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 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 to all the new households that joined us in 2017 – we are looking forward to working with and representing you in 2018.

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 the next twelve months. Also next year will be a busy year for us with the local council elections being held in May and we would appreciate your support during this busy period. Again, 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

Cllr CLARENCE BARRETT

Upminster Christmas Event

Councillor Ron Ower, The Mayor Upminster Residents’ Councillor Linda Van den Hende, Chris Wilkins Upminster and Cranham Residents’ Association Chairman, Councillor Linda Hawthorn

(From left to Right).

continued on page 2

Housing Target increased by 60% by Mayor of London

Last month the Mayor of London published his ‘London Local Plan’ which aims to build 650,000 households by 2029, with Havering earmarked for 18,750 (1,875 per annum) over the decade – 705 more than the figure (1,170 per annum) recently included in the draft Havering Local Plan. Targets set for nearby councils are Greenwich (3,511 pa), Barking & Dagenham (2,264 pa), Redbridge (1,979 pa) Waltham Forest (1,794 pa) and Newham (3,850 pa). Our borough is over 50% green belt and these target figures are simply unsustainable and unrealistic. More homes are needed, but so is the corresponding infrastructure – such as schools, medical centres and transport to create a sustainable community which retains the character of our borough. This new target is an increase of 60% on the previous figure, which was challenging enough to deliver. There is a consultation, which we would encourage residents to respond to, which runs until 2nd March 2018 (see London.gov.uk) and comments can be made by email to LondonPlan@londongov.uk, via the on-line tool at London.gov.uk or in writing to London Plan Team, City Hall, London, SE1 2AA. We shall keep you updated on this important matter.

Cllr CLARENCE BARRETT

Upminster Christmas Event

Councillor Ron Ower, The Mayor Upminster Residents’ Councillor Linda Van den Hende, Chris Wilkins Upminster and Cranham Residents’ Association Chairman, Councillor Linda Hawthorn

(From left to Right).

continued on page 2

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Cranham and Upminster Edition
My Council colleague Ron Ower and I would like to thank all of you who attended the “Upminster Christmas Lights Switch on Event” at the end of November in record numbers once again.

Thanks for your kind comments on the event.

We would like to thank Upminster (The Bell) School for hosting the free fairground rides for the children which was sponsored by us your local Upminster & Cranham Residents Association. Also the Friends of Upminster Windmill, The Old Chapel, Havering College, Stubbers Outdoor Adventure Centre, Retired Greyhounds Association, Waitrose Supermarket, Gemmas Dance School - the children danced really well, Local Churches Choir - nice to hear traditional songs, Crusader First Aid and to Bedrock Hospital Radio for their PA system and playing some nice festive music. Father Christmas paid a special visit with his float from The local Havering East Rotary.

A thank you to the Councils Communication Departments Officers who helped sitting up the stalls and arranging for the gifts for the children and for the support of the Ward Police.

We would also like to thank the additional businesses for their financial support for the Christmas lights fund in addition to the list published last month: Yogi News, Swan Books, Westway Travel, Stanton & Doran, Ken Rhodes Group, Pinney Talfourd. Finally, a huge thank you to our colleague The Mayor Upminster Residents Councillor Linda Van den Hende who switched on the lights. She was pleased on how many children stopped to say hello to her. We look forward to seeing you next year.

Cllr LINDA HAWTHORN

2018 Elections to Havering Council

Councillors June Alexander (Cranham) and Linda Vanden Hende (Upminster) have decided not to seek re-election. The Executive Committee of the Upminster & Cranham Residents’ Association have agreed to put the following forward for ratification at the AGM as the Association’s candidates in next year’s election: Clarence Barrett, Gillian Ford and John Tyler for the Cranham Ward and Linda Hawthorn, Ron Ower and Chris Wilkins for the Upminster Ward. Future editions will carry articles on the contributions both retiring Councillors have made over many years.

