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Sadly we have seen several lost units in the town centre due to simply not being able to be open through the various lockdowns, but I can confirm there has been a fair amount of interest in the take up of the empty shops.

We have the huge advantage of having the two local Roomes Stores; on the western side of the road the fashion store, and on the eastern side the magnificent Roomes furnishing store, still owned by the local family.

Added to this we have Waitrose in St Marys Lane, Marks and Spencer, Aldi and Iceland and a wide range of independent shops and various coffee shops, cafes, take-aways and restaurants.

The Osteria Restaurant in Corbets Tey Road receives a lot of comments on how welcoming their frontage looks, and we remember with pleasure the wonderful Christmas tree outside. To have our magnificent award winning park in the centre of town is an added bonus.

A huge welcome if you have just started a business in our centre, please do let us know. We are always happy to support new ventures. Upminster is the 'Place to Be.'

Cllr RON OWER

Beware of Scams

Anyone owning a mobile phone would have seen a steep increase in unsolicited texts. These are often professionally produced and claiming to come from companies and institutions such as Royal Mail and HM Revenue and Customs.

One regular approach from fraudsters asks recipients to click through to a website that looks genuine to make a small payment to finalise delivery of a parcel or claim a tax refund. In fact they are scams to urge you to give out bank account details which are used by criminals to transfer money into their accounts. Please do not be taken in!

Boundary Commission Final Recommendations

Over the last year we have highlighted the ongoing review of ward boundaries in Havering by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE). This has not been an easy process, caused not only by the pandemic but also the attempts of the Leader of the Council to manipulate the process for his own party's advantage, against the rules of the LGBCE.

In July 2020, the LGBCE published draft recommendations, which included reducing the number of Upminster ward Councillors from three to two, moving parts of Corbets Tey into Rainham and the Dury Falls Estate into Emerson Park. The Upminster and Cranham Residents' Association, together with a large number of local people, submitted objections to this and in January the LGBCE published further recommendations, restoring Upminster to three Councillors and moving Corbets Tey and Dury Falls back into their current wards.

After a further consultation, the LGBCE published their final recommendations on 11th May. We are pleased to report that the boundaries of Cranham and Upminster wards will now be left largely as they are at present, allowing our local communities to remain intact.

Cllrs LINDA HAWTHORN, RON OWER, CHRIS WILKINS (Upminster ward)


Cllrs GILLIAN FORD, JOHN TYLER, LINDA VAN DEN HENDE (Cranham ward)

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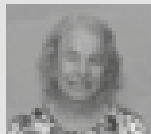
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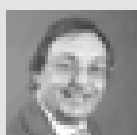
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CouncillorRon.Ower@havering.gov.uk

Chris Wilkins 07960 059195



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John Tyler (07982 962925)
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Speeding and Other Traffic Problems –

Your Upminster Resident Councillors have been constantly chasing the Council for over two years, to achieve further measures to reduce speeding in a number of local roads. We have held meetings with Council Officers and attended site visits at the relevant roads, where we have received complaints from residents. These roads included Park Drive, Gaynes Park Road and St Marys Lane, between Front Lane and Pike Lane. In addition, for a number of years, we have been receiving complaints from residents, who live near Branfil and James Oglethorpe primary schools, where there have been ongoing traffic problems, such as congestion and parking over driveways. We have again been chasing the Council to address these problems. In turn, the Council agreed to produce a report with solutions to address the above, to be debated at the May Highways' Advisory Committee (HAC). We had been given a draft copy of the report together with our Cranham ward colleagues,

Councillors Gillian Ford, Linda Van den Hende and John Tyler. We all went through this in detail and made a number of additions that we thought were essential to be included in the report, as they reflected the views of our local residents. Upminster and Cranham wards have twelve schools in the area, and a number of nurseries. In fact, with ten schools, we believe that Upminster ward has the highest in London. Taking this on board there is a huge number of children coming through the area. We also have the highest elderly population in London.

Sadly, we were bitterly disappointed to hear that the report will now be presented next month. We will keep you updated when we have more information regarding the above points.

