

Me, Journalism and this magazine

Saying that I know what profession I want to go into is a huge understatement. It is definitely something in Journalism. My dream job is to be a sports broadcaster, working in TV or radio, but with Journalism being such an exciting and ever-changing profession, I would feel at home in any genre of news, and also in newspaper or online. I think it's extremely convenient that I am within commuting distance of London, and live near a very established journalism course provider in Harlow.

While I have enjoyed my time here, I am excited for my next step, despite not having made a decision on that yet!

For now, I am set on attaining my NCTJ diploma and getting a first job, perhaps starting off in local news. That brings me to the topic of this magazine.

I was intrigued to explore the recent change in Harlow's news outlets.

YourHarlow has soared, The Harlow Star has disbanded and the new Harlow Guardian has hit the shelves. My first plan of a documentary didn't get up and running (Not enough responses to being asked to participate in a filmed interview), so I decided to explore local news in a wider spectrum, looking at how different outlets operate, the views







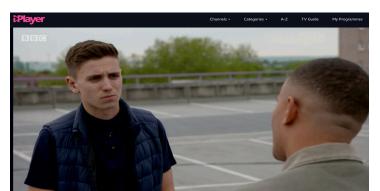




and anecdotes of former and current journalists, purchasing and reviewing some local newspapers, and shoeing in some opinion pieces of my own (Sorry!). Although going to the very top would be ideal, I think local news is extremely important, and I would love to experience working in it.

This project is very important, as my performance in it determines my grade for the two-year course I am coming to the end of. Me and my classmates cannot afford slip-ups, as the section of the project we score lowest on is the grade we take. Exhibiting our project is one of the five sections. So, if you're reading this magazine during the exhibition, please give some feedback via the survey displayed on my exhibition table. It will go a long way in helping me achieve the grades I need. Or if you're reading this as a teacher, or anyone else, just casually after July 2019, my final message goes something like this: Thank you, and

Enjoy!





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SPECIAL REPORT

Last Journo in Town

A BBC One Show report about Harlow's news





Journalism in Harlow: A Hot Topic!

In May, BBC's Ashley John-Baptiste produced 'Last Journo in Town', a short piece on local news in Harlow. The report focused on Michael Casey at YourHarlow; the views of some NCTJ and Year 2 students at the college; the public's views on the new Harlow Guardian and then Ashley's final thoughts on the topic. His report was broadcast on The One Show. The idea for the piece was conjured up in February, by a BBC producer who used to live in Harlow and heard about the discontinuation of The Harlow Star.





"They [The Harlow Guardian] aren't a local paper. They're a karaoke paper. I can sing some David Bowie, but I ain't David Bowie. Call yourself reliable, but don't call yourself a 'local' paper" - Michael Casey, YourHarlow



'There can be so many free media outlets on the web, so news can be fabricated easily. Newspapers already have that trust with their readership' - Oliver Robinson on local papers



'It's good practice, and something I enjoy doing.

It's good for the local community; people like hearing about success stories within their town. It puts a smile on faces'

- Myself on the impacts local news has and why I like covering it.



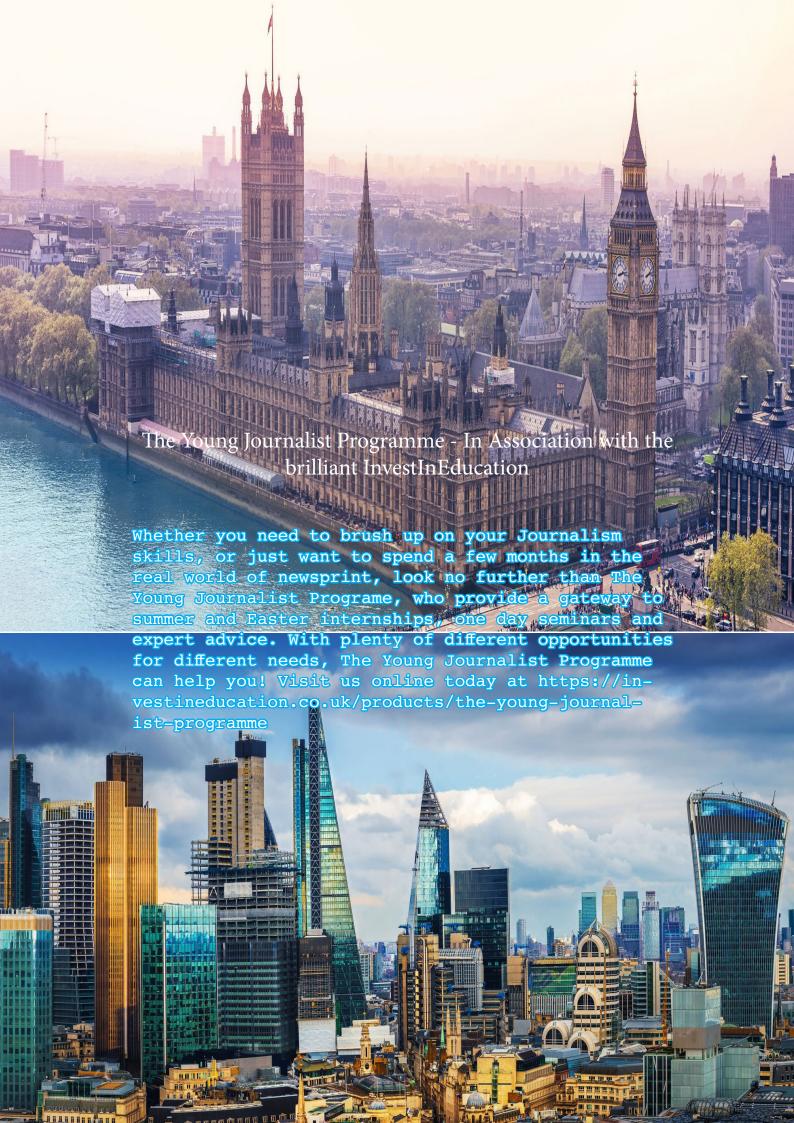
'Local papers are the lifeblood of news. They're the focal point of news flow. I will be surprised if papers last 15 years. Local journalists, like the ones just shown, are needed to report on things like local police developments, which the national guys can't make it to'



'This town of over 80,000 people is one of the largest in The UK to be without a local publication'

'Here's a board of famous people who have come through Harlow College: Steve Lamacq, Charlie Hedges, Alan Rusbridger, and this guy... who's that? Piers Morgan?'

'It's clear that local news is still really important. It's not about whether it's online, or whether it's on a paper, it's about if it's available. But with people like Michael Casey in the world, I think it's here to stay.'



Local Sport Reporting: The Most Pointless Activity For a Newsgroup

The 2018/19 season was certainly one to forget for Harlow Town FC. Finishing bottom of the league with just 34 points (Originating from nine wins and seven draws in 42 games), the fans have deserted, some of them after years of die-hard support. Conflict has grown between supporters and chairman Tommy Cunningham; more and more want him to either spend some money on the club, or at least sack Danny Chapman, who oversaw the team's slow promotion to The Bostik Premier Division, and eventual relegation.

There has been few highlights, and numerous lows. But at least, if there is any consolation at all, it's that the club's media has been 'Spot On'. Or at least, that's what Martyn Payne said on a post on the club's Facebook page during a game with Hornchurch on April the 22nd ... which Harlow lost 3-0.

