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## UPMINSTER & CRANHAM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

# Happy New Year to you all



We wanted to once again thank our volunteers over the past year who have delivered the *Bulletin* to you all and collected subscriptions. We aim to visit all our members over the course of the year as a means to hear what you have to say about the community we live in.

A very warm welcome too to all the new households that joined us in 2015 – we are looking forward to working with and representing you in 2016.

The Residents' Association has been active for over 70 years, serving on your behalf, something we will continue to do this year and beyond. Stay tuned for updates from us on our plans for 2016 and as always please do not hesitate to get in touch with ideas or issues you would like us to contest or celebrate on your behalf.

Chris Wilkins

Chairman, Upminster and Cranham Residents' Association

## Autumn Budget Hits Home



Last month's Autumn Statement confirmed the government's intention to totally cease revenue grant to councils by 2020. Among the big features of the statement included a special levy to pay for adult social care, the cancellation of tax credits cuts, police budgets will not now be cut and councils will hang on to 100% of business rates in future. While austerity continues to bite into nearly all government departments, the insistence to maintain overseas and international aid at 0.7% of gross national income (@£12 billion) seems difficult to justify. Even if it was reduced to 0.35% it would still generate £6 billion while leaving the other £6 billion to support other departments like the Home Office, Justice and Local Communities.

Cllr CLARENCE BARRETT

## Clean-up Day

A number of complaints have been made about some of the entrances to the Upminster Hall Lane Playing Fields. On Sunday 15th November, the Upminster Hall Lane Playing Fields Friends Group (fourteen helpers including children), met at the Marlborough Gardens entrance. Armed with tools they started work on clearing the years of overgrowth, which took two hours of hard work, chatter and humour to clear one side of rubbish, nettles, brambles, grass and soil. The group has established



that this particular entrance is no longer required for vehicular access, and are looking to make some improvements. If you are interested in joining the group contact 01708 641317.

Cllr GILLIAN FORD

## Upminster Christmas Lights

We received many nice comments regarding the lights. We would like to thank the following local businesses for contributing towards the Christmas Lights in Upminster. Yogi News, Balgore's, Hunter & Co, Roomes Fashion & Home, Gates, Parish & Co, Waitrose, Roomes Furniture Interiors and The Ken Rhodes Windows & Conservatory Co. The lights looked great.

## Christmas Event

Many thanks to all who participated in our Christmas Event at the end of November. Thanks to T.C. Cribb funeral directors who had several animals on show, the fair-ground rides in Bell School playground, Havering Museum, Romford Retired Greyhound Trust, PC Plod and local Police. Friends of our Windmill and the Old Chapel, Havering Adult College, Healthy Chef Restaurant, Local Radio Station Time FM, Local Rotary Club who bought Father Christmas, the various Entertainers and Trinity Church who bought along a choir..very nice.

continued on page 2

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We were pleased that the Mayor, Residents' Councillor Brian Eagling and his wife Bunny, the Mayoress, were able

to turn on our lights. A record number of children attended. Thanks especially to Council Officer Perry Brooker, who did so much work on our behalf.

It was great seeing you all. We are already talking about next year, so if you have any ideas, please let me know.

Cllr LINDA HAWTHORN

## Parking Restrictions in Avon Road

Following numerous complaints from residents about vehicles parked in Avon Road (outside the Golden Crane pub) causing an

obstruction, we have requested that the double yellow lines are extended from the junction of Severn Drive down to the parking bays by the parade of shops. This should be done very soon and will help the flow of traffic along this stretch.

Cllr CLARENCE BARRETT

## AGM

Kindly note the Association's AGM will be at St Joseph's Social Club Hall on Tuesday February 23rd at 7.30pm.

## The Bulletin - Can You Help?

We are very fortunate and grateful to have an army of volunteers who deliver the *Bulletin* to thousands of households right across the area. However, we desperately need volunteers in the Cranham area to help us get the *Bulletin* delivered each month. It need only be 20 or 30 minutes a month - so if you can help please call 07863 116029 or 01708 641317 for a chat.