Cllrs LINDA HAWTHORN, RON OWER, CHRIS WILKINS

Article & Advertising Submission Deadlines

Articles - 1st Month / Advertising - 3rd Month

Copy to be received on or before the above dates one Month prior to the publish date. Please note that submitting an article does not guarantee publication. Email: bulletinra@yahoo.co.uk

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Local Elections

By the time you read this counting would have taken place on a number of elections last month. The first since the General Election of December 2019.

In Scotland and Wales there were elections for their devolved Governments. Here in London we were electing the Mayor and Assembly Members for the Greater London Authority. There were also many elections for cities and towns all over England.

Sadly in many areas as usual 'turnout' was very low.

Equally as bad, is that many contests had no relevance to local matters and merely were won or lost on voters' views of the current Government. Thus a number of hard working Councillors of all political colours were shown the door through no fault of their own.

I was particularly pleased that a number of Residents' Association Councillors with a strong focus on local issues bucked the national trend and were elected. Whilst for many national Government can

seem to be remote, this is not the case for local Government where you can see how effective your Council is. In Havering, with the presence of a large number of very active residents' associations in a number of wards, we see turnouts higher than those at parliamentary elections.

Here in Upminster and Cranham we see a high turnout and a clear endorsement of our view that 'party politics' has no place in local affairs.

The next elections for Councillors to Havering Council take place in May next year.

Cllr RON OWER

Lower Thames Crossing update

In a previous article on the Lower Thames Crossing planning application by Highways England, we highlighted that the application was rejected by the Planning Inspectorate as they had a number of serious concerns on a range of matters.

Your Residents' Association Councillors from Upminster and

Cranham recently held a Zoom meeting with Highways England, who are planning to submit a further application later this year following a further Public Consultation. At the meeting, Highways England detailed their current plans, which contain only minor changes, with the main route now fixed.

As soon as we know when the Public Consultation will take place and details of any local public events where Highways England will present their proposals, we will advise you in the Bulletin and on our websites.

In the meantime, please see the Highways England Web Maps link on our website - ucra.co.uk/lower-thames-crossing-update-2/ which gives current details of the proposed route, possible works compounds and other useful information.

Lock Your Vehicles

May we remind you to lock your vehicles when you have parked, especially at night time. We have

had reports of opportunists trying car doors. Please do not leave any valuables or shopping bags on show. Prevention is better than being a victim of crime.

Cllr RON OWER

Upminster u3a is still here

Upminster u3a has continued to operate during the past 12 months, with many of our interest groups using social media, email or Zoom to maintain their activities. Our regular meetings with a speaker, on the third Tuesday each month, were transferred onto Zoom. Our membership is still open, it only costs £16 per year to join, and we have over 50 interest groups which are flourishing. For further details and membership application forms, please check out our website at u3asites.org.uk/Upminster

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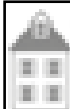
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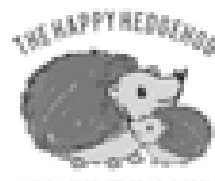
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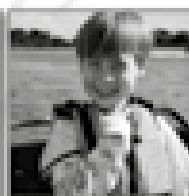
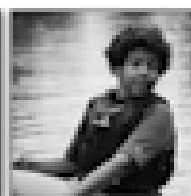
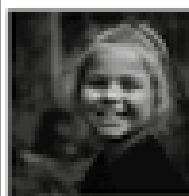
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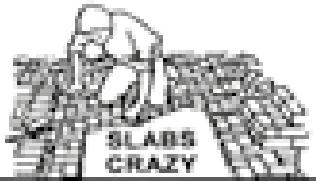
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Thames Chase and partners deliver over 17,500 trees under the national Trees for Climate programme

Over the last few months, Thames Chase has worked closely with its partners to enable the planting of over 17,500 trees in Thames Chase

Community Forest through the Trees for Climate programme.

Thames Chase is one of England's ten Community Forests across the country planting trees, helping deliver the English portion of the Government's commitment to increase tree planting to 30,000 hectares per year, across the UK, by 2025 alongside peatland restoration and nature recovery. In total, the trees planted will eventually store over 100,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide and help in making local landscapes more resilient to the impacts of climate change.

Thames Chase has worked extensively with its partners including Brentwood Borough Council, Essex County Council, Thurrock Council and Forestry England to plant trees at sites throughout the Thames Chase Community Forest.