Well, cheers Martyn. The club's press officer puts tireless hours into the social media feeds and the programme, while I conduct research prior to writing my match reports, and would like to think they're a concise yet sophisticated summary of the game. Most of their matches also take place on a Saturday at 3PM, so I'm also giving up my time, or my chance to earn money at a part-time job.

So, given that I am doing this for free, but at quite a good level, how come local newspapers, or 'online newsgroups' as they actually are, devote their resources to reporting on the sports that cover their area. It is completely, utterly pointless. Not to mention it's also rubbish journalism. No offence.

Haw the second of the second o

Take the above example, Epping Forest Guardian's 'Harlow Guardian' edition on Thursday the 25th of April. Yes, there is big local sport news there, in that the local football team suffered relegation. But next to it, the tiniest amount less of back page

coverage is about ... Tottenham Hotspur? Tottenham, as in the town that's 21, TWENTY ONE! Great British miles away from Harlow.

Now, I understand that Tottenham Hotspur have a strong Harlow following, but are Spurs fans in Harlow really going to pick up their local paper, purely because it contains news about their team? Baring in mind it's news they would have seen already on Sky Sports.

The football team closest to your 'Local' paper has just had one of the worst seasons possible , for crying out loud! Get some quotes from the manager, the board, the fans! Looking barely any further, Harlow have a men's rugby team who's season just finished. You could squeeze an article out of that, even if it's just stating how they got on throughout the campaign. The town have a tennis club, FightSport UK (Mixed Martial Arts), the racehound track... It's endless! But hey, I suppose Tottenham Hotspur is kind of nearby too...



Now for the part that really confuses me. The Epping Forest Guardian could publish my reports for free in their papers, I would not demand payment, just credit. I feel for the journalist, who in all likeliness, lives no where near Harlow, and probably has other, more difficult assignments to research and prepare for, but has instead been assigned to the next Harlow game. The same Harlow game, which is being reported on, in great detail, by me, a student who's doing it for their future prospects. It's a waste of the journalist's time, and a waste of resources for Epping Forest Guardian (Who are owned by Newsquest), who will, in most cases, find a better report for every match in their local area on a club's website.

Unless you're using the same, local committed writers every time, don't bother. Your paper just looks silly.

I mean, where's the originality here? My match report from the 20th of April states: "Harlow were throwing everything at Enfield's goal, but hardly got close to it, often lacking the final ball, that last incision of the defence to create a chance", with Nat Goodlad, of The Harlow Guardian, stating, in a near end-of article sentence: 'Harlow threw everything at the Enfield goal, but the final touch or pass was just lacking".... Come on. Originality.

Edwyn Gilmour: Ongar

ressed in layers of impeccably smart clothing despite the surprising early June heat, he greets me on the driveway of his 'Fairly central, yet tucked away house'. Sophisticated over email, and equally welcoming and verbose in person, 87 year-old Edwyn Gilmour, is ready to let me know the ins and outs of Ongar News, the local paper which he runs alongside Chris Chant, the treasurer, 66, and Karen Bush, the co-editor, 49.

It all began in 2005, when Edwyn was a member of The Ongar Town Forum, which 'Rose like a phoenix from The Ongar Town Partnership'. At an early meeting for the forum, there was a suggestion for the forum to have a separate team to look after publicity. Edwyn laughs, recalling the 'When can you start?' that was thrown his way; he was instantly seen as everyone's natural suggestion to lead this separate team. His response was the suggestion of creating their own publication,: The Ongar News Community Interest Company.

No one else covers their local area as intricately as we do. It's for the people of Ongar, by the people of Ongar

The title of Community Interest Company means that the paper is recognised as a group that trade (Via advertisements), but are also fully voluntary. Edwyn, Chris and Karen are the constituents, and just 25% of the team. According to Edwyn, the group 'Has to be, and is, at the heart of the community'. The paper work in close co-ordination with Ongar Council, 'But that's just normal of the council to help, even The Ongar Town Forum, which is smaller these days, gets the help and support'.

'For the people of Ongar, by the people of Ongar. That's our tagline, we are Ongar through and through. No one else covers their local area as intricately as we do. Larger, more complex papers made for businesses serve their purpose but don't cover every corner'.

The pride and passion is there to see, but Edwyn isn't just a smiley face. Smart and methodical, Edwyn's methods as leader of the paper have been in place from the start, and have

rarely changed. "We just decide how much to order from the printers. It's not like a paid circulation. We began with 1200 but we now print 2500 copies monthly. The distribution is



carefully controlled, we pay a man who has his own van but follows our schedule. He drops them off at various pick-up points, mostly different shops around the town. They agree to stock the copies, and we encourage people to go and collect

them. Along the way, these people could make impulse buys in the shop, so it's a win-win. If less get taken one month, we simply order less the next

He scoffs at the idea of letterbox deliveries, 'From day one, we never wanted to go down the route of direct distribution. It's the kiss of death. Ongar News wouldn't have lasted long if we did things that way. As you and I know, there's lots of spam calls and emails these days, we didn't want Ongar News to be seen in the same vain.'

Edwyn doesn't beat around the bush when it comes to young people, laughing at the nosiness of some of my questions, while on the other hand stating I had 'Lots of interesting ones'. The Ongar Festival, which is an annual celebration of the town, took place in May, and posed Edwyn an interesting question, 'I was asked if I should be doing more for younger people. I said that "We can't". We simply print 2,500 copies and if more is demanded we simply print more. I can't do anything about the age of our target audience. We have helped a few young budding journalists, but I can't help in terms of readership.

But there is definitely an age thing, My iPhone's somewhere inside,

while you are using yours to record what I am saying. Younger people tend to rely on their phones for all sort of information, so in terms of age groups that pick up copies, very few of those would be 18 or younger'

He supposes that one thing the paper does to favour the younger and more tech-savvy is put copies online a week after they're published,'It gives rhe physical readers an advantage, but still increases exposure.'

There was hesitation when I asked how local and national governments can help the decline of local news, 'I'm not sure if that's something you would want government to be involved with. They think that their acts of parliament are what everyone must follow, I don't think

From day one, we never wanted to go down the route of direct distribution"



FLOWER POWER RULES OK

Civic Flower Beds, Displays by Volunteers and Three Flower Shops with Impressive Stocks bring Beauty to the Town at Festival Time

In terms both of quality and quantity it could be said that Ongar has never had it so good when it comes to floral displays. It might be thought that this is part of a co-ordinated plan to bring colour and beauty to the town at the time of the Ongar Town Festival this month but there is no evidence of this. It appears to be just a timely and happy co-incidence that there is such a wealth of colour at a time when the footfall in

the town will be at it is highest The flower heds on the outstanding selections of flowers

and the triangle at The Two Brewers which always attract interest and comment are the work of the Epping Forest District Council and are a visual benefit to Ongar paid for out of our Council Tax.

The colourful flower boxes and free-standing displays are the handiwork of the Ongar Allotments and Gardening Society Gardening Society ointly with the Ongar in Bloom volunteers At the same time, our three flower shops are each offering

at this year's festival.

5. If you are taking a photograph of people whom you do not know you must obtain their permission first. Your entry should be submitted by email to ongarnews@blinternet.com and sent as a jpg file at the maximum resolution allowed by your email client.

the High Street and the 8. The closing date for entries is 15th Mar

arrangements which adorn the showroom don't need watering as they are, in fact, silk. Each in their own way are helping to make Ongar a more attractive town than would otherwise be the case. This is

customers find it hard to believe that the stunning flower

especially important at this time of the year when these centres of colour, whether civic, voluntary or commercial, are beautifying the town when a higher level of residents and visitors will be in the town.

