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UPMINSTER & CRANHAM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Council Elections – Keep Cranham Local

Over many years the Upminster & Cranham Residents' Association has had the privilege of representing the people of Upminster, Cranham and Dury Falls.

- We believe our residents come **first and foremost**. Any problem, however big or small, is treated with the same degree of urgency and respect.
- We believe our local community is best served by **local people** and that the interests of our residents are served to the very best of our abilities.
- We do not appear just before an election and disappear again shortly afterwards but maintain a constant presence throughout the year with our monthly Bulletin, dedicated website (ucra.co.uk), social media and monthly residents' community meetings. In fact, since the last election, we have issued 247,000 copies of the Bulletin to households in the area and held 37 community meetings. For the local elections we ask for your support in continuing to put Upminster, Cranham and Dury Falls first and making our community a better place to live.

Police Update

While our area is a pleasant place to live, crime and anti-social behaviour is something that diminishes the character of our town and is something we roundly condemn. While government funding for the police has seen cuts of £600m since 2013, with a further £400m to find over the next two years, coupled with a fundamental shift in how the police operate through the tri-borough arrangement, this has led to real challenges in how our streets are policed and how crime is responded to. Your Residents' Association is wholly committed to work with the council, the police and you, our residents, to ensure we have the right level of police presence and that, when crime does happen, residents can have confidence that the matter is being dealt with as quickly and efficiently as resources will allow. These aims can be supported by:

- Ensuring that Upminster and Cranham has its full quota of officers - two Dedicated Ward Officers, one dedicated Police Sergeant and one Community Support Officer per ward
- Supporting our local StreetWatch teams
- Supporting our local Police Team
- Encouraging more Neighbourhood Watch Schemes
- Pressurising the Police to improve call handling, particularly 101 calls
- Hold public meetings and invite the police to air community concerns
- Introduce a regular Police column in the Bulletin

By working together, we can make sure our area remains a safe place to live.

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JOHN TYLER



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Clr Clarence Barrett

A Cranham councillor for 12 years, is the executive member for financial management and serves on the Audit, Pensions & Investments and Governance committees. A public sector accountant by profession, has served as a magistrate and a Chair of School Governors. Editor of the Associations website (ucra.co.uk), is an active contributor in the local and national media. A graduate in economics and politics, is passionate that local people are best placed to serve the needs of the local community.

Clr Gillian Ford

A Cranham councillor for 16 years, is Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Board and member of numerous committees, including Health & Wellbeing Board, Children's Services, Chair of Cranham Friends' Association, Havering Theatre Trust Ltd. Established member of the Cranham Safer Neighbourhood Police Team. Also represents councils at a national level on Children's Services and mental health. A graduate with a 1st class degree in Humanities and a Champion for Dementia, Health and Domestic Violence.

John Tyler

A former police officer, John started off as a uniform officer in Newham for 12 years before transferring to Havering in 1999, initially as a Crime Prevention Officer and later as a Crime Prevention Design Advisor, working to ensure that crime prevention measures were included in new building developments. In 2013 he became part of a team covering north east London. He left the Met in 2017 and now works locally. John has lived in Upminster for 21 years and is married with two children, who attend local schools.

Supporting Good Causes

We are very fortunate in our area to have a wealth of community groups and volunteers who give up their time to support and help others in many various ways. The Upminster & Cranham Residents' Association have long recognised the importance of this and, with the tremendous help of you our readers and members, have been able to fund many good causes across the area. For example:

- Fund a disability group for a day trip to seaside
- Provide play equipment for our schools and pre-school groups
- Provide High Viz jackets and other equipment for StreetWatch volunteers
- Pond Walk dredging, fencing and posts
- Local Allotments Open Day Sponsorship
- Support to Friends of Parklands, Upminster Windmill and Mini-golf
- Launch of Corbets Tey Regeneration Group
- Donations to St Francis Hospice and First Step

These are just some of the good causes you have helped support. We are always keen to invite fresh applications from voluntary groups or individuals, so please get in touch if you would like to find out more.

Clr CLARENCE BARRETT

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Engayne Primary School 60th Birthday Celebrations

In July we are celebrating the opening of Engayne. We would really like to capture the memories of past pupils and the local community. Please tweet any memories to @EngaynePrimary using #Engayne60 or email memories/photos to 60@engayne.co.uk. It would be helpful to have the year/s and names as we want to build an archive for future generations to enjoy.

Regards Mrs Sankey

New Yoga and Pilates Studio Opening Soon!

A Fine Balance Studio will open at 173 St. Marys Lane, Upminster at the end of April. This former "card shop" in St. Marys Lane has been given planning permission for change

of use. A Fine Balance Studio will provide uplifting Yoga, Pilates and Barre classes for the Upminster community. If you would like to know more, please contact Hannah@afinebalance.me. The card shop moved to St. Lawrence Road last year.



