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UPMINSTER & CRANHAM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

London Borough of Havering 2021/22 Budget and Council Tax

The 2021/22 Council Tax and the Budget were agreed on 3 March 2021. The Conservative Administration have increased this year's Council Tax by 4.5% and when you include the Labour controlled Greater London Authority precept, the increase is actually 5.43%. The Administration has also included a £17 million package of reductions to services, as well as increasing fees and charges above inflation. The Leader of the Council tried to justify these actions, but many residents in Havering will be very disappointed when they receive their Council Tax bills.

This year's increase of almost 5.5% will have a financial impact on our residents, many of whom have been struggling to make ends meet and will continue to do so due to the pandemic. It appears that both the Conservative and Labour parties have no regard for this, as our Council Tax will rise significantly above inflation.

Councillors Ford, Ower and Wilkins spoke during the Budget debate and raised concerns about the effect the service reductions will have, and the over ambitious development programmes, using borrowed money at a time of financial uncertainty, which will have to be repaid through Council Tax. Your local Resident Councillors will continue to hold the Administration to account and will ensure value for money is obtained and services are delivered effectively in the forthcoming year and beyond.

Cllr CHRIS WILKINS

Chairman Upminster & Cranham Residents' Association

Havering Council Elections in May 2022

The next Havering Council Elections are due to be held in May 2022. Anyone who has been a member of the Upminster and Cranham Residents' Association for at least two years may be nominated as a proposed candidate for either the Cranham or Upminster ward. Nominations must be sent in writing to Mike Long, the Hon. Secretary, using the official nomination form by 31st May 2021. Anyone interested in standing should contact the Secretary, Mike Long (mike.long1@btinternet.com), who will supply the necessary nomination form and other material.

The Bulletin

Due to the national lockdown and resulting government restrictions, from January to March the Bulletin was delivered to homes across Cranham and Upminster by delivery companies, instead of our small army of volunteers. We received several reports of addresses being missed out and apologies to anyone who didn't receive their copy each month. With the country slowly heading back towards (hopefully) permanent normality, we have now returned to our volunteers delivering the Bulletin to you.

Using the delivery companies meant that Bulletins were to be delivered to all homes in most areas, not just subscribers, but, unfortunately, we could not arrange for some outlying areas to receive any copies. If you would like to view any back copies you missed, they are available on our website - www.ucra.co.uk/the-bulletin/.

Lastly, we would like to say thank you for being patient, to all of our volunteers. Whilst we have been able to get the Bulletin out each month, it has literally not been the same without your help and we are very glad to have you back!

Cllr JOHN TYLER

Vaccine Roll out Programme Update

We are pleased to see the Vaccine Roll Out Programme is continuing to progress well. We have received excellent feedback from local residents, who attended local vaccine centres, such as the Hornchurch Library hub. It was great to see local health workers and volunteers at the hub that both reassured and provided excellent services to our residents. There was also encouraging news

continued on page 2

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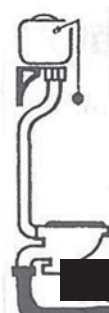
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regarding the vaccine take-up in Upminster and Cranham. It has been reported recently by NHS England that COVID vaccination take up for the over 70 plus was very high. The figures below, in health areas, show the percentage of those who have received their first vaccine dose:

- Cranham East - 92%
- Upminster North & Cranham West - 100%
- Upminster South & Corbets Tey - 100%
- Upminster Bridge - 96%

The overall figure for Havering is 91.9%

Cllr CHRIS WILKINS

re-open again. This is good news for our local residents, who again can use the wide selection of shops and cafe/restaurants and pubs in and around the town centre. Despite the pandemic there has been a lot of interest and activity in relation to empty retail units in Upminster town centre, and we all hope this will result in new facilities opening shortly. The Upminster & Cranham Residents' Association will continue to support our Shop Local, Hire Local campaign and will encourage our residents to support our local business. Again, please stay safe and follow the Government rules when visiting local amenities.

