRACY and a disturbing glimpse of the underbelly of the War On Terror in TAXI TO THE DARK SIDE.

For lighter entertainment, it’s hard to beat the epic Brian Jonestown Massacre versus The Dandy Warhols clash of DIGI, dozens of trashy delights in GRINDHOUSE TRAILER CLASSICS 2 and the transcendental pleasures of the visual hymn to nature that was BARAKA.

Also on release

LADIES’ MAN: Gabriel Macht stars in THE SPIRIT

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<td>Four Bedroom House</td>
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<td>£950 pcm</td>
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By DAVID RIMMER
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Sawbridgeworth skipper Danny Wilson, who lives in Old Harlow, thinks outside the box and has a sense of timing his father would have had in the music world.

Wilson emigrated from the West Indies to London in the 1960s. His son was born in Paddington. A big factor in Danny being drawn to cricket was the great 1984 West Indies side.

Captained by Clive Lloyd, they hammered England 5-0 in a Test series and Wilson junior remembers watching them as a child.

"I was mesmerised by Viv Richards, Desmond Haynes and Gordon Greenidge and of course the fast bowlers like Michael Holding and Joel Garner. I just wanted to repeat what they did," he said.

"I lived in London at the time and I remember the atmosphere and the big crowd."

Danny fostered his love for the game by watching TV and practising with his father.

"Most of the time I was playing cricket in the back garden and in those days the cricket was shown on the BBC."

Danny started to play at eight and was helped by elder brother Robert and step-brother Nick Maley. However, he recalls that it was not easy to progress through the schools route.

He played for Farnham, before county recognition from Essex came his way and he starred for both the U-19 side and the second XI.

"When I was at school [Fin Primary and St Mary’s RC, both in Bishop’s Stortford] rugby and football were the sports and cricket was not high on the agenda," he said.

"I was considered to be more of a bowler and when I hurt my back I developed my batting."

After impressing sufficiently he got the call to the Essex first team in 1996 and faced South Africa A.

Wilson took 2-40 and scored 52 not out in the county’s defeat to the tourists.

"Alan Lilley, a coach at the time told me I was going to play. South Africa A had good players like Gerry Liedenberg, Herschelle Gibbs and Lance Klusener," he said. "It felt surreal. I was playing for Farnham a couple of weeks earlier and now I was playing for Essex."

"It was a big step up in standard. I remember the pace of the bowling was quicker and the fielding was much better – I remember hitting four or five balls to either side of Herschelle Gibbs [at cover point] and he stopped the lot."

"I had a good match and I remember a guy telling me as I left the ground that he had put a tenner on at 16-1 on me being the highest scorer and I was pleased to have helped him.”

A few appearances for Essex followed but Wilson was unable to nail down a regular place and left the first class game.

"Essex had all-rounders like Danny Law, Stuart Law and Ronnie Irani. I was in the wrong place at the wrong time. If I had concentrated on one discipline, I may have done better," he said.

"If you have been playing for a length of time, over five years you have done very well. Cricket is a very taxing game and at that level it is very intense. You live and breathe it. You get found out if you are not 100 per cent." Wilson went on to play for Cambridge Granta and subsequently his achievements with bat and ball for Sawbridgeworth have been a strong part of the local cricket scene.

For this commentator, some of his innings have been a joy to behold, marked by the richness of his strokeplay and deft timing.

More importantly, he has been a shrewd skipper of Sawbridgeworth for five years after teaming up with the Town Fields club in the latter part of the 2003 season.

Captaincy involves many things including setting batting orders, selecting balanced teams, motivating players and encouraging young talent to come through.

Wilson’s captaincy in the field has been fascinating to observe – he has not been afraid to go for an unorthodox field placing or to perm his bowlers.

However, he is still waiting for the team to win something under his leadership.

"Captaincy is not an exact science. You have to be one step ahead of the [opposing] batsmen and try and out-think them," he said.

"Sometimes you have to think left side and it can come off but there is a lot of luck to it."

He added: "We have the potential [to win a trophy] and I hope that success is not too long in coming.

At the moment I see a side that is under-achieving. I want to win. I want to win something as captain and will not be giving up as captain until I have." Only time will tell if Wilson’s wish for a trophy is fulfilled but one thing is for sure – his presence has enriched local cricket almost as much as his father’s did for music lovers.

