



This edition is made available to the people of Epping Town with the assistance of Epping Town Council

Fixture pile-up hits football pitches

A FIXTURE pile-up is causing problems for teams using the Stonards Hill recreation ground in Epping.

Epping Football Club has asked the town council if it can increase its use of pitches during the end of season period, in particular for back-to-back matches on Saturdays and additional Bank Holiday games.

The town council has added that there is also additional pressure on the pitches from unauthorised training sessions.

A report to Tuesday's town council meeting states: "Each year the council comes under pressure to allow extra matches to be played.

"However there is a balance to be struck between allowing the clubs to complete an increasing number of fixtures on the one hand and on the other retaining playable pitches and providing reasonable public open space at reasonable cost to local residents."

The council says back-to-back games were tried last year with the result that the quality of the pitches significantly deteriorated causing the cancellation of some matches.

The report adds: "Experience shows that Bank Holiday matches do not allow pitch recovery after wet Saturday fixtures."

Town councillors are expected to refuse to allow back-to-back matches or Bank Holiday play for adult teams on the pitches however the town council supports a "flexible approach" being taken to provide additional facilities for fixtures when weather conditions allow.

A&E services to come under the spotlight

EMERGENCY health facilities will be discussed at a forum meeting this week.

Residents are invited to attend Essex County Council's West Area Forum to express their views on two important aspects of health service provision in their area.

The meeting, at the Adult Community College, Fyfield Road, Ongar, at 10am on Tuesday (March 9), will give people an opportunity to hear more about proposals to reconfigure accident and emergency hospitals in north London.

This will affect people who use hospitals such as Whipps Cross, Leytonstone,; King George, Ilford, and Queens, Romford.

The meeting will also provide an opportunity to air concerns about the service provided by the East of England Ambulance Service.

The forum will also hear from NHS West Essex about its plans for health care provision and how it aims to tackle the needs of local people.

This discussion will assist local members to identify issues for further review over the coming months.

Good Citizen Dog Scheme launched

THE district council's animal welfare service has announced a Kennel Club Good Citizen Dog Scheme (GCDS) Test Day on April 25.

If you have recently become a puppy owner or have a dog that has a mind of its own then the scheme could be the perfect

opportunity for both you and your canine friend.

The scheme, the largest dog training programme in the UK, aims to promote responsible dog ownership and in turn, enhance our relationship with our pets and to make the community aware of the benefits associated with dog ownership.

Owners will have the opportunity to take either gold, silver or bronze awards but those wishing to do gold or silver will need to register before April 19.

The day is being held at Thornwood Village Hall.

For more information and entry forms contact the Animal Welfare Service on 01992 564077 or 01992 564153, or email lcook@eppingforestdc.gov.uk

New cabinet roles for two county councillors

TWO Epping Forest county councillors have been given new roles in an Essex County Council cabinet reshuffle.



The reorganisation follows the resignation of leader Lord Hanningfield. Buckhurst Hill and Loughton South county councillor Valerie Metcalfe is now deputy cabinet member for Education and the 2012 Games while North Weald and Nazeing county councillor Anthony Jackson is deputy cabinet member for Major Projects and Commercial Services.

Flag-flying to mark St George's Day

EPPING Town Council will mark St George's Day on Friday, April 23, by flying the St George's flag at Epping Hall in St John's Road

The council is to write to all town centre businesses asking them to take part in the day.

Refuse collection charge for charities proposed

CHARITY shops could be charged £15.50 per container to have their rubbish collected while schools and village halls would have to pay £7.50, it has emerged.

A report to the district council's cabinet states: "This is a complex area because of the fact that whilst certain premises have the legal right to have their waste collected, the council is, in some instances allowed to levy a charge."

The council says waste from schools is classed as household waste which the council has a duty to collect, if requested, but may levy a charge. A previous cabinet report suggested a charge should be levied for residual waste because volumes can be high and schools should be encouraged to recycle and reduce their overall waste stream.

However the latest report states: "Schools provide an excellent environment to educate the community on the aspects of recycling both in the classroom and in the home. It is therefore suggested all recycling from schools should be collected free of charge including food waste, unless the food is provided by a commercial business when, since this is trade waste, the business must make their own disposal arrangements."

All containers for recycling will be provided by the council free of charge.