Association AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Upminster & Cranham Residents’ Association takes place on Monday 26th February at 7.30pm at The Old Chapel, St. Marys lane. The AGM will be followed by a talk on the progression of works on the Upminster Windmill.

Connies Farewell

After a great deal of thought and deliberation I have decided to retire from my charity work. It has been 25 years since I first started at St Francis Hospice Shop in St. Marys Lane and then in 2009 opening the Rainbow Trust Children’s Charity Shop in Corbets Troy Road. I say “I “but in fact it was great team effort and what a loyal team you have always been, many of you for 25 years. To you all I say from the bottom of my heart a big thank you for all your support and hard work in making the shop a success and I know we will remain friends. This thank you also includes my wonderful husband Tony and my family whose support has meant so much to me, and lastly to you the public for your generous donations and the customers for their loyal support.

I wish the shop continuous success in the future.

Connie
Remembrance Sunday

Over six hundred people rallied around the Upminster War Memorial on November 12th to join the many other services across the borough and country in marking Remembrance Sunday. A parade from the British Legion Club in St Mary's Lane joined up with many hundreds of people at the Upminster War Memorial to observe a service conducted by the Revd. Susannah Brasier of St Laurence Church and the laying of wreaths from local community groups, Council, cadets, voluntary groups, British Legion, military, the Upminster & Cranham Residents’ Association (pictured), scouts, cubs, girl guides and brownies - and many other local groups and organisations. It was great to see so many people in attendance to pay their respects in an impeccably observed service. With so many young people present, it’s important that the significance and prominence of the occasion is carried through from generation to generation.

Cllr CLARENCE BARRETT

Upminster People

Upminster Camera Club is embarking on an ambitious project to take images of people living, working or just passing through Upminster during the whole of 2018. The emphasis is on capturing people in their normal daily life. The photographs will be exhibited at the Havering Museum, for six weeks from June 29th 2019 and will be archived under the care of Havering’s Local Studies and Family History department.

Photographers will be suitably identified when they are out and about and may want to take your photo sometime next year and hope that this introduction will encourage you to cooperate with their contribution for the future. For further information, please get in touch through: info@upminstercameraclub.co.uk

Christmas Events

Once again it was really heartening to see the effort that many local organisations made to make the lead up to Christmas special around Upminster and Cranham. Particular highlights for my young daughter were the arrival of Santa at Roomes, the activities in the Upminster Infant School’s playground during the Upminster Christmas tree switch-on and the Christmas Tree Festival in the Methodist Church, which she went to with my wife and liked so much that she wanted to go back again with the rest of the family. It is good to know that community spirit is alive and well in our area!

John Tyler
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Windmill Quiz Night

Please note that the Annual Windmill quiz night will be held on Saturday 24th February at 7.30pm in the Main Church Hall St Laurence, price £6, bring your own food and drink - our hosts will be Gillian and Stephen Roome. All proceeds go to the Windmill restoration fund. This event is always popular and spaces are limited, so please book early to prevent disappointment.

Cllr LINDA HAWTHORN

Shroff Accountancy

Shroff Accountancy commenced trading in 1996 from serviced offices in Upminster Bridge. Now keen to be embedded more centrally within the local community, Jimmy Shroff, owner of Shroff Accountancy has decided to relocate to Corbets Tey Road, specifically on the first floor of Upminster Library. Having commenced as a sole trader, the business now employs 7 staff and is looking to expand further. Shroff Accountancy is dedicated to supporting local businesses through an increasingly complex and legislative environment and aims to provide a professional and efficient service, tailored to client’s unique requirements. Our clients range from individuals requiring tax return assistance to small and medium sized businesses including Companies requiring audits. For any accountancy or taxation matters, please contact either Jim Shroff or Derek Hancock. Tel number: 01708 515515 or email: jim@shroff.co.uk.