Cllr CLARENCE BARRETT

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## Upminster Ward Panel

The Upminster ward panel is looking for new members to join in holding the local police to account and setting local priorities. The meetings take place every two months in the Corbets Tey Police Office at 6pm. We would particularly welcome young people and representatives from the Town Centre retailers. If you are interested please email Christine on [CJHampson@live.co.uk](mailto:CJHampson@live.co.uk) or Mark on [mgibson@fsmail.net](mailto:mgibson@fsmail.net)

Cllr LINDA VAN DEN HENDE

## Friends of Upminster Mini Golf

The next meeting of the Friends Group will be on 21st January (7.15pm) at the Cranham Community Centre, Marlborough Gardens. All welcome. For further information please contact Clarence on 07863 116029.

## All Saints Church



would like to welcome their new Parish Priest Rev. Marion Williams:

It was with very great pleasure, on Thursday 19th November, that we welcomed Rev. Marion Williams to be our Parish Priest. Bishop Peter led the licensing service and was ably assisted by many of the priests that have helped us over the last year. Many of the local priests together with representatives of the police force, nurses from St. Clares hospice, Marion's family and friends joined with us to celebrate her licensing. As is usual at All Saints, the celebrations continued at James

*continued on page 3*

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Ogelthorpe school with a wonderful spread of goodies to eat. While in interregnum we have been very lucky to have Fathers Keith and Tom who with others have kept the church services running as normal throughout, for which we are very grateful and hope that we will still see them on occasions in the future. Both of them are moving to new positions and we wish them every happiness in their new posts. We are very pleased to have Marion with us and look forward to a successful future here at All Saints.

Mike Willcocks (Church Warden)

## Cranham Library

The free library in the Cranham Community Centre, Marlborough Gardens celebrates its 25th year this month. This, we feel, is a wonderful achievement and we wish to mark the occasion with an open week in the library and will be open from 10am to 4pm when there will be a small display of memorabilia and photos of the last 25 years. We have a



wide range of books, both fiction and non-fiction (including local history and Essex books), Large Prints, DVDs, CDs and jigsaw puzzles to borrow. Last year we introduced a small section of books for young children. Do visit us and see the library, what we have to offer and perhaps join. You will be very welcome. Please phone Pat on 01708 221 435 for any further information.

## Decontamination Sheds

You may remember I wrote about these sheds that were erected in Upminster Park during the Second World War in the *Bulletin* last year.

My Council colleagues, Ron Ower

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and Linda Van den Henden and I will shortly be meeting Council officers to look at various options for future use, eg knock them down and have further parking bays, or any community use? Please let me know your thoughts on email lindahawthorn@hotmail.co.uk or please write to me at 34 Cedar Gardens, Upminster.

CLlr LINDA HAWTHORN

## Happy's Circus

The Engayne Parents Friends Association have Happy's Circus which is a professional (non-animal) circus and they will be coming to Engayne School, Severn Drive on the evening of 13th April. Doors Open at 5pm, with the show starting at 6pm. For convenience you can buy online via this link - <http://www.wegotickets.com/event/339226> but please note that there will be a small convenience charge made by the site.

**IMPORTANT TO FOLLOW**  
The procedure of payment-tickets delivery is;

1 - Once payment has been taken from your card you will get a

receipt from the wegotickets.com site. We will also be notified, but we won't have your contact details.

2 - Please forward your **wegotickets.com** acknowledgment to [neil@aladltd.co.uk](mailto:neil@aladltd.co.uk) **along with your child's FULL NAME and their class**

3 - Tickets sent home from school in a sealed envelope.

We will be acknowledging tickets sales on a daily basis (although, as volunteers, we may miss the odd day so please do be patient with us). You will get an acknowledgement and confirmation that the tickets have been dispatched to school from me as I am Project Managing the circus event. All tickets will have your name on for safety.

ALSO - For those who do not wish to pay online - any remaining tickets will be sold from 3pm at both Key Stage entrances until 8th January 2016, although it is highly unlikely that many tickets will be available by 8th January as demand is already very high.

Here's the link - <http://www.wegotickets.com/event/339226>

*continued on page 4*

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- Thames Chase
- Upminster Windmill
- Tithe Barn Museum
- Wanderers Animal Shelter
- Spend time at the Library
- Brickfields in Cranham
- Italian Market
- Turning on of the Christmas lights
- Feeding the ducks in

We are very lucky having a number of Independent shops locally. I thought you would like to read this letter we received from local resident Ron Mason : "I would like to give big pat on the back to "Terry" the owner of Miles Meats in Avon Road, Cranham. I would also like say that his meat is always first class and very reasonably priced that is why my wife and Always buy our meat there, there is also a Deli' counter in the shop. Nothing is too much trouble for Terry. I am an invalid so he serves me from outside while I am on my scooter, Terry will cut whatever meat and size you want. Be assured, Miles Meats is not expensive, quite the opposite and always fresh. Go on give it a try. Cheaper meat than a supermarket and nicer. Ron Mason "