Cllr CHRIS WILKINS

Upminster Town Centre is open for Business

The announcement made by the Prime Minister regarding the road map out of lockdown will undoubtedly be a welcome relief to our local businesses and residents. On the 12th April non-essential shops and cafes/restaurants, as well as pubs with outdoor seating, will be able to

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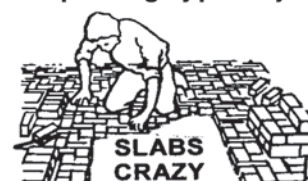


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We have been busy with potholes

Your RA Councillors and our team in Emerson Park have been particularly busy over the winter. As well as normal ward work and enquires, we have reported many potholes and damaged pavements that present a trip hazard, found on our travels around the ward. This time of the year potholes become more frequent. Following the winter weather, water seeps into the cracks in our roads, freezes under the surface, water expands when frozen, so pushes the asphalt up, and causes a pothole.

Residents can report potholes, uneven paving stones/slabs and broken kerb stones themselves, as long as they meet the following criteria - 1) 40mm deep and 300mm wide in the carriageway 2) 25mm deep on the footway. Each will be examined by Havering Council and appropriate remedial work undertaken.

To make a report, visit Havering Council's website www.havering.gov.uk and search 'report a pothole'. Alternatively you can ring the Council on 01708 434343.

Don't forget that you can also report fly tipping, general litter and faulty streetlights via the 'Love Clean Streets' app - www.lovecleanstreets.com/reports/home.

Hall Lane Pitch and Putt

Following the decision to allow development on the Pitch and Putt course, despite active objections by Councillors and residents, Cranham Councillors requested a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) be considered for trees meeting the criteria. 32 trees were identified and I am pleased to report that the TPO has been confirmed providing protection for these trees. During the consultation several more trees were considered by residents to be worthy of TPO protection. These trees will be inspected by

the Council's Tree Officer and if considered appropriate, a further TPO will be drafted.

Cllr LINDA VAN DEN HENDE

Upminster Windmill Restoration - New Sails Test Run

The groundworks around the windmill have now been completed. The area has been re-grassed, though it will take a few weeks for this to become apparent. Pea shingle or railway sleepers mark the foundations of the many buildings that were once on the site.

A sapling hedge has been planted around the perimeter of the top end of the field. This is designed to attract wildlife and contains a native mix of field maple, hazel, blackthorn, hawthorn, guelder rose, dogrose, holly and spindle bush. Log piles have been created from the remains of the former shrubs.

The temporary heras fencing is being retained until the millwrighting and other work is completed and the grass is established, though it has been moved back to enable visitors to get closer to the restored mill. Some areas towards the front of the field are also fenced temporarily to enable the grass to grow. An improved trackway makes access easier.

The expectation is that the millwrights will return in April and complete their work around the end of June, though this remains dependent on travel restrictions and lockdown rules in both the UK and Holland, where they live.

Monday, 1st March saw a successful first test run of the new sails, conducted by English millwrights Paul Kemp and Cameron Southcott, while our Dutch friends watched via the webcam.

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Local Shops

Whilst we all understand that lockdown is the only real solution to prevent the spread of COVID-19, it is having a huge impact on our local businesses which are suffering greatly. Hopefully with residents getting vaccines the situation will go back to normal soon and we can all meet up again, and our shops re-open.

Can we ask that you consider the shops in your local high street, please support them as much as possible.

Cllr LINDA HAWTHORN

Fly tipping and litter

One of the biggest complaints my Council colleagues and I receive are reports of fly tipping and general litter - it appears there are not many places locally that do not suffer from this. It was reported recently that it costs £1 billion in a normal year to clear rubbish off our roads!

Several years ago we had the responsible Council Officer at one of our public meetings to hear first-hand the sheer frustration at the levels of waste dumped locally.

Havering Council will and do prosecute offenders and an address in Romford was recently identified and the offender received a £400 Fixed Penalty Notice. There have been cases of much higher fines.

I was interested to see in the national press a pilot scheme in nearby Maidstone in Kent that will be using technology to fine motorists throwing litter from their cars. The entrepreneur Andrew Kemp created LitterCam, where the software scans video footage to spot rubbish being thrown out of a car window or blowing from the back of an unsecured truck. Council staff can validate the footage and send it to the DVLA although it must include evidence of the vehicle registration. The DVLA provides the address of the vehicle's owner and the offender receives a penalty notice, starting at £90, along with the opportunity to see the incriminating evidence.

