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UPMINSTER & CRANHAM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Council Finances – 2021/22

Council Tax proposals

At the Overview Scrutiny Board meeting in March, Councillors were presented with an update on the Council's Medium Term Financial strategy. It was reported that the Council was facing budget pressures which show a potential overspend of £9.9 million, and this shortfall would have to be met from reserves. The Council hope to reduce the overspend by the end of March but if not, it will have a significant impact on general reserves.

Resident Association (RA) Councillors recognise the challenges the Conservative Administration have had in managing this year's finances, but we are disappointed that the points we raised during last year's budget setting process were not considered. It was pointed out at the time that the current budget was over ambitious with a number of risks, which would put pressure on Havering's finances and sadly, the impact it would have on our services.

The proposed budget for 2021/22 was also considered by the Overview Scrutiny Board. The Administration is proposing that Council Tax be increased by 4.5%, made up of a 3% Social Care precept and 1.5% for the Council's general services. In addition, the GLA wish to increase their precept, making a total Council Tax increase for Havering of 5.43%.

RA Councillors have a number of concerns, including over ambitious regeneration costs, significant increases to IT budgets and cuts to adult social services, and will be raising these at the Budget Setting meeting on 3rd March. We will also be pressing the Administration to reduce the number of their Members who receive Special Responsibility Allowances, which adds to budget costs.

Councillor CHRIS WILKINS -
Chairman Upminster and Cranham Residents' Association

Welcome

We extend a big welcome to all new residents and hope you are enjoying your new home and the area. The Bulletin is published by the Upminster and Cranham Residents' Association each month and normally delivered by our army of volunteers. Due to current Government restrictions we have hired a distribution company to assist in the short term. Upminster and Cranham has six Resident Association Councillors, three for Cranham ward and three for Upminster ward. Contact details can be found on page 2.

New Bulletin Editor



Hi, I'm Pauline Mastroianni and I joined the Residents' Association as Bulletin Editor at the end of last year. Having formerly served as the Association Secretary for several years, I am very familiar

with the work of the Association and was delighted to have the chance to re-join the team and support them in the great work that they do for our community. I have been a Cranham resident for more than 20 years, and feel very fortunate to live in such a nice area with good amenities for everyone and great rail and road connections. I am a London commuter, and have been for the past 35 years working in the rail industry, and latterly financial services, although the pandemic has firmly placed me at home for the past 12 months. I think the Bulletin provides a great service to residents, and I personally have really enjoyed receiving my copy each month, taking the opportunity to put the kettle on and read what's going on locally. My focus has now stepped up a notch or two, and I receive all articles with interest and have loved the snippets of history on the Association and the local area we have seen in recent issues. Keep them coming! I really look forward to taking the editing reins to help support this great community.

PAULINE MASTROIANNI,
Bulletin Editor

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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

Upminster Police

Please note telephone number for the Upminster police team 020 8721 2726.



Article & Advertising Submission Deadlines

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Restoration of Upminster Windmill

Following its reinstallation, the cap of Upminster Windmill is now turning freely to ensure the sails face continuously into the wind, reducing the risk of storm damage.



Work is now underway to improve the grounds at the top end of the field, parts of which were showing the effects of the heavy vehicles that were used during the building of the visitor centre and the millwrighting phase. The

original access track from the road will be restored and extended to the new visitor centre, with a small hardstanding area around the mill. A cycle rack and disabled parking bays will be added and the temporary reinforced track installed for the construction vehicles will be removed. At the same time, some general improvements are being made to the area around and behind the mill, which will be levelled and re-grassed with the introduction of railway sleepers or other materials to mark out the site of the former buildings. A new electricity supply and fittings will be installed in the mill.

The millwright will return in the spring to complete the restoration of the mill's internal machinery.