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## Update on Lower Thames Crossing



We understand the Government are planning to announce their decision on the preferred

route for the long awaited Lower Thames Crossing to improve the crossing around the Dartford Toll area. Public consultation ended during 2014 and Havering wrote stating their support for Option A which would be a new crossing close to the current Dartford crossing. This would minimise the impact on parts of North Ockendon and our precious Green Belt. Thurrock Council also supported Option A as did Brentwood. Many individuals supported Option A, particularly on the basis that with the demise

of the Toll Booths at the crossing there needed to be a study on the improvements to traffic flow once all the changes had had time to bed in. Those changes have hardly been completed so it would appear too early to fully appraise the benefits. We will keep you informed as this issue becomes clearer.

Cllr LINDA VAN DEN HENDE

## Shirley Ward Receives BEM



The photograph above was taken at the Tower of London during her Investiture of the British Empire Medal on 27th November.

Mr Kenneth Olisa OBE, Lord Lieutenant of Greater London, carried out the investiture on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen.

## Thames Chase-value for money

Thames Chase Community Forest is part of a wider Community Forest family that collectively represent the country's biggest environmental regeneration initiative. While we were among the first, recently celebrating our 25 years, further Community Forests followed and this year the youngest of these are celebrating 21 years. England's Community Forests have come of age. Collectively they aim to show national policy makers just how important Community Forests are in addressing critical issues such as health, economic growth, climate change in addition to environmental benefits for woodlands, wildlife and communities. Thames Chase Community Forest has been highlighted nationally as an example of value for money: Our

Forest secured £14 for every £1 invested by partners during 2011-2014. Community Forests remain as relevant now as they were back in 1990. We hope, with your support, we continue providing value for money through the next 25 yrs!

Events at the Forest Centre:  
**Friday 15th January - Cream tea with live music** 2.30-4.30pm. Join us for a new year treat costing £8 per person. Booking essential.  
**Sunday 17th January - Our monthly Sunday Market** 10am-3pm. including handmade craft and produce stalls. For more information visit the Visitor Centre or our web site [www.thameschase.org.uk](http://www.thameschase.org.uk)

## Don't Miss Winter Fuel Payment

Residents born on or before 5th January 1953, could be entitled to between £100 and £300 to help with heating bills this winter.

*continued on page 7*

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Eligibility for the payment is usually auto-matically paid out if you get the State Pension or another social security benefit. However, if you don't get benefits, a State Pension or receive only Housing Benefit, Council Tax Reduction or Child Benefit then you will need to apply. For more details and how to apply, visit gov.org.uk, call 03459 151515 or write to Winter Fuel Payment Centre, Mail Handling Site A, Wolverhampton, WV98 1LR.

Cllr CLARENCE BARRETT

## Bell Corner Jewellers

After almost 50 years of trading an era comes to a close when Bell Corner Jewellers closes its doors early January.

During this time there have only been three owners, all being small family companies, it being ours for the past twenty-three years. Over the years many clients have become firm friends and we shall miss you all.

However, this year we had two

burglaries and this coupled with a massive increase in our rent has prompted us to close the shop. Meanwhile, goodbye Upminster and we wish you well.

R Anthony  
Bell Corner Jewellers

## Shirley Tours

Kindly note Shirley has organised:

**February 10th: Kinky Boots Musical;** Wednesday Matinee, Front stalls top price seats/coach reduced to £60 inclusive. Now booking. Adelphi Theatre, Strand. (Seat value £69.50.)  
**Saturday 18th June 2016** (For Fathers Day); **2 Hour horse drawn boat trip**, Kennet and Avon Canal followed by lunch at Warners Littlecote House, afternoon entertainment and tour, prices to follow.

**September 2016: Blackpool short break.** Travel on illuminated tram to see 5 miles of lights, plus canal trip, Blackpool Circus, Fleetwood Market plus much more: call for details/flyer.  
**Thurs 15th December Aladdin New Musical**, 2.30pm show,

Dress Circle seats/Coach £65.  
Enquiries to Shirley Ward 01708 227 884; Mobile: 07966 146 956.