Cllr RON OWE

Munching Through Easter!

Do bunnies, chocolate eggs and pancakes have anything to do with Easter?

We all love Spring, marking the natural awakening from winter with buds, lambs, and, yes, baby bunnies representing new, irresistibly beautiful life! For Christians, Easter Sunday is the celebration of this new life, when Jesus rose with new, eternal life and invited us to join Him. This fresh, bright and warm new life is one of love, replacing the cold 'winter' darkness.

But what's with the pancakes? Well, Christians celebrate Lent, remembering the 40 days leading up to Jesus' death, by fasting, or

giving something up. So they started by using up all their fatty food (hence the pancakes - Mardis Gras meaning 'Fat Tuesday'). During Lent, eggs were then not supposed to be eaten, so any eggs that were laid would be decorated and given as gifts when it ended at the happy celebration of Easter Sunday. It seemed only a small step to manufacture decorated eggs for the occasion, then making them from chocolate was obvious!

For Christians, Easter can be a bigger deal than Christmas as it represents their joyful new birth and shows the true image of God. A God of love who was prepared to suffer to give us all this new life. Christians are very happy to include chocolate in that celebration! You can find out more at your local church.

GREG NASH

Our History continued ...

Please do keep sending through memories on our local history.

In the March issue we talked about the cafes in Upminster back in 1935. A local resident has shared some additional information, pointing out that we missed the Martel cafe and restaurant, run by a Mrs Goodspeed, which was located next to the present day Costa coffee shop, western side of Station Road.

There was also a cafe in the early 50s, outside what was Lloyds' Bank and now Holland & Barrett, which was knocked down to

accommodate the slip road into St Mary's Lane, but the name of the cafe cannot be recalled - was it called the Cozy Cafe? He recalls going into the Regent cafe (now Kushoom Bugh) to play the juke box.

Convalescent plasma could be a life-saving treatment for COVID-19

If you have had COVID-19 you could potentially help others fight it by donating blood plasma.

NHSBT are looking at how antibodies from blood plasma could support high risk groups such as the elderly and people with cancer who could struggle to develop their own immune response to the virus.

Donations are vital to this lifesaving research, which gives us a better understanding of how we can best treat patients with COVID-19 and help prevent deaths in the future.

If you are male and have received hospital care you are six times more likely to have the antibody levels which might save lives.

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Anyone who has had COVID-19 can offer to donate by calling 0300 123 23 23 or completing the online form at www.nhsbt.nhs.uk.

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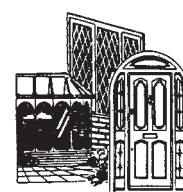


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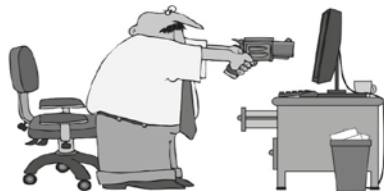
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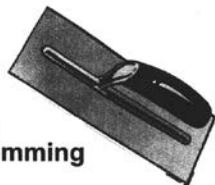
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Stubbers Announces Opening of New Adventure Play Park

Parents seeking post lockdown venues where children can burn off some energy need look no further than Stubbers Adventure Centre.

The Upminster based activity centre is already popular with children and adults for adventurous activities such as climbing, archery and paddle boards. During lockdown staff at the centre have been busy improving the 130 acre landscaped park.

A £1million grant from the Veolia Environmental Trust has enabled the charity to provide some exciting new activities that are designed for the whole family to enjoy. These include a giant adventure play park, woodland discovery trail and 120 metre long caving experience.

When the park reopens in April families will be able to enjoy



pedalos on the new boating pond, play games in the Big Top and experience outdoor living at Wild Camp. And our popular adventure land and water based activity experiences will be available for pre-booking

Bob Edwards, Managing Director, said: "The park looks amazing and we can't wait to welcome families back in April. We are very grateful to Veolia Environmental Trust for the generous grant that will help our charity continue to provide exciting and engaging outdoor adventure for the local community."