Dave Bigden, Consultant Forest Director for Thames Chase Trust, said: "Thames Chase Trust is delighted to be part of this national initiative, involving all ten Community Forests working together in partnership. The creation of new woodlands,



combined with the increase in management of existing woodlands, will bring significant improvements in the recreational, amenity and biodiversity values of Thames Chase Community Forest. It will continue and expand the work we have been delivering with our partners since the inception of the Forest in 1990."

"Trees for Climate will help the Thames Chase Trust and its

partners to continue to drive this vital work forward. This scheme aligns with the aims and objectives of the Thames Chase Plan and the tree planting will support the Trust's vision to create a mosaic landscape, rich in diverse habitat, across Thames Chase Community Forest."

Local Trees

As we have mentioned in the past we have had a large number of new trees planted locally over the last few years. We receive a lot of comments on how nice they make the area look.

The Council will take out any trees that sadly are dangerous, dead or diseased and a number of trees were removed recently from Rushmere Avenue following representation from local residents. The Council have confirmed that they will be replaced.

It was great to again see the trees in bloom in Springfield Gardens. The road had a large number of visitors before Christmas last year looking at the "Christmas Tree" trail.

CLlr RON OWER

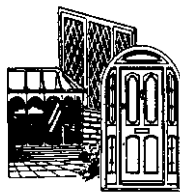
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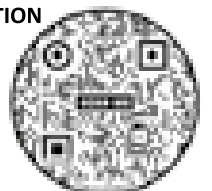
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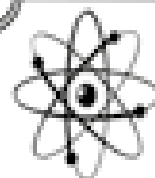


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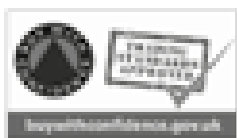
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Vehicle Pothole Damage

Hardly a day goes by without my in-box receiving a complaint over potholes on local roads. I was interested to see in the national media that the number of cars damaged by potholes has risen by more than a third in a year. The RAC stated that over four thousand call-outs were made during the first three months of this year for damage caused by holes in the road. Apart from the inconvenience, this has led to some very high repair bills for vehicle owners. Sadly, it has also been very nasty for cyclists and motorcyclists who have been thrown from their bikes after hitting a hole.

Reports state that the Government is investing £1.1 billion in the local road network in England in 2021-22. However, it was suggested that councils were facing a back-log of possibly of over £10 billion to repair local roads. Many councils are patching up roads, when there should be a long-term solution with adequate funding from the Government to plan ahead.

Consumer website MoneySavingExpert have published advice on how you may be able to make a claim if your vehicle is damaged by a pothole. See <https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/reclaim/pothole-claims/>

CLlr RON OWER

Over 15,000 hacked email and social media accounts reported in one year

If a hacker got into your email or social media account, what would they find? Health and banking information? Names and contact details for your friends and family? Private photos and messages? For most people, it's at least one of those.

Your email and social media accounts contain a wealth of personal information about you, which makes them a lucrative target for cyber criminals. Between February 2020 and

February 2021, Action Fraud received 15,214 reports about email and social media account hacking. The majority of reports (88%) were made by individuals, with 12% of reports being made by businesses. Analysis of the crime reports revealed that Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat were the most affected social media accounts, with phishing messages being the most common tactic used by cyber criminals to lure unsuspecting victims.

The motivation behind the hacks are varied and can range from financial gain, to revenge or personal amusement. Some victims are extorted for money, whilst others have their accounts used to send malicious links to their contacts. One victim who had multiple email and social media accounts hacked paid over £2,000 to regain access to them. Another victim reported that her hacked Facebook account was used to trick her friends into sending money into a PayPal account they thought belonged to her.

Secure your email and social media accounts in just a few

minutes. Here's what you need to do:

- 1: Use a strong and separate password for your email, as well as other important accounts, such as your banking or social media accounts.
- 2: Enable two-factor authentication (2FA). It will help to stop hackers from getting into your online accounts, even if they have your password.
- 3: If you can't access your account, search the company's online support or help pages. You'll find information about how to recover your account.

For detailed instructions on how to reset your password or enable 2FA on your accounts, visit: <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/secureyouraccounts>

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Speeding

We are still receiving a high number of complaints over excessive speeding in our area. The police are holding speed checks - please be careful.

