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The Voice of the Community

UPMINSTER & CRANHAM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Green Light for Front Lane Crossing



Following the community campaign earlier this year to install a pedestrian crossing in Front Lane, the actions turned into reality last month when the Highways Advisory Committee, following consultation, unanimously agreed to proceed with the installation. The campaign was initiated by local resident Simon Ward following a number of collisions at the location near Kings Gardens, the most recent involving a 12-year-old schoolboy. Over 1,000 residents signed a petition to introduce a safe crossing point for the many school children and elderly residents who use the route going to schools, the doctor's surgery and the Cranham community centre.

I attended the Highways Advisory Committee meeting along with local resident Jonathan Walsh, where Jonathan addressed the committee in support of the proposal.

Front Lane is a very busy route where excessive speed has been an ongoing issue. The crossing will not only provide safe passage for residents, but will have the additional advantage of slowing traffic down along this stretch of road. The community have been totally behind this campaign and it is testimony to the marvellous collective efforts of residents that the much needed crossing, to be placed near Dorkins Way, will now become a reality. Well done to all! Work on the crossing, which is funded by Transport for London, is expected to be complete early next year.

Cllr CLARENCE BARRETT

The *Bulletin* - the Voice of the Community

The Bulletin has been the Voice of the Community for many years and we are very proud of the publication. Feedback from residents has always been very positive and we always seek to update residents with what is going on in our community. The cost of Bulletin is met through advertising revenue while the £2 annual membership allows us to make donations to local good causes and charities, undertake community campaigns (eg travellers site, proposed housing developments on Green Belt land), support Friends groups (eg Cranham Friends Association,

Friends of Upminster Mini-Golf Course), hire meeting rooms and undertake some general administration. We very much value the role of the many voluntary groups in the area and have a long record of encouraging and supporting such groups. Here is a list of just some of the groups have been supported through donations over recent years: All local Senior, Junior and Infant Schools, Cranham Friends Association, Friends of Upminster Windmill, Age Concern, First Step Children's Charity, Brunswick Court, Little Haven Children's Hospice, Friends of Upminster Park, All Saints Church, Upminster Methodist Church, Cranham Community Centre, Scouts, Guides, Brownies, Pond Walk, Kids Alive, Cranham Youth Group, Cranham Over-60s Club, Royal British Legion, Storm Elite Majorettes, Trinity Church, St Francis Hospice, British Heart Foundation, Upminster Police Team, Friends' of Clockhouse Gardens, Avon Rd shopkeepers and many, many more.

We have been supporting the establishment of Harold Wood Residents' Association by providing Bulletins. This has resulted in the election of 3 Harold Wood Residents' Association Councillors and the Harold Wood Association is now beginning to deliver returns to the Upminster and Cranham Residents' Association.

I hope you agree that the success of the Bulletin is not just down to a newsletter once a month, but also the desire of your councillors and associated members to make Upminster and Cranham a better place to live and where residents stand at the heart of the community. As we have always said, putting the interests of our residents first and foremost is our guiding principle and will always continue to be.

Cllr RON OWER

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London City Airport

Further to the item on City Airport and the planned changes to flight paths affecting parts of Havering in last months *Bulletin*, I am pleased to report that in response to a Council Motion put down by our Residents Group in November, there was unanimous support for seeking an extension to the consultation process to allow residents to have their say. The Leader of the Council has written a strongly worded letter to City Airport operators asking for the consultation period to be extended until the end of January. Redbridge and Waltham Forest Councils have written similar letters on this. These changes will have the effect of narrowing the flight paths used by City Airport so that some parts of the Borough will have a reduction in noise and disturbance while others will have a significant increase. The Council is planning to invite the City Airport operators to hold a public meeting in Havering so that the details of parts of the

Borough that will be affected can be illustrated and residents views considered. There are ways to mitigate some of this by having what is called 'respite' which means different flight paths being used on different days to spread the impact. I will keep you updated on this.

Cllr LINDA VAN DEN HENDE

Christmas Lights

This year's Upminster Christmas Lights event again went off very well - by spreading the event out, we avoided the crowds in one spot. Children particularly enjoyed the elf hats which they collected stickers for and the activities on show including free rides at Bell School.

We would especially like to thank Waitrose, for their free mince pies, T. Cribb and Sons for bringing along their ponies and a donkey, Time FM Radio for the music, Beresfords for hot drinks - also the Rotary club, Havering Museum and our Windmill. The organ outside the Corbets Tey

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Police office sounded great. Many thanks to the Council Officer Perry Brooker who organizes ours and all the other events in Havering.