All Saints Players

The All Saints Players present ‘The Pied Piper’ a Pantomime by Alan P Frayn by arrangement with Stage Right Creative Ltd. Thursday 11th January 2018, Friday 12th January 2018, Saturday 13th January 2018 8.00pm (doors open 7.30pm). Matinee Saturday 2.30pm (doors open 2pm) at All Saints Church Hall, Ardleigh Green Road, Hornchurch. Tickets £5.00 Box Office: 01708 607855 or email: boxoffice@allsaintsplayers.org.uk

Wednesday Music Evenings

Wed 17th Jan - THESE YOU HAVE LOVED presented by Jim Uffindell who follows the format of the popular BBC radio show. Wed 31st Jan - THESE YOU HAVE CHOSEN: YOUR MUSIC REQUESTS introduced by Harry Newman. At the time of writing there is not very much we can reveal about the contents of this evening’s programme since organiser Harry Newman is still collecting and collating the choices.

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

King George A&E Saved from Closure

The proposal to close the Accident & Emergency Department at King George Hospital in 2019 has been shelved. A new review will now be undertaken which will seek to embed a sustainable service that is responsive to the needs of the community in terms of access and capacity. In a statement released by the East London Health & Care Partnership (ELHCP), they confirmed the existing A&E at King George will continue to operate as it does now. The announcement follows recommendations made by consulting group Price Waterhouse Coopers (PWC) after a recent strategic review. The decision also comes after a decade of campaigning by cross-party and cross-council support across Redbridge and Havering. Particular concerns were that Queen’s Hospital A&E, already under great pressure, would be unable to cope with A&E provision for a much wider area should King George A&E close.

Cllr CLARENCE BARRETT
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Jul, Thu 26th: London Cabaret Club, Holborn, 3 Course Meal, welcome drink, entertainment by "ABBA" – Matinee show/lunch. £65 Adults, £50 Child By coach

Aug, Wed 8th: The King and I Musical, London Palladium, Matinee Show by Coach; Child £60; Adult £62; best Stall Seats. Suitable for over 5 years.

Aug, Thu 16th: Broadstairs, (Folk Week), Morris Dancers, Sandy Beach, Punch + Judy, free entertainment around town, Craft Fair. Prices to follow. Pickups from: Jobbers Rest, Plough Pub and Front Lane on all trips. Shirley Ward 01708 227884 or email shirley@shirleytours.co.uk

Mayor's Charity Variety Show

I have organised a variety show at the Queens Theatre on Tuesday 16 January 2018 at 7pm with all proceeds going to my three nominated charities, First Step, Dementia UK and Havering Volunteer Centre. Acts will be a mixture of dance, singers, musicians and the Royal British Legion Band. This is an opportunity to showcase local talent, mainly young people and I hope you will be able to support me. Tickets are £15 and available now from the Queens Box office. www.queens-theatre.co.uk

Cllr LINDA VAN DEN HENDE
Mayor of Havering

The Chase

Congratulations to local resident Becca who was on the winning team on The Chase hosted by Bradley Walsh on ITV. Becca helped the team to beat the Chaser. Really great. Well done.

Thames Chase

The forest in winter has a charm of its own for walking and enjoying the trees, flora and wildlife during our coldest months. The Thames Chase wildlife group are holding a photographic competition between 1st January and 20th March to capture the Forest at rest (or is it?). Photographs submitted from all ages will be on display in an exhibition at the Centre over the Easter weekend. www.thameschase.org.uk

Sunday Market at the Forest Centre on Sunday 14th January 10am-2pm for craft and produce stalls.

Thames Guided Walk to Hornchurch Country Park on Friday 26th January meeting in the car park off Squadrons Approach at 10am for a circular walk on surfaced paths.

Thames Chase Quiz Evening on Friday 26th January from 7.30pm at The Old Chapel, Upminster. Tables of 8. Book at the Forest Centre. £5 per person (Bring your own refreshments)

Forest Centre cafe – Friday Winter Warmers 10am-3pm £4.00 for luxury hot chocolate with trimmings and slice of bake or soup and crusty bread.