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Rosie Meadway Film Review: The Trial of the Chicago Seven

Fancy immersing yourself
in an infamous 1968 trial of
seven defendants, charged
by the Federal Government
with conspiracy, presented in
a two-hour Oscar-nominated
courtroom drama? Yes please!

This Netflix production tells the
true story of the trial of leading
Vietnam War protestors with
themes of racial injustice, clashes
with police and mass protests.
Sounds familiar? It certainly

mirrors events that we've sadly
witnessed in recent times.

The protesters were very different.
Tom Hayden (Eddie Redmayne,
Fantastic Beasts and Where to
Find Them) encourages peaceful
protests. Abbie Hoffman of the
Yippies (Sascha Baren Cohen,
Borat) promotes more violent and
chaotic protests. David Dellinger
(John Carroll Lynch) is a peaceful
family man who promises his
wife and child that nothing bad
will happen to him. I connected
with these real people due to their
united goal for peace.

This film was incredibly
emotive with high levels of
teamwork, empathy plus
immense determination. These
men worked super hard to try
to get their message across
and would not stop until they
succeeded. A key message was
that perseverance is a really good
quality to adopt in difficult times.

The majority of the film is set
in a courtroom with flashbacks
to specific events. Every scene
is gripping and engaging,
which makes it fast-paced and
exciting to watch. I would highly
recommend that you watch this
film.

'Right to Repair' Regulations to be Introduced

Fridges, washing machines and
televisions will soon be cheaper
to run, easier to repair and will
last longer thanks to plans for
new energy efficiency legislation
recently announced by the
Government.

Termed 'Right to Repair', new
rules will be brought in for
electrical products, to tackle
'premature obsolescence' (a short
lifespan deliberately built into
an appliance by manufacturers),
which leads to unnecessary
and costly replacements for the
consumer.

From this summer, manufacturers
will be legally obliged to make
spare parts for products available
to consumers for the first time, so
that electrical appliances can be
fixed easily. The move is expected
to extend the lifespan of products
by up to ten years, preventing
appliances ending up being
scrapped or recycled sooner than
they should, and reducing carbon
emissions at the same time.

CLlr JOHN TYLER

Your lawn and your pets

At GreenThumb lawn treatment
services we are lovers of pets and
lawns. We want to help your lawn
reach its full potential, even with
your pets enjoying it too.

Dogs

Dog owners may notice large
dead patches. A dog's urine can
cause scorched patches in the
grass, especially if your buddy has
a favourite spot. Try and take your
dog(s) for a morning walk before
they relieve themselves on the
lawn. It's usually their morning
urine that is the strongest, so this
is when most damage to the lawn
can be caused (although each
situation is different). Spraying
water on the lawn straight after
your dog has urinated can also
help.

Cats

Cats are mostly intent on using
neighbours' gardens for the toilet
as opposed to their own. So,
whether you own a cat or not, you
will more than likely have to deal
with a cat going to the toilet in

continued on page 11

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your garden. However, cats have the tendency of digging a hole in your border to do their business, which means they will leave your lawn alone! There are many things you can do to deter cats from your garden including placing half-full plastic bottles in borders, the light reflection is supposed to deter.

Freya's Challenge

Freya was diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy at 8 months old after suffering a traumatic birth that led to HIE grade 2 brain damage due to oxygen deprivation. This affects all four limbs, which makes it hard for Freya to carry out everyday challenges such as walking. Freya has attended First Step since October 2018.

Having heard about 'Captain Tom 100 Challenge', Freya's mum Emily decided to set a challenge for Freya - to walk 100 steps in her walking frame each day, from Friday, 30th April to Monday, 3rd May to raise much needed funds for First Step.



In Emily's words "First Step has given us hope and got us prepared for Freya to start a mainstream nursery soon. They've just been a godsend." Mum spoke about the support during COVID and said "fortunately for us they have still remained open for one to one family sessions, and support. We'd love to help them as much as we can so they can help many other children like Freya".

Freya has wildly smashed her targets and currently the total raised stands at £10,187.

Videos of Freya completing her Challenge each day are on our

website, www.firststep.org.uk, and if you'd like to add your support, there are links to Freya's JustGiving page.