Upminster CC v Essex CCC

The staging of the annual benefit match between Upminster CC and Essex County Cricket Club will be on the afternoon of Sunday 2 September this year.

Parking Problems

One of the most frequent complaints we receive is over parking problems. The number of cars in our area has increased significantly. Having, we are

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informed, has the highest level of vehicle owners in the London area.

If you need to contact the Council with any parking problems please note the following telephone numbers. During office hours 01708 432787, out of hours number 07946 738495.

Upminster and Cranham Residents' Association Annual AGM

The Association's 2018 AGM took place on Monday 26th February at the Old Chapel, St Marys Lane. Despite the poor weather conditions the event was well attended. At the AGM the Residents' Association candidates, for the 3rd of May local elections were selected and the Association Officers for 2018/19 were elected. Following the official business, Charlotte Coombes, Community and Engagement Officer, provided the audience with an excellent and informative presentation on the restoration of our wonderful Upminster Windmill.

The event ended with Upminster and Cranham Residents' Association Chairman, Chris Wilkins, presenting Engayne Primary School with a £1000 donation from the Association to support their canopy project, picture below.



St George's Day Dance

Upminster Wine and Social Club will be holding their St George's Day dance on Saturday 21st April at Hall Mead School, Marlborough Gardens, Cranham. Music will be provided by the popular duo "Too Hot". Tickets are £15, including a fish and chip supper, and are available from Vic Bramwell on 01708 470465. Non members welcome.

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Housing Targets 'Unrealistic and Unsustainable'

Following on from recent articles on housing targets, the conservative government have now issued a consultation document on National Planning Policy which reaffirms the huge pressure to build more houses. While the Mayor of London is suggesting 1,875 homes per year, in a recent publication by the conservative government they are suggesting 1,821 homes per year - both far in excess of the 1,175 proposed by the Council. Furthermore, the government have stated that if the Council doesn't reach its target, it will remove planning powers from the local authority and it will be a government Inspector making the decisions, not locally elected representatives. With our borough 50% green belt, the scope to achieve these unrealistic numbers while protecting our green and open spaces is simply unsustainable. It is important that we provide more housing, but at a

realistic and sustainable level with proper infrastructure in place. It is also important that we maintain the green and open spaces that give our neighbourhood the character, appeal and attractiveness that we all value and appreciate.

Cllr CLARENCE BARRETT

Parks Protection Service

Kindly note if you see any problems in any of the "Councils Open Spaces or Parks" please telephone or text the Parks Protection Service on 07904 805872. They can react very quickly.

Hornchurch Football Club

Our local team have had a terrific season so far. They are at home this month at the Stadium, Bridge Avenue on Saturday 7th against Heybridge Swifts, kick off at 3pm. On Friday 20th to Aveley kick off at 7.45 pm. Go along and support the Urchins.

National Park City

About this time next year, London is set to become the world's first city to become a National Park. When one views the urban sprawl of London and compare it to the other National Parks there is simply no comparison but London has many fine large parks and green spaces. In Havering alone we have over 100 and the aim is to get people, especially youngsters, involved with the wildlife around them. Encouraging them to enjoy, learn and play outdoors and connect with the wildlife while learning about the heritage culture too. In this age of social media, it can only be welcomed.

Cllr LINDA HAWTHORN

Wednesday Music Evenings

Wed 11th April - Anniversaries presented by Stephen Raindle. A bumper crop of composers, artists and performers celebrate important anniversaries this

year and will include Leonard Bernstein (b. 1918), Debussy (d. 1918) plus Rossini, Gounod and Tchaikovsky.

Wed 25th April - From Russia With Melody presented by George Saddington.

The Music Evenings take place in the 1st Floor Meeting Room at Hornchurch Library, North Street commencing at 7.30pm and ending at 9.30pm. Admission is free of charge but we do request a nominal donation for the interval refreshments. No need to pre-book - just turn up. For more information call Stephen Raindle 01708 470670 or email sraindle@aol.com

Branfil School host Comedy Night

The Friends of Branfil will be hosting a Comedy Night on Friday 20th April at Branfil Primary School. The fine evening of comedy entertainment is presented by "Bespoke Comedy". Featuring: Rob Rouse, star of BBC2's "Upstart Crow", Nathan Caton, star of Radio 4's "Can't

continued on page 7

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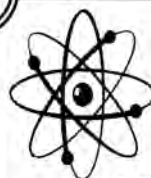
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Tell Nathan Nothing" and Paul Tonkinson, star of "McIntyre's Roadshow". The evening will be MC'd by Chris Gilbert, as seen on Sky Sports' Wocurou Doors open at 6.30pm, show starts at 19.15. Tickets £17 includes 1 free cocktail! Drinks will be on sale at 'the bar. Bookings via friends.branfil.com