## Healthwatch

Healthwatch, an independent organisation set up to monitor all aspects of health, are keen to know your experiences of the NHS - if you have need to visit any facility - be it a hospital doctors surgery, dentist and have any special comments - good or bad, please write to me at 34, Cedar Gdns, Upminster, or email lindahawthorn@hotmail.co.uk and I will let them know.

Cllr LINDA HAWTHORN

## Update on City Airport

As you know there is an appeal pending by London City Operators regarding the refusal by the London Mayor of the planning application to expand terminal capacity at City Airport. In addition there has been the lack of meaningful consultation by the

Airport operators regarding changes to technological enhancements which appear to change flight paths and frequencies which could have a negative impact for Havering residents. I have recently been alerted to apparent increases to noise and frequency of flights over this area, something that is clearly connected to changes being made by the Airport operators. Reflecting Councillors and residents concerns, the Council Leader has again written to the Planning Inspector urging rejection of the expansion application. We await the Planning Inspectors decision.

Cllr LINDA VAN DEN HENDE

## Clearance Sale

The Fleur "Clearance Sale" starts on December 29th. We need to clear some space for some exciting new lines of stock we have coming in 2016 so there are lots of great bargains to be had throughout January. Come and have a look in our shop at Bell Corner or online at www.fleurgifts.com

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## Windmill Quiz Night

Although our Windmill is now closed for two years, for restoration, and the building of a education centre / museum, we do not want people to forget it - so our popular quiz night will be going ahead as usual - Saturday 27th February. 7.00pm for 7.30pm, tables of 8, bring your own refreshments. Please book your table early, to avoid disappointment - if you can not make up a full table, we can pair you off on the night. Please phone 01708 225 451 for further details.

CLlr LINDA HAWTHORN

## Light-hearted entertainment update

You may have seen in our last *Bulletin* the article relating to "Will & Steve" who appeared in



the Australia TV reality show "My Kitchen Rules" aka MKR. Just to remind you, the contestants cook in pairs and for the first time a Pommie pair, best mates Will Stewart & Steve Flood entered. Steve was raised in Upminster and went to Gaynes School (1994-99) before moving to Australia 8 years ago.

After 48 tv episodes the competition has finally come to an end with Will and Steve appearing in the Grand Final beating Jac and Shaz, two mums from Mount Isa in Queensland. They are the winners of My

Kitchen Rules 2015 and have walked away with the first prize of A\$250,000. Congratulations to them both.

The final took place at MKR's head quarters in Sydney and involved both teams cooking a 5 course meal for a packed restaurant of distinguished judges, friends and families serving a total of 100 plates per team.

Steve has no family in Australia and unbeknown to him his parents Diane & Eamonn were invited to attend the final at short notice (3 days) and Steve was unaware they were there until they appeared on the show resulting in a few tears within the studio.

The contest was very close with the boys winning by two points and they are the first all male team to take the MKR title and the fact they are pommies created greater interest in the show. Winning MKR has given the boys the opportunity to chase their dream of launching a career in

the food/media industry under their own branding "The Gourmet Pommies" You can follow them on Facebook, Instagram and at [www.thegourmetpommies.com](http://www.thegourmetpommies.com)

## Havering Police Cadets

Havering Volunteer Police Cadets have been successful for the second year running in winning the annual competition between teams of cadets from across London at the Thriftwood Scout Campsite in Brentwood. Their skills, knowledge and fitness was tested in a number of scenarios against 15 other London Boroughs. Havering Volunteer Cadets are boys and girls up to the age of 18 who meet regularly to participate in a number of police activities. If you are interested in finding out more please contact [matt.ingram@met.police.uk](mailto:matt.ingram@met.police.uk)

CLlr LINDA VAN DEN HENDE

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## A127 Ardleigh Green Bridge Update

We have had an update from officers that the Bryant Avenue exit onto the A127 will be shut from April 2016 whilst the bridge replacement works continue and this will continue until Jan 2017.

Cllr DARREN WISE

## 3H Club

The Club, a social club for adults with disabilities, meet once a week at HOPWA House, Inskip Drive, Hornchurch on a Tuesday evening between 7-10 pm. Except on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. The club is looking for volunteers, including volunteer drivers for occasional day trips, to interact and socialise with club members. Volunteers need to be DBS checked and require two references. Please contact Janice Grigg on 0776 118 6322 for further information etc.