DENNIS COOMBS
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Vaccinations

There is much discussion currently regarding the COVID-19 vaccination, some questioning why have it? Vaccinations have been part of our lives since

childhood, most of us having them as a matter of course. As young adults we had boosters for Polio and often protection against TB. If we had an accident, we had a Tetanus jab, again often with boosters over time. If we travelled to out of the way places in the world, where sanitation and general hygiene may not have been to standards in the UK, we took advice and had vaccinations. I have travelled to such places where I have camped with limited facilities, such as Peru, parts of Africa, Nepal, India and China and taken medical advice on how to protect myself. Over time I have been vaccinated several times against Typhoid, Cholera, Meningitis, Rabies, Hepatitis A and B and Yellow Fever, and in addition I have ensured my Polio and Tetanus jabs were in date. I have taken Malaria tablets when recommended. As I volunteer at Queen's hospital, I was offered the COVID-19 vaccination and have had the first dose. It's always a personal choice whether to have any vaccination, but my own experience has given me confidence in taking

medical advice. There is further information about the COVID vaccine at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-what-to-expect-after-vaccination>

Cllr LINDA VAN DEN HENDE

Our History

In recent months we have published articles on your Resident Associations' history, back from when the Upminster Ratepayers' Association started. We love to hear your memories, so please send them to us at bulletinra@yahoo.co.uk.

A local resident gave us a copy of the Upminster and District Chronicle dated 14th February, 1935. Printed at the rear of 40 Station Road, Upminster at the Upminster Printing Company. Priced at one penny (at the time 240 pennies to the pound).

Interesting to read that the Association met in the "Jersey Cafe" to confirm their candidate in the local elections that year. You may ask where was the Jersey Cafe? Please see the following

continued on page 5

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"I have no recollection of the Jersey Cafe, however there were a number of cafes in Upminster during my childhood which might have been successors to the Jersey Cafe trading under different names. These are as follows:

1. **The Thistle Cafe** - this was situated in the building at the rear of the dry cleaners at 58 Station Road.

2. **The Regent Cafe** - this was situated in St Mary's Lane within the block of shops between the opticians and Cirrus Court. (Now home to the Kushoom Bugh Restaurant).

3. There was another cafe, but I cannot recall the name situated at 27 Station Road."

Many thanks David.

The history of the Association has opened up ongoing discussions on the history of our area. Please feel free to share these memories as well.

Cllr RON OWER

Freedom Pass Renewal

The older person's Freedom Pass allows free travel across London and free local bus journeys nationally, to those eligible for the scheme (eligibility can be checked via www.freedompass.org). Freedom Passes must be renewed every five years and any residents

whose pass expires on 31 March 2021 will need to renew it before then.

If you have not changed address, your renewed older person's Freedom Pass will automatically be posted to your home address. London Councils wrote to those pass holders who they believe may have changed their address in December 2020, asking them to renew their pass. The letter contains a unique renewal number and instructions on how they can renew their pass online in four easy steps. Renewal can also be made via a paper form included with the letter.

Residents will receive a new pass in the post from February 2021, as long as their application is successful. They will only be contacted by the Freedom Pass team if there is an issue. The status of their Freedom Pass renewal can be tracked online at www.freedompass.org/tracker. Once the new Freedom Pass is received, it can be used immediately and the old pass destroyed.

For further information contact the Freedom Pass Team by e-mail info@freedompass.org or on 0300 330 1433.

Cllr JOHN TYLER

Disabled Freedom Pass Renewal

Holders of the disabled person's Freedom Pass with an expiry date

of 31 March 2021 will receive their new pass in February, once their eligibility has been checked by their local council. Therefore, holders of the disabled person's Freedom Pass will not receive a letter and may not need to actively re-apply. However, their local council may contact them to confirm their continued eligibility for the scheme.

Disabled passes are only valid for as long as the pass holder meets the eligibility criteria for the scheme. If someone's circumstances change before the expiry date of the pass, their pass may be stopped. If they do not respond to council correspondence inviting them to be re-assessed, their pass may be stopped.

Further information can be obtained via the same methods as the article above.