The Upminster and Cranham Residents' Association have been active and strong supporters of First Step, and have made a number of significant donations over the past few years. Their support, along with hundreds of residents and businesses across Havering has enabled First Step to continue supporting families of children with special needs and/or disabilities. On behalf of every family we support now and in the future, I would like to say a huge thank you!

MARK HALLS,
CEO of First Step

Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm

Abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA) is a condition affecting

the aorta, the main blood vessel supplying blood to the body. In some people, as they get older, the wall of the abdomen can become weak and start to expand, forming an abdominal aortic aneurysm. The condition is most common in men aged 65 and over, affecting

continued on page 13

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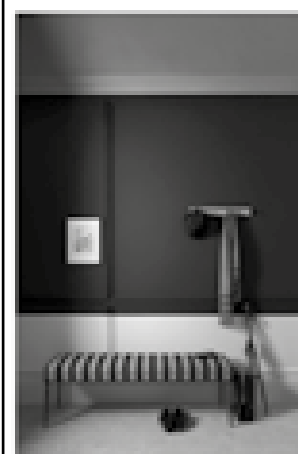
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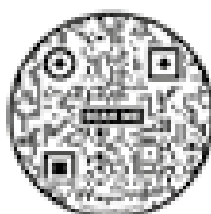
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1 in 70 men over that age. It is far less common in women.

It is a serious condition if the aneurysm becomes large, and is likely to be fatal if it bursts. However, AAA is a treatable condition if identified and so the NHS has launched a screening program for men when they reach the age of 65, who should be contacted by their GP. However, men over 65 who have not previously been contacted for screening can request a screening scan by visiting the NHS AAA Screening website www.nhs.uk/service-search.

For further information, visit www.nhs.uk/conditions/abdominal-aortic-aneurysm-screening/ or contact your GP.

Upminster and Cranham Royal British Legion Knit and Natter is Back

From 24th June, from 2pm to 4pm, come and join us for a friendly, social afternoon at the club. If you can't knit don't

worry, we will help. We have lots of patterns and needles and wool for beginners' small learner projects. If you don't want to knit, just come for the 'tea and chat'. Everyone is welcome. For more information call the club **01708 223157** or Lorraine on **07796992000**.

We are currently holding a foreign currency collection – coins/notes that are or were legal tender accepted. Proceeds to the Royal British Legion via Sainsburys.

New opening hours can be found on the Upminster and Cranham RBL website. We have BT sport and will be showing all UEFA matches and will be offering various entertainment and quiz nights. Check the website. <http://branches.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/upminster/news-events> or call: **01708 223157**. We are located at 316 St Marys Lane, Upminster, RM14 3HL. Social distancing is in place.

Margot and the Magical Plant

I am a local author and have recently published the above titled book. A story for

young children that captures the essence of spring and summer as it encourages them to grow a tomato plant. I have raised three children in Upminster and work as a youth worker, and the book offers a good balance of education and fun, together with beautiful illustrations. I feel it will encourage children's curiosity for planting and nature, and there is a slight twist at the end. Please take a look at my website if you are interested to find out more. <https://margotmagicalplant.com>

JANE RHODES

Brookside Theatre 2021 Re-opening Plans

The Brookside Theatre, Eastern Road, Romford is back in action again. The first production is a brand new musical adventure based on Beatrix Potter's lovable rascal, Peter Rabbit. This enchanting production opened on 31st May with a restricted seating capacity and social-distancing in accordance with

Government guidelines.

If COVID-19 restrictions allow, there will follow an exciting summer / autumn season of non-socially distanced performances which include productions of MGM's classic musical, The Wizard of Oz from the 6 July and the hit sixties musical, Hairspray in September. Top tributes shows include Get Back – The Story of the Beatles, One Night of Tom Jones, The Jerry Lee Lewis Story, starring Brookside favourite Peter Gill as the man himself, Michael Jackson The Legacy, The Rod Stewart Songbook and a brand new theatre show, An Audience with Gary Barlow. There will also be celebrity performances by Cheryl Baker, the welcome return of national treasure Richard Dignance and later in the year, the legendary Tommy Canon and friends take to the stage in a nostalgic and unmissable night of comedy, Laugh Me A Laugh.