Guided Wildflower Walks

Belhus Woods Country Park near Aveley is full of different plants. Mary leads walks through the spring and summer, helping people to recognise plant families and hence to plant names. We meet on a Wednesday by the Visitor Centre at 1:30pm and return at 4:30pm. You will need tough and/or old clothing, especially trousers and strong shoes or boots, as we visit rough and/or prickly and/or muddy areas. Some folk bring a camera or a smartphone, and/or a notebook and pencil, and/or a wild flower book, but none of these are essential. I lend out 10x lenses (one each) for 3 hours, or you can buy your own. You need to be fit enough to be on your feet for 3 hours, but we walk slowly. Some scarce plants we do not pick, so to see them you need to be able to get down to ground level, and

up again, without assistance. The Country Park charges for one session for one person (£5 last year), and there are 5 sessions this year, in April, May, June, July and August. Car parking costs are £3.50 per car, so come in twos or threes if you can. Please leave your dog at home or with a friend for the afternoon. Dates for 2018 are: 4th April; 2nd May; 6th June; 4th July; 8th August. **Call Mary on 01708 228921 or m.smith33gpr@gmail.com**

James Oglethorpe School

James Oglethorpe School is delighted to share the news of its recent OFSTED report. Not only was the school recognised as continuing to be a good school in all areas but the report also highlighted that under the new leadership there have been 'considerable changes, which have had a positive impact on pupils' achievement'. It also identified that 'pupils in the school are making strong progress in reading, writing and mathematics. The inspector commented on the exemplary behaviour of our students and the overwhelming positive support the leadership team has from

both staff and parents. Parents reported to OFSTED 'there is an air of excitement' and the 'school is going places!'. We couldn't agree more! Due to our recent expansion we still have limited spaces in some year groups across the school, please contact the office at office@jamesoglethorpe.havering.sch.uk if you would like to arrange a tour.

Rotary Big Band Night

Once again Hornchurch & Upminster Rotary Club are holding their popular annual St. Georges Day Big Band Concert at the Windmill Hall in Upminster, this time on Saturday April 21st. 2018. Featuring the popular Ken Turner 17-piece Big Band with singer/compere Mark Stratford, the theme will include music from the Glen Miller and Count Basie era. Tickets will be £20 per person, including a Fish or Chicken & Chips supper. The charity FIRST STEP of Hornchurch will be the main beneficiaries from funds raised from this event, with support also going to other Rotary activities in the local area. For ticket reservations please phone either. Brian Taffs (01708 250855)

or Jim Haines (01708 226717).

The Old Chapel Events

Weds 11 April, 10.30am - Bows, Billhooks, Pikes and Muskets, Geoff Hartnell. Learn about the changes in weapons and warfare during the Tudor and Stuart Period. Talks are £2 per person and include refreshments otherwise free for Friends of the Old Chapel. Booking is required. To book a place please contact the Heritage Officer on 01708 642919
Sunday 15 April, 2pm-5pm - Open Day. The Old Chapel will be open for you to come and learn about the history of the building and Upminster. Free entry.
Friday 20th April, 7.30pm - Changing Styles in fans from the Mid 18th to the Mid 19th Centuries, Mary Kitson. Just as ladies' fashions developed and changed so did fans which were essential costume accessories throughout this period, both as status symbols and as practical cooling devices. Join Mary Kitson, consultant to the Fan Museum in Greenwich as she will focus this talk on various ways in which fans could be used, relative to the different demands in play during this hundred year span. Free

continued on page 9

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event - Booking required. To book a place please contact the Heritage Officer on 01708 642919.

Hospice Day is Every Day

A recent news item revealed that St. Francis Hospice runs an operation costing some £11m per year yet receive only 30 per cent of its funding from NHS/Government sources. The remaining £7.7m then relies on legacies, donations, retail and fund-raising activities. The Hospice provide an important and essential service to the community, and with the number of people aged 85 and over expected to double over the next 20 years, along with the number of young adults living with life-limiting conditions also on the increase, the pressure on Hospices is only set to increase. It should be a government priority to put Hospices on a more sustainable and reliable funding basis. For example, instead of building HS2 at a cost of some £90 billion, with dubious benefits, imagine how just a fraction of that would benefit the Hospice movement. World Hospice Day is on October 13th this year, but every day is a Hospice day to

many patients and their families and they need proper funding and our support now.

Cllr CLARENCE BARRETT

Free Wills & LPA Advice Seminar

Join Pinney Talfourd LLP on one of their popular free Wills and Lasting Powers of Attorney talks on Friday 20 April or Saturday 21 April 2018, 11am - 12.30pm at Pinney Talfourd LLP Solicitors, 54 Station Road, Upminster, Essex, RM14 2TU. For more information and to book your free place please contact Kayleigh O'Donnell on 01708 229444. (Please note - the seminars will be taking place in our boardroom, located up one flight of stairs.)