Where a school requests the council

to collect its residual waste, it is suggested there should be a limit per school of two 1,100-litre wheelie bins.

The collection cost per each 1,100-litre residual bin is £4.50 plus a £3 admin cost.

The wheelie bins will have to be purchased or hired by the school.

Arrangements for collection and decisions on the type of container will form part of a contract with the council.

The council says the operation of town and parish councils is a business, and waste is generated as part of that business. Therefore, although categorised as household waste, it is suggested a charge should be levied for its collection, at the same rate as is suggested for schools. All containers for residual waste will have to be provided by the local council.

However to encourage the separation and recycling of waste, it is also suggested that all recycling be collected free of charge and containers will be provided by the council.

Waste generated by charitable institutions and charity shops is classified as household waste, for which a charge may be levied.

The council says charities operate as businesses and therefore a charge should be levied for collection, with the cost being the same as for trade waste (£15.50 per container per collection).

New foot clinic for diabetic patients

A NEW weekly clinic opens this month at Princess Alexandra Hospital for local people with diabetes.

The clinic, focusing on the treatment of foot problems and complications caused by the disease, is in the outpatients clinic

area of the hospital every Thursday with diabetic medicine consultant Dr Ramalingam Bhaskar, supported by a podiatrist (a specialist in foot diseases).

Dr Bhaskar said: "Diabetes can often cause patients problems with their feet as high glucose levels damage nerve endings and cause loss of sensation.

"This loss of feeling can lead to small problems going unnoticed and these in turn can lead to more serious complications such as infections and ulcers or even gangrene resulting in amputation.

"By holding this clinic we can spot the problems at an early stage and develop treatment plans for individual patients.

"The foot clinic works alongside the existing Thursday morning diabetics' clinics at the hospital so we are able to provide advice and support on foot matters to all diabetic patients.

"We will also offer the service to women who have diabetes and are pregnant, or who are at risk of developing diabetes during pregnancy.

"We expect to treat over 150 patients a year and welcome referrals from GPs and colleagues in the hospital."

The foot clinic begins on Thursday, March 25.

For more details, email ramalingam.bhaskar@pah.nhs.uk

REGISTER TO RECEIVE FREE 'BREAKING NEWS' TEXT ALERTS

To register for Everything Epping Forest's free 'breaking news' text alerts on your mobile, text your name to 07710 447868.

Health programme to keep your records

A NATIONAL programme is being rolled out across west Essex this year which will see an electronic summary of your health information being produced.

Summary Care Records will help NHS West Essex staff and healthcare professionals across the country deliver better, safer care by enhancing the way your health information is stored and managed.

Nationally over one million Summary Care Records have already been created.

Your Summary Care Record is an electronic record of important information about your health. It will be available to authorised healthcare staff providing your NHS care in England.

This means if you ever have an accident or become ill and need urgent or out-of-hours advice or treatment away from your normal GP practice, the clinicians treating you can have immediate access to important information about you.

Your Summary Care Record will initially have information about your current medications, any allergies you suffer from and any bad reactions to medicines that you experience.

Authorised NHS healthcare staff will be the only people allowed to access your Summary Care Record if they are involved in treating you, and there are strict security measures in place to protect your information.

If a healthcare professional needs to view your Summary Care Record, your permission will be asked beforehand unless

it is an emergency and you are unconscious for example.

Patients may opt out of having a Summary Care Record by completing a Summary Care Record Opt Out Form which will need to be sent or taken to their GP practice.

However Dr Kamal Bishai, GP and the chairman of Epping Forest Practice Based Commissioning Group is urging people not to opt out of the scheme.

He said: "We believe the creation of Summary Care Records will help deliver better and safer care throughout the NHS and we would strongly recommend to our patients that they do not opt out of having one."

Nationally to date fewer than one per cent of people have decided to opt out.

Patients aged 16 and over who are registered with a GP practice in west Essex will receive a letter from NHS West Essex chief executive Catherine O'Connell, together with a patient information leaflet explaining Summary Care Records.

There will then be 12 weeks for people to decide what to do.

If a person decides that they would like to have a Summary Care Record they need do nothing and the process of creating the Summary Care Record will begin.

"It is hoped the whole process will be completed by the end of this year.

Whatever you decide, you will be able to change your mind at any time.

For more information about Summary Care Records, visit the NHS West Essex website's home page www.westessexpct.nhs.uk and click on the purple Summary Care Records button.