Aside from a fantastic year of events planned, the theatre are proud to announce newly refurbished toilets and kiosk now selling freshly ground coffee and specialty teas, with many more

continued on page 15

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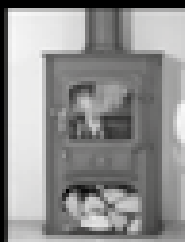
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exciting developments in the pipeline.

The Brookside Theatre are currently running a crowdfunding appeal to raise money to replace the windows throughout. Any and all donations are appreciated and if you would like to help please visit www.spacehive.com/brookside-theatre-window-appeal

The theatre are also looking for local people to join their friendly volunteer front-of-house team. If you have a couple of hours a month free and are interested in getting involved, email volunteers@brooksidetheatre.com.

For more information about all future productions and to book tickets visit www.brooksidetheatre.com.

UK Power Networks Free Priority Services Register

UK Power Networks, who own and maintain electricity cables

and lines across London, the South East and East of England, have asked us to publicise their free Priority Services Register (PSR) to local residents. Being on their PSR will ensure residents receive extra support if they experience a power cut, including:

- 24-hour a day priority number.
- Proactive text and voice message alerts, when there is a large power cut locally.
- In certain circumstances, they may also offer a free hotel room overnight or complementary hot meals, whilst they fix the power cut.
- There is no cost for being on the PSR or for any support received.

Residents can register if they, or a member of their household:

- Has a medical condition, mental or physical impairment or requires reasonable adjustments.
- Is of pensionable age.
- Has children under the age of 5 years.
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You can view more about the PSR and sign up visiting www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/power-cut/priority-services/about-the-priority-services-register, calling 0800 169 9970 or emailing psr@ukpowernetworks.co.uk.

Student Completes Gruelling Challenge to raise £3,397 for St Francis Hospice

While intensive training is recommended before taking on the 4x4x48 challenge - which consists of running an incredible 4 miles, every 4 hours, giving a grand total of 48 miles across 48 hours - Zack Killoran from Upminster signed up last minute



after spotting it while scrolling through Twitter.

"I have a great group of family and friends surrounding me, who are always supportive of everything I do - even in these strange times!" said Zack, who is currently studying Sports Science at the University of Bath. "For me, the toughest part came at around half 7 on a Saturday morning, as my alarm went off, and I had to prepare for my 6th run. With less than two hours sleep, I thought the challenge had got the better of me. However, getting out of bed and completing that run gave me the motivation to finish it!"

The event coincided with the second anniversary of Zack's nan Sally Smith passing, so the timing

continued on page 17

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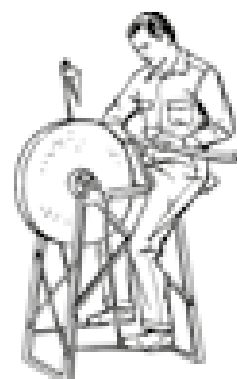
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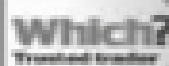
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was perfect to put his endurance levels to the test while raising money for St Francis Hospice. "After being diagnosed with terminal cancer, the St Francis Hospice at Home Team enabled our family to care for nan at home and ensured that her last few weeks were comfortable and they were a great support to our family," said Zack.

Thanks so much to Zack and all the supporters who donated and cheered him on whilst he undertook this difficult challenge!

Havering Antiques & Vintage Collectors Club

We are hopeful that we can resume in July with speakers from Bargain Hunt and Antiques Roadshow planned for the future.

Annual Membership remains at £30 and £5 for guests. Provisional date for your diary is Friday, 16th July 7.30 for 8.00pm. Meet at Harold Wood Neighbourhood Centre, Gubbins Lane. Chairman: Mrs Chris Lovett Mob: 07947 367258

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Havering Council's Telecare alarm service has been running for over 35 years and promotes independent living, security and confidence within the home for both you and your family. This service provides monitoring and prompt responding 24 hours a day, seven days a week by trained and reliable staff for as little as £5.50 per week. The minimum service provides a pendant alarm, but a range of other sensors can be added depending on the need of the client such as door opening, overflowing baths, fall detectors, medication reminders or bogus caller alerts. As there is such a vast range of different sensors, we are fully trained to offer advice to help find a suitable solution. The service can hold

keys to the property or have key safes fitted allowing quick access for our responders or emergency services if required. Our aim is to support independent living throughout Havering and peace of mind for family and friends.