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Charity Fundraising Concert

Havering Group Diabetes UK is holding a Charity Fundraising Concert by the Brentwood School Big Band on Saturday 17th March 2018 at St. Luke’s Church, Front Lane, Cranham, Upminster RM14
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Monies raised will be going to Diabetes UK for Research and Above Us Only Sky, a charity for the homeless. The Concert starts at 7.30 pm. and tickets priced at £12 for adults and £6 for under 16s, can be obtained from Debbie Broom on 01708 473314 debbie.broom@tesco.net or David Squibb on 07713 069309 david@squibb.eclipse.co.uk.

**Lymphoma, Myeloma and Leukaemia support group**

We are a friendly support group under the umbrella of the Lymphoma association, for anyone whose lives have been affected by Blood cancers. We meet approximately monthly in the foyer of Upminster Baptist church, Springfield Gardens 13.30 - 15.00 hrs unless otherwise stated. Most months we have a speaker but there is always plenty of time to chat. For more information please see www.lyphomas.org.uk or contact Doreen on 01708 508323.

**Wild Animal Carcasses**

Sadly, wild animals can be killed on the roads, or be found dead in back gardens. If on the road, please just inform the council on 01708 425963 and they will come and collect but if on your own property they need to be put in a black sack and placed at the front of the property, as the Council are not allowed to enter private premises.

Cllr LINDA HAWTHORN

**Havering Autism Strategy**

I was delighted to hear that the Autism strategy for Havering was accepted by the Health and Wellbeing Board of the Council. This will allow the Autism Partnership Board to which I have being chair to move forward with its strategy. There are many objectives of the strategy and there is still much to do though this is a platform to develop the strategy further. There are 5 main key themes of the strategy: 1. Increasing awareness and understanding of ASC

2. Developing a clear and consistent pathway for diagnosis
3. Making it easier for people with ASC to get the services and support they need
4. Helping adults with ASC into work
5. Working with local partners to help them develop suitable services

The strategy is for a 5 year period though will be kept under constant review. There were many stakeholders involved in the development of the plan including local groups and I would like to thank Sycamore Trust, RIEES and SENSA for their time and commitment as well as those of Council Officers. Further details of the policy is on the Council website.

Cllr DARREN WISE

**Big Band Concert**

The David Pickthall Big Band will be performing two sets on Saturday 13th January at 7pm, St Laurence Church, Corbets Tey Road, Upminster. Adults £12 Under 18/Students £6 & under 5-free. Tickets 01708 220696 parish.office@upminsterparish.co.uk.

**Bike Locks**

There has been an increase in the number of bikes being stolen by opportunistic thieves breaking or cutting the bike lock when chained to a bike post. Cycle owners should be aware that any device which can be cut through quickly can be ineffective. A continued on page 11
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Help Local Businesses with Rates Increase

With our local shops already dealing with a sharp increase in business rates, rents and competition from on-line retailers, the prospect of a 3.9% increase in rates from next April (based on September Retail Price Index) could tip the balance the wrong way for many of our small businesses. Although the Autumn Statement now limits the rise to Consumer Price Index (3.0%), the UK’s commercial property tax is far higher than elsewhere in Europe. ‘Shop Local, Hire Local’ is a fine aspiration in which we can all play a role in supporting our local shops, but we need the government to play a positive role also.