YOUR CHANCE TO WIN £50 WITH A PHOTO TAKEN AT THE ONGAR TOWN FESTIVAL!

Readers of ONGAR NEWS who have taken (or will be taking) photographs of the many activities going on there during the day are invited to submit a photo which you feel expresses a happy community aspect of the day in our FOTO FEST CONTEST.

Read these simple rules in order to qualify:

1. Submit one photograph only which can be either in black and white or colour.

2. The photo resolution should be at 300dpi or if you are using a smartphone taken at maximum resolution.
3. It must be a photograph which you have taken. 4. It can be taken at any one of the various Festival sites

7. Runner up and third place prizes of £25 and £10 respectively will also be awarded

News' Tireless Editor

it should be that way in press, my answer to your question would be "Best not"

The paper are methodical when it comes to advertising as well. 'We have never seeked advertisement. People come to us. They come with ads because they know the paper is popular and that other advertisers have done well with it. We have to be careful though, we don't want full page adverts. For every page full of adverts, we want to have two pages of text. We should charge more for full page adverts, it's something I've

It's not easy. I wouldn't like to say, 'Oh yes, anyone could do it'. You'd need a natural ability to write and speak good English. No amount of training can ever induce a natural ability into somebody"

Referring to advertisements still, Edwyn can see why local papers have declined, 'People don't really want to buy newspapers anymore, so the appetite for companies to advertise with them is low, and the price to advertise set by the paper is high'. He refers to the decline of local news as 'Death by a thousand cuts'.

He certainly isn't keen on large newsgroups either, 'It's a mistake made when a single group takes over numerous local areas. The middle section of their papers are all the same, but only the middle and first few pages make it feel local to the specific area'

'Area papers deserve to die'

In all honesty, a newsgroup took away

Ongar News' main competitor, 'The Ongar Gazette were a part of The Brentwood Gazette but that group sort of just pakced up and went home. There's also The Epping Forest Guardian, but they're part of a larger group which also includes Loughton and Woodford. It's just never ending. I refer to these papers as "Area papers".

My neighbour calls me 'The paper' boy' as I drop the paper to his door step on the day of publication"

Anyone reading this now would be forgiven for thinking Edwyn isn't the most optimistic about local journalism, but he does see advantages, 'It's very communal. A young lad won our Writer of The Year award a few years ago, and said he wanted to become a journalist. We helped him join the NCTJ course at Harlow, and helped with some of the costs of his materials and resources. He ended up with the Braintree and Witham

Times. We are happy to do that for anyone who wants a lift up in Journalism. The flexibility is another advantage, for me as a retired volunteer anyway. There is no typical day at work, I split my time between writing and editing. We all work smoothly together; it's efficient as you like'

But for Edwyn, who used to work for a national magazine

Edwyn's well kept garden (Below), and

right, an example of how the paper keep

advertisements limited.

in the past, there is enjoyment in the challenge, 'I am just happy to write things as required, make new ideas for the paper, talk to contributors. The writing comes naturally. I enjoy the management side of it as well'

One thing he doesn't enjoy though is residents of the town all submitting in their letters, tip-offs and opinions close to the deadline.

The interesting part of Edwyn's challenge is that 'It just has to be done, there has to be something there every month, something said. The material and content is there, sometimes it is a case of what's more important? It's about the treatment of different information, you could treat a serious story in a flippant manner. Is it what the reader wants? Is it acceptable? Eventually, it comes down to how it's all treated.

From meeting, it's clear Edwyn runs a tight ship at Ongar News. A passionate man, with an eye for the community. Keep it up Mr. Gilmour!

FROM THE EDITORS

There's Life in the Old Town Again

Anyone who has seen old photographs of Ongar will be familiar with scenes such as the street party for King George V in 1910 which ran the length of the town centre, and more recently photographs of some of the huge parades such as the Scouts on St George's Day or the Ongar Carnival in its heyday. So, it's good that with the Ongar Town Festival which, through its broad coverage and good support, we have the evidence that at heart Ongar still has a strongly-beating heart not to mention the brains and the muscle-power that go with it. We would like to think that newcomers to Ongar will feel some of the same pride in the place as those who have lived here for some time have done

Unwelcome Signs at the Four Wantz

As far as we aware, Ongar residents don't tour the county putting up poster boards miles away about Ongar events weeks ahead, so the question we ask is why publicity-minded activists from miles away are permitted to string their notices up on the railings round the sides of the Four Wantz roundabout.

Quite apart from anything else, bold signs deliberately placed at motorist's eye-level are an obvious danger to all on our largest and busiest roundabout. In past years the District Council would automatically remove such notices, even if displayed on private property. Why not now?

Planning Pains

Two cases of local firms carrying out development or modification of their premises without planning permission have been in the news lately. We cannot say that we are sympathetic with those concerned who have to demolish their illegal constructions or pay severe penalties for their transgressions. But we do wonder if at some stage of a business's progress towards establishing itself, it receives official advice and warnings on these natters before it starts trading.

More Hands to the Pump

To cope with the continually increasing demands being made upon the willing volunteers that comprise the ONGAR NEWS team as the paper's influence expands, we welcome two new members to the team, both of whom are known in the area. Kate Carr is now aiding and abetting Lorna in the Roving Reporter's field and Tonia Hart is providing valuable help when copy typing needs are excessive. We warmly welcome them to the team

Rubbish Matters

It is good to see that the rubbish bins in the area behind the library, which were unhelpfully damaged by gormless vandals, have been replaced. Now that the town's CCTV is being revived it might not be long before we can see who they, or their successors, are.

Errors in this magazine are placed there solely for the pleasure of those who wish to find them.

Refuse and Recycling Collections Wednesday 1st May Refuse & Green Waste Wednesday 8th May Recycling & Green Wa Wednesday 15th May Refuse & Green Waste Wednesday 22nd May Recycling & Green Wa Wednesday 29th May Refuse & Green Waste

or more information the waste help-line number is 01992 5646 Information correct at time of going to press

Recycling & Green Wa

0800

Useful National Numbers

Wednesday 5th June

Age UK

Alzheimer's Society Citizens Adviceline 03444 77 Childline 0845 988 Environment Agency Floodline fealth Watch Essex Police RSPCA Samaritans 0300 123 01245 3 Silverline 0800 470 SSAFA/Forces Help 07867 3

Have your say in ONGAR NEWS? Write to us al ongamews@btinternet.com or drop hand-written article John Sear Estate Agent in Ongar High Street by 10th o month.







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Our journalism courses have been the starting point for many of the UK's leading journalists.

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All our tutors are highly experienced journalists bringing the very latest knowledge and techniques from today's digital newsrooms into the classroom. A true testament to the quality of our training is that many national, regional and local news providers send their new journalists to train with us.