Cllr LINDA HAWTHORN

Lexington Way Planning Proposal

An outline planning application P.1596.14 has been submitted to the Council to develop the green at the rear of Lexington Way and Roseberry Gardens. The proposal is for 10 3-bedroom houses and 2 2-bedrooomed flats for older people. The properties would be shared ownership (affordable housing). The proposal also includes improvements to the tarmac pathway in front of Lexington Way and the possible introduction of parking spaces. This is an outline application and not the final plans. If approved, a consultation will take place on the final plans. Details and comments can be made on the Council

website: planning.havering.gov.uk, or by post: Planning Service Reception, Public Advice and Service Centre, 20-26 The Liberty, Romford, RM1 3RL, Tel: 01708 433100. If you have any further questions or concerns in relation to this application, please contact me on 01708 641317.

Cllr GILLIAN FORD

Health Issues in Upminster

The Boroughs, Public Health service has recently published ward profiles for each of Havering's wards. It shows that residents in Upminster have a lower than the Havering average incidence in most categories of recorded illness, however there are some worrying exceptions. Across all cancers Upminster has some higher incidences when compared to Havering and the national average. The message is therefore to go to your doctor if you have any worrying symptoms. It is better to get checked out early when treatment can be

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more effective. Overall, however, Upminster residents are a generally healthy group.

Cllr LINDA VAN DEN HENDE

Bulletin Co-ordinator

The success of the *Bulletin* depends on volunteers who kindly give up some of their time to deliver the newsletter each month. We are now seeking someone to undertake the co-ordinating role in Cranham. This involves an oversight of the delivery schedules and co-ordinating the delivery of *Bulletins* with Area Controllers across the Cranham area. If you can help, or would like a non-committal chat, please call 07863 116029 or 01708 641317.

Upminster Ward Speaker

Tom Dobrashian, Head of the Council's Economic Development, will be the speaker at Upminster ward meeting on the 4th of February at St Josephs,

St. Mary's Lane. He will be talking about steps the Council is taking to ensure our High Street is a viable shopping experience. This will include how Upminster compares with other Town Centres in Havering. There is no Ward Meeting in January.

Cllr LINDA VAN DEN HENDE

Branfil Remembrance

On the 11th November Branfil Primary School held a special Remembrance Service to officially name the Garwood Court after Frank Garwood, an Air Raid Warden who was killed in Cedar Avenue during WW2. Members of the Garwood Family, Governors, Councillors, Residents of Cedar Avenue and 90 Year Old Veteran, Ron Wilson, joined pupils in Years 4-6 on the Court in the morning. Children sang a Remembrance song and the choir sang 'Fix You' guided by choir teacher, Mrs Campbell. The School's House Captains read the story of Frank Garwood and Mr Haskew, the Brass

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Teacher, played the last post before the 2 minute silence. The family then unveiled the memorial plaque and bench which the school had raised money to purchase. Mike Garwood, Frank's Grandson, thanked Branfil for such a moving and thoughtful service and praised how well behaved and respectful all the children were. Mrs Worboys and Mrs Goodman held a special assembly for pupils in Foundation Stage and Years 1-3 to also remember the fallen soldiers.

Upminster Police report

We welcome Sgt Steve Mangham to the ward as our new Sergeant. Over the past two months there has been a slight increase in burglary, most of these have taken place during the day, by rear entrance. Small items such as laptops, mobile phones and jewellery being taken. There has been a good arrest of two suspects following residents alerting the

police. Residents should ensure that doors are securely locked and windows closed when they are out. There has been a significant reduction in thefts from motor vehicle thefts but an increase in theft of motor vehicles. There are examples of people still leaving property on display in their cars and failing to lock them. Ward priorities remain as Burglary, motor vehicle crime and road safety which includes speeding and use of mobile phones. Some speeding tickets have been issued in Corbets Tey Road. Upminster remains a low crime area but with the darker nights it is important to ensure everyone takes sensible precautions to keep themselves and their property safe. Remember to use 101 to report something that has already happened but 999 if a crime is taking place.

Councillors' Round- up

Cranham Councillors recently had a site meeting with the Head

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of Streetcare to discuss areas in the ward that needed improvement. Councillor Barrett and I raised concerns over the condition of Front Lane car park with the need for resurfacing, the need for litter bins by the recycling centre, the painting of barriers and improved disabled signage. Pavement improvements including by the car park and the bus stop were highlighted, the painting of the railings at the junction of Moor Lane, the dip in the forecourt outside Glow that creates a large puddle, the removal of the now defunct telephone mast at the junction of Moor Lane, the repainting of the bollards and tree feathering were raised. I subsequently met with the horticultural officer and am pleased to confirm a litter bin and flower bed with all year planting including poppies and bulbs will be going ahead at the Dury Falls estate.

One significant area of concern we have is the parking in the village due to the continued works by Transport for London (due to end in 2017). Councillor Barrett and I are working with

officers to draw up proposals improve parking and would like to hear your thoughts and ideas to feed into this. We will be calling a meeting to discuss this further, so please watch this space.