Cllr CLARENCE BARRETT

Old Chapel Event

Wed 10 Jan, 10.30am - Exploring The Georgian Interior Of Benjamin Franklin

Gemma returns to tell us about research carried out to find out how the London home of this Founding Father might have looked. To book a place please contact the Heritage Officer on 01708 642919 or email gsmith@mary.havering.sch.uk

Havering Shared Lives Scheme Is Recruiting Carers

In Shared Lives people with learning disabilities are supported within the family home of Shared Lives Carers. Shared Lives Carers are ordinary people who do extraordinary things. They offer their spare room to someone with similar likes and interests, and share their family and community with them, as well as supporting them to live independently. The scheme, based in the Volunteer Centre in Romford High St is

continued on page 13

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Cllr CLARENCE BARRETT

Old Chapel Event

Wed 10 Jan, 10.30am - Exploring The Georgian Interior Of Benjamin Franklin

Gemma returns to tell us about research carried out to find out how the London home of this Founding Father might have looked. To book a place please contact the Heritage Officer on 01708 642919 or email gsmith@mary.havering.sch.uk

Havering Shared Lives Scheme Is Recruiting Carers

In Shared Lives people with learning disabilities are supported within the family home of Shared Lives Carers. Shared Lives Carers are ordinary people who do extraordinary things. They offer their spare room to someone with similar likes and interests, and share their family and community with them, as well as supporting them to live independently. The scheme, based in the Volunteer Centre in Romford High St is

continued on page 13

Help Local businesses with Rates Increase

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continued on page 13
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Anyone interested in becoming a shared lives carer, or using the scheme for respite or long term support please contact info@bettertogether.org.uk or call 07541 031530

Hornchurch Aerodrome Historical Society

The Hornchurch Aerodrome Historical Society are a small friendly group of enthusiastic local amateur historians who are helping to preserve our past for future generations. We aim to use our combined knowledge and expertise, as well as the many historical artefacts and photographs that relate to the former aerodrome’s illustrious history in our displays and exhibitions. Our members also tend the three Battle of Britain pilots’ graves in the Military section of the local Hornchurch cemetery, next to St. Andrews church.

If you are as like minded as us and would like to come along and join us, we would like to hear from you. Alternatively, if you have any memories of the former aerodrome that you would like to share with us or if you have any RAF Hornchurch artefacts that you may wish to loan or even donate to the society. www.rafhornchurch.com

Join Citizens Advice as a volunteer

Citizens Advice Havering is the local charity whose information, guidance, advice and in-depth support service helps people resolve many issues that impact on their lives, health and well-being. The charity is currently recruiting volunteer Information & Advice Assistants. Applications are welcomed from people who are good listeners, team players, have good literacy and numeracy skills, are open-minded and don’t judge people or their circumstances and are able to commit to about seven hours a week at locations in Romford, Hornchurch or Harold Hill. No special qualifications or experience are required; the Citizens Advice accredited training programme provides all the skills needed to deliver a high quality service to clients. To find out more, please contact: volunteering@haveringcab.org.uk

Litter Fines to Increase

I was pleased to note a government announcement stating that the maximum fine for littering will increase from £75 to £150 from April 2018 (I would prefer £500, but at least a step in the right direction). In addition, councils will be able to impose fines on owners of vehicles from which litter is thrown, without the need to identify exactly which occupant threw the litter, bringing the rest of the country into line with London. Littering is a blight on our communities, is an environmental hazard and wastes money which could be better used fixing our pavements, looking after our vulnerable and supporting our local economies. Let’s hope the increase in fines is followed by an increase in enforcement.

Clr CLARENCE BARRETT

Hornchurch Football Club

Kindly note Hornchurch are away to Aveley on the 6th this continued on page 15
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month. Then home on the 13th to Waltham Abbey and on the 27th to Norwich United. Then on the 10th February home to Harringey Borough. All kick offs at 3pm.

**New Trees**

New trees have been planted to replace those we have lost, including those during the gale last March - when the borough lost 64 street trees. These are watered by the Council, five times between May and July, but can benefit from further watering’s, especially when saplings. Trees make our roads look better, we receive a lot of comments on how they improve the area, so if you are able and feel willing, always pour a little water down the black plastic tube which all new trees are provided with.

Cllr LINDA HAWTHORN

**Parking Problems**

One of the most frequent complaints we receive is over parking problems. The number of cars in our area has increased at a huge rate.

Havering, we are 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 Office number 07946 738495.