The park and coffee shop open on Saturday, 3rd April. Park entry £3 (Senior Citizens £1). Parking free. For activity pre-booking and opening times visit our website www.Stubbers.co.uk



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Bright Start Tuition

Kay is a local fully-qualified Primary School teacher offering private tuition in Maths and English. With over 9 years' experience, Kay has taught children from Nursery to Year 6. Bright Start Tuition, her private tuition project, has had to adapt to the lockdown restrictions using virtual platforms; Bramble and Zoom.

Kay covers the Early Years' Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. Specialities include: reading and writing skills, maths, phonics and school readiness preparation for nursery aged children. Contact Kay at Bright Start Tuition at haveringbst@gmail.com or phone **07470524561** to book. Limited slots available.

M25/J28 Improvement Scheme

Highways England are proposing a capacity improvement scheme

at junction 28 of the M25. The scheme involves the creation of a new loop road that will take traffic heading northbound on the M25 wishing to head east along the A12 out of the Brook Street roundabout and instead will join the eastbound A12 within Havering.

The scheme requires consent to be granted from the Secretary of State for Transport in the form of a Development Consent Order and is currently going through a six month Examination process.

A series of Examination Hearings were held last week on a variety of matters related to the scheme, and further information on those Hearings and about the Examination in general can be found via the following web page <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-east/m25-junction-28-improvements/?ipcsection=overview>

The Examination will continue until early July, after which time the Panel appointed to undertake the Examination will have three months in which to make a recommendation to the Secretary

continued on page 9

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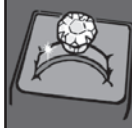


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of State for Transport on whether the scheme should be granted Consent. The Secretary of State then has a further three months in which to make a formal decision on the scheme. The Secretary of State is expected to make his decision towards the end of 2021.

St Cedd's Spring Well, St Mary Magdalene, North Ockendon

St Cedd was a missionary and an Anglo-Saxon monk and bishop from the Kingdom of Northumbria. Born in 620, around 655 he was sent to the East Saxon Kingdom (Essex) to convert the Pagans to Christianity. He built several churches in the county,



and it is believed Prittlewell church in Southend and West Mersea church were two of them. It is thought he passed through Upminster and St Cedd's well (where it was thought he baptised the local people), is built upon a spring in the grounds of St Mary Magdalene church in North Ockendon. The spring remains today and still feeds the well and baptism canal, which in turn feeds the medieval moat, which used to surround North Ockendon Manor. The manor was a brick built building from around the 16th century and was demolished in 1944 when it was hit by a bomb.

Thank you to Paul Sainsbury of Upminster Windmill Archaeology & History Group

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education, exercise, playgroups and a range of other activities, and there's a full commercial kitchen. We are constantly upgrading and maintaining our facilities, and we invite you to look at our website www.nwhall.org.uk. before arranging a visit and booking your next function or joining a community group as the lockdown ends.

PAUL THOMPSON
for the NWH Committee

How safe are your electrical appliances?

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insurance implications.

Please consider how safe your electrical appliances are and if they would Pass or Fail a Portable Appliance Test (PAT Test). If you are unsure, RGG electrical can help. For a free no obligation consultation please contact RGG Electrical

info@rggelectrical.co.uk.

Congratulations Hornchurch

At the end of February, the Urchins were 2 -1 winners away to Darlington in The Buildbase FA Trophy.

As I write this it has just been announced that our local team will be away on Saturday, 27th March in the semi-finals to Notts County of the National League.

Notts County has a long, interesting history being founded in 1862! Due to the black and white colour of their home strip they are nicknamed The Magpies.

Keep in touch with Hornchurch FC by looking at their excellent website.

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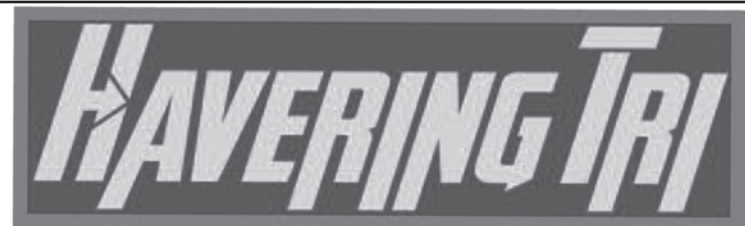


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Are school uniform rules too strict?