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<https://www.havering.gov.uk/telecare> Here to provide peace of mind for you and your family.

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Contact Anne Phillips **01708 470370** or Sheila Burton **07949307336**

Tips on Preventing Catalytic Converter Thefts

Catalytic converter thefts are increasingly a problem for motorists, being lucrative for thieves and extremely disruptive to vehicle owners. Below are some tips on reducing the risk of your vehicle suffering such a theft:

- Park to prevent access underneath - If you can, park somewhere that would make it difficult for a thief to climb underneath your vehicle or jack it up.
- Mark it to protect it - Some garages will etch a unique serial number onto your catalytic converter, so that it can be easily identified if stolen. You will also be provided with a sticker to be displayed in your window.

continued on page 19



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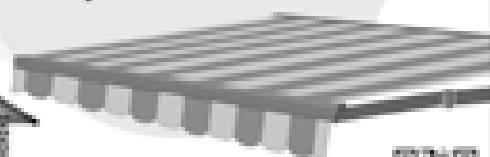
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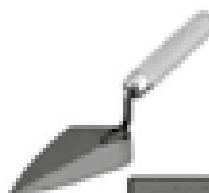
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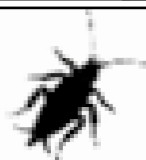
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- Spot-weld the bolts on the catalytic converter to make it harder to remove.
- For Toyota owners – Toyota has its own device, called a Catloc.
- There is also something called a CatClamp, which clamps to the exhaust pipes, not the converter. It makes stealing your converter more difficult for a thief in a hurry.

For advice on whether your particular make of vehicle has specific anti-theft devices available, speak to a main dealer. For general advice on preventing vehicle crime, see the Metropolitan Police crime prevention website - www.met.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/.

Adventure Island

Hornchurch District Scouts (charity no. 303699) are selling Adventure Island wristbands at the discounted price of £15.

Also available, Southend Sea-life Adventure tickets Adult/Child just £6 each and Adventure Golf tickets £6 for 18 holes. Wristbands expire 31st December 2021 and are available to purchase all year round for any day the park is open.

To purchase call or text Debbie on **07805612706**, Louisa on **07498575296** or collect from Pink Parachute, 6 North Street, RM11 1DX during opening hours. Debit/credit cards or cash accepted as payment method.

Havering Astronomical Society

are continuing a very successful and varied online program of speakers. If you would like to attend any meetings please visit the website www.havastro.co.uk or email enquiries@havastro.co.uk.

Wednesday, 16 June,
7.15 for 7.30pm

Dr Jeff Wagg - Canadian astronomer at the Square Kilometre Array Observatory (SKA) in Jodrell Bank

'A golden age for radio astronomy'

Wednesday, 7 July,
7.15 for 7.30pm

Greg Smye-Rumsby - Astronomy staff member at the Royal Observatory Greenwich

'The History of Longitude at Greenwich'

For details and to join email enquiries@havastro.co.uk

Young Astronomers

Thursday, 24 June,
7 to 8pm

Talks include a guide to what can be seen in the night sky, the latest sky news and a different topic each month. There is also live-streaming views through a telescope when skies are clear. New members are always welcome and online meetings are free. To join or for more details please email young.astronomers@havastro.co.uk

Long House Plants

Please note the following dates for open days at Long House Plants in Church Road, Noak Hill:

11 am - 4pm on Saturday, 19th June, 17th July, 14th August, and 18th September

11 am - 4pm on Wednesday, 7th July, 4th August and 8th September

Wednesdays are for the National Garden Scheme when all the proceeds go to their charities (which include Marie Curie, Macmillan, Hospice UK) and on the Saturdays, the local Salvation Army provide the refreshments and use the money to help local people. It really is worth visiting Jean and Tim, they have a wealth of information.