Cllr GILLIAN FORD

Friends of Upminster Mini Golf

The second meeting of the Friends of Upminster Mini-Golf produced numerous great ideas on how the community can shape the future of the facility. In particular, how we can involve our young people in taking an active and constructive interest in the facility. The aim of the group is to secure the future of the site as a community asset, and against development, while protecting it as a green and open space for everyone to enjoy. The next meeting will be held on 19th February, more details next month and all those with an interest are welcome.

Cllr CLARENCE BARRETT



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Local residents joined forces with Harold Wood ward Councillors Darren Wise and Brian Eagling to negotiate with Transport for London (TfL) representatives to install temporary safety barriers along the A127 after the permanent railings were taken out to accommodate access to the works compound which is situated close to the junction with Squirrels Heath Road. There were

concerns around the safety of children and elderly people that use this pathway as cars were mounting the pavement via a dropped kerb and driving along the pavement. We are pleased and grateful that we were successful in these negotiations as safety of pedestrians are paramount whilst these works are carried out.

Cllr DARREN WISE

Events at the Thames Chase Forest Centre

Sunday 22nd February 2.30-4.30pm - The Chase Players in the first of our Sunday afternoon concerts at the Forest Centre invite you to take yourself back to the 1940s and the golden era of radio broadcasting. This will be a nostalgic afternoon including a live recording of 'Round the Chase', a five minute murder mystery and popular songs from

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continued on page 7

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Recycling Centre



It was disappointing to see the rubbish that had been left at the Front Lane recycling centre over the Christmas period. The bottle banks were not full, yet bottles had been left on the floor along with cardboard boxes and household rubbish. Cardboard can be recycled at Gerpins Lane and small quantities in the orange

sacks. There also appears to be some confusion over the recycling container for cartons. This is for tetra cartons, which are used for drinks such as milk and juices and not for cardboard boxes.

Cllr GILLIAN FORD

Friends of Upminster Mini-Golf Course

The next meeting of the 'Friends of Upminster Mini-Golf Course' will be held on 5th March (7:30pm) at the St Joseph's Social Centre, St Mary's Lane. The aim of the group is to secure the future of the mini-golf course as a community asset while protecting it as a green and open space. We have had two excellent meetings so far and anyone interested is very welcome to come along on the 5th. For further details please contact me at cllrclarencebarrett@yahoo.co.uk or call 07863 116029.

Cllr CLARENCE BARRETT

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Havering East Rotary Club - Race Night

You are invited to our Spring fundraiser Race Night on Sat 14th March at The Albany School, Broadstone Rd, Hornchurch. 6.30 for 7.00pm start - Tote with 9 races on the card - many raffle prizes to be won and Name the Bear comp. Tickets at £12 inc. Fish or Chicken supper - available from Sue Wilson on 01708 470 897 or 07971 539 487.

Iceland Money Returned

Readers may recall the £12.5 million deposited in Icelandic Banks by Havering Council back in 2008 when the banks collapsed owing local councils and public bodies across the country some £1.05 billion. After years of court cases and appeals, we are pleased to note that the whole £12.5

million has been returned to the Council.

Cllr CLARENCE BARRETT

HOPE

Are you struggling with everyday life after your loss? Grief is an ordinary and natural part of life - sadly, an unavoidable experience for all of us. But when grief strikes we so often find ourselves unprepared. We are suddenly cast into a roller-coaster ride of emotions and feelings and we can very soon feel lost and alone. We wonder if we are normal, we may wonder if we are going mad! The world seems to expect us to "get over" our loss within a few weeks of the funeral and time passes and we find ourselves wrestling with the same unanswered questions. Joining a group of like-minded people, such as a HOPE Bereavement Support Course developed by West and Coe may help you. The course allows you to talk things over in a friendly,

continued on page 9

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confidential environment where you have the opportunity to express feelings and fears. You will learn about the grieving experience, share feelings, and questions with other people who have suffered a loss, and so have a chance of understanding what you are going through.

Each course runs weekly for six weeks. The sessions last about an hour and a half and are led by trained facilitators. They are free of charge and open to people of all faiths and none. You are very welcome to join one of the following HOPE bereavement courses

Friday Mornings in Upminster starting on the 6th February

Wednesday Mornings in Hornchurch starting on the 8th April

Friday Mornings in Romford starting on the 20th February

Whoever you have lost, there is a place for you. Whether you are ready to believe it or not, the clouds of grief will begin to part one day, and you may rediscover joy and hope shining through in

your life.

To find out more contact Linda on 07500 724169

Email

heathandhaveringhope@gmail.com

Write to: Linda Legrand, Heath and Havering HOPE Group Coordinator, Trinity Church, Station Road, Upminster, RM14 2UD

Local History website

Local historian and author of a number of very interesting books on local history, Tony Benton, has set up an "Old Upminster website" on

<http://upminsterhistoryblog.wordpress.com/> It is well worth a visit.