School uniform makes sense. It puts all children on an even playing field, shows you are part of a community and without it, I'm pretty sure I would have more late marks due to deciding what to wear!

But has uniform become unfair? Many schools require uniform to be bought from a specific shop, which often makes it more expensive with no option to buy cheaper, same colour elsewhere. After a year that has brought financial difficulty for many, I think schools should be looking into ways to cut costs for parents.

Local schools are making their uniform policies stricter, bringing in very specific items such as having just one type of skirt. This new rule has not received a warm welcome, with students expressing concerns over another rule put on young women about what they can and can't wear due to having to look 'the right way' for society.

And uniform complaints don't come from just girls. In June 2017, a protest from a group of teenage schoolboys caught the media's attention. As temperatures passed 30°C, boys from Isca Academy in Devon asked to swap their long trousers for shorts. They were told shorts weren't permitted under the school's uniform policy. When they protested that girls were allowed bare legs, the school (jokingly) said the boys were free to wear skirts too if they chose. With 30 boys choosing to do just that, eventually, the headteacher announced that shorts would be allowed.

It is not uncommon for schools around the country to punish children for incorrect uniform by not allowing them to enter the school. If a parent tries to take a child out for a day (maybe for an important family event) they will receive a letter, perhaps a fine. Yet, the school can send a child home for wearing the wrong shoes.

Uniform has its purpose, but perhaps some rules are getting too strict.

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Local care home brings a world of magic to residents

Derham House Care Home in Upminster has brought a bit of magic to residents by providing a new 'Magic Table 360 and the Happiness Programme' as a way to improve residents' quality of life.

Designed and manufactured in the UK, the Magic Table 360 uses interactive games to connect residents with staff and with each other, and research shows it improves the wellbeing of people living with dementia. Using interactive light projections, the Magic Table 360, which can be played independently or in a group, stimulates movement by inviting participants to take part in all sorts of different fun activities such as popping bubbles, playing the piano, colouring in pictures,

sweeping leaves or interacting playfully with fish.

The Magic Table 360 is portable and can be used wherever residents feel most comfortable, projecting onto the floor, ceiling, walls, a whiteboard or even the bed. It has shown to improve mood and behaviours, especially

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The Dig - Film Review

In our February issue Rosie Meadway, aged 14, shared a book review, and this month has written the following film review.

Would you like to watch a film and then be able to visit its location and discover more? If yes, The Dig is the film for you. This Netflix production brings to life the 1939 excavation at Sutton Hoo (Woodbridge, Suffolk). The film's story has two key elements; one focused on archaeological discovery, and the other highlighting the relationships of the people involved. This means it has both educational and emotional themes to understand and enjoy.

The overlooked archaeologist Basil Brown (Ralph Fiennes, Voldemort in the Harry Potter films) is called by the widowed Edith Pretty (Carey Mulligan, BAFTA award winning actress) to excavate some burial mounds on her Sutton Hoo land. Little do Basil and Edith know, their endeavour will unearth more than they could possibly have imagined, including some unlikely friendships.

Sutton Hoo is incredible! When I went I had a guided tour of the mounds and even stood on top of some of them. It's a really lovely place to visit, especially after watching the film. You will be able

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to fully immerse yourself in the places with which you may have made an emotional connection... and it's only just over an hour's drive from Upminster/Cranham! The British Museum (Tottenham Court Road/Holborn stations) also has an impressive exhibit about Sutton Hoo.

The film's cinematography is beautiful and the storytelling is really gentle with a strong undercurrent of perseverance, love and commitment. This makes it a really chilled and relaxing watch, especially on a lazy Sunday afternoon. I would highly recommend that you watch this film.

ROSIE MEADWAY

Springtime in the Thames Chase Community Forest

As the winter finally gives way to longer warmer sunnier days, it is clear spring has arrived.