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Next course: February 22nd, 2019 NEW

17-Week Full-Time NCTJ News/Magazine

Reporting

Next course: August 19th, 2019

17-Week Full-Time NCTJ Sports Reporting

Next course: August 19th 2019

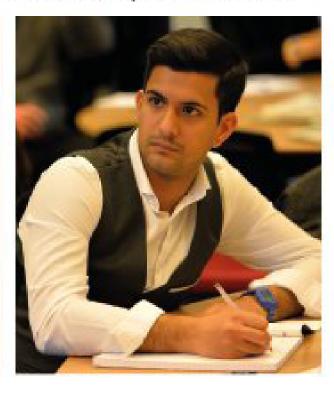
36-Week Part-Time NCTJ News/Magazine

Reporting

Next course: September 17th 2019

36-Week Part-Time NCTJ Sports Reporting

Next course: September 17th 2019





"The course really does give you the best possible platform to build a successful career in journalism, it prepares you for everything you could possibly face in a modern-day newsroom.

I believe PA Training's reputation has helped me make early career moves to the Croydon Advertiser and to BBC News.

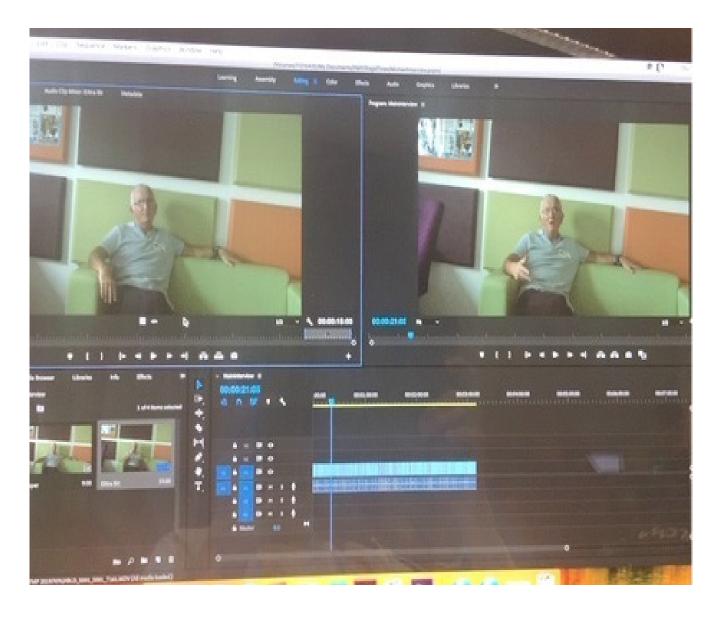
Not a day goes by where I am not grateful to the tutors for pushing me out of my comfort zone."

> Thomas Mackintosh, BBC London News





But what did Michael have to say about when the site started up, the economics behind local newspapers and his true motivation behind running YourHarlow? Open HP reveal on an iPad or Phone and hover over the image below to find out.



The definition of local news

With 60-70 published stories a week, all covering a range of politics, sports, arts and anything in between, YourHarlow is an online news site you can trust!



Since it's launch in July 2013, this news outlet site has grown and grown. Just like it's sister site, YourThurrock, it is fuelled by local, passionate people.

So what are you waiting for?

Give the site a visit today! For all the latest on the town, go to YourHarlow.com





YourHarlow fully supports and subscribes to the Press Complaints Commission Editor's Code of Practice. Like the BBC, this newspaper is not responsible for the content of external internet sites. Re-tweets are not necessarily an endorsement.. Your Harlow is run by Hyperlocal News Limited. YourThurrock is also a member of the Hyperlocal Alliance



Gemma Gardner

The former Harlow Star Journalist sheds light on her move away from them, her new role elsewhere and why she she is passionate about the job she does.

"I love being able to give a voice to those who feel like they have one and holding to account public bodies and local governments"

'I am the news editor'. Gemma doesn't beat around the bush, she is straight to the facts, as her answer to my question of 'What do you do at The Cambridge Independent' foreshadows.

A confident and charismatic character who's 'Always been a bit of a news junkie', Gemma learned journalism was the thing for her during her second year at The University of Liverpool, when she secured 'The front page splash' twice during a six-week placement at a local paper. 'It made me feel like I could give a voice to those who otherwise didn't or don't have one'

She went straight to work in 2007, for the Hertfordshire Mercury, after completing her NCTJ diploma at Harlow College. Despite attaining a BA (Hons Degree), finishing a post-grad fast track course – the NCTJ – and completing her NQJ (Then called the NCE) IN 2009, Gemma thinks local news was where she learned the most.

Asked if she'd recommend going straight into local news post-study, she said 'I would. Local news is the best training ground for anyone aspiring to be a journalist. You will be exposed to an array of different stories and people, which will give you a good grounding should you choose to specialise'

The 35-year old, who's Twitter bio claims her to be a 'Tea drinker' and a 'Heavy metal fan', eventually ended up at The Harlow Star. The Star is no longer a functioning paper, having ceased publication in January of this year. A Google search of 'The Harlow Star' will take you to Essex Live and it's 'Harlow' section. However, this 'Harlow' section often has little articles about the Essex town, which was first developed after World War Two to prevent overcrowding of London. Gemma was happy to explain the goings on around her former employers when she left them...

'I left the Harlow Star in 2016 to join Iliffe Media and be part of the team to launch the Cambridge Independent. Shortly before I left the Harlow Star there were a number of redundancies.

It was clear when I left that the direction of the paper had changed. Trinity Mirror, who owned the paper and are now called Reach plc, wanted a greater focus on driving traffic to the website.

The Harlow Star was incredibly popular still, but it had suffered due to numerous cuts, such as it's distribution and a reduction in pagination.

Luckily for Gemma, there was no gap between jobs. But many other journalists haven't been so lucky. In The USA, it is estimated (By The Wall Street Journal) that around 1,800 papers have been shut down since 2004. That equals a lot of jobs, showing

no journalist, especially those in local news, are safe. But Gemma, isn't just safe. Her colleagues are flourishing, and she is just one small part of a well-oiled machine.

Cambridge

The paper has seen brilliant success at The National News Awards, where it has won 'Weekly Newspaper of the Year' three times on the spin between 2017 and 2019; quite impressive given the paper only launched in September 2016.

Judges of the award were in high praise this year, stating that '[The] beast of a title regularly hits 128 pages in its fabulous, neatly stitched and trimmed format on higher grade paper.

A quality feel with striking covers and beautiful design makes this weekly feel like a magazine.

This newspaper covers absolutely all areas of interest.'

Moving onto how local newsgroups could be helped, Gemma thinks 'There is more that can be done to support local newspaper groups. Many councils still pay to produce in-house magazines – at the cost of the taxpayer – despite having local papers in their areas'. On the other hand, Gemma also thinks her fellow journalists and other big corporations 'Are not very good at selling [them] selves and the great work [they] do'

Gemma also comes across very optimistic in person, and has the same outlook regarding the state of local journalism, 'Of course people who care about local journalism can help (it's decline).

The Cambridge Independent proved that. We launched a paid-for paper against a climate of cuts and we're having huge success with it. And it's not just us. People are launching hyper-local products across the country where big news organisations have pulled out and they are seeing success.

It shows that people still value high quality journalism. I think what's important is that media organisations ensure that their products reflect a local audience and not be drawn into relying on national matters to draw traffic'



groups take to 'Local' reporting

"But this paper has been kind, with small, side-bar articles dedicated to the crimes of Harlow on pages four, five and seven. This is a huge upgrade on Essex Live"

Page Four holds two crime stories, which, in all honesty, is pleasing. A worrying number of local papers effectively leave blots on their local area by highlighting crime on the front pages or in page two. But this paper has been kind, with small, side-bar articles dedicated to the crimes of Harlow on pages four, five and seven. This is a huge upgrade on Essex Live, who, until a recent meeting, posted loads of crime stories on the 'Harlow' section of their website, when the stories were not even occurring in Harlow.