## Ali Baba

All Saints Players present a production of "Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" a pantomime written by Alan Frayn. Business isn't good in Old Baghdad, everyone is scared of being robbed by the forty thieves including the comedy Dame, Fatima Fandango a former belly dancer and Mustafa Screwloose her dopey house boy. Events take a turn for the worse when on her way to marry the Prince, the Princess Jasmine is robbed by thieves and the Vizier offers a reward to anyone who can find the thieves and their secret hideaway. So begins Ali Baba's adventures as he discovers the thieves' secret cave and, with the help of his servant and friends, attempts to defeat the King of Thieves' plan to raid the Sultan's palace. "Ali Baba" will be staged at All Saints Church Hall, Ardleigh Green Road, Hornchurch, RM11 2LG (next to Havering College). Performances on Thursday, Friday

and Saturday 21/22/23 January 2016 at 8.00pm (Doors open 7.30pm) and a matinee on the Saturday at 2.30pm (Doors open 2.00pm). Tickets are priced at £ 5.00 and are available from 01708 725 077 or to reserve a ticket e-mail [boxoffice@allsaintsplayers.org.uk](mailto:boxoffice@allsaintsplayers.org.uk)

## Love Mud? Rugby is for you!

Upminster Rugby Club is searching for girls ages 10 - 14 (Year 6 - 10) to join us, there will be fun, there will be fitness, there will be friendship, and of course mud! We are a family club with around 400 mini and youth members, Scott, head coach of the girls section, is keen to bring into the club girls who have an appetite for giving rugby a TRY! We train on a Sunday morning from 10.15 at Hall Lane playing

fields; come over, you won't regret it! Contact Scott 07787 533 004 or email us [urfcwomenngirls@gmail.com](mailto:urfcwomenngirls@gmail.com) for more details.

## Beginner Adult Yoga Course

Adult yoga course for beginners or those returning to yoga/exercise on Tuesdays at 6.30pm at the Old Chapel. This 10 week course teaching hatha yoga commences January 2016. Hatha yoga is a very gentle and traditional form of yoga that incorporates the breath as well as guided relaxation at the end of the one hour class. The course will cost £50. Spaces are limited so booking is essential. There are also spaces available for hatha yoga (90 minute class) on Wednesday evenings at 8pm and Children's yoga on Tuesdays at 5pm. Please call Vikki on 07976

*continued on page 13*

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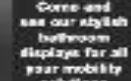
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## Wesley Guild

The Wesley Guild is part of the Wesleyan tradition of Methodism. The first Guilds were set up in 1896 and at one time there were well over 1,000 in the UK. The Upminster Guild began life in 1916, so that it is older than the Methodist Church buildings in Hall Lane, and will celebrate its centenary next year. Sadly, only around 120 Guilds have survived into the 21st century but we continue to be one of the most active of the survivors. Interestingly enough the Guild movement thrives in Ghana, Nigeria and South Africa as does the Methodist Church. The main aim of the Guild is to provide "a meeting place for honest encounter" and we do this by organising an afternoon programme of meetings featuring a range of visiting speakers covering topics such as local and national history, travel, fine art, the work of different charities and

popular culture. Being good Methodists we always sing a hymn to open our meetings but we do not include any other devotional items. Our meetings are open to all. Those who support us are all senior citizens, which helps to explain why we moved our meetings from evenings to afternoons. So we meet at 2pm on alternate Thursday afternoons between September and May. There is no membership fee but we do ask those who attend our meetings to pay a £2 fee at each meeting to cover speakers' fees and utility costs. Please contact Ian Leadley, the Guild secretary, for further information (tel: 229 550)".

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 28 January when we will have a Soapbox session to put the world to rights.

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- Jan 14th - Stephen King, organ (Brentwood Cathedral)
- Jan 21st - Daniel Nisbet, piano
- Jan 28th - Doug Tang, organ (Hailebury College)
- Feb 4th - Tom Wraith and Freddie Brown (Cello and Piano)
- Feb 11th - Richard Brasier, organ (St Laurence)
- Feb 18th - Centre for Young Musicians Showcase Concert
- Feb 25th - Ourania Gassiou, organ (Megaron Concert Hall, Athens)

Please do get back to me if there are any questions.