SMASH Birthday Party?

SMASH Camps @ Stubbers Adventure Centre have developed a new range of birthday party packages. Starting from £165 for 10 children, you can treat your children to a party they'll never forget! Activities include

archery, climbing, rifle shooting, canoeing, sailing, commando camp and more. If your child loves motorsports we have quad biking, 4 x 4 and Jet skiing. Ben Woodcock, SMASH Camps Head of Operations, said: "We're already well known for hosting our great adventure days and SMASH Camps but people aren't always aware we host fantastic birthday parties. Whether it's for our popular 90 minute parties or our new full day adventures, we know we have something for everyone. "We provide the instructors and all the equipment, as well as birthday invitations and you also have the option for us to supply the cake and lunch, so parents don't need to worry about all the planning and stress that children's birthday parties often entail. Just leave it all to us and

simply collect your little ones when they're done." Find out more at www.smashcamps.co.uk/birthday-parties

Discounted Adventure Island Tickets

Engayne Primary School are selling Adventure Island, Southend, tickets at half the normal entry price. Blue Adventure Bands (over 1.2m) £16 and Green Adventure Bands (1m to 1.2m) £13. New addition, Sealife tickets now selling at £8 each!! All tickets valid until 31 December 2018. Please contact Lisa on 07895 024179 or Penny on 07703 676989 (both Upminster based).

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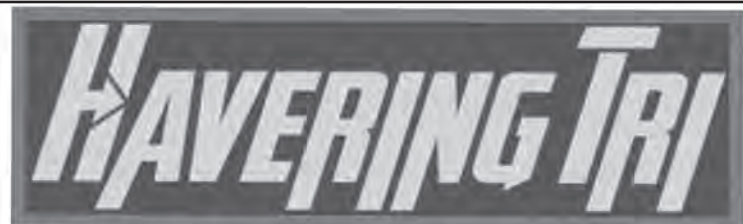
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Upminster Windmill

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Thames Chase

The work of developing the Community Forest has added a new woodland at Berwick Glades. During March the site, managed by the Forestry Commission, was planted by Thames Chase conservation volunteers with youngsters from local primary schools. This new site provides a vital connection for walkers from Bonnetts Wood to the Ingrebourne path. Our volunteers were also able to help the Friends of Parklands in replacing the black poplar tree that was blown down in a recent storm.

Events in April

Photography Exhibition – Friday 30th
March - Monday 2nd April 'Thames Chase in Winter'
Easter Holiday programme – 'What can you see and hear at Thames

Chase'. £3.00 donation for each session.

Tuesday 3rd / Wednesday 4th April 10.30am-12.30pm – drop in activities include planting sunflower seeds, making musical instruments and birds and a colouring trail.

Thursday 5th April 10.30-12noon – 'What can you do with a stick?' Listen to stories and make objects using sticks and natural materials.

Tuesday 10th / Wednesday 11th April 10.30am-12.30pm – Willow modelling, planting runner beans and discovery walk.

Thursday 12th April 10.30am and 11.30am (two sessions) – 'Dawn Chorus' music workshop for children over 4yrs. Must be booked.

Friday 13th April – Easter Cream Tea with live music from local musicians. £9.00 per person. Booking essential.

Sunday 15th April 10am-2pm – Sunday Market

Sunday 15th April 3-5.50pm – 'Classics in Spring'. Players from Havering Music School will entertain with well known light classic and popular music. Tickets £8.00 (£4.00 for und 18s) including refreshments.

Friday 27th April from 10am – guided walk through Dagnam Park to enjoy the bluebells. Meet at Central Park car park in Petersfield Ave., Harold Hill. More information on www.thameschase.org.uk or telephone 01708 642970.

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Breast Cancer Care Decorated Bra

All Saints Church, Cranham invite you to come and if possible exhibit a decorated bra in support of the Breast Cancer Care campaign to raise funds and awareness of the good they are doing. On Saturday 26th May the church will be open to visitors to come and view the decorated bras and have a cup of tea, coffee and cake whilst admiring the works of art. Please support this deserving cause and if possible decorate a bra for display. For further information please contact Jeanette on 01708 501505.

Murder Mystery Evening

First Step, Tangmere Crescent, Hornchurch, Essex RM12 5PP (was to be on Saturday 24th March) has now been rescheduled to Saturday 12th May, 7.30pm. Marking First Step's 30th anniversary year to raise monies to support its services. Please call 01708 556355 for further details.