Unfortunately, there is a piece that fails the dreaded Google Search. Matthew Critchell, states on page three that 'Staff on Gibberd ward at the Princess

The Harlow Guardian

9th May 2019

I took a good look at Epping Forest Guardian's 'Harlow Guardian' issue for May the 9th. In this review, I will look at the aesthetics, style of writing, the content covered and be running a dreaded Google test on some of the main articles.

The first thing you see on a paper is the front cover. I am impressed here. There is an even spread of, what seems to be, local news. Included is the Rugby club, the local election results and a mention of a charity in Harlow that has ceased.

Page Two contains an informative article about a clean-up in Harlow, which follows the desired structure of a news piece. However, I am then alarmed by the lack of an author for the article on Page 3. Shame, as it's a good article.

Alexandra Hospital put music therapy in action'... interestingly, YourHarlow, the more trusted and genuine local news outlet, used those exact words first. It continues for pretty much the rest of the article. It's copied word-for-word.

The one difference? Matthew puts a statistic about dementia at the end of his article, whereas YourHarlow's has it at the start. I feel Matthew could have at least researched some of his own stats, or perhaps contacted someone at the hospital for a separate comment. This is not a case of Matthew Critchell being a word-stealing monster. It's just the nonsensical approach newsgroups take to 'Local' reporting, in an area they

Patients with mild to severe dementia, those without dementia, their carers and together with staff enjoyed a musical stroll down memory lane, with favourite s spanning the 1930s to the 1960s. The melodies of Somewhere over the rainbow River and I'd do anything sounded around the Gibberd unit, and whether bedb patients could take part, with family and staff joining in.

The blatantly similar wording between YourHarlow's article (R) and Matthew Critchell's in The Guardian (L) proves it: The Guardian doesn't have local writers attending and covering every local event.

aren't even local to.

It's a shame, as a few copied articles, and the irrelevant sport pages aside, the paper does have a local feel. There are informative articles, on

mainly soft but important community occurrances. If I was less aware of YourHarlow, I'd be a regular buyer. But it's not the best.

A paper with promise, but frustrating negatives.

Patients with mild to severe dementia, their carers and family members, together with staff enjoyed a musical stroll down memory lane, with favourite songs from the past, spanning the 1930s to the 1960s.

The melodies of Somewhere over the Rainbow, Edelweiss, Moon River and I'd do anything sounded around the Gibberd unit, and whether bedbound or with limited movement, patients could take part, with family and staff joining in.

"The paper does have a local feel, but it's not the best"



"Like a young child's teeth, it's full of gaps and doesn't look very neat"

The Epping Forest Guardian: April the 25th 2019



Epping Forest Guardian may have their Harlow project underway, but how good is their own paper? Read on.



I ran a dreaded Google test to find out what this article is all about. I was not surprised to see the article is mainly copied.

Putting the quotes in here that match an existing Essex Gazette article would waste space, so I will just finish on this.

The 'Epping

Forest Guardian'
has a story on
IT'S FIRST INSIDE
PAGE, that is
about CHELMSFORD.
There is no writer of the article
stated, and the
majority of the
article is copied

Final verdict:
A rushed, under
cooked summary of
what's going on
in Epping, with
news from anywhere but Epping.
Not good at all.

To me, that front cover makes a bad impression. Gaps are prominen in the headline, as well as the side stories. I know it's only Epping, so there isn't a wealth of news choice, but I find it very poor that the main headline can't stretch the whole page.

Gaps are less on the second page, but within the page's first paragraph, there is confusing wording. It states "NEW police recruits proudly 'passed out' during a special ceremony at our HQ in Chelmsford". 'Our' HQ? Who's HQ? This article isn't clearly written by someone from Essex Police, and Newsquest London, who own the Epping Forest Guardian, doesn't have it's HQ in the area of Chelmsford.

If the opening paragraph doesn't even make sense, how can one be expected to read the rest of the article, let alone the rest of the paper?



Another page, this one towards the middle, has the same problem: Gaps in the headline, articles without writers and news that really isn't that local. Oops.



Samuel Glanz

EFFICIENT, SUCCESSFUL, A MASTER COMMUNICATOR

COMMENT

Being a Media Officer at the Department of Education can be a very busy and very difficult job. But I would recommend it, working for the civil service. It's a challening, entry level post for people looking to go into media work, and gives you a good training ground. But there's a lot to be said for going into local news too. Local news is important, both to readers and to the important people in government, who always look to engage with the local media.

It's a shame that local papers aren't as strong as they used to be, and certainly not as strong as national, larger papers anymore. The alternative is online news, which it's important people be wary of. I work in media so I'd like to think I would spot something that may or may not be accurate, but for some, it's not as easy. Some news outlets are obviously click-based, and fake stories exist at the bottom after the real article, some people wouldn't see that and think it is real news.

My job is to proactively promote government policies. The reactive desk in Government media operate like a normal press office. They'll be approached by journalists with questions, and the desk will respond with statements. As for me, I work on policy announcements three to six weeks before they are made. It is my job to make sure they run smoothly, perhaps devising tactics or crafting word for word how the politicians are going to speak when announcing the policy. It can be two ways, either a positive thing that they are implementing, or something that may have a negative impact, in which case I will try to manage the impacts and reduce negativity.

So as you can imagine, I work with the media a lot. I don't think it has actually changed that much in the last four years, the people anyway, they're still good natured humans just doing their job. But the big change is in regional news, where resources are clearly diminishing. It was quite easy in my first PR job to get a journalist to come out to where you wanted them if you had a good story. Now, even if you have a



government minister going to a local school, it's a struggle to get a local journalist there, as most of the firms they work for just don't have the numbers anymore.

I've always been strongly interested in the media and how it works, the inner workings of how news gets into our papers and onto our TV screens. I've always liked writing too, so a job in which I could apply that to appealed to me.

I have grown interested in, and been edcuated in education policy and politics in general. It is exciting working right in the centre of all that; I am involved in planning for things that aren't yet public knowledge. It's very interesting and a nice position to be in. Discussing with those in government how to transmit new policies to the public can be tough and a big responsibility, but like everyone should feel in their jobs, it spurs me on.

I am essentially a voice of government and can be quoted as a spokesman, it can be a bit nervy, thinking constantly if I have said something even minorly out of line.

But I have no regrets, even if my career path was a bit strange. While studying at Uni, and then furthering my Journalism training at Harlow College, I was doing a bit of sports reporting with Archant. I could link everything I heard in my lectures to it potentially happening in a newsroom. I was learning how to do something one day, then actually doing it in the newsroom a few days after.

actually doing it in the newsroom a few days after.

The skills from the reporting and the NCTJ at Harlow were definitely transferrable to PR and communications. The key skills for PR are quite similar to journalism. You need a strong news sense. I suppose in PR or commercial work it's a bit different. But largely, you're looking to identify things that may be interesting to journalists. I'd say I really enjoyed Harlow, it's facilities and teaching were very beneficial and relevant.

A Blast From The Past:

Making the world a better place and being kind. That's what Lee claims to be his main interests.