Robert Brabner

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## Charity Half Marathon

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*continued on page 15*

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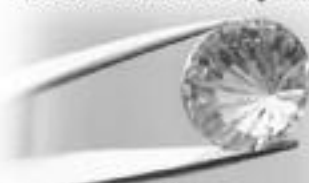
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Liz Evans

Development Manager

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## Thank You Connie

Over the years local resident Connie Hawkins has met and served thousands of people firstly as manager of the St Francis Hospice Charity Shop in St. Mary's Lane and for the last six years as the manager of the Rainbow Trust Children's Charity Shop in Corbets Tey Road. With her large band of volunteers over the years she has raised thousands of pounds for the above local worthwhile charities. Connie has decided to step down from the manager's job and we are pleased to inform you that Anne Mchugh who was previously at the St Francis Hospice Shop will be the Rainbows new manager. The other good news is that Connie is staying on working several days a week. Connie would like to thank everyone who has supported her. Go along to the Rainbow shop

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## Calling all bakers...

Happy New Year. Do you love to bake? Please join us. Our bake

club is next meeting on Monday 8th February at The Old Chapel, St Mary's Lane, Upminster, from 18.30 to 20.30. We are a group of keen but amateur bakers who meet every 6/8 weeks to swap support, stories and baked goods. We all bake something to bring along to share. February's theme is Valentine (following the theme is not compulsory). £5 fee to cover hall, tea, coffee etc. For more information contact [Sharon@vanillabakeclub.com] Sharon@vanillabakeclub.com or check out our website [www.vanillabakeclub.com](http://www.vanillabakeclub.com) or find us on Facebook or Twitter.

## Freedom Pass Renewal

Older people across London whose Freedom Passes will expire on March 31 2016 will receive a letter explaining how to renew their pass. The Freedom Pass allows older adults to travel on public transport for free across the capital - as well as on local

*continued on page 19*

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Cllr DARREN WISE

## Planting Pansies

Councillor Gillian Ford founded a programme of seasonal planting schemes in Cranham 13 years ago, by installing troughs on the railings. Over the years more planters have been added, with groups coming and going. During the year, Councillor Ford has established a programme of working with different youth groups, including the Girls and Boy's Brigade.



Photograph courtesy of John Robinson

On Saturday 5th December, **2nd Cranham Beavers, Cubs and Scouts** braved the windy conditions and planted pansies in Front Lane and Moor Lane. They were all in good spirits and arrived ready with their hand trowels. Councillor Ford said "It is a great opportunity for children and young people to get their hands dirty and to see nature at work. They can see the plants grow, knowing that they had planted them, whilst improving the look of the area. While we were working, a local resident thanked us for our efforts stating, it makes the area look better, which was great for the children to hear. I would like to thank the

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children and their leaders for their contribution to the community; it was a pleasure to work with them."

Cllr GILLIAN FORD

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## LOCAL FUTURE EVENTS JANUARY

- 5 Tuesday - **Oglethorpe Women's Institute** are holding a Social Time with entertainment. Our meetings are held at Cranham Social Hall, 103 Front Lane, RM14 1XL at 7.45 pm. Visitors are welcome.
- 8 Friday - **Coffee & Conversation** morning re-opens at 10.30 - 12.30 pm at Cranham Social Hall, 103 Front Lane, RM14 1XL. Entrance £2, this includes refreshment.
- 9 Saturday - **Saturday Talks Club.** History of Crystal Palace, Speaker Ian Bevan. At Roope Hall, United Reformed Church, Upminster. 2.15pm (doors open 1.45pm). Cost £4, including tea and biscuits. Contact Mrs Bland 01689 858 701 or Mrs Blake 01708 227 512.
- 12 Tuesday - **NADFAS Havering** welcome Miss Anne Clements with a talk entitled "In the Bleak Midwinter: Artists response to Snow". Lecture 10.45 am. Coffee from 10.00 am. Visitors welcome at £8. The meetings are held at The New Windmill Hall, St. Mary's Lane, Upminster, RM14 2QH. Further information on the Society, future lectures and visits can be found at [www.haveringdfas.org.uk](http://www.haveringdfas.org.uk)
- 12 Tuesday - **Upminster Horticultural Society** have their Annual General Meeting and Speaking up for **Wild Plants** by Mary Smith. Mary will tell us about how our wild plants are faring and the strategies that are helping to save them. The talk will take place in the New Windmill Hall, St Mary's Lane, Upminster from 7.45 pm to 9.45 pm, doors open at 7.15 pm. Entrance is free to members, non-members very welcome for a fee of

*continued on page 24*

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## Speaker Available

If your society is looking for a Speaker at your meetings, local resident Bernard Smith on 01708 250 096 gives talks on "The oldest air force in the world" Bernard served in the forces and is very happy to give talks.