Havering Set for Spitting in Public Ban

Another campaign success for the Residents' Association is that a ban on spitting in a public place

looks set to become a bye-law in Havering. I first raised this at full Council in March 2012, then June 2013 and again in 2014 and am pleased that Havering, along with other London councils, are set to adopt these powers.

Spitting in public is a foul habit which should be discouraged. Until 1990 it was actually a criminal offence to spit in public and carried a fine of £5. Since that law was removed from the statute book no new law has been introduced until now. The provisional penalty would be a £80 fixed penalty, however it is recognised that there needs to be a degree of 'reasonableness' about any such enforcement.

Cllr CLARENCE BARRETT

Support needed for local Scout Group

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you! Would you like to do something fun, and rewarding in your local community? Could you work with young people and help to deliver a variety of activities?

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Working with young people can be incredibly rewarding, seeing them achieve and make new friends can stay with you for life. Meeting like-minded people and enjoying activities are all part of a volunteer's experience with the Scout Association. No specific skills/qualifications required - full training and support will be provided. Some experience of working with children/young people may be useful but not essential.

For more information on how you can get involved, please contact Lucy Whybrow on 07432 562 378 or lucy.whybrow@scouts.org.uk

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A Big thank you

Veterans of War charity would like to thank everyone for supporting their shop in the Quadrant, (just off the market place), Romford, during the past year and for all the Christmas cards and good wishes received. Our lease has been extended until June 2015 so do come and visit us. Articles for resale always welcome. Collections can be arranged, call 07940 161 223.

collected in green bags is not, as was previously the case, lumped together with black bag waste and disposed of accordingly. The new green waste bags are also fully compostable and, while there is still a charge, it is significantly less than the £1.20 per sack which was previously charged for a non-compostable bag! For more information visit haverling.gov.uk or call 01708 432563.

CLlr CLARENCE BARRETT

Green Waste Now Collected Together

After years of campaigning I am pleased to say that green waste bags and green waste wheelie bins will now be collected together, treated together and composted together. The fortnightly service will not only improve our recycling/ composting rates, but give residents an assurance that green waste

Volunteers wanted to help with the *Bulletin*

We are looking for people who can assist us in a range of tasks associated with the commercial advertising for *The Bulletin*. This monthly newsletter is distributed to nearly 20,000 local homes and businesses.

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month and would like to volunteer in your local community

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Congratulations Ken Rhodes

Local double glazing, conservatory and orangery specialist The Ken Rhodes Window and Conservatory Company have been recognised for their fantastic customer service by becoming one of the only companies in their industry in Essex to become a Which? Trusted Trader.

The scheme takes the best trades people and rigorously tests them before any endorsement. The assessment includes a site visit,

questionnaire and, very importantly, randomly selected customer feedback, to make the assessment as tough and as genuine as possible. Mr Ken Rhodes, Managing Director of the company said: "It was an extremely stringent process with painstaking criteria - many companies don't meet the standards required. However we felt our customers would feel even more confident in our services and standards if we went the extra mile to get this accreditation with such a trusted brand as Which?" Services offered by the company include double glazing and bespoke conservatory and orangery designs and installations. Which? is an organisation with over 50 years' experience in campaigning on consumer issues. It reviews products and offers independent advice on a wealth of subjects.

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RIEES Autism Club



In the picture is Councillor Darren Wise with Frances Bardsley Autism Ambassadors, FBA teacher Ivan Corea and RIEES founder Ade Ogunleye with young people with autism at the RIEES Autism Club in Romford.

Councillor Darren Wise, chair of Havering Council's Learning Disability and Support Topic group visited the RIEES Autism Club that meets each Saturday in the Youth Lounge of Romford Baptist Church in Main Road - the RIEES Charity works with young people with autism, 18-25

year olds in the local community teaching them key skills from dance to art.

Councillor Darren Wise said: "I was very impressed to see the RIEES Autism Club in action and saw for myself the activities taking place. The young people with autism were preparing wonderful artwork for the Havering Autism Sunday Service scheduled to be held at St Alban's Church in King's Road in Romford on Sunday 8th February at 3 pm. I am looking forward to seeing the Art Exhibition and the Pilgrimage Painting which will be on show after the Havering Autism Sunday Service in St Alban's Hall."

Planning Applications

Several years ago planning laws were relaxed for building extensions etc. ie loft extensions etc do not always need planning permission.

Each week Councillors receive lists of Planning Applications

where a number of these are dealt with directly by Council Officers.

Developments of more than one dwelling are referred to the Councils Planning Committee. Also Councillors who have concerns can "call an application in" so it has to be discussed at a planning meeting. Any questions please get in touch.