He's most likely joking. 'Cycling, West Ham, news and Squash', he eventually tells me. As I had guessed.

Quite the character, Lee is someone with a lot of experience in the Journalism industry.

In a career that spanned from 1974 to 2009 and also included contracted script work for The BBC and ITV, Lee plied his news trade in Fleet Street, for the Stratford Express, The Colchester Gazette, The Sunday Express, The Daily Mirror and The Sun.

NOPE. NOTHING. NO UNI, NO SIXTH FORM I LEFT SCHOOL ON A FRIDAY AND DECIDED I NEEDED A JOB. I SAW AN ADVERTISEMENT ASKING 'DO YOU WANT TO LEARN ABOUT OURNALISM³

Starting as a copy reader in Fleet Street ('God, a copy reader, I sound old now'), Lee was learning the ropes before papers and agencies even went online.

'We'd spend six months training in a copy room. There would be, say 25 reporters, way more than some newspapers these days, and they'd use kids like me, to physically get their stories to national press. We'd stand there and read the stories to the copytakers.

After they then sent the story off to The Evening Standard, they'd rewrite it for the dailies, and we'd have to draft that piece to each daily, sometimes up to eight different papers.'

'IT WAS ABOUT HOW THE STORY WAS STRUCTURED, SO FROM READING IT AGAIN AND AGAIN, AND IN DIFFERENT STRUC-**TURES, US COPYWRITERS WOULD LEARN**

Talking to me, an aspiring Journalist who is entering a technology-reliant field, Lee

Lee Horton

is keen to bring up the sharing of images.

'If there was a goal in the first minute of a football match, the photographer would take the film they'd have just used, give it to a runner, who'd literally run to a house over the road with a telephone line (Rented prior). Then they'd spruce the image up and send it down the line. Whoever got the picture in first would get the money. In the office, you wouldn't see the first photograph till two hours after kick off, and that was just photos taken in the first two minutes. It can be sent by email or bluetooth in 30 seconds now.'

Despite the reputation Fleet Street had, it was 'Massively behind the times, at a time when banking, insurance and the like were integrating new technologies. Newspaper agencies caught up with Fleet Street due to their use of technology. But on a negative, it swept in and caused a lot of job losses. There was little negotiation by a lot of papers, who failed to balance human and technological resources, and as a result lost a lot of staff.'

'FLEET STREET NEWSPAPERS WOULDN'T ACCEPT NEW TECHNOLOGIES, AND ULTIMATELY, IT KILLED THEM

But for the former journalist, who resisted the temptation to move towards his workplace (Having only ever lived in Brentwood, Gidea Park, Collier Row and Chelmsford after being born in Straford E15), his answer to 'Favourite job?' needed no consideration.

'My best role was being Assistant Sports Editor at The Daily Mirror. But my best job for enjoyment was being the Deputy Sports Editor for The Sun. The camaraderie was brilliant, especially with the downtable. I learned a lot there and we turned a lot of pages every week. It really sped me up as a news editor. I was part of a great team. So great that we used to double bank ITV and BBC on a Saturday. Our writing was their style, produced in a quick turnaround period as well. It made me proud that both corporations wanted to use our content.'

Lee claims sport was probably his favourite type of news to cover, 'I started off at The Express at the same time they were making a AND PICK UP THE CORRECT TONES AND USE lot of redundancies. Fortunately, they wanted to keep me on the sports desk. It coincided with West Ham's golden period in the 70s.

> 'I COULD SPRAP AROUND AND WORK MY BEST IN ALL SORTS OF NEWS. I THINK IT'S A NATURAL ABILITY'



Being in an office with John

Lyall (The manager at the

time), whether as the main

something I found worth all the hard graft. This was before the times of social media and post-match managerial interviews, but it still felt strange to be right there in front of the team I support's gaffer. I ended up staying put at The Express and their sports desk. Not bad.'

for that aim to promote the sport in youngsters

Lee photographed in his OTW Squash jacket, a group he works

Not bad at all, especially for a career that began by simply responding to an ad in The Evening Standard, which lead to an interview and test that very weekend, one which he 'Passed with flying colours'.

Advising me to study whatever options get me into local news the soonest, Lee is full of praise for what he calls the 'Real training course in Journalism'

LOCAL NEWS IS A GREAT TRAINING GROUND, A GREAT PLACE TO MAKE MISTAKES. IT'S QUITE VITAL.

"The decline of local news is sad. Working in local news, you can collaborate with some experienced people and ask 'How do you write this?' 'Let's have a chat'. If you take that early stage out, that big area, where do you go? Especially if you're coming straight out of college. It's massive, the important time to learn your craft. Everyone can write, but you have to learn with different styles. Local newspapers are fantastic, although I didn't think it at the time."

He is also radiant in his passion for local news from a readership point of view, 'Local papers were a real chronicle of what's happened in your area, a true record. You can easily find out what happened 100 years ago in your local archives, but over time there will gradually be less and less archives.

Journalism Of Old!

The tricky terms in this piece that you, in some likeliness, haven't heard

of, explained.

- of big newspapers had their offices.
- 'Copy room': Where editors, reporters (And he news for an upcoming publication.
- 'The film': A material inside an old camera on which the photo is developed.
- 'Veracity': The quality of being true or honest.
- 'Journos': Industry slang for 'Journalists'.
- Downtable. Those below the chief and deputy.

Once papers have gone, the quality of Journalism may go down - and for a reason people don't realise - because of how good the training of journalists can be at local level. It's not okay, but if you make a faux pax in local news about race, sexuality or any other sensitive issues, the damage can sometimes be and The Telegraph. He will probably be right. less. But not at a national level, oh no.'

'YOU CAN'T MESS UP ON A NATIONAL LEVEL, THERE IS NO TIME FOR IT. MISTAKES ARE UNAFFORDABLE, WHETHER IT BE IN LIBEL OR A DROP IN REPUTATION **AND THEREFORE SALES'**

A self-proclaimed news junkie, Lee sets his alarm for five-thirty every morning, and spends the first hour of his day 'Trawling through news'. Not Facebook though, as 'Facebook is cack, apart from [his] stuff, obviously'. He scrolls through 'BBC and ITV News, also Fox, so I can get my swearing in for the day nice and early. I hate Trump, so I'll read everything on him, and sometimes bear a recap of his Twitter antics I missed overnight. I'm a huge remainer too.

Which brings me onto Twitter. That site is absolute quality for political insight and opinions. For arguments and reasonable debate, particularly about Brexit, Twitter is the one. My account follows around 200 people, most of them political. You could say I'm a bit obsessed with my phone, but it's newsbased, so it's not a disastrous habit to be in.'

Lee pictured thitting a straight drive from the back corner dust an hour after conducting our interview. Impeccable technique, and a convincing 3-0 win over his opponent to boot

For someone keen on news and appreciative of working in local journalism, surely there's an opinion there on how local and national newspapers could be boosted in popularity again? 'Well, it's funny, as I have an opinion on everything. This matter particularly. For news papers to become popular again they're going to have to adapt.

Daily Mail have probably got it right, that balance between online and print. It's spot on, but they had deep pockets to be able to carry it for four or five years.