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Tigers Stripes U11

The boys of Tigers Stripes U11 Football team, who play in the Echo League, were in need of a new kit. Local business Envy Barbers of Wingletye Lane stepped in and sponsored the boys for their new kit. Envy's Manager Tom said "I am pleased to put something back into the local community we serve, we hope the boys have a great end to



their season and a good summer tournament season". Tigers are most grateful for the help and will be doing all they can to ensure their hair styles reflect the skill at Envy! Of course Envy are happy to service the cutting and styling needs of all young budding players not just Tigers.

Little Havens Quiz

A Quiz organised by the Upminster

& Hornchurch Fundraising Group in aid of the Little Havens Children's Hospice in Thundersley will be held at the Crumpled Horn in Corbets Tey Road on 9th April. 19:30 for 20:00 start with tables up to a maximum of eight people. Costing £7 each and including a Ploughman's supper served during the halftime break. The winning table will receive a bottle of wine for each person. For further info and booking of places please contact Bob Blunden on 01708 226154.

The Wesley Players

The next production for the Wesley Players is W.I. Blues, a light comedy, by John Peel. Grace is hosting an unofficial W. I. meeting at her home. She has called a few friends round to discuss, prior to the forthcoming AGM, the threat to the organisation by the "wrong sort of people" in the village. Will the evening go as smoothly as she expects? £7 for Adults, £5.50 for Concessions and £3.50 for Children (under 16). As usual, Senior Citizens are admitted free to the Thursday & Friday evening shows. Tickets will be available on the door or may be booked in advance via the Box Office (text or phone) 07708 214742 or email tickets@wesley-players.co.uk. Performances are at 8.00pm on Thursday, 17th, Friday, 18th and

continued on page 15

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Blood Pressure Day

Hornchurch & Upminster Rotary Club will once again be offering free blood pressure checks in support of the Stroke Associations "Know Your Blood Pressure Day" campaign at the Trinity Reformed Church, Station Road, Upminster on Saturday 7th April 2018 between 10.30am and 2.00pm. 40% of strokes could be prevented by controlling high blood pressure so take advantage of a free check and help protect your health.

Water Colour Painting Class

Tuesdays 1 to 3 p.m. £4.50 per session. Small class of 15 people, instructions and help given, beginners welcome. Phone Hazel on 01708 222051.

Queen's Theatre

Disco royalty rolls into town for a glamorously feel-good musical - Priscilla, Queen of the Desert from 27th April. Based on the hit movie starring Terence Stamp and Guy Pearce.

Kids Activity Expo

Get ready for some full-on family fun, as KIDS ACTIVITY EXPO returns to Upminster next month! The award-winning Expo aims to encourage children to be active and healthy and brings together local groups, clubs and organisations to offer a range of exciting activities all under one roof. In its fifth year and proudly sponsored by the Romford Shopping Hall and McDonalds, the event is being held at The Coopers Company and Coborn School on St Mary's Lane on Sunday May 6th, 10.30am to 4pm. Book your FREE entry tickets today at www.KidsActivityExpo.com

U.C.R.A Coach Outing News

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Saturday 30th June 2018

Winchester is an unspoilt cathedral city on the edge of the rolling South Downs. Over four million people visit this ancient city every year which was once England's ancient capital and former seat of King Alfred the Great. The Cathedral, with its 17th-century Morley Library, Winchester Bible and Norman crypt is well worth a visit, it also boasts the longest nave in Europe! Wander through the winding streets of Winchester and you will find independent and big name stores,

continued on page 17

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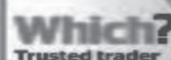
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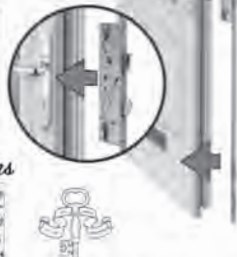
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Saturday 21st April 2018 Oxford 'OR' Bicester Shopping Village

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Stroll through the streets of 'Dreaming Spires' or visit one of the many historic buildings, colleges or museums. Oxford also boasts a large shopping centre and its famous covered market is well worth a visit. Weather permitting you could also take a punt down the river.

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market.