## Kennels in North Ockendon

As the December *Bulletins* went to press, we heard that the Council had received another planning application reference P1668.15 for 22 dwellings on the Kennels Site, Ockendon Road, North Ockendon. Readers may remember a previous application reference P0742.13 for 30 dwellings on the site was rejected by the Council and dismissed at a Planning Appeal. A packed public meeting attended by the three Upminster Ward Councillors Linda Hawthorn, Linda Van den Hende and Ron Ower. There was universal opposition. The site is in the Green Belt. Two subsequent applications were withdrawn before decisions were made. If you would like to comment on the latest planning application please write to Planning Control, London

Borough of Havering, Mercury House, Mercury Gardens, Romford RM1 3SL. We will keep you informed on this.

## Upminster CC v Essex CCC

The Annual Benefit Match was played in the Recreation Ground on 16 August last. Essex reached 292-7 in their allotted 35 overs with the beneficiary Ravi Bopara scoring 117. In reply, Upminster reached 213-7, losing by 79 runs. The match was once again well attended by the Upminster public and an enjoyable day was had by all.

## Our Pearly King, Arthur Rackley

Further to the article in last month's *Bulletin* on our Pearly King of Upminster, the late Arthur Rackley. Arthur lived with his sister-in-law Marie and his brother Jim for many years. They were Pearly Queen and King of Finsbury. They were great charity workers, living in St Albans Avenue, Cranham where Arthur also lived. They predeceased him. Arthur worked for charities, especially the St Francis Hospice and the Rainbow Children's Trust

for many years and was a real character. He spent hours and hours collecting cash in Station Road and outside the Rainbow Children's Trust Charity Shop in Corbets Tey Road. We were very proud to have our own Pearly King of Upminster. Arthur would regularly attend many charity events and was always in London's Covent Garden with other Pearlyies. He must be on thousands of photos as tourists would love having their picture taken with him. Sadly, a part of our community has now gone.

Cllr RON OWER

## The Healthy Chef

Local twin brothers from Upminster, John and Alex Hoggett have introduced The Healthy Chef to Essex- an eatery with an interesting twist! The brand new health hub that opened its doors to the public in July of this year, has been offering satisfied customers from near and far healthy food alternatives to what is currently on the high street. They serve their fresh and exciting menu around the clock 7 days a week with guilt free options for breakfast, lunch and as of December night times as well! Co-owner John said; "It has been such a fantastic first 6

months for us with people really buying into the healthy lifestyles we offer! We want to help people achieve the perfect body they have always wanted by offering them healthy balanced menu options with no 'quick fixes' We make it easy for people to get control of what they eat again whilst still being able to enjoy food as before."

With the hiring of a Michelin star chef and a fantastic selection on the menu it is definitely the place to go for all things healthy! If you want to make a lifestyle change then come on down and try them out for yourself and get in shape this January! With a fully licensed bar and events weekly from live singers to a popcorn cinema, it's certain to bring a real sense of character to Upminster!

## Meeting Friends

The Alishan Indian Restaurant in Station Road, Upminster, has reminded us that the staff are very happy to explain and recommend any dishes from their extensive menu.

## Well Run!

St Joseph's Catholic Primary school based in the centre of Upminster gave an outstanding performance in a recent borough inter schools cross country event.

continued on page 22



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## ASSOCIATION CONTACTS:

### Editor / Commercial Advertising:

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bulletinra@yahoo.co.uk

### Upminster Organizer:

Cllr Linda van den Hende  
(223761)

[lindavandenhende@btinternet.com](mailto:lindavandenhende@btinternet.com)

### Residents' Association Website:

Cllr Clarence Barrett  
(07863 116029)

[cllrclarencebarrett@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:cllrclarencebarrett@yahoo.co.uk)  
[www.ucra.co.uk](http://www.ucra.co.uk)

## ASSOCIATION COUNCILLORS:

### Upminster Ward:

Linda Hawthorn 225451  
[lindahawthorn@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lindahawthorn@hotmail.co.uk)

Ron Ower 07721 780372

Linda Van den Hende 223761

### Cranham Ward:

Clarence Barrett 07863 116029

Gillian Ford 641317

[councillorgillian.ford@havering.gov.uk](mailto:councillorgillian.ford@havering.gov.uk)

June Alexander 227092

[councillorjune.alexander@havering.gov.uk](mailto:councillorjune.alexander@havering.gov.uk)

Despite not having their own playing field the team showed a determined effort with both the boys and girls years 3 & 4 teams placed first as an overall team. The event was held at Stubbers activity centre and on that particular day running conditions were far from ideal with the ground soaked after days worth of rain. There was no let up and the children ran through the rain and mud, one even continuing minus a trainer. Many looked like they had swum round the lake rather than run round it but the results were certainly worth the effort. Well done to the St Joseph's team!