I remember being at a talk lead by Rupert Murdoch. It was at The Sun, 20 years ago. He said that in 30 years there would only be The Sun, who were the market leader at the time, The Mail, his soon-to-own-paper The Times,

THE GUARDIAN ONLINE AND MAIL ONLINE TAKE UP MOST OF MY TIME. THE TIMES IS EXCELLENT TOO, EASILY MY CHOICE' OF PHYSICAL, HAND-READ NEWSPAPER'

For example, The Express is on it's last legs at 600,000. You can't survive on that. In all but name, a lot of big newspapers are dead'

Lee almost shrugs off the notion that the government can step in and help, 'It needs entrepreneurs. I suppose the government could help, but who would embrace it? They're short of money as it is. It needs journalists with a few quid to privatise and fund projects. But it's difficult, as we've got into the habit of not paying for things. Freebies, free online news, social media. Local newspapers do flourish in some areas though, but what the magic ingredient is, I just could not tell you!'

The industry has changed a lot since Lee left it, 'Big newspapers have cut back a lot, that is

1 GET INVITED TO A LOT OF LEAVING DO'S NOWADAYS. MOSTLY JOURN

Journalists have to be a lot more versatile now. A sports reporter has to video for their vlog, write an on-the-whsitle report, take pictures and write a rephrased piece for their employer's online news site. It's endless.

I mean, Press Association didn't do other sports journalists a favour. They could afford, and so decided to start sending multiple reporters to all levels of sport, and expecting everything of them: the report; the page design; the website articles, the video report. In one fatal swoop, they removed lots of other jobs.

It used to be cutthroat for the stories, now it's cutthroat for jobs! A ruthless trade indeed.

"EVEN WITH THE DEADLINES, WHICH **WOULD F***** KILL YOU SOMETIMES, JOURNALISM WAS NEVER ALL BAD**

'It took a while, but other people's passion eventually rubbed off on me. You buy into the deadlines, you just have to get the story in on time! You get the hint of a story, and it becomes all-consuming. You have to get the story together. There was nothing better than getting a worldie of a story over your



Come on You Irons! A huge West Ham fan, Lee is pictured above with the 2014-15 squad during pre-season.

YOU NEED DIFFERENT PRODUCTS TO BE POPULAR, THE MAIL'S ONLINE AND PRINT VERSIONS ARE COMPLET DIFFERENT. IT'S ABOUT REINVENTING YOURSELF.

something I have noticed. Technology obviously helps with that. I'd say it's more streamline now. But the quality writers stay, the talented columnists, the ones who write pieces artistically, because newspapers need an identity.

colleagues and mates. It felt better than the bonus or the payrise that came with it.'

An established journalist with undeniable passion, who also offers excellent company and laughs, 62 year-old Lee Horton isn't too shabby for 'An old git'.



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VIEW FROM THE TRAINING GROUND

TRAINING MANAGER AT PRESS ASSOCIATION, TINA MORAN, ON EDUCATING IN JOURNALISM

How does someone who has edited a national newspaper, run successful editorial teams, headed up an expanding digital team and covered huge stories, decide to give it up and switch their focus to helping younger people, often branded lazy, ignorant and naive? Tina was not only focused, but determined, to train:

'I had achieved everything I set out to in newspapers in 36 years. I wanted to use my extensive background in the industry and my enthusiasm for the job to help guide the next generation of trainee reporters'

And Tina does so, at Press Association, who have been churning out successful aspiring journalists with newly attained NCTJ (National Council of Training Journalists) degrees for an impressive amount of time.

Studying the NCTJ Diploma herself at Richmond College of Further Education in Sheffield, Tina was sure of what she wanted to do, having 'Never considered any other profession', with her interest in Journalism stemming from her father and uncle's roles at the Daily Express in photography and reporting, respectively.

But since Tina walked into the role of Trainee Reporter at The Bristol Evening Post, the industry has changed massively. But the teaching methods haven't, 'Not so much our methods, more the range of skills that we teach.

We now incorporate more digital techniques and expect our trainees to contribute to our in-house news website. We also deliver sessions in pod-casting, filming on phones, social media, infographics, writing for the web and other skills relevant for the modern digital newsroom. However, the basics of knowing how to write clear, concise, accurate copy are still at the root of everything we teach.'

It is imperative representatives of the media attend local meetings, consultations, tribunals etc where influential decisions are being made that affect the community

Tina and her colleagues find themselves in an interesting position, as many students arrive with perhaps

confusing skillsets, 'Trainees come to us and they might read their news in short snippets, but they seem to want to write their news in a much wordier way! Most trainees come fresh from university where they were asked to write essays and dissertations - the polar opposite discipline to writing short, sharp, concise news stories. Few trainees come to us with social media skills - they may read news on Twitter but have no idea how to compose a newsy tweet. All own a mobile phone but many would not know how to film, edit and post a news video using it.

Having said that, some now come to us already proficient in pod casting or blogging, which are helpful skills to know.' Despite the increased dependence on technology and the increased monopoly in the industry, Tina does not think local journalism is in trouble:

'People will always be interested in what is going on in their backyards; it is up to local publications to promote the content they have. To circulate important stories, purveyors of local journalism need to keep up to speed and tap into whatever platform local people are using to stay informed about their neighbourhood. Of course, there is the increasing issue of declining advertising revenue which has had a massive effect on the financial viability of all newspapers and magazines.'

Having learned her trade in a local newsroom, Tina was keen to elaborate on how she feels about the decline in local journalism, 'Local publications have been in decline for decades with many closing fully, and some others switching to weekly, monthly or completely online release. Jobs have been lost and the opportunities for young journalists to start their careers on local titles have diminished. Sometimes the business strategies used to keep these publications afloat (staff cutting, working to fixed templates, etc) can be harsh but if the alternative is the closure of titles then these are often preferable solutions.'

I like the satisfaction of watching a trainee journalist develop writing skills and discover how by asking the right questions in an interview they can write a great piece.

Journalism is not an easy industry to get into, but Tina never stops giving the same advice, 'Try to secure work experience and be willing to work any hour of the day or night. Offer to work in the newsroom on Sundays, evenings, Christmas Day, summer holidays. Every journalist has done all these hours (I have worked on more Christmas Days than I care to remember!) so don't start asking for cosy weekday hours, it won't go down well'

Following on from what she earlier said, Tina thinks it is better that the government stay away, "The Government could provide more financial support for young people coming into journalism through loans. But you want news outlets to maintain impartiality and not perhaps promote a political party that has been a benefactor. They are, quite comfortably, not the answer'

Tina admits she misses the buzz of a newsroom, as well as the camadrerie she had with her teams. 'Interesting' was the word she used to describe the dynamic in the workplace, especially at local level:

'There is just as much soft news at national level as there is at local. Local news may affect fewer people, but it's still as important. A journalist on a local paper can be a big fish in a small pond and their stories can have far more impact on their readership than something at national level. Most journalists at national level came up through the locals and will all say it is the best introduction you can possibly have to the profession. The contacts you make help you get the most exclusive stories at local level, whereas at national level there is more competition so the exclusivity isn't there.

THE HISTORY OF HARLOW'S PAPERS

WORDS BY MICHAEL CASEY

I think people miss the day when a printed paper, full of community stories, came through their letter box. Whether it was The Harlow Citizen, Herald or Star. They miss those days.

And these were papers that had between 50 nd 100 local news stories within.

I am trying to carry on this level of news coverage with *YourHarlow*, and would like to think I am succeeding. As you may have seen in this issue, *YourHarlow* has grown and grown, with many people recognising it as Harlow's most reliable news outlet.

