

Cars block crew

PARKED cars blocked a fire crew from fighting a blaze for around quarter of an hour.

Firefighters spent crucial minutes calling on some of the residents of Montgomery Crescent, Harold Hill, to move their vehicles as they raced to the incident in a communal rubbish area behind Devizes House on Tuesday (December 15).

Romford blue watch crew manager Paul Burke said: "This is a regular occurrence. I don't think people always realise that in the event of a fire, we would not be able to get down a road because of the way they've parked."

"If we thought a life was a risk and we found we were blocked, we'd find another way round or even bump the cars. But it would make life so much easier if people gave a thought to what would happen if an emergency vehicle had to get down the road."

"Some of the main trouble spots we find are around schools when parents park to pick up their children."

School marks

A NURSERY school in Hornchurch has become the first in Havering to achieve Montessori accreditation.

Orchid Montessori Nursery School, in Maygreen Crescent, gained recognition under the Montessori EVALUATION and Accreditation (MEAB) scheme.

It aims to reassure parents the Montessori school meets all the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

The scheme is run independently in association with the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) and the British Accreditation Council (BAC).

Following a pilot session which ran in the summer term of 2008 seven schools received accreditation across the country, including Orchid Montessori.

Pam Gupta, head of the school, said: "This is fantastic news for me and the nursery. I am very proud of the children who come to my nursery and learn various skills, develop virtues and have an inquiring mind."

"Parents now have a choice where they can make an informed decision about the education for their child."

Cabaret

TALENTED performers are being urged to audition for a cabaret which entertains elderly care home residents across east London free of charge.

Producer John Dudman, 80, of Fullwell Avenue, Barkingside, is looking for more musicians, dancers and entertainers to bolster his travelling show.

He said: "Joining the group would be a great opportunity for someone to show off their skills."

Anyone interested should call 0208 5516853.



BUDDING dancers laid on a free performance as an early Christmas present for a crowd of pensioners.

The 25 performers – aged between six and 14 – from Aspire School of Dance – headed to Romford Grange Nursing Home in Collier Row on Sunday (December 13) to entertain residents.

Director Victoria Blackholly said: "The children all really enjoyed it and so did the residents."

"One elderly lady wasn't very well on the day, but she made a real effort to come and watch and thoroughly enjoyed herself."

"Another lady told the girls that they had made her day. Everyone was so pleased to hear that."

Anyone interested in join the school, in Clockhouse Lane, Collier Row, which caters for three to 16-year-olds, can contact Victoria on 07800 602587

Steps ahead

Call for witnesses to stabbings

Two separate incidents

A TEENAGER was stabbed in his stomach in a public car park in Romford in the early hours of Saturday morning – one of two stabbing incidents within a few days.

The 18-year-old victim was attacked in Lidl car park, in Atlanta Boulevard, just yards from the town centre, at about 2.25am Saturday, December 12.

By LUCY DICKINSON

lucy.dickinson@archant.co.uk

The second stabbing happened on Tuesday.

The 32-year-old victim from Romford was stabbed in his right shoulder/arm pit in Squirrels Heath Road, Romford, between 7.15pm and 7.40pm.

Police were informed by staff at Queen's Hospital who reported the attack when the injured victim arrived in need of treatment shortly before 10pm. He was treated and discharged.

Police do not know what weapon was used in the attack and are appealing for any witnesses to come forward.

Anyone with information on either of these incidents can call Havering police on 0300 123 1212 or crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

He was punctured in the abdomen by a single stab wound. It is not known at this stage what weapon was used.

Police arrived at the scene within minutes and cordoned off the area to allow forensics to scour the crime scene for evidence.

The area was sectioned off for seven hours to enable a thorough analysis of the area and prevent any crucial evidence leading to the attacker being missed.

Police are also checking for CCTV of the area.

The victim, from Hornchurch, was taken to an east London hospital where he is still receiving treatment but is believed to be in a stable condition.

The suspect is believed to be either mixed race or Asian, aged late teens to early twenties, and was wearing dark clothing at the time of the attack.

Thug avoids jail

A DRUNKEN teenage thug who savagely attacked two clubbers after he was innocently bumped into by his victims walked free from court last week.

Ian Groves, 18, of Heather Way, Romford, was caught on CCTV pummelling Karam Shah and Ravi Patel in Shoreditch, east London.

Judge Martin Reynolds told Groves: "You were drunk at the time or seriously affected by drink and you took offence when someone perhaps innocently bumped into you."

"It's boorish behaviour and it ended up with people being injured."

"It's extremely fortunate for you that the injuries are not more serious."

Mr Patel, who is in his mid-20s, suffered a gash to the back of the head while his friend Mr Shah, also in his mid-20s, sustained a split lip.

But the judge spared Groves jail after hearing the trainee carpenter had secured work as a shopfitter with his father.

"In this day and age I am reluctant to see anyone who is set on that course having it cut short by way of a prison sentence unless that is absolutely necessary," said the judge.

But Groves was ordered to carry

out 150 hours community service and pay £500 compensation to Mr Shah and £200 to Mr Patel.

Prosecutor Michael Shaw had earlier told Snaresbrook Crown Court: "All parties had been drinking."

"They were outside a kebab shop when there was some sort of altercation between them and Mr Groves."

CCTV footage captured Groves flooring Mr Patel with a punch to the face before punching Mr Shah, said the barrister.

Mr Shah has been left with a permanently disfigured mouth, the court heard.

Groves was arrested at the scene on May 30 and interviewed the following morning when he had sobered up.

"He said he could remember little about the night," said Mr Shaw.

"He had drunk a copious amount of alcohol that night."

Groves had a previous conviction for common assault and a caution for criminal damage.

Anya Lewis, defending, said Groves had curbed his drinking and said: "He has not been out drinking since this offence."

Groves admitted actual bodily harm and battery.



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