At Thames Chase, we are looking forward to welcoming the arrival

of spring by reopening the visitor centre on April 12th, in line with government guidance. We look forward to seeing visitors in the centre, and will be offering a number of walking trails, activity kits and craft items for sale from our shop.

As spring blooms across the Thames Chase Community Forest, there are a number of hidden gems to be explored in your local area.



If you're looking for a new walk in the spring sunshine, why not take a trip to Warley Place in Brentwood? This 25 acre site with Edwardian gardens was once owned by Ellen Willmott, and is now maintained by Essex Wildlife Trust. There are some spectacular flowers to be enjoyed in the spring, including a fantastic array of daffodils.

continued on page 15

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To find more local gems in the Thames Chase Community Forest, please visit <http://www.thameschase.org.uk/discover/walking>

Look after your garden wildlife

Insects and other bugs and minibeasts are an important and fascinating part of the wildlife in our gardens and they make their homes in all sorts of places.

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Cashback without a purchase

Towards the end of last year the government announced proposals to ensure that people continue to have easy access to cash.

Although cash use is declining, many people still prefer to use it for small purchases and those on tight budgets can find that using cash helps to budget and manage their finances.

With the number of cash machines declining and stories of some retailers refusing to accept cash and/or imposing a minimum spend for card transactions, the main proposal is for people to be able to request cashback from retailers of all sizes without the need to make a purchase. This was previously not permitted under European Union rules but, since leaving the EU, is now an option for the UK to introduce.

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Rumours have since emerged that the government may not pursue the idea due to the financial effects of the pandemic, and so it would be worthwhile anyone who wishes to show support for the introduction of cashback without a purchase, to contact their local MP.

Cllr JOHN TYLER

National Theatre at Home

Like most of us who have interests outside the home, for the many people who enjoy visiting the theatre, the last year has been extremely frustrating.

The National Theatre have recently launched their 'National Theatre at Home' streaming service, which shows live recordings of their shows. It is a paid for service, either yearly, monthly or for a single performance. For further details visit nationaltheatre.org.uk/ntathome.

Cllr JOHN TYLER

Does your dog have a drinking problem?

No, we're not talking not alcohol here but water! The average dog drinks up to 50ml/kg/day but this figure is dependent on many factors such as diet and ambient temperature (dogs lose water from their mouths when they pant). How can you tell if your dog is drinking an abnormal amount

of water and is it a problem? The balance of hydration in the body is complex and involves not only the kidneys but the adrenal glands and thirst centre in the Hypothalamus and Pituitary Gland in the brain. There are many causes for increased thirst including hormonal imbalances, kidney failure, liver failure or rarely congenital developmental problems in the brain. If your dog is drinking more than usual and passing more urine, ask your vet for a consultation. Never withhold water from a dog that is passing more urine than usual as they may become dehydrated. Lawton and Stoakes **01708 384444**

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Love Letters

Queen's Theatre Hornchurch are thrilled to be throwing the doors open again very soon, and this summer they have an unmissable treat for you.

Love Letters is an upbeat musical to celebrate the very best of Essex, with a raft of brilliant songs with hits ranging from the 60s to today. This funny and popular working class love story promises to be an uplifting night out for everyone.

What happens when an unposted love letter meant to be sent between a passionate young couple dating, only gets delivered ten years later? Perhaps it's time both put aside some regrets and rediscover what might have been - if it's not too late...

Playing 30 July - 21 August 2021.

Tickets £13.50 - £30 plus 65p QRenew Fee. Under 26s £8.

To book, visit **www.queens-theatre.co.uk** or call the Box Office on **01708 443333**.

Beware! Pet Theft is Rife – Don't let your dog be taken

Did you know dog theft has increased by around 250% during lockdown?

Please avoid wherever possible leaving your beloved dogs tied up outside shops in Upminster. Organised drug gangs have turned to dog and pet theft as it is more lucrative – high gain, low risk.

This has been raised by MPs and the Home Secretary is determined that the punishment should be a deterrent. At present the thief, if caught, could get a £250 fine or a slap on the wrist as your pet is treated the same as a purse or a

laptop. This needs to change.