**Guvnor of Comedy**

Our local comedian Jimmy Jones makes a welcome return to The Cranleigh, 84 Station Lane, Hornchurch on Friday 2nd February. The very gifted Micky Pugh will also be appearing with Jimmy. Please telephone Christine at The Cranleigh on 01708 443 229 for further details and bookings. This promises to be a fantastic evening.

**Keep Fit 50+**

Become more active with a 50+ Movement, Exercise and Dance class. With recent advice that older adults should get up and move more to help stay mobile, independent and ward off illness. Why not come along at 2-3.30 Wednesdays during term time. St Laurence Church Hall (next to

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**Concert for Bosco**

Come and enjoy an evening of classical music, to raise money for the SVP children’s camp. Saturday 3rd February 2018 - New Windmill Hall, Upminster, 7.30 to 9.30 pm. Wine and refreshments included. Advance tickets £8; on the door £11. Wine and refreshments included.

**The Wesley Players**

Pantomime ‘Arthur of Camelot’ by Colin and Charlii Richardson is the next production from The Wesley Players. Join Arthur, Queen Guinevere and their friends as they journey through the Mystic Mountain to face Morgana’s dragon and restore peace to Camelot once more. This is a traditional style pantomime with classical music, to raise money for the CAP Money Course. To book, or for further information contact the Secretary Joy Emerson on 01708 440129.

**Free Household Budgeting Course**

The CAP Money Course is a government recognised and recommended budgeting course which has helped thousands of people in this country to better manage their money and find the resources they need to flourish. We are pleased to offer the CAP Money Course, at St. Luke’s Church Centre, 201 Front Lane, Cranham, RM14 1LD. The course takes place over three Wednesday evenings - January 10th, 17th and 24th, 2018 at 7.30 pm. The course is free and workbooks will be provided. To book, or for further information, go to: www.capmoney.org or e-mail capmoneystlukescranham@gmail.com

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**LOCAL FUTURE EVENTS**

**JANUARY**

- Monday - Herfree Branch Essex Wildlife Trust Meetings are held in the 1st floor meeting room in Hornchurch Library from 8.00 pm to 9.45 pm. Illustrated Talk: Gunners Park by EWT’s Shoebury Ranger Andrew Armstrong, about the Old Ranges and the local wildlife. 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 440129.

- Tuesday - Upminster and District Horticultural Society - AGM and first lecture of the New Year ‘Growing for the Flower Arranger All Year Round’ presented by Mike Windhorst. The meeting runs from 7.45pm until 9.45pm and is held in The New Windmill Hall, St Mary’s Lane, Upminster. Admission is free to members and £2 for non-members. For more details visit www.upminsterhortculturalsociety.co.uk

- Tuesday - NADFAS (Havering) welcomes Clare Phillips with a talk on ‘American Glamour - 150 years of Tiffany and Co’s Jewellery’. 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

- Tuesday - Ofgehorte Women’s Institute We are having a Social Evening. Visitors and new members are always welcome to join us. Our meetings are held at Cranham Social Hall, 163 Front Lane, RM14 XX, on the first Tuesday of every month at 7.45 pm. Contact Secretary Mrs. E. Bell on 01708 251161.

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- Tuesday - Oglethorpe Women’s Institute We are having a Social Evening. Visitors and new members are always welcome to join us. Our meetings are held at Cranham Social Hall, 163 Front Lane, RM14 XX, on the first Tuesday of every month at 7.45 pm. Contact Secretary Mrs. E. Bell on 01708 251161.

**FUNDRAISER**

**The Wesley Players**

Mr. E. Bell on 01708 251161.

**For more information please contact President Margaret Reynolds on 01708 077082**

- Friday - RSPB Havering Local Group Indoor Meeting - Peter Holden MBE presents an illustrated talk entitled ‘Born to Travel’ the story of bird migration. 7.30pm - 9.45pm. All meetings take place upstairs in the Meeting Room at Hornchurch Library, Hornchurch. Entrance is £3.