Cllr JOHN TYLER

Crossrail

Interesting to see in the national media that the "Elizabeth Line" rail service from Shenfield station via Romford, Stratford, Tottenham Court Road, Heathrow to Reading station may not now open until next year. The plan is that travellers will be able to travel from Reading and Heathrow through central London to Stratford, Romford and further east to Shenfield without changing trains. The section between Canary Wharf and Abbey Wood south of the Thames is due

to open this year.

The Crossrail project started construction in 2009 and it is proposed the line will be capable of taking 200 million passengers a year.

Cllr RON OWER

Easter Hope from the Churches

What are you and I hoping for - an end to COVID, a holiday, to see family and friends? The word 'hope' is commonly used for 'a wish for a particular thing to happen', but originally, it meant 'a confident expectation of what God has faithfully promised'. The true hope for Mankind at Easter is that Jesus Christ - God's son, went to the cross to deal with Man's self-centredness and rebellion (the Bible calls it 'sin'). It was the greatest injustice and most cruel death in history - we call that day Good Friday, but on Easter Day, Jesus didn't remain dead, but was resurrected from the grave, so that you and I could have our past dealt with, a new kind of life and true hope for the future. Please Google 'Churches in Upminster' or visit: www.ctucno.org - any of us would be pleased to help you discover the best kind of hope, ever. Happy Easter!

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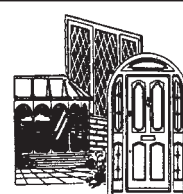


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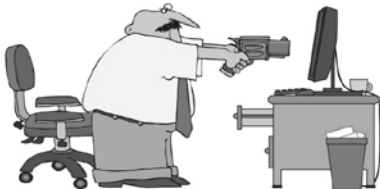
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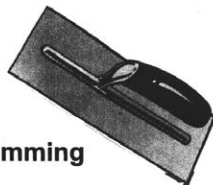
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With the cold weather and the ongoing pandemic concerns, may we ask you to please look out for your neighbours, especially if they are elderly or vulnerable. This is a great community.

Problem with inspection manhole

If you live in a road where the pavements were recently resurfaced, please check the integrity of the inspection manhole for the water meter and stopcock. A resident has reported that after turning off the water at the mains it was discovered the manhole was full of solidified tarmac which required excavation. On informing the Council, a contractor's representative arrived and completed the task of clearing the debris, however he opined that this was probably a one-off. Given

that an immediate neighbour had the same problem, this could be a more common issue.

Beware

Please note the following sent to us for your information.

Fraud epidemic 'is now national security threat' - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-55769991>

Police warn households to be careful of new burglary trick.

<https://www.idealhome.co.uk/news/beware-latest-burglary-tricks-and-trends-264691>

Refuse Collections

Over the last year the amount of rubbish being collected has increased dramatically.

There has been a vast increase in green waste with residents spending more time in the garden. Thanks must go to your Resident Councillors on pursuing the resumption of the green bin collections and getting the tip at



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Gerpins Lane open last year.

With residents in lockdown home deliveries have soared with a record amount of cardboard being collected. During December in a number of areas glass, plastic and cans were up by more than 30 per cent on the previous year. This has led to the dustcarts needing to return to the yard for emptying then out again to resume collections. Not the best of jobs clearing our rubbish and it is great seeing residents thanking the bin men and ladies for the great service they provide to our community.

Lower Thames Crossing works in Pea Lane

In February, Balfour Beatty were due to carry out some survey works on private fields near to Pea Lane, Upminster, on behalf of Highways England. These were in relation to the proposed Lower Thames Crossing and were being done to better understand the underground utilities in the

vicinity of the proposed route. For further details of future works and the current status of the project, visit the Highways England website - highwaysengland.co.uk/our-work/lower-thames-crossing/.

Upminster and Cranham Residents' Association Councillors keep in regular contact with Highways England and Havering Council regarding the scheme and any works due in our area. We update our website with information and will, of course, continue to bring you news in The Bulletin.