It is law that your dogs are microchipped and details kept up to date, together with a collar and tag. If you have your Microchip number – maybe on a vaccine certificate or your vet may have it – go to Check a chip – **www.checkachip.com**, input the number and that will tell you which database your dog is on. Log in to your account and check that address and phone numbers are up to date. This is really important if your pet is stolen and should be updated immediately on the database if this happens.

www.doglost.co.uk is another organisation you should contact if your pet is stolen. They will provide help with volunteers in your area and will produce a poster which can be printed and circulated.

SHEILA GARCIA

Hospice project to reach out to homeless people

Saint Francis Hospice has set up a homeless project to help ensure some of the most vulnerable people in our local community are able to access the end of life care and support they need.

Ann Dalgliesh, a Senior Nurse at the Hospice, is leading the 18-month project which will be breaking down the health care barriers that people experiencing homelessness often face.

"As well as suffering from poorer physical and mental health and being at risk of long-term health problems, health services are also difficult to access without a fixed address," said Ann. "Having worked as a nurse in the community for many years, I have come across many people living in this situation. I will be providing onsite support for staff at local hostels and family members. I will also be reaching out to people who may be rough sleeping at a family or friend's house and engaging them so they can access the healthcare services they need more easily."

The first half of the project will focus on developing strong relationships with agencies working with homeless people in Havering to make it easier for them to be referred to the Hospice. The last nine months will concentrate on the boroughs of Barking and Dagenham and Redbridge.

Saint Francis Hospice welcomes the opportunity to support a project that will give our homeless communities the opportunity to access their palliative care with us.

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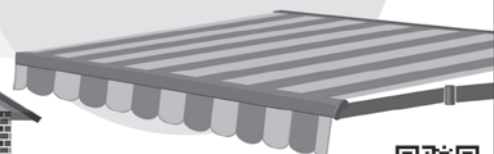
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UCRA Coach Trips Update

With the much anticipated roadmap out of lockdown revealed, it has been necessary for us to make some changes to our 2021 programme.

- **Long Melford & Bury St Edmunds** - original date 17.04.21, rescheduled to Saturday, 24th July
- **Snape Maltings & Southwold** - 15.05.21, TEMPORARILY CANCELLED
- **Faversham / Whitstable** - original date 12.06.21, rescheduled for Saturday, 26th June
- **Countryfile Live at Windsor Great Park** - Saturday, 21st August, TBC
- **Salute to the 40s at Chatham Dock Yard** - Saturday, 18th September, TBC
- **Broadstairs** - date in October TBC
- **Classical Spectacular at the Royal Albert Hall** - Sunday, 7th November (Matinee performance)
- **Thursford Christmas show** and overnight stay in Hunstanton - Thursday, 16th December

If you have booked places and the new dates are unsuitable for

you, please let us know as we have waiting lists for some of the above trips and we can then issue you a refund.

Our card payment facility will allow quick and easy payments (AND trouble free refunds if the trip is cancelled) so pay and reserve your preferred seats with complete confidence. For further information: Please contact **Gina Savill-Turner** on **07958 006503** or **01708 228270** gina.savill-turner@email.com

or **Joan Carroll** on **07789 956399**
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Havering Astronomical Society

Havering Astronomical Society are pleased to announce their online meetings for the coming month. If you would like to join any please email secretary@havaastro.co.uk. Our website is www.havaastro.co.uk.

Wednesday, 21st April,
 7.15 for 7.30pm

Konrad Malin-Smith - known with great affection as the lecturer who inspired the birth of HAS, and a regular speaker to our club. 'Clusters of stars and their evolution'

Wednesday, 5th May, 7.15
 for 7.30pm

Affelia Wibisono, PhD student of the Planetary Science group at UCL's Mullard Space Science Laboratory in Surrey. 'Seeing Jupiter's aurora in a different light'

Young Astronomers -
 Thursday, 29th April 7- 8pm

The Young Astronomers Club was launched in January and host young people aged 8-16 every month. There is a main topic, space news, what can be seen in the night sky this month and a suggested activity to take part in between meetings. The focus recently has been on Mars and Perseverance, the latest one was finding Mars in the sky. New members welcome. Find details on our website or email young.astronomers.co.uk.