Cllr RON OWER

South East England Band Contest

Who and what are we? We are members of an association for Traditional Style Youth bands throughout the country. In 1990 we the committee were asked by local bands in the association if we would run a Band Contest for the local and the other bands in the association. The committee at the time were parents of children who were in the local bands and

the majority of us are still involved in the running of the contest today supplemented by members we have recruited throughout the years. The contest is held in June or July at a local school (Gaynes in Upminster at present) the cost of the school is a large part of the cost of running the contest, along with the cost of the judges for the contest, we need seven of these and are proud to use serving and past members of the Royal Marines Band Service, this is another large cost for us. These and other costs amount to just under £1,500 per year. We are totally self-funding and raise the money by doing Quiz Nights, Bingo nights and the occasional Barn Dance , how much we raise depends on how many people we can get to attend these nights. Any local businesses who would like to help us finance the running of the contest are welcome to contact us. Any help would be very much appreciated.

Dave Gilby, Contest Organiser

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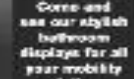
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Havering East Rotary Christmas Collections

We would like to thank the people of Havering for their fantastic warmth, support and generosity for our store collections and Santa sleigh this Christmas. We raised a magnificent total of £8,075. Thank you all for helping us to help others.

Fine Art of Crime

On Tuesday 10th February 2015 NADFAS (Havering) welcomes Mr Malcolm Kenwood giving a talk on The Fine Art of Crime - Actual Case Studies of the Trail and Repatriation of Stolen Art. Lecture 10.45am. Coffee from 10.00. Visitors welcome at £6. Meetings held at The Willow Hall, Romford Baptist Church, Main Road, Romford, RM1 3BL.

Further details available at www.haveringdfas.org.uk

Saturday Talks Club

The Golden Age of Travel 1869 - 1937. Speaker: Ian Porter. Saturday February 14th at 2.15pm (doors open 1.45pm). Roope Hall, Upminster United Reform Church, Station Road. Cost: £4, including tea and biscuits.

Coffee Morning

A Coffee Morning in support of the Motor Neurone Disease Association is being held on Friday 13th February in St Laurence Church Hall, Upminster between 10.30am - 12 midday. In addition to refreshments there will be a number of stalls including ones selling home made cakes and bread, handmade cards, crafts, books, bric-a-brac and more.....There

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Essex Wildlife Events

Essex Wildlife Trust Havering will have an illustrated talk "Butterflies of the Auvergne" by Peter Emerson, following the AGM on Monday 9 February, at 8pm, at Hornchurch Library. More info from Joy Emerson on 01708 440 297.

RSPB Havering will be having a Members' Film Night on Friday 13 February at 7.45pm at Hornchurch Library. Meeting fee £3. More details from Janet Silver 01708 452 171.

RSPB Havering will be having a coach outing to WWT Welney near Wisbech for a day's birdwatching on Saturday 28 February. Seats cost £17 and entrance fee is adult £6.50, concessions £4.95. For further

details and bookings please ring Ed Neller 01708 558 399.

Upminster Wine and Social Club

With the year now under way we are looking forward to a really busy time. In addition to the programme of interesting speakers at our meetings and a series of trips, outings and theatre visits planned, we will be running two dances plus a dinner dance in November to celebrate our 50th Anniversary. All these will held at the New Windmill Hall, Upminster. The first dance is on 29th April to commemorate St Georges Day.

We meet on the third Thursday of each month at the Cranham Social Hall, Front Lane, Cranham, at 8pm. We are a warm, friendly club and if you would like more details call Jim Johnson 01708 224 214.

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Wesley Guild

The meeting will be on Thursday 19th February at 8pm in the Minor Hall at Upminster Methodist Church when the guest speaker will be Chris Payne. His subject - the Havering Food Bank. All are welcome and we pay a meeting fee of £1.50.

British Sugarcraft Guild

Demonstration on "Royal Iced Church" by Wendy Windiat at Hornchurch Library, North Street, Hornchurch, on Saturday 7th Feb, from 1.30pm to 3.30pm price £6 includes Tea and Cake. Pay at door. Contact Brenda on 01277 810 498.

Their March date is also on the 7th.

Upminster Vanilla Bake Club

Do you love to bake? Please join

us at the Old Chapel, St Mary's Lane, Upminster on Monday the 16th February 18.30 – 20.30 for our first meeting of 2015. We are a group of amateur bakers who bake something to bring along and share. It's about meeting new friends and old, sharing ideas and our baked goods. £5 fee applies to cover cost of hall and tea/coffee. For more information please contact

Sharon@vanillabakeclub.com

or our website

www.vanillabakeclub.com or look us up on Facebook or twitter.

Guiding Quiz Night

Cranham Park District Friends of Guiding are holding a Quiz Night, on Saturday 28th February. 7.15pm for 7.30pm start.

At Cranham Community Centre, Marlborough Gardens.