Cllr JOHN TYLER

Message to all dog owners

We have recently received the following messages regarding dog poo and dog behaviour:

- With the increase in dog ownership due to the pandemic, so has the mess they deposit on pavements, footpaths and bushes of areas such as the Cranham

continued on page 9

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Conservation area. Several children have innocently walked in this doggy poo and so have bike riders who ride over it and distribute the residue all over the pavement. A close friend reminds me dog poo carries a bug that is particularly dangerous to young children and their five year old granddaughter is now blind due to this disease. The doctors believe she may have picked up the mess on her shoe and then touched it with her hand.

- We received a plea from one Emerson Park resident who is very concerned over the amount of dog poo left in Parkstone Avenue and urging dog owners to clean any mess up and take the bags home for disposal.
- We are so lucky to have wonderful walks so near and around Upminster, but unfortunately a few are spoiling it for walkers. Many dog owners seem to think that it is quite acceptable for their untrained dogs to come bounding towards children

and adults alike and jumping up, depositing mud on clothes and scaring those who are trying to enjoy a leisurely stroll. And it's not just dogs, joggers run pass too close and cyclist come speeding up behind with no bell as a warning. These open spaces are for us all, so please be more considerate to others.

Getting involved in International Women's Day

Annually on the 8th March, International Women's Day celebrates the achievements of women as well as being a day to strive for women's rights and gender equality.

Whilst first being observed in 1911, it is still just as important today.

We must not forget women are still facing inequality: women around the world on average spend twice as many hours as men doing unpaid work, women

are still not present in equal numbers in business or politics, women are twice as likely as men to be a victim of domestic abuse, to name a few.

Perhaps we might not see sexism so overtly today, yet it doesn't mean we can't actively help reach gender equality. Perhaps share the household chores more equally, donate to women's charities or shelters, support women-run businesses, let your children chose what toys they want to play with (rather than forcing certain toys based on gender), and most importantly, stand up against sexist comments. This year's theme is **#ChooseToChallenge**, which is all about us having the choice to choose to call out gender biases and choose to celebrate women's achievements. By doing this, collectively we can all help to create a more inclusive world.

FRANCESCA MONTELFUSCO

Upminster Station

Going back again to the Upminster Chronicle dated the 14th February, 1935.

Interesting editorial on local trains, it appears there was a wide discussion on "trains being consistently late in both directions" and the finger was pointed at alterations to Fenchurch Street station. What a difference today with C2C Rail, achieving one, if not the best service in the country.

We also have the District Line run by Transport for London at our service. Facilities at the station have also vastly improved. Over the years your Residents' Association has pursued improvements. Older residents will remember the Association's campaign to have the side entrance opened making it far easier to use the car park.

The ticket office etc was also welcomed.

Cllr RON OWER

COVID-19 and Ferrets

Following evidence that a variant of the Coronavirus has infected farmed Mink in Denmark, the British Veterinary Association

continued on page 11

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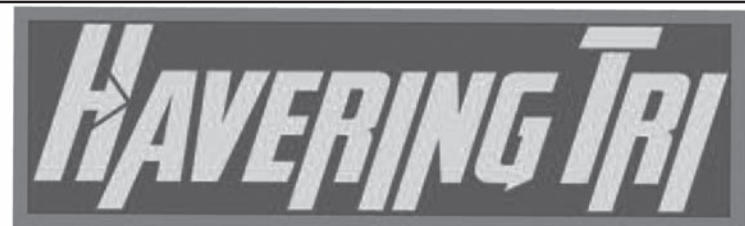


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has released advice for owners of pet ferrets in the UK. Ferrets are related to Mink and are susceptible to human influenza virus and should be assumed to be susceptible to COVID-19. If you or your household are isolating due to Coronavirus and you own a pet ferret you should try to keep your distance from your pet. Wear a mask when cleaning out, wash your hands before and after handling them and avoid cuddling your pet. You should not let it outside, for example for walks, for 21 days (human members of the household isolate for 10 days only). The risk of transmission of COVID-19 between ferrets and people is considered low, especially if simple hygiene practices are followed. If you are concerned that your ferret is showing signs of disease contact your Veterinary Surgeon for advice. **Lawton and Stoakes 01708 384444.**

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Lower Thames Crossing – Update

Highways England has indicated their intention to resubmit their Development Consent Order (DCO) application to the Planning Inspectorate in July/August 2021. This follows a review of their programme after withdrawing the original DCO application back in November 2020.