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Cranham Community Centre needs urgent support

During the pandemic, Cranham Community Centre in Marlborough Gardens has had to continue paying the annual rent of £17,000. They were successful last year in securing a £25,000 government grant, which went towards the maintenance of the site, paying utility bills and security, but that has not been enough to keep the centre on a secure footing and reserves have now been depleted.

The usually vibrant centre, with clubs and activities for all age groups has been unable to open, putting a stop to normal income. All staff have been unpaid but they have tried to keep the centre secure, clean and ready to open when the government gives the go ahead. Throughout the pandemic the centre has submitted requests to Havering Council for a rent reprieve, which have been declined.

Councillor Gillian Ford raised concerns with the Cabinet Lead for Finance, over the pressures the community centre has been placed in during the lockdowns. The

response suggested such centres would be considered case by case.

Not knowing how long they will have to wait and the uncertainty of any action being taken, the Cranham Community Centre have therefore launched a crowdfunding page and welcome your support. If you would like to make a donation go to uk.gofundme.com/f/kcv5t9-save-the-centre

Cranham Ward councillors will continue to monitor the situation and press the Council to offer immediate support to help the centre to continue.

Cllr GILLIAN FORD

Upminster Police Update

Following the recent Upminster Police ward panel, I have included the latest crime figures for the priorities we had set. Over the previous three months there were a total of 5 burglaries, which is a significant reduction from 14 during the same period the previous year. This is good news, but the police have warned that with lockdown ending soon and the warmer weather approaching (hopefully!) we all need to ensure windows and doors are secured when our houses are empty. In terms of vehicle crime, there were

12 thefts of motor vehicles which was the same as the previous year. It is still a high figure and it is high value cars that are particularly targeted. There has been one arrest and two vehicles recovered recently. The police suggest a steering wheel lock as a deterrent. There has been a worrying increase in thefts from motor vehicles. This has risen from 10 in the previous year to 28 in the most recent 3 months. These appear to be opportunist crimes with no damage

to the vehicle. This indicates the vehicle was not securely locked. There have been reports of people trying car door handles, so be aware. A small number of robberies have been reported in Upminster Park and again as the weather improves, extra police patrols will take place in the park. There have been 2 arrests for drug dealing and work with a specific location and local residents, where drug dealing was happening. Action has been taken to prevent the location being

continued on page 22

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used. There has been a recent joint operation at Upminster Station with the British Transport Police and drugs dogs, which has also intercepted drugs and arrests made. In addition, a number of COVID-19 fines have been issued. To report a crime call 101 or on-line at met.police.uk. Our SNT has been busy and our thanks go to them.

Cllr LINDA VAN DEN HENDE

Subscriptions

Many thanks for your messages regarding subscriptions. These remain at a mere £2 per household and as we previously pointed out, due to the national lockdowns we suspended collection last year. We hope to resume collecting for this year shortly. If you wish to add last year's subs feel free.

Many thanks to all those of you who have sent in donations. Much appreciated.

Serving the Community as a Resident Association Councillor

Many wards in Havering have an excellent tradition of electing local Resident Association Councillors who believe in putting the community first, not 'party politics'. In Upminster and Cranham we have elected Resident Association Councillors, who for many years have had a huge impact locally and on Havering Council.

The next elections to Havering Council are due to be held in May

next year. The various Residents' Associations will be looking not only to defend the seats in wards we already hold, but also to gain seats in other wards from the national political parties. Our aim must be to gain enough seats to control the Council to the benefit of all residents in Havering.

The formal process to select local residents to stand as Resident Association candidates will take

place later in the year. If you think you may have what it takes to serve the local community as a Resident Association Councillor, you will have the opportunity to apply. In the meantime if you would like to discuss what is involved, please contact me at mike.long1@btinternet.com.

MIKE LONG
Secretary, Upminster & Cranham Residents' Association



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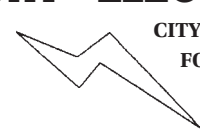
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