Tickets cost £7.50, which includes a Ploughman's Supper. Bring your own drinks and glasses.

Tickets from Barbara Levis on

01708 250 941 and Gwen Marks on 01708 226 090.

Tables not more than 10 please.

W.O.W.

Wonders of Women is the theme for the Havering 2015 International Women's Day Event, taking place on Saturday 7th March 11.30 – 4p.m at Havering College F&HE, Ardleigh Green Road, Hornchurch, RM11 211.

Celebrating the valuable positive and diverse contributions and achievements women make to our community in Havering. The event aims to inspire women to challenge themselves by taking up new opportunities.

The event provides a variety of inspirational talks, information, displays, stalls and interactive workshops to assist women striving to gain different goals.

Charity Fundraising Concert

Havering Group Diabetes UK is

holding a Charity Fundraising Concert by the Brentwood School Big Band on Saturday 28th February 2015 at St. Peter's Church, Gubbins Lane, Harold Wood, Romford RM3 0QA. Monies raised will be split between the charities Diabetes UK and The Hornchurch Passion Play.

The Concert starts at 7.30 pm. and tickets priced at £10 can be obtained from Debbie Broom on 01708-473314 and debbie.broom@tesco.net or Peter Scott on 01708-227259 and peter.scott2010@hotmail.co.uk We hope you will be able to join us and look forward to your support.

Geoff Lewis RIP

It is with great sadness that I have to inform readers of the death of Geoff Lewis. Born in Stepney, Geoff and his family moved to Upminster over 50 years ago, and Geoff immediately got involved with local affairs and joined the Residents' Association.

continued on page 17

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Computer MOT



He had a variety of roles with the Residents' Association, and it was when he was the secretary that he led the protest against the proposal to demolish the Clockhouse - he won! Geoff always considered this to be his greatest achievement.

Geoff was also one of our Councillors, firstly elected after a by-election in 1981, and served till 1986, and again from 1994 to 2002.

Joan his wife joined him on the Council in 1998. Geoff was a straight-forward man, with lots of common sense, and one whose advice you could always rely on. He was very interested in local history and heritage, a writer of a number of books on local history and his own family tree - another of his hobbies.

Our thoughts are very much with his wife, two daughters and two grand-children. He and Joan celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in late November last year - theirs was a truly happy

marriage and he will be greatly missed.

Cllr LINDA HAWTHORN

Primary School Expansion

At the time of writing, the Engayne pre-consultation process has ended. I am due to have a meeting with James Oglethorpe and Engayne primary Schools over the coming week with the Cabinet Lead and council officers. The next steps are still to be confirmed. I will update in the next *Bulletin*.

Cllr GILLIAN FORD

Pottery Painting Café

Come to the Pottery Painting Café at The Old Chapel, St. Mary's Lane on Tuesday 17 February, 10am- 2pm. Have a cuppa and get creative! It's free to come in, and you pay per item you paint with

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these roads where overhead power cables are present, there may be short periods of power shutdowns to allow the operatives to work in safety. We have made sure that affected households are given sufficient notice of any proposed shut-downs to minimise any inconvenience.

Cllr CLARENCE BARRETT



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Quiz Nights

Please note the following quiz nights at the Crumpled Horn, Corbets Tey Road, Upminster, in aid of Little Havens Children's Hospice organised by the Hornchurch and Upminster Fundraising Group.
Mondays 16th FEB, 11th MAY, 7th SEPT AND 30th NOV.
Time is 19.30 for 20.00 start.
Tables up to 8 people. Cost will be £5 per person with a cold buffet included.
Contact phone Nos. for booking and further information: Bob and Carol on 01708-226 154 or Angie on 01708-470 827.

Licensing Committee

The granting of licences is an important responsibility which the council has to exercise. The Licensing committee has eleven Members, all who have to receive training, given the function of the committee is quasi-judicial. Licences are required for many

activities, including the sale of alcohol, music and dance, late night refreshments as well as scrap metal and gambling and many more. Much of this is routine and carried out by officers, however where valid objections are received from responsible authorities such as the police or trading standards or members of the public or councillors, a Member sub-committee hearing is required. This consists of the Chairman and two other members of the licensing committee. As Chairman I sit on all sub-committees except where the licence is for Upminster, as ward councillor I am precluded given the potential for conflict of interest. Over the past five years, the average number of sub-committee hearings per year has been 33. In granting a licence the sub-committee can set a range of conditions which are enforceable, they can also review a licence and can revoke it if there have been breaches in the conditions. Any decision of the sub-committee can be challenged in the Magistrates Court. In addition there are normally two or three

full Licensing committees a year. These concentrate on strategy and policy issues as well as new legislation as licensing is an ever changing area. I was appointed as Chairman by full Council in June, which I regard as a huge privilege. Having been a JP for a number of years and having served on the Licensing committee since my election in 2006 it is a role I can contribute positively to. A Special Responsibility Allowance is payable for the role and in common with many others this was reduced from £20,430 to £14,418 in October as part of the reduction to Councillors allowances.