Over the next few months Highways England will be working to address the issues that the Planning Inspectorate raised back in November including:

1. Concerns around the information provided on construction and traffic impacts and how the DCO provides control for this;
2. Information provided with regards to navigation risks to River Thames, and jetty works;
3. Management of materials

and waste associated with construction; and

4. Detailed matters related to the Habitats Regulation Assessment.

Highways England will be working with stakeholders over the next few months as they prepare their application for submission.

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'In some cases, people are asked to press a number on their keypad or to send a text message to confirm they wish to receive the vaccine. Doing so is likely to result in a charge being applied to their phone bill. In other cases, callers are offering the vaccine for a fee or asking for bank details.

The vaccine is only available from the NHS and the NHS will contact you when it is your turn. The NHS will never ask you to press a button on your keypad or send a text to confirm you want the vaccine, and never ask for payment or for your bank details.' If you receive a call you believe

to be fraudulent, hang up. If you believe you have been the victim of fraud or identity theft you should report this directly to Action Fraud via www.actionfraud.police.uk/ or on 0300 123 2040.

CLlr JOHN TYLER

Deforestation

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This much-loved traditional pantomime is from the team behind Robin Hood. With singalong pop tunes played live for all ages, this is a laugh-out-loud Christmas treat to remember. Playing 25 Nov 2021 - 2 Jan 2022.

Planning Inspectorate accepts London Resort application for Examination

The Planning Inspectorate has accepted an application from London Resort Company Holdings for a sustainable, next generation entertainment resort known as the "London Resort", on the bank of the River Thames.

The London Resort will be principally based on the Swanscombe Peninsula in North Kent, set over approximately 465 hectares including a new dedicated access road to the A2 and easy access from Ebbsfleet Station. A connection by ferry is also proposed from the Port of Tilbury.

The London Resort has been designated a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project and now that it has been accepted by the Planning Inspectorate the proposal will undergo an

continued on page 15

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Examination.

Following the Examination process, the Planning Inspectorate will submit a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government who will make a decision on whether to grant Consent for the scheme.

Should the Development Consent Order Application be granted, works are due to start in 2022 with a view to the London Resort opening in 2024.

Further information can be found at <https://londonresort.info>

ALDI Upminster

In the October Bulletin we featured Waitrose in St Mary's Lane and in November we featured Marks and Spencer in Station Road, Upminster. This month we look at Aldi who originally started trading in Germany, situated at the Bell Corner junction in St. Mary's Lane, with the car park and current entrance accessed from Wilson Close.

Since Aldi arrived in the UK, they have successfully put pressure on

the major supermarkets, due to their pricing and championing of British goods. This has led to the big boys matching their prices on a number of goods. Customers look out for the twice weekly special buys and Aldi's policy of selling household goods alongside groceries. These are advertised in their weekly booklet.

The Upminster Aldi opened in the first years after the millennium. Before that, it was a Do It All DIY store and, in-between the two, in 2001 JD Wetherspoon's put in a planning application to turn the ground floor into a pub (the application was later withdrawn). In 2018 the store closed for ten weeks for a major refurbishment.

May we remind you, if you are starting an enterprise locally let us know at bulletinra@yahoo.co.uk.

Cllr RON OWER

Comic Relief

Red Nose Day is back on Friday, 19th March.

As the organizers state "Let's face it, we all need a laugh right now".

Red Nose Day was set up in

1988 and has raised millions for charity.

Look out for one off comedy specials and live music etc on the TV.

You can also see a host of fundraising ideas on their website. www.comicrelief.com

Look out for the new "Red Noses and the exclusive Pixar t-shirts."