Harlow can be seen as a microcosm, a perfect example of what has happened to news in recent times. Fierce competition for local newspapers has dwindled, to the point where many outlets have stopped operating altogether.

I run my own race and cover as much as I can, but I am very conscious that there is a lot I miss out on.

Anyway, here is a brief write up on three former Harlow news outlets.

The Harlow Citizen

was launched in 1953. It amalgamated with the Harlow Gazette (founded in 1950) in 1973 and was renamed the *Harlow Gazette and Citizen*. It reverted to the *Harlow Gazette* title in 1980, briefly became the *Harlow Citizen Gazette* in 1989 and finally readopted the *Harlow Citizen* title the following year.

At the time of its demise in 2008 it was published by Newsquest (North & East London) from editorial offices in Epping.

The Harlow Herald

was a weekly free sheet tabloid newspaper for the New Town of Harlow and surrounding parts of western Essex, including the nearby town of Sawbridgeworth.

It started in 1970 as the Harlow edition of the Classified, and was renamed the *Harlow & Epping Classified* in 1976. In 1986 it was

renamed the Harlow and District News & Classified, but only for four issues, after which it became the Harlow and District Classified & News. A relaunch in 1989 saw it renamed the Harlow & Epping Herald & Post; Epping was dropped from the title in early 1990 but restored in October 1991. It was renamed simply The Herald in 1993 and split into various editions from then until its demise.

It was replaced in September 2010 by the *Harlow Scene*, a "newszine". The url now redirects to the Scene's website.

The Harlow Star was launched in 1980 by Stephen Austin Newspapers Ltd. In 1983 it was renamed the *Harlow and Epping Star* and appeared for the next five years in two editions: "H" and "E". Then in 1988 the *Epping Star* started publication as a separate title, leaving the *Harlow Star* to resume its separate existence. Originally a free sheet, only 1.2% of copies were sold through the news trade.

Sadly, as online Journalism and 'Click-bait Journalism' grew in popularity, The Harlow Star began to change, and was eventually handed over to Trinity Mirror (Now called Reach PLC) in 2015. Offices were moved to Hertford, and a lot of Harlow-based journalists lost their jobs. Despite this, newspaper deliveries of The Star continued while 'Harlow' stories could also be found online, until January 2019 when the paper itself ceased publication. Now, a Google search of 'Harlow Star' brings you to the 'Harlow' section of Essex Live. But I won't get started on that ...

And so onto modern

times ... I believe groups like Reach PLC are simply putting in print what is popular on line. They could publish a press release from Essex Police on a number of platforms and by a number of reporters. Even their business team would tweet it out. It will be read and read and read. They may well look at the iron law of page views, shares and likes and say that their outlet is popular. It's all about the numbers.

Their Facebook page, if you looked right now, will be dominated by generic stories. But it won't matter.

You will no longer see reporters at council meetings, community awards, theatre shows, local business exhibitions etc. That is their call and they may well point to the paper packed full of adverts being distributed to 20 to 30,000 homes as a sign of their success and an endorsement of the way they operate.

It's not a sustainable long term model, but they are industry experts who are just trying to make money for their shareholders. We must make sure to remember that these are private businesses.

There are local printed papers surviving and thriving. It's not completely dead and buried

In conclusion, I cannot see a return to the days when a free printed paper with 100 plus stories is delivered to 30,000 plus homes in Harlow.

I can see a paid for paper that you can buy from hubs, that is marketed in an imaginative way. However, I am not here to sell or promote a business model.

I am just a 56-year-old reporter ekeing out a living, posting between 60 to 70 stories about Harlow each week. I am happy with my niche and I do what I can.

And I will continue to attend council meetings, court, crime scenes, community events, theatre performances, award nights, interviews with politicians, sports events etc. No job beneath, no job above.

But I do feel for those, older than me, who liked a paper being delivered or going up to the hatch to buy one. It was just another re-affirmation that they were still here and engaging wth their community.

The decline is sad, but the world still goes round.

Right. Enough of this pity party. Off to the next story....

Callum Hibberd

A FINAL WORD

COMMENT

It appears that local news is a defiant, determined and well-oiled machine. Despite the growing influence of technology, the forever enlarging reliance on social media and handheld or desktop devices and the increased price of newsprint, local newspapers are not going to die out any soon. There may be less glamour attached to it than ever before, but it's flourishing, in some ways at least.

This is something I am pleased to have learned, given what I have been told about it. As Tina Moran, Lee Horton and Michael Casey all said, it appears to be the best training ground for aspiring journalists. You can learn from experienced people, get a grouding for specialising and you can make mistakes. Mistakes are aplenty in local newspapers and on local news websites, but that's the beauty of it. It's a simple, yet important method of keeping up with what's going on in your local community.

As someone who has always lived completely out in the sticks, perhaps I am biased. I don't know first hand how gossip can travel in a small town/large village, but information in a written, organised form, that is written by someone who is paid to do it, seems far better than through-the-grapevine conversation.

Yes, as myself and some of the contributors have stated, local news isn't always the kindest to it's journalists, and sometimes follows an unsustainable business model, but it deserves to live on.

We need people like Michael Casey, who put their all into local news. But we also need people like Matthew Critchell, who deliver news to wider platforms, perhaps in unjust ways, merely to carry out the task his bosses set hin. At the end of the day, he needs to be paid and his employers need to make money. And what is it they say? That money makes the world go round. It's up to you how you want to stay with the current affairs, just go about it carefully.



The preceding image shows who has guided me through an important phase of my life. Harlow College, and it's Journalism department. If I could go back to the Callum of August 2017, I would still tell him to study UAL - *Level 3 Creative Media Production - Journalism* at Harlow College. I have learned some key skills during the two years and enjoyed the tasks I have been given. While Adobe inDesign can be frustrating as anything, I am glad to have started using it early, giving me somewhat of a headstart over other aspiring Journalists who may studied A-Levels and not even heard of the software. A huge thank you must go to Tom Graham, for being such a down-to-earth personality and helpful teacher, as well as Bill Shaw, Naomi Channell and Lewis Heritage, three incredibly experienced and knowledgeable people who have guided my classmates and I with tutorials, advice and on-hand help with any issues we have had.



There have been many laughs during the two years I spent on this course. Most of them have been during moments where the work is challenging, and complete concentration is required. A baffling logic, but one that has produced memories I will cherish for a lifetime. Whether it be Matt or Charlie - who will undoubtedly be my friends for life - and their hilarious offhand comments, or the two Will's and their completely bizarre approach to everyday life, there are anecdotes and stories aplenty to take out of this time in my life. I wish everyone the best of luck, particularly Will Spalding, Chloe and Elana, who are continuing their journalism studies at Harlow College next year with the NCTJ. Another milestone in life has been reached, and my passion for writing grows ever stronger.

"You cannot swim for new horizons until you have courage to lose sight of the shore"
- William Faulkner

Hopefully you enjoyed reading this magazine. Despite a difficult start to this project, I picked myself up quickly, re-adapted my idea, and made the most of what I could work with. This is a trait I hope to carry through my studies, whether it be on an internship with BBC, studying an undergraduate/NCTJ course at Newsroom Associates, or an intensive fast-track NCTJ diploma with Press Association. No matter what, Harlow College will always be the place I started off (What I hope to be) a good career in Journalism.

All the best,

Callum

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Not just courses, careers

Next Open Day - Monday the 1st of July, 7PM