Hospital wants vouchers

THE School Room at Dolphin Ward, the children's ward at Princess Alexandra Hospital, is appealing for Tesco Computers for Schools vouchers.

The hospital teaching team has been collecting the vouchers over the past few years and, thanks to the generosity of staff and the public, has been able to purchase state-of-the-art computer and play equipment.

Dolphin Ward teacher Sue Abbott said: "As with previous years, 2009 was a great success for us with hospital staff, local people and readers of the local press responding magnificently to the request for vouchers, and we have been able to collect a total of over 100,000 vouchers during the past five years - 26,000 last year alone."

With last year's vouchers Sue bought a paint drying rack, games, some numeracy and literacy CD Roms, an alpha smart teaching programme and other resources for the school room. In previous years she has acquired a digital camera, PC games, books and computer equipment. This year she hopes to get enough vouchers to buy a digital TV and DVD player.

The vouchers can be sent to Sue Abbott at Dolphin Ward, Princess Alexandra Hospital, Hamstel Road, Harlow, Essex.

CONTACT DETAILS

For more about the news sheet and Everything Epping Forest website, email everythingeppingforest@googlemail.com or ring David Jackman on 07710 447868.

Tell us your news. Advertise your business. Publicise your event. For more details about the Epping Town News news sheet, email everythingeppingforest@googlemail.com or ring David Jackman on 07710 447868

WHAT'S ON

TUESDAY, MARCH 9

* Epping Forest Group of the Alpine Garden Society meets at Theydon Bois Village Hall, Coppice Row, Theydon Bois (8pm) for a talk on the Goteborg Botanic Garden with Ray Drew. For more details, ring Keith Ballard on 01992 813231.

THURSDAY, MARCH 11

* Theydon Bois Music Society meets at Theydon Bois Village Hall, Coppice Row (8pm) with a recital by Marcus Andrew's Backman Trio (piano, violin and cello). Tickets available at the door.

* Best-selling novelist and ex-agony uncle Mike Gayle confesses how his 1,277 items to-do list took over his life. Join him for a wry look at our daily struggles at Loughton Library, Traps Hill, Loughton (8pm) as part of the Essex Book Festival. Tickets £6.50 (£4.50 concessions). For booking information and more about other Essex Book Festival events, pick up a Festival programme available in libraries. Book by post using the booking form; ring 01206 573948 or book online at www.essexbookfestival.org

SATURDAY, MARCH 13

* Coffee morning organised by Waltham Abbey Church Youth Sub-Group, Abbey Church Centre, Abbey Gardens, Waltham Abbey (10am-noon). Proceeds go towards the church's work with children and young people. For more details, ring the Parish Office on 01992 767897.

* Community Saturday at Epping Library, St John's Road, Epping (2pm-4pm). Visitors can have a free spine check and postural analysis as well as receive general information and advice on how chiropractic treatments can help in every aspect of day-to-day life.

* Music 4 Lunch at the Abbey Church, Waltham Abbey (12.30pm) with Jacqueline Wedderburn-Maxwell (violin) in association with Trinity College of Music. Admission free. Retiring collection. Refreshments. For more details, ring the Parish Office on 01992 767897.

* Saturday coffee concert at St John's Church, St John's Road, Epping (11.30am-12.15pm) in aid of the St John's Development Fund with Matthew Jorysz, organ scholar at St John's Church. Admission is free with a retiring collection.

MONDAY, MARCH 15

* Epping Music Society meets at the Friends Meeting House, Hemnall Street, Epping (8pm) with a recital for viola, piano and trumpet).

TUESDAY, MARCH 16

* West Essex locality meeting of Essex and Southend LINKs (health and social care in our community) at the Chinese Community Centre, Lower Meadow, Commonsidge Road, Harlow, CM18 7RT (2pm-4pm). Topics will include your choices for quality end of life care in west Essex, St Clare Hospice, and how The Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust and NHS West Essex are working together to deliver better outcomes. All welcome. For more details about the meeting or LINKs, ring Julie Harkus on 01245 490733 or email Julie.harkus@essexandsouthendlink.org.uk

**ARE YOU HOLDING
AN EVENT?**

If you want to publicise your event on the news sheet, email details to everythingeppingforest@googlemail.com or ring David Jackman on 07710 447868.