## Snares

I received a very distressed phone call from a lady whose cat became entangled in a copper wire snare on the Cranham Cathedral Estate area - luckily the cat managed to free itself, but the copper wire was still around its body and it had to be taken to the vet to have the wire removed. Please note these type of snares are illegal, so if you see or hear of any, please notify our police force.

Cllr LINDA HAWTHORN

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- 15 Friday - **Havering Antique and Collectors Club** meet at the Neighbourhood Centre, Gubbins Lane, Harold Wood have Guest Speaker Richard Dodd on "A History of Sunlight Soap, Lord Lever, Portsunlight and other model Factory Villages." 7.30 pm for 8 pm start. For further details please call our Chairman Mrs Chris Lovett 01708 221851.
- 21 Thursday - **Upminster Wine & Social Club.** We are a fun group with an interest in wine appreciation and enjoying many social events. We hold meetings every third Thursday of the month with a variety of speakers and a wine tasting. Meetings are held in the Cranham Social Hall, Front Lane, Cranham; start 8 pm. For more information contact Maureen Jasper on 01708 223956, or simply come along on the night. You will be most welcome.
- 25 Monday - **Breathe Easy - Havering** is a support group for people suffering from breathing difficulties, COPD, Asthma. etc.

- We meet on the last Monday of the month at St. Andrews Church Hall, Hornchurch at 1.30 - 3.30pm. Light refreshments are served and we have guest speakers talking on a wide range of subjects such as - coping with COPD, gentle exercising, home safety, etc. New members, family and carers are always welcome; a voluntary donation of £2 is appreciated.
- Please contact Joyce 01708 226696 or Elaine 01708 509127 for more details.
- 27 Wednesday - **Upminster Townswomen's Guild** holding **Harold Hill Food Bank.** Come along and join us at 1.45 pm in St Laurence Church, Derham Hall, Upminster. For more details phone Shirley on 01708 224219 or Bertha on 01708 222410.
- 29 Friday - **Coffee & Conversation Group** have Ark Theatre Company present a re-enactment on **Financial Scamming.** Visitors welcome. £2 including refreshments served from 10.30 to 12 noon at Front Lane Social, Hall, Cranham.

## FEBRUARY

- 2 Tuesday - **Ogthorpe Women's Institute** have Sharon Gould talking

- about "East End to Essex". Our meetings are held at Cranham Social Hall, 103 Front Lane, RM14 1XL at 7.45 pm. Visitors are welcome.
- 6 Saturday - **The Havering Branch of the East of London Family History Society** hold meetings on the first Saturday of every month at Trinity Church, Station Road, Upminster RM14 2SJ doors open at 1pm meeting starts at 2pm. This month the talk is 'Feeding the Family in the First World War' with Mike Brown. The Internet & Technology Group meets at the same venue 11am - 1pm where a Q&A session is followed by workshop. Teas and coffees can be purchased. Members and visitors welcome to either or both.
- 9 Tuesday - **NADFAS (Havering)** welcome Mr Ian Swankie with a talk entitled "Thomas Heatherwick: The Modern Leonardo". Lecture 10.45 am. Coffee from 10.00 am. Visitors welcome at £8. The meetings are held at The New Windmill Hall, St. Mary's Lane, Upminster, RM14 2QH. Further information on the Society, future lectures and visits can be found at www.haveringdfas.org.uk

## ASSOCIATION DIARY

PLEASE NOTE THERE ARE NO WARD MEETINGS FOR JANUARY

## FEBRUARY

- 3 Wednesday **Upminster Ward Meeting** at St Joseph's Social Centre at 8 pm
- 11 Thursday **Cranham Ward Meeting** at Cranham Community Centre, Marlborough Gardens at 7.15 pm
- 23 Tuesday - **AGM** at St Joseph's Social Club Hall at 7.30 pm.

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