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**FEBRUARY**

- Sunday - OASIS - A ‘disability-friendly’ meeting for adults at Cranham Baptist Church, Seven Drive. A traditional Sunday Service is not for everyone! We invite you to come and start the New Year with us! 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 4.30pm.

- Tuesday - Upminster U3A Janet Brewer 'Growing for the Flower Arranger All Year Round' presented by Mike Windhorst. The meeting runs from 7.45pm until 9.45pm and is held in The New Windmill Hall, St Mary’s Lane, Upminster. Admission is free to members and £2 for non-members. For more details visit www.upminsterhorticulturalsociety.co.uk

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- Thursday - Upminster and Cranham W.I. are looking for new members. We meet in the St. Laurence Hall (next to the Library) in Upminster. Doors open at 7.00pm 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 077082.

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**MARCH**

**TUESDAY**

- Tuesday - Oglethorpe Women’s Institute We are having a Social Evening. Visitors and new members are always welcome to join us. Our meetings are held at Cranham Social Hall, 163 Front Lane, RM14 XX, on the first Tuesday of every month at 7.45 pm. Contact Secretary Mrs. E. Bell on 01708 251161.

**For more information about the various activities going on throughout the year, please visit our website:**

www.upminsterhorticulturalsociety.co.uk

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19

16 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.
17 Wednesday - Hornchurch Harmonies W.I., meets on the 3rd Wednesday of every month (except August) between 7.30pm - 9.45pm at Havering Indoor Bowls Club RM11 1JU. Visitors fee £3.50 includes tea and cake.
18 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. For more information contact Maureen Jasper on 01708 223956, or simply come along on the night.
19 Friday - Havering Antiques and Collectors Club meet at the Neighbourhood Centre, Gubbins Lane, Harold Wood. Starting at 7.30 pm. Charlie Hardock - History of Surnames. Guests £4. For further details please call our Chairman Mrs Chris Lovett 07947 367258.

23 Tuesday - Upminster Camera Club Outings Competition (Prints & PDI) Judge: Andy Brett (Our Outings Secretary). Cranham Community Association, 115a Marlborough Gardens, Upminster, RM14 1SR. 7.45pm. www.upminstercameraclub.org.uk
24 Wednesday - Upminster Park Towns Women's 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.

29 Monday - Breathe Easy - Havering 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 226096 or Elaine on 01708 590127.

FEBRUARY
3 Saturday - The Havering Branch of the East of London Family History Society at Trinity Church, Station Road, Upminster RM14 2SJ doors open at 1pm meeting starts at 2pm. The talk is 'The de Havilland Aircraft Museum' with Alastair Hodgson. The Internet & Technology Group meet at the same venue 11am – 1pm where a Q&A session is followed by a ‘Workshop’ (bring your queries). Teas and coffees can be purchased. Members and visitors welcome to either or both.
6 Tuesday - Oglethorpe Women’s Institute Talk on the ‘History of Music in Motion Pictures’ with Keith Nott. Visitors and new members are always welcome to join us. Our meetings are held at Cranham Social Hall, Front Lane, RM14 1XL on the first Tuesday of every month at 7.45 pm. Contact Secretary Mrs. E. Bell on 01708 251161.
7 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. Hopefield Animal Sanctuary Competition: Bring along an Animal Figurine the best wins a prize. Visitors welcome entrance is £4.50, which includes refreshments. For more details please ring Joanne on 0787 5670419.

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Free Wills & LPA Advice Seminar

Join Pinney Talfourd LLP on one of their popular free Wills and Lasting Powers of Attorney talks on Friday 26 and Saturday 27th January 2018. Over half of people in the UK currently do not have a Will and this can lead to unfortunate difficulties upon death. Ensure that your affairs are in order to minimise stress for your family before and after your death. Join one of Pinney Talfourd’s free events to hear a short presentation about the different types of Will and LPA, and get some free tailored advice from one of their solicitors over a tea or coffee afterwards.