Leaders needed

Do you have some spare time and would be interested in volunteering with the biggest Scout Group in the Greater London region? 8th Hornchurch are a large and successful group that are continuing to grow and they now find themselves looking for a number of volunteers. They are specifically looking for additional leaders to support the good work of the current leaders to drive forward the ever growing Scout Group, allowing them to continue to offer their skills for life for children aged 6-14 years.

No prior experience is required as the Scout Association will provide full training. All we need is enthusiasm, an interest in working

with and developing young people and a small commitment to attend training, and regular section meetings with the occasional day trip and camps. You will have the opportunity to grow yourself by using your current skills, learning new ones and contributing to an amazing life-experience for you and your local community. This role does require a DBS disclosure (which will be paid for by Scouts). If you are interested in hearing more, please email. gsl@8thhornchurch.org.uk

Haverling Antiques & Collectors Club

The Club look forward to meeting all our members again as soon as the Government regulations allow. We hope you are all keeping well and being offered your vaccinations. If any members know of a speaker on the circuit re: antiques/vintage our Chairman, Mrs Chris Lovett would be pleased to hear from you - **Mob. 07947 367285.**

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Thames Freeport

Elsewhere in this issue there is an article on the proposed London Resorts' massive project just over our border close to Gravesend in Kent. A huge theme park with rail access. This will create a wide range of jobs during the construction, and of course once it is up and running.

With this in mind it was interesting to see the joint venture bid by the container dock London Gateway and the Port of Tilbury with Fords of Dagenham for the "London Thames Freeport" to be located across Havering's border beside the Thames in Thurrock.

For those that don't know, Freeports are secure custom zones, located at ports where business can be carried out inside a country's land border where different custom rules apply. These can reduce administrative burden and tariff controls, provide relief from duties and import taxes and ease tax.

If successful the local freeport could provide over 25,000 jobs and the regeneration of a site of around 1,700 acres. I will keep you in the loop on this.

Cllr RON OWE

Brave woman takes on 'Chilly Challenge' for Hospice



While the cold weather has most of us dreaming of cosying up with hot chocolate by a log fire, one brave woman has been bracing the chilly temperatures. Lucy Edwards signed up for the Polar Bear Challenge and between November and March she planned to swim 200m twice a month in the sea and in lakes to raise money for Saint Francis Hospice. But with the latest lockdown restrictions making it impossible to travel, Lucy didn't give up, instead she has put a new twist on the challenge so she could continue doing it from home.

"I've received so many generous donations so far, I want to see the challenge through in any way that I can," said Lucy. "Now we are back in national lockdown, I'm unable to keep swimming outdoors. All swimming lakes are closed, and I live too far from Southend to be able to justify it as exercise in my local area. So, I'm taking on a 'Chilly Challenge' twice a month which will be dipping in an ice-cold paddling pool or dousing myself with cold water from the hose! It isn't quite the swimming challenge I set out to achieve, but I'm trying to adjust to the restrictions and get myself into cold water without leaving home!"

The Hospice has been a charity close to Lucy and her family's heart since it cared for her nan in 2001. "I was 17 at the time and I remember visiting a few times and it was such a nice environment and she was so well looked after," said Lucy, who lives in Hornchurch.

Lucy did manage to get in quite a few swims before the new tougher restrictions came into force and describes swimming in open water as exhilarating.

If you'd like to sponsor Lucy, visit <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/lucys-polar-bear-challenge>

Mother's Day

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If you would like to speak to one

continued on page 19

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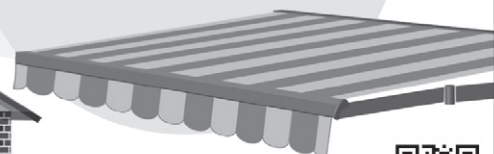
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Mail: **St Andrew's Church, 222 High Street, Hornchurch, Essex, RM12 6QP** e-mail: office@parishofhornchurch.co.uk

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More Residents Cycling

We heard from Transport for London that cycling has increased by 22 per cent in the Havering area despite overall journey numbers being significantly reduced due to lockdown restrictions compared to spring 2019.