Cllr LINDA VAN DEN HENDE

Upminster Windmill Quiz Night

The annual quiz night, for our windmill will be on Saturday 21st Feb, starting at 7.30pm. Tables of 8, bring your own refreshments. All profits go to the restoration of the mill. Please phone or e-mail me for your tables - do not worry if

you can not raise enough for a full table, we can match you up on the night. My contact telephone number: 01708 225451.

Cllr LINDA HAWTHORN

Damyns Hall Aerodrome

At long last details of a legal agreement have been finalised between the council and the owners of Damyns Hall regarding various matters which should ensure that the silver hanger near the Aveley Road is demolished, together with a number of smaller buildings on the site. This will allow for the building of the new hanger at the rear of the site which will house the light aircraft based there. There are also restrictions on the number of helicopter and airship movements. This agreement also opens the way for the setting up of the local consultative committee which was agreed a while ago but has never to date been constituted. I will keep you update on these developments.

Cllr LINDA VAN DEN HENDE

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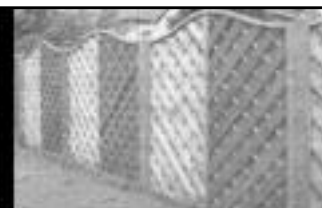
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Upminster Library Events

**Tuesday 3rd February,
Storytime for National Libraries Day.**

Join us for library themed stories to help celebrate National Libraries Day.

11.00am-11.30am, Free.

**Thursday 5th February,
Read Aloud Tips and Advice**

If you'd like to pick up some tips on reading aloud and enjoying books with your toddler then pop along to our free session.

11.00am-11.30am, Free.

**Tuesday 17th February,
Adult Craft Workshop – Zentangle (2).**

Try different craft techniques in a friendly Environment.

All abilities welcome. All materials supplied.

Booking Essential, 1.30- 3.00pm.

£6.00 Members / £7.50 Non members.

**Tuesday 24th February,
JOYZ (Just for You Zone).**

Sewing Workshop. Learn how to transform a garment.

Contact:

patriciajm001@gmail.com 07804 298352.

For more information or to book your place.

12.00pm-2.00pm. Over 18 £10.00.

**Saturday 14th March,
Essex and the Great War.**

Join us for a fascinating talk about the roll that Essex played in the First World War.

11.00-1.00. £3.00 members; £4.50 non members.

Contact Upminster Library on 01708 434 933 for further details.
Upminster.library@haverling.gov.uk

Best Shop Window



We had the judging of the best decorated Christmas shop window in Avon Road and Cranham Village in December. David Henry who has watered the plants in the Village throughout the Summer months, did us the honour of judging the competition. It was a difficult choice for David as there were 4

very strong contenders. I am pleased to announce that Bliss Flowers in Cranham Village pipped the others to the post and is this years winner of the best Christmas Decorated Shop.

Cllr GILLIAN FORD

Upminster Jewellery Workshop

Glenn, Martin and the team at Upminster Jewellery workshop thank locals for their support. Despite being working Jewellers all our lives, we were not sure how opening the shop in St Mary's Lane would turn out, but we are thrilled with the response from people who enjoy seeing their precious pieces of jewellery come to life in our onsite workshop.

As a thank you, we help out in as many local initiatives as we are able, to support the community.

Spring Clean

We are pleased to confirm that footway works outside the shops in Front Lane, opposite Chris Wilbourne's, will take place mid to late February; weather

permitting. You will also be aware that over previous months the railings in Cranham Village have been damaged and replaced in galvanized form. In the spring we have agreement from the council to repair the damaged railings and for them to be painted black. Painting will also be undertaken on the bollards in the area including those by the Cranham Social Centre.

Cllrs GILLIAN FORD and CLARENCE BARRETT

Handmade clothing for little girls

Having worked in the fashion industry for a number of years, Carla began designing and making garments for her daughter in 2013.

Over time this became the inspiration for a new home business in Cranham; Carla Kirste – Handmade Clothing for Little Girls. If you're looking for beautifully stitched, handmade clothes in timeless, classic styles you can find more information about the business as well as photos of the latest collection at www.carlakirste.co.uk



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School Places for Upminster Pupils

With proposed expansions to local primary schools resurfacing again maybe it is time to consider whether it is really necessary. Only a couple of years ago 5.5 million was spent to expand Branfil Primary to 3 form entry and replace the dilapidated infant accommodation. However, since expansion Branfil have failed to fill their increased places. This academic year only 76 of the 90 places were allocated with 20% of the allocation being to Thurrock pupils. Last year was a similar story.