Friday 26 January or Saturday 27 January 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.)

Abigail’s Column

Face lift for Upminster

In the last few years our neighbouring town Hornchurch has had a lot of money spent to give it a better look. New shops have moved in and it is a much busier high street now than it was before.

Why can’t Upminster have the same treatment? I feel Upminster has been overlooked and left to one side while money has been spent improving other areas of Havering. Romford too has had vast amounts spent on it yet Upminster has seen very little of this available money. Why is that?

We have seen a lot of new homes being built on sites like the old police station, school expansions like Branfil Junior School have been in place, but nothing is being done to improve the look and appeal of our high street. Old photos of our town show a nice village feel it would be great to reinstate some of that, put some character back and make it a High Street to match the caring community we have. Is there anyone already appealing for this or someone willing to take up this challenge?

Yoga Course

How to bring yoga into your everyday life and enjoy the benefits. Three Workshops to be held at The Cranham Community Centre, Marlborough Gardens. £8 per person. Book all three workshops for £20. Saturday January 20 2018, Saturday February 24 2018 and March 17 2018. 10.45am–1.00pm in room 10 including refreshment break.

Please contact Jill Luff BWY Dip (British Wheel of Yoga) 01708 641718 / 07930 825383 to reserve your place. pirie.janandjill@btopenworld.com

Practices include: Breathing techniques for both relaxing and energising. Meditation for relief from everyday pressures and worries. Alternative approaches to everyday living.

Lunchtime Recitals

Thursday Lunchtime Recitals at St Laurence Church, Corbets Tey Road, Upminster 1.05pm-1.50pm. Free admission - retiring collection.

• Thursday 11th January - Paul Hagan tenor & piano
• Thursday 25th January - Michael Frith - organ

Door and Window Security

When householders are going to the expense of replacement doors and windows, one consideration should be whether what they buy will give adequate security protection. Visually, it is difficult
to tell good from bad, even to a professional. However, what most people don’t realise is that there is a security standard that they can ask for – BS PAS 24 (either 2012 or 2016 versions). For doors, this standard applies to the whole doorset (door and frame). If a company does claim to supply PAS 24 products then it is worth asking them to show you a copy of their certificate(s). Genuine companies should be happy to do this. For further information visit the ‘Property Owner’ section of www.securedbydesign.com (official UK police security initiative website).

John Tyler

U.C.R.A Coach Outing News

Classical Spectacular

The most popular classical music show in the UK returns to the Royal Albert Hall in March with a brand new program. From the very best classical music and state of the art technology to electrifying multi-coloured laser displays and the famous thundering finale to the music of the 1812 Overture. Containing all your Proms favourites, Land of Hope and Glory, Rule Britannia, Nessun Dorma performed by the London Philharmonic Orchestra, The British Imperial Military Band and the Royal Choral society. Seating will be in the Choir East or West area which looks down into the orchestra and out into the auditorium giving excellent views and value for money.

Date Friday 16th March 2018
Departing Upminster at 4.30 / 5.00 pm. Departing Royal Albert Hall 10 / 10.30 pm
Price £38.50 including Choir seating and return coach.

Please contact Joan Carroll on 07700 956399 or Gina Savill-Turner 01708 228270 or 07958 006503. Limited availability book early to avoid disappointment.

DIARY

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

PLEASE NOTE THERE ARE NO WARD MEETINGS IN JANUARY.

FEBRUARY

7 Wednesday - Upminster Ward Meeting at St Joseph’s Social Centre at 7.30pm.
8 Thursday – Cranham Ward Meeting at Cranham Community Centre, Marlborough Gardens at 7.15pm.
26 Wednesday - Upminster & Cranham Residents’ Association AGM at The Old Chapel, St. Marys Lane at 7.30pm.

(No ward Meetings in January)
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