Their report shows increased levels of cycling as a vital way of getting around during the coronavirus pandemic. Hopefully this will lead to less car trips, less pollution and healthier residents.

Havering Astronomical Society

Two interesting and varied online talks in March:

Wednesday, 17 March,
7.15 for 7.30pm

Dr Greg Brown,
*Astronomy Education Officer,
Royal Museums Greenwich:*

'Black Holes: The Small, the Medium and the XXL' - Black holes are weird! Their nature is remarkably simple, yet the science surrounding them is unbelievably complicated. This talk will focus on the different types of black holes we have found, and might yet discover, and how astronomers seek to understand them and their origins.

Wednesday, 31 March,
7.15 for 7.30pm

Stephen Lowry,
*Professor of Astronomy and
Planetary Science, School of
Physical Sciences, University of
Kent:*

'Comet Interceptor' - planned for launch in 2029, 'Comet Interceptor' is the first mission to travel to and observe a comet or other interstellar object that has never previously visited the inner Solar System. Such comets are important 'time capsules', allowing us to learn about the origins of the early Solar System.

If you would like to join any talks please email enquiries@havaastro.co.uk or contact Liz **07706 885948**

The Upminster & District Horticultural Society

To our members and readers of The Bulletin, we hope that you are keeping well and safe.

The committee held a virtual meeting in February and decided that our plans for March were too optimistic, so it is with regret that our planned lecture for March and April and our April outing are now cancelled. The Spring lunch that we were arranging, can also no longer go ahead. However, we are making arrangements to re-arrange the lectures and the April outing to Blenheim Palace, in next year's programme of events.

Our next committee meeting is at the end of March where we will be reviewing the situation. This will be in line with current Government rules, so let us hope that we will have some happier news then.

For further information please visit our website www.upminsterhorticulturalsociety.co.uk

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Our Councillors

Over the last few months we have presented your local Residents' Association Councillors. This month we feature

Cllr Ron Ower



Before coming to Havering in 1973 I had been active in Newham with the local Ratepayers' Association where I stood in

two local elections and once to the then Greater London Council. I joined our Association when I arrived here and was pleased to be elected as one of its representatives in 1978 to Havering Council.

I decided in 1990 not to seek re-election as I was travelling extensively throughout Europe and the UK working in the Forest Industry selling newsprint and magazine paper to national, regional and local newspapers and printers. I was also an active member of the Cranham Community Association and was delighted when they achieved their

aim of Cranham having its own Community Centre in Marlborough Gardens.

During my time off Council I still took an active interest and have been the Association Chairman and for twenty five years was Editor of The Bulletin. I believe that party politics has no place in local affairs.

Following my retirement I was pleased to return to Havering Council, this time as a Councillor for Upminster Ward.

I have been pleased to serve and Chair a number of Council Committees. I currently serve on the Council's Joint Venture Working Party and Pensions Committee.

I love music and the theatre and look forward to the return of live music and theatrical productions!

Cllr RON OWER

A Word of Praise

Please note the following message I have received regarding Glenn, our town centre street cleaner.

"Glenn does a fantastic job. The amount of rubbish he collects is incredible. He also collects and clears a huge amount of leaves each year."

"As a resident of Upminster,

I was wondering whether anything could be done to show appreciation to the street cleaner employed by Havering Council who works so tirelessly in the Corbets Tey Road area, particularly where the shops are. He has been a constant presence for a very long time now, even in foul weather, even on Sundays. Nothing seems to deter him: neither lockdown nor the antisocial behaviour of people who leave rubbish on the ground. He is meticulous in the way he keeps the pavements clean and I feel something could be done to show how grateful many of us residents are."

We are looking into how he can be thanked. Thank you Glenn.

Cllr LINDA HAWTHORN

Which Ward?