It is a fact that in Upminster and Cranham today many pupils at local schools are not local children. The population of Upminster is generally older and with no mass house building taking place the population is not rising. One must ask, at a time when Havering Council is forced to make massive cuts, should we, Havering ratepayers have to fund expansion to Upminster schools for the benefit of Thurrock residents. Maybe it is time to follow Wandsworth and consider scrapping the sibling rule to Havering Schools Admissions policy.

Gerald King

Valentine's Day

Gents, Fleur Gifts has some great

ideas for a Valentine's Day gift for the special Lady in your life. Also don't forget Mothers' Day on March 15th. Come along to our shops at Bell Corner, Upminster and Romford and find the perfect special gift.

Music Evenings at Hornchurch Library

Wednesday 11th February
THE AMAZING CAMILLE SAINT-SAENS presented by Alan Tomlin. Saint-Saens was the outstanding French musician of his day. Composer, virtuoso pianist and organist, conductor, and musicologist. He was considered the "French Beethoven" in his lifetime.

Wednesday 25th February
A CENTURY OF JAZZ presented by Alan Morris. Alan organises the Jazz appreciation classes for the Havering U3A and we will be treated to a wide variety of jazz composition that includes the early days of the genre. Meetings are held in the Main Meeting Room 1st Floor, Hornchurch Library, North Street and commence at 7.30pm ending at 9.30pm. Admission is FREE. A small donation is requested for any interval refreshments. No need to book in advance just turn up in time. Further details from Stephen Raindle 01708 470670 [email sraindle@aol.com](mailto:sraindle@aol.com)

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FUTURE EVENTS FEBRUARY 2015

- 20 Friday - **Havering Antique and Collectors Club** meet at the Neighbourhood Centre, Gubbins Lane, Harold Wood have Guest Speaker Pauline Short on "Life of Coco Chanel". 7.30 pm for 8 pm start. For further details please call our Chairman Mrs Jan Halsey on 01708 373574.
- 23 Monday - **Breathe Easy - Havering** In aid of British Lung Foundation, have guest speakers every month held at St Andrews Church, Hornchurch, 1.30 pm - 3.30 pm. Cost is £2 including light refreshments. For further information please ring Joyce 01708 226696 or Elaine 01708 509127. A support group for people with COPD, Asthma or Other Breathing Difficulties.
- 23 Monday - **Romford Historical Society**, meet at Myplace, 343 Dagnam Park Drive, Harold Hill, RM3 9EN, Doors open 7.30 pm Meeting starts 8 pm, have speaker Louis Amos speaking on **Bedfords Park - Behind the Wall**. Visitor fee £2.50.

- 25 Wednesday - **Upminster Park Townswomen's Guild** have Guest Speaker Peter King talking about My Funny Valentine. Meetings are held in Derham Hall (behind the Library in Upminster) from 1.45 pm - 4 pm once a month.

MARCH

- 1 Sunday - **Italian Market** returns to Corbets Tey Road, opposite Upminster Park.
- 3 Tuesday - **Oglethorpe Women's Institute** have Guest Speaker **Chris Winter on Growing Old Disgracefully**. Our meetings are held at Cranham Social Hall, 103 Front Lane, RM14 1XL at 7.45 pm. Visitors are welcome as our guests for their first visit.
- 4 Wednesday Upminster Ward Meeting at St. Joseph's Social Centre at 8.00 pm
- 5 Thursday - **Harold Wood Library** have **Age Concern Havering Dementia Advisory Service** Free and confidential advice on dementia. Information on other services provided by Age Concern Havering. 11.30 am to 12.30 pm. Free entrance.

- 7 Saturday - **The Havering Branch of the East of London Family History Society** hold meetings on the first Saturday of every month at Trinity Church, Gaynes Road, Upminster RM14 2YS doors open at 1pm meeting starts at 2pm. The Computer Group meets at the same venue 11am - 1pm a Q&A session is followed by Teas and coffees which can be purchased. Members and visitors welcome to either or both. Admission free.
- 11 Wednesday - **Harold Wood Library** have Young at Heart. **Life in the 60's. 'Talking Book'** Eileen Williams will entertain us with stories about her life in the 1960s. 11.00 am - 12 noon Adult age group Entrance £1.00 including refreshments.

12 Thursday, Cranham Ward Meeting at Cranham Community Centre, Marlborough Gardens, at 7.45pm.

Association Coach Outings

18th April - Windsor
 16th May - Brighton
 20th June - Oxford
 18th July - Southwold
 22nd August - Eastbourne
 19th September Aylesford Priory & Whitstable
 17th October - Chichester
 21st November - Norwich

Don't forget to check the 'Association Diary' each month for booking details, whom to contact and cost. Kindly note trips cannot be booked until booking details have been published.

ASSOCIATION DIARY FEBRUARY

4 Wednesday, Upminster Ward Meeting at St Joseph's Social Centre at 8pm.

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