Everyone’s a winner with captain Wilson
GLEN Alzapiedi was hoping to complete the signing of utility player Paul Burton from Ware last night (Tuesday).

Alzapiedi has already brought six players from his old club Ware after he joined Harlow Town as manager last week.

But Burton, who can play at right-back or central midfield, used to play for Oxford United in the Football League.

Alzapiedi said: “He’s a quick passer and plays with the level of intensity I want from my players. He will come into the squad for the Dartford game.”

Midfielder Leon Lalite and right-back Mark Taylor both start four-game suspensions and miss this Saturday’s league game at Dartford.

Lalite was sent off against Margate 11 days ago, while Taylor is banned after the red card he picked up against Hendon 15 days ago. Both dismissals were for violent conduct, carrying automatic four-match suspensions.

Having got his reign off to a tremendous start (see report below), Alzapiedi was upbeat ahead of the trip to Kent.

“I determined that we can build on what we did against Hornchurch. I will be speaking to a club who have played Dartford recently,” he said.

Harlow host Heybridge Swifts in the third round of the Isthmian League Cup on Tuesday. “We will have a number of players cup tied for this one. It’s not as important as the Dartford, and Maidstone United [January 10] games,” Alzapiedi explained.

Central defender Danny Chapman and left-back Beckett Hollenbach left Harlow since Alzapiedi took charge on December 22.

Hollenbach’s berth has been taken by ex-Ware player Michael Bardle.

Alzapiedi said: “I am aiming for pace at the back and Michael is a very good player.”

TEAM TALK:

New Hawks boss Glen Alzapiedi talks to Harlow’s long-serving physio Paul West-Hook (07478423009).

SMILES replaced gloomy faces at Barrows Farm as Hawks marked their first game under Glen Alzapiedi with a convincing home victory over AFC Hornchurch, writes DAVID RIMMER.

It was Harlow’s first win in nine matches and lifted them to 17th in the table.

Saturday’s clash had an interesting twist as Ryan Kirby – sacked as Hawks player-boss seven days previously – came on as a substitute for the Urschins.

His old team played with zest and were improved by six new signings from Ware, Alzapiedi’s old club.

Midfielder Sam Berry capped a fine debut with two goals while Danny Gudgeon and Laurie Stewart were steady at the back. Other Ware recruits were strikers John Frendo and Chris Ellerbeck, plus left-back Michael Bardle.

Harlow maintained their composure even when Bardle was sent off on 75 minutes after fouling Hornchurch forward Kris Lee.

The hosts were 3-1 up at that stage.

Alzapiedi told Star Sport afterwards: “There was a will to win and when we went back in the half [2-1] we looked more dangerous. That was even the case when we went down to 10!”

Frankie Curley was booked after 11 minutes after a second bad challenge on Leon Latite and three minutes later the hosts went ahead. Mark Taylor curled a free-kick on the left over the Hornchurch wall and into the near corner on 14 minutes.

Subsequent first-half action saw Bardle head off the line from Elliot Styles before Fredon fired just wide after turning his marker.

Billy Coyne equalised for the visitors on 58 minutes when he fired home a loose ball from 25 yards.

Harlow were back in front three minutes later as Berry headed in from Latite’s corner on 71 minutes. Ellerbeck latched onto a poor back pass from Curley just a minute after coming on. His initial shot was stopped by Urchins keeper Dale Brightly, but he fired home the rebound.

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Alzapiedi added: “He’s one of a number of players who I felt for a couple of years could play at a higher level.”

Styles was denied a second by a smart save from Hawks keeper James Hasell late on.

HARLOW TH: Hasell 7, Taylor 7 (Rear 61), Bardle 6 (sent off 75), Gudgeon 7, Stuart 7, Berry 8, Latite 7, Eligdon 6 (Ellerbeck 70), Richards 7, Frendon, Okpe 5 (Green 45 + 6). Subs not used: Webb, Hardy (gk), Ab. 392.

Other result: Essex Isthmian League, prem div – Benfleet 5, Epping 2 (Sam Wilkinson, Steve Poole). For report see www.harlowstar.co.uk.

Great start for new Hawks boss Alzapiedi

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Bardle was sent off minutes after coming on. He was the last man as Lee bore down on goal.

Berry bagged Harlow’s fourth and final goal on 81 minutes. The midfielder fired in from 23 yards out.
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