For your information:

- **Cranham ward** is north of Upminster Station including the Dury Falls Estate. Represented on Havering Council by **Councillors Gillian Ford, Linda Van den Hende and John Tyler.**
- **Upminster ward** covers south of Upminster Station including the Cranham Cathedral Estate and North Ockendon. Represented on Havering

Council by **Councillors Linda Hawthorn, Ron Ower and Chris Wilkins.**

Please see page 2 for full contact details.

Joan Lewis

It is with deep regret to inform you that former long term local resident, and one of our former Resident Councillors Joan Lewis has passed away. Joan lived for many years in Sunnyside Gardens then Hall Park Road, Upminster finally moving to Surrey to be close to one of her daughters.

It is impossible to write about Joan and not include her husband Geoff who pre-deceased her several years ago. Geoff edited The Bulletin for some time, was also our President and of course one of our Councillors for Upminster and in 1994, for Cranham ward. Joan joined him in 1994 and they both served until 2002.

Joan took an active interest in our community and Council work and served on the Education and Social Services committees. She was very keen on the campaign for children locally walking to school in an effort to reduce the school run. With the Association on the forefront of encouraging ladies to stand for Council, Joan was an active

continued on page 22



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member of the Association's Ladies Section.

When she left Council she enjoyed attending the Probus meetings with speakers and I was pleased to attend with her. Our condolences to her two daughters Ann and Jane.

Cllr LINDA HAWTHORN

Can anyone help me please?

I am Janet Haley (nee Eastment) born at 10 Greenbanks, Cranham in 1940. I have decided to write a short story on my life in Cranham, but one of the items I cannot trace is a photo of the school I attended, and wondered if anyone can help. The school was standing on the first and second plots on the left as you turn into Front Lane, where there are now a pair of semi-detached houses. It was great (all ages) and we had camp beds for our morning "rest" with a bottle of milk and 2 roaring, lovely hot coal boilers one each end. I have a photo of the inside, with the mural on the end wall, but cannot find one of the outside. "Happy days," I hope someone can help. Please contact me at eddiehaley@freeuk.com.

Nisa Local

We have been giving the local supermarkets publicity. We are lucky to have a wide range of stores locally as well as a nice choice of smaller stores. Nisa at 49/51 Gaynes Park Road is an excellent example and open daily from 7am to 8pm Monday to Friday, Saturday 8am to 8pm and on Sunday, 8am to 7pm. They have a wide selection of goods and Nisa's website always has details of special offers with competitive prices and some great recipes. With free parking outside the Nisa store, go and say hello. They can also be contacted on 01708 223774.

Hazel Sargent – Calendar Girl

As reported in the December Bulletin, Hazel Sargent, an octogenarian from Cranham Gardens posed for a cheeky photo of herself for each month to create a 2021 Calendar. We are delighted to inform you from the sale of 100 calendars and generous donations that Hazel raised a total of £1,800, which is a fabulous amount for one individual.

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CONTACT:

Sheila Cuthbert (Secretary)
01708 470751
Michael Rigby (Treasurer)
01708757595

As a member of the Upminster Golf Club choir, she has continued to fund raise since December for NHS charities, and the total currently stands at £2,800. Well done Hazel, a tremendous effort and all done whilst shielding!

Orange sacks from Upminster Library

During January, Havering Council delivered orange recycling sacks to homes in Upminster and Cranham. However, if you were accidentally missed out or you need more sacks, then they are available from outside Upminster Library, even if the library is closed due to the lockdown (which it was at the time of writing).

Cllr JOHN TYLER

Domestic Violence Hotlines Across the UK

Sadly with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been an increase in the level of domestic violence across the UK. If you are a victim of domestic violence, and you want to seek help, there are many organisations out there that you can turn to – you don't have to suffer alone. Please see contact details below:

- **Freephone National Domestic Abuse Helpline**
phone: 0800 200 0247
- **Galop (for the LGBTQ community)**
phone: 0800 999 5428
- **Men's Advice Line**
phone: 0800 801 0327
- **Respect Phoneline**
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