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Saturday 26th May 2018 BROADSTAIRS

'A leisurely day at the sea side' Broadstairs is an interesting mixture of Victorian architecture, cobbled streets and beaches. Brim-full of nostalgic Old-World seaside charm with independent shops, cafes and restaurants it is truly a joy to explore. Tickets are £17.00 each bookable with Joan Carroll from 6pm on Monday 2nd April tel: 01708 937579

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LOCAL FUTURE EVENTS APRIL

- 3 Tuesday - **Oglethorpe Women's Institute** Our 63rd Birthday Celebration - Mystery evening. Next month will be the Annual Meeting - if you would like a fish/chicken chips supper for that evening, please order it at this meeting. Visitors and new members are always welcome to join us. Our meetings are held at Cranham Social Hall, 103 Front Lane, RM14 1XL on the first Tuesday of every month at 7.45 pm. Contact Secretary Mrs. E. Bell on 01708 251161.
- 4 Wednesday - **Harold Wood Evening W.I.** meet on the 1st Wednesday on the month at the War Memorial Hall in Gubbins Lane 7.30 pm for 7.45 pm start. April we have comedy Psychic Mystic Mick coming to entertain us. May is our A.G.M. Visitors welcome entrance is £4.50, which includes refreshments. For more details please ring Joanne on 0787 5670419.
- 7,8 Saturday/Sunday - **Upminster Tithe Barn.** Open 10:30am - 4pm. Free entry.

- 8 Sunday - **OASIS** - A 'disability-friendly' meeting for adults at Cranham Baptist Church, Severn Drive. A traditional Sunday Service is not for everyone. Oasis meetings are accessible, friendly and informal. If you are interested in coming please contact the Oasis Team on: 01708 223551 or 07714 853545. 3.00 to 4.30 pm.

- 9 Monday - **Havering Branch Essex Wildlife Trust** Illustrated talk- CLOUDS with Ian Currie, Fellow of the Royal Meteorological Society, Let Ian be your guide to cloud watching. Meetings are held in the 1st floor meeting room in Hornchurch Library from 8.00 pm to 9.45 pm. Donation of £2.50 to help cover hall hire, this includes tea, coffee and biscuits. For more information contact the Secretary Joy Emerson on 01708 440297.

- 10 Tuesday - **Upminster and District Horticultural Society**, presents 28 - 360 acres: the delights and possibilities of RHS Garden Hyde Hall with Robert Brett. The lectures are held in the New Windmill Hall, St Mary's Lane, Upminster from 7.45pm until 9.45pm. Admission is free to members and £2 to non-members. For more information visit www.upminsterhorticulturalsociety.co.uk

- 10 Tuesday - **NADFAS** (Havering) welcomes Mr Rupert Willoughby with a talk on 'Basingstoke and its Contribution to World Culture'. Lecture 10.45am. Coffee from 10.00am. Visitors welcome at £8. Meetings are held at The New Windmill Hall, St Mary's Lane, Upminster RM14 2QH. Further details of forthcoming lectures and events can be found at www.haveringdfas.org.uk

- 11 Wednesday - **The Front Lane Community Association** Tea Dance at Cranham Social Hall, Front Lane, Cranham, RM14 1XN on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. Doors open 12.15 p.m. Come along and make new friends, whilst dancing to music by 'John'. £3.50 inc refreshments. Pay on the door. Further details contact Val on 01708 224166.

- 11 Wednesday - **Nelmes Women's Institute** meet on the 2nd Wednesday of every month and welcome new members of all ages. Meetings

are held at Nelves United Reformed Church Hall (corner of Nelves Road and Burntwood Avenue, Hornchurch, RM11 3JA). Meetings start at 2 pm promptly. Please contact Ruth McDougall on 01708 448431 or Ruth.wellwisher@gmail.com for further details.

- 11 Wednesday - **Havering U3A** Brad Ashton on 'A Job of a Laughter'. Havering U3A meets at 2.30pm on the second Wednesday of the month at St. Michael's Church Hall, Main Road, Gidea Park, Romford. www.u3asites.org.uk/havering

- 12 Thursday - **Upminster and Cranham W.I.** are looking for new members. We meet in the St. Laurence Hall (next to the Library) in Upminster on the second Thursday in the month. Doors open at 1.30 pm for a 2 pm start till 4 pm. We have talks on a wide range of subjects. We have lunches, afternoon teas, Outings and more. Why not come along and give us a try and meet new friends. For more information please contact President Margaret Reynolds on 01708 471977.

- 13 Friday - **RSPB Havering Local Group** Indoor Meeting - A Journey Through the Seasons of My Local Patch. Tonight we welcome Simon Ginnaw who is presenting his illustrated talk about the wildlife of his local patch which is Mote Park in Maidstone, Kent. 7.30pm - 9.45pm. All meetings take place upstairs in the Meeting Room at Hornchurch Library, Hornchurch. Entrance is £3.