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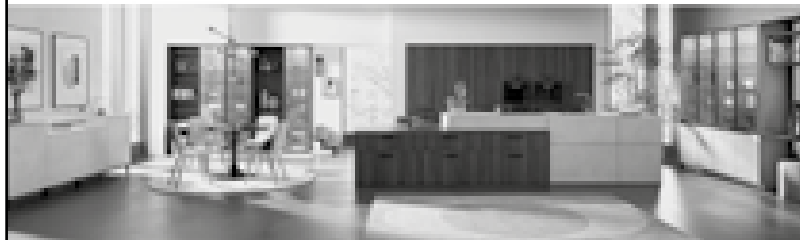


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Cranham Police Ward Panel

The Cranham Police Ward Panel met on Tuesday, 4th May via Zoom. Members of the panel include the Cranham Police Team, Committee Chair - Reverend Claire Blatchford, a teacher from Hall Mead School, a resident from the Dury Falls Estate, a resident who is a member of Neighbourhood Watch, a resident StreetWatch representative and a Cranham ward Councillor.

The panel were advised that the police were targeting violent crime and that one of the three ward priorities had to include violent crime. The panel decided the second priority would be the theft from and of motor vehicles, and the third priority speeding. The crime figures for the last quarter were burglary 2, attempted burglary, theft from motor vehicles 13, theft of motor vehicles 9, robbery 1 and stop and search 3.

Cllr GILLIAN FORD

Stable Fire

On the 2nd May, a fire broke out at the stables in Hall Lane. Four fire crews attended the fire in the early hours of the morning. A member of staff was able to guide one of

the horses away from danger, but tragically two horses died as a consequence.

An investigation was undertaken with the cause being recorded as undetermined. Our thoughts go out to the families who lost their horses.

Cllr GILLIAN FORD

The Whist Club

The Whist Club at Cranham Community Centre will resume from Wednesday, 9 June and Friday, 11 June in Room 10. Play will commence at 7.30pm in each instance. Masks may still be required to enter the centre unless there is any official change in the law. We will continue to play normally every Wednesday and Friday.

HARRY STOCK

Potholes

Over the last few months I have received approximately 6 notifications from residents about the damage caused to their vehicles as a consequence of the potholes across the borough.

Residents have informed us that they have reported them but the repair dates have been missed. Cranham and Upminster

Councillors have also been reporting potholes and despite our calls for urgent action, and confirmation the works will be undertaken by a given time, we have been noticing excessive repair delays. Please let us know if a repair you have reported has gone past the given repair date, and we will chase the case up. Alternatively please let us know of any potholes that need repairing.

Cllr GILLIAN FORD

Upminster Cricket Club

Despite the somewhat windy and rainy conditions of the last few weeks, Upminster Cricket Club's start to the season has been a positive one. The 1st XI were knocked out of the League Cup in the second round by local friends and rivals Hornchurch, but bounced back to start their league campaign with victory over Ilford.

continued on page 22

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Our six other Saturday men's sides have also been in action during May and our Ladies XI, back in action after a twenty year absence, picked up a brilliant victory over Wanstead & Snaresbrook in the National Cup.

Our junior sides have been back in training for a few weeks now and are putting their skills to good use with games against clubs from across Essex and East London. We have over 250 boys and girls registered to play in 2021 and over 100 of them have already taken to the field for competitive games.

Over the next few weeks the club's mens and womens intra-club competitions, the Windmill Whack, will also begin, and we hope with restrictions starting to ease that we will be able to encourage spectators along to these games.

Games at Upminster Park during June:

5th June -

1st XI v Fives and Heronians

12th June -

1st XI v Old Southendians

19th June -

2nd XI v Wickford

26th June -

1st XI v Buckhurst Hill

PAUL MIDDLEMISS

Foodbank

The Foodbank is under severe strain with increased requests for assistance. If you can donate via one of the supermarkets, that's great, but not everything clients need is donated in sufficient quantity so it is helpful for them to have monetary donations as well so they can stock up on items donated less often. They have to meet the costs associated with running a warehouse: it all adds up. You could send a cheque, payable to Kingdom Storehouse Ltd, to the Harold Hill Food Bank, Unit 1, Guardian Business Centre, Faringdon Avenue, Romford, RM3 8FD, or you could go online to <https://haroldhill.foodbank.org.uk/> Please consider donating - it could make a big difference to a family in need.

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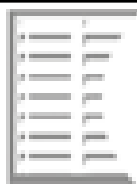
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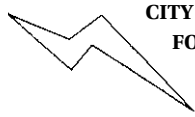
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