- 17 Tuesday - **Upminster Camera Club** Members Evening. Cranham Community Association, 115a Marlborough Gardens, Upminster, RM14 1SR. 7.45pm. www.upminstercameraclub.org.uk

- 17 Tuesday - **Upminster U3A** Mark and Pam Bathurst, "The Medway Queen Paddle Steamer". University of the Third Age - meets at 1pm on the third Tuesday monthly in the New Windmill Hall, St Mary's Lane, Upminster. Doors open at 12.30pm. For further information about membership and current interest groups, come along to a meeting for free or check out our website www.u3asites.org.uk/upminster.

continued on page 19



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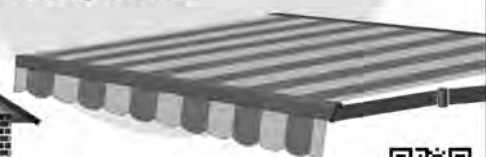
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17 Tuesday - **Cranham Engayne W.I.** welcomes new members and visitors. Meetings held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 2 pm to 4 pm at the Cranham Community Centre, Marlborough Gardens.

19 Thursday - **Upminster Wine and Social Club** meet on the third Thursday of the month at 8 pm in the Cranham Social Hall, Front Lane, Cranham. We hold meetings every month with a variety of speakers and wine tasting. For more information contact Maureen Jasper on 01708 223956, or simply come along on the night. You will be most welcome.

20 Friday - **Haverling Antique and Collectors Club** meet at the Neighbourhood Centre, Gubbins Lane, Harold Wood on the third Friday of the month. Starting at 7.30 pm. Guests £4. For further details please call our Chairman Mrs Chris Lovett 07947 367258.

21,22 Saturday/Sunday - **Upminster Tithe Barn.** Open 10:30am - 4pm. Free entry.

25 Wednesday - **Upminster Park Towns Womens Guild** meet on the fourth Wednesday of every month at 2 pm to 4 pm in Derham Hall (behind Upminster Library), Upminster. Afternoon tea, talks and outings amongst a friendly group of ladies, all most welcome. For more information contact Deborah Pryor on 01708 226127 or Ann Monk on 01708 226305 or simply come along.

25 Wednesday - **Upminster and District Probosc Club** meet at The Cranleigh, 84 Station Road, Hornchurch, RM12 6LX. Brian D'arcy - Living with the Ghosts of the Tower of London. Contact Barry on 01708 703783 and leave a message or send an email secretary@upminsterprobosc.club.

28 Saturday - **RSPB Haverling Local Group** Coach Outing - Paxton Pits NR, Huntingdon, Cambs. 77 hectares of lakes, meadow, grassland, scrub and woodland next to the River Great Ouse where you can enjoy a wealth of wildlife all year round. Contact Michael Hughes for more info or to book your ticket by 20 April £18. 01708 250585 E-mail: mikeboy15@gmail.com

30 Monday - **Breathe Easy** - Haverling meet at St

Andrews Church, Hornchurch, in aid of the British Lung Foundation on the last Monday of the month. The meetings run from 1.30 - 3pm, £3 donation is appreciated. We are a support group for people with COPD, Asthma or other Breathing Difficulties. For details please ring Joyce on 01708 226696 or Elaine on 01708 509127.

MAY

1 Tuesday - **Oglethorpe Women's Institute.** Annual Meeting and when we discuss Resolutions. We will have our usual fish/chicken chip supper if it has been ordered. Our meetings are held at Cranham Social Hall, 103 Front Lane, RM14 1XL on the first Tuesday of every month at 7.45 pm. Contact Secretary Mrs. E. Bell on 01708 251161 or just come along on the evening.

2 Wednesday - **Harold Wood Evening W.I.** meet on the 1st Wednesday on the month at the War Memorial Hall in Gubbins Lane 7.30 pm for 7.45 pm start. A.G.M. Visitors welcome entrance is £4.50, which includes refreshments. For more details please ring Joanne on 0787 5670419.

5 Saturday - **The Haverling 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 'Western Front in the Great War' with Paul Weaver. The Internet & Technology Group meet at the same venue 11am - 1pm where a Q&A session is followed by 'Getting the most from S.O.G Data online' with Else Churchill. Teas and coffees can be purchased. Members and visitors welcome to either or both.

5 Saturday - **Sugar Craft** - Venue, Fairkytes Art Centre, Billet Lane Hornchurch, Time 1.30 - 3.30pm, Entry Price now £7, includes Tea and Cake.

7 Monday - **Haverling Branch Essex Wildlife Trust** - Bird Walk At Cranham Marsh. Meet at the end of Park Drive, Upminster at 08.00am. Donation of £5 followed by light refreshments.



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Upminster Tithe Barn Opening Days

Upminster Tithe Barn Museum of Nostalgia opens its doors for a new season on Saturday 7 April and is looking for volunteers to guide visitors around. They are looking for people who can spare a few hours at weekends. You don't have to be a historian but an interest in local history is useful. April open days are 7 & 8 and 21 & 22. More details on 01708 228730 or just call in when the barn is open.



The Upminster and District Horticultural Society

Our lecture on April 10th will be presented by Robert Brett, speaking on the 'delights and possibilities' of the Royal Horticultural Society's garden in Essex, Hyde Hall. With sweeping panoramas, big open skies and far reaching views Hyde Hall is

an inspiration to visitors of all ages. Over the last few years the garden has undergone huge changes, Robert will talk about some of the major garden developments including a new 'Winter Garden', a large scale 'Perennial Meadow' and a new 'Global Growth Vegetable Garden'. Plus there is the opportunity to join us on our coach trip to Hyde Hall in October.

Lectures take place in the New Windmill Hall, St Mary's Lane, Upminster. The evening begins at 7.45pm and finishes at 9.45pm. Admission is free to members and £2 to non-members. For more information visit www.upminsterhorticulturalsociety.co.uk

Vanilla Bake Club

Vanilla Bake Club is 5 years old this year! If you haven't paid us a visit yet, now is definitely the time. We meet next on Monday 16th April with a 'Best of British' themed event for St George's day. If you haven't been to one of our events before why not come along for half price, £2.50, for an evening of friendly chat, unlimited tea and coffee and tasting our delicious bakes. How better to spend a Monday evening? We meet at the Old Chapel Upminster at 6.30pm. For more information call Jennifer on 07940828154, email vanillabakeclubupm@gmail.com, or visit our Facebook page.

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Lunchtime Recitals

April Thursday Lunchtime Recitals at St Laurence Church, Corbets Tey Road, Upminster 1.05pm- 1.50pm. Free admission - retiring collection in aid of the church music programme.
12th - Keenan Ngo - piano
26th - Nigel Lockwood - organ

Nelmes Badminton Club

Nelmes Badminton Club meets every Tuesday evening at 8 p.m. in the large hall at St. Michaels Church Main Road, Gidea Park (near The American Golf Shop). We are a very friendly club with have two courts with a high ceiling. We are a friendly, sociable group and vary in age from mid-twenties to active 50+ with medium to good standard. We do not unfortunately have the facilities to coach non-players. Anyone interested can either email adew@btinternet.com or ibobpannell@gmail.com for more information.

Spring is in the Air

Hopefully we have seen the last of the snow and we already have trees in blossom. It is that time of year when we get planting! Cranham

Village railing planters and Avon Road bollard planters have been planted with their spring planting, bringing colour to the area and hopefully lifting spirits. As this is a voluntary activity, we have welcomed donations from the Residents Association. I would be interested in hearing from anybody who would like to make a donation towards, plants and replacement soil. Planting takes place twice a year, with local youth groups helping with the summer planting schemes. Please contact Councillor Gillian Ford on 01708 641317.

Charity Brass Band Concert

This year the Brass Band Concert of popular music in aid of St Francis Hospice will be held at the Collier Row (North Romford) Community Centre, Clockhouse Lane, Collier Row, RM5 3QJ on Saturday September 29th 2018 7.00 for 7.30 till 9.30. Last year the concert raised £1372.40. Drinks to buy at the bar with tea/coffee & cakes available for a donation. Raffle and lucky programme number prize. Adults £5, children (under16) £4.

For tickets please contact Glinette Woods email:glinettewoods@btinternet.com or phone 01708 345887.



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Coopers Indoor Table Top Sale

The next Indoor Table Top Sale at the Coopers' Company & Coborn School, St Marys Lane, Upminster, RM14 3HS will be held on Sunday 22nd April 2018. School supplied tables are £12. Seller supplied tables, no bigger than a 6ft paste table, are £8. Sellers from 7am and must book and pay in advance. Call 07508135449.

Buyers doors open at 9am. Entrance fee is 50p for adults, children are free. Entrance free after 11am. Disabled access. Toilets & refreshments are available. E-mail: Bootsales@cooperscoborn.co.uk
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James Oglethorpe Pre-School

In January 2018 James Oglethorpe Pre-School moved from their old classrooms, where they have been since 1994, to a brand new nursery built in the area where the schools pupil referral unit used to exist.

The pupil referral unit is no longer situated in the school and the pre-school are very pleased to have this area designated for their sole use. The building has been redesigned and a fantastic extension has been added. The funding for the new nursery came from a bid that Havering secured from central government. The official opening was Friday 9th February. The children love the amazing new building and it is a safe happy environment for them to learn and be nurtured in. Many

of the staff have been with the pre-school for a long while and welcome this new stage of the pre-schools life.

The pre-school is open Monday to Friday 8.40 to 3.20pm. There is also a breakfast club available. For more information call Amanda Jackson on 07985763702

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DIARY APRIL

4 Wednesday - **Upminster Ward Meeting** at St Joseph's Social Centre at 7.30pm.

12 Thursday - **Cranham Ward (AGM) Meeting** at Cranham Community Centre, Marlborough Gardens at 7.15pm.

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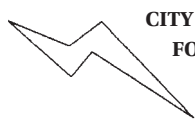
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