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UPMINSTER & CRANHAM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Speeding and Other Traffic Problems - Update

In last month's Bulletin we mentioned that a report was being considered by the Highways' Advisory Committee ("HAC"), on 8th June. The report considered ongoing parking problems and safety issues on roads in and around the following school sites:

- **Branfil Primary School**
- Corbets Tey School
- **Engayne Primary School**
- **Gaynes Secondary School**
- Hall Mead School
- Oakfields School
- Sacred Heart of St Mary Girls' Secondary School
- Saint Joseph's Catholic Primary School
- The Coopers' Company and Coborn Secondary School
- The James Oglethorpe Primary School
- Upminster Infant and Junior Schools

In addition to the above, other items on the agenda were considered, including introducing 20 mph restrictions in Gaynes Park Road, Park Drive and Argyle Gardens, as well as requesting that the Width Restriction Scheme, agreed in 2018 by HAC to reduce vehicles speeding between St Mary's Lane and Pike Lane, actually be implemented. The Committee agreed that any designed scheme proposals will proceed to informal public consultation, with the results of the consultation reported back to HAC, seeking recommendations on the implementation of the scheme(s). Council Officers have confirmed that they aim to commence the informal consultation in July this year, and we urge those affected by any of the proposals within the scheme(s) to participate and return survey forms. If you have any comment regarding the above please email us at bulletinra@yahoo.co.uk

Cllrs LINDA HAWTHORN, RON OWER and CHRIS WILKINS

Minster Way Changes

Please note that from 1st July there is a new restriction in the entry and exit to Minster Way from Wingletye Lane. This is camera controlled and just in case you miss the signage, you will no longer be able to turn left into Minster Way from Wingletye Lane heading south, or turn right from Minster Way into Wingletye Lane heading north. These changes are due to numerous road accidents caused by drivers trying to avoid the traffic lights at Doggett's Corner. We understand that initially this is a on a trial basis, to ensure that there is a benefit to road safety, but fines will be issued for non-observance.

Hornchurch FC Take Home the FA Trophy

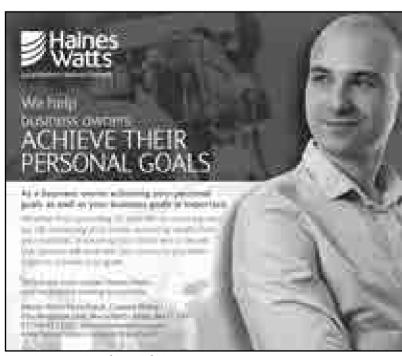
It really was fantastic to see the incredible success of the mighty 'Urchins' at Wembley on Saturday, 22 May. Hornchurch secured the win over Hereford, beating them 3 - 1 in what can only be described as a nail biting final, with Hornchurch scoring two goals in the last 10 mins. The Residents' Association send their congratulations to the club, well done to all the players, the manager and all those who have supported them on their journey to Wembley.

In recognition of this outstanding achievement, Havering Council will be honouring Hornchurch winning this year's FA Trophy with an open top bus parade followed by a civic reception at the brand new Harrow Lodge Leisure Centre on Sunday, 11 July.

As sponsors of Hornchurch Football Club, B. F. Mulley and Son would like to congratulate the boys for their well-deserved win. Our staff had an amazing afternoon watching the team at Wembley and we all wish them the best of luck for the year ahead. Well done boys!



Mark Stimson, Manager Hornchurch FC



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Hall Lane

We have reported on the challenge to get the many potholes repaired in Hall Lane over the past few months. Some have been repaired but often after some delay. In addition I have been seeking to have the road resurfaced as the constant repairs are both costly and make this main road look very untidy. In an attempt to persuade officers to give Hall Lane some priority, I have met with both the Area Liaison Officer and a Highways Engineer on separate occasions and walked the Cranham section of Hall Lane with them. The methodology for determining resurfacing priority is based on the state of repair for the whole road. As Hall Lane is a long road, and sections have been resurfaced at different times, ranging from 2018/19 for the section Ingrebourne Gardens to Upminster Station, with other sections not resurfaced since 2004/05, the overall assessment is that the road is 'good'. Hall Lane is 392 on the priority list, so very unlikely to be resurfaced anytime soon! Officers did acknowledge that the road surface at the Avon Road/Hall Lane roundabout was

particularly bad and although whole roads are usually done, there is a possibility this section may be resurfaced sooner. I will continue to press officers on this, but I am not holding my breath.

Cllr LINDA VAN DEN HENDE

Lower Thames Crossing

Further to previous articles in The Bulletin, as we go to press we understand that Highways England are holding a further "Public Consultation" on their latest proposals. These could start this month for eight weeks with local venues being used. Highways England have said that local residents would be getting a leaflet from them. With many people wishing to take a holiday, there has been concern with starting this in the summer. The last consultation saw a record number of representations.

We will also keep you informed in The Bulletin and on our website ucra.co.uk.

Cllr RON OWER

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Local Elections – Greater London Authority

Back on the 6th May we saw elections to elect the London Mayor and members of the London Assembly. For me it was fifty years to the day when I first stood in a local election for Forest Gate in sunny Newham.

I came here in 1973 having also stood for a bye election in Customs House and Silvertown and for the Greater London Council for East Ham - a real baptism in local elections!

This area has a fine tradition of high turnouts in local elections. My Residents' Association Councillor colleagues and I achieving around seventy per cent of the vote on a turnout of around seventy per cent or more as well. Some of the highest in the country. Having looked at the voting figures issued by the Greater London Authority ("GLA") voting locally, whilst higher than most areas, was miserable and without postal votes it would have been a disaster - less

than half voted in these elections. We normally only hear from the political parties when there is an election, this time we did not even get that. I must say with one exception, I had to rely on the TV to find out who the candidates were for London Mayor and the booklet produced by the GLA to see who the candidates were for the Assembly.

The GLA has a huge budget spending on the Police, Transport for London, Major Roads etc, spending our money. Our Council Tax precept to the GLA went up again. Have a look at their website - the Capital Programme reads £1.839 billion.

Unlike the political parties, we are here all the time working on your behalf.

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

We will be contesting Upminster and Cranham wards and there will be many Residents' Association candidates all over Havering, our aim to put you first not party

Cllr RON OWER

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Crossrail and **House Prices**

Since Crossrail's construction began in 2009, the project has been the subject of no-end of media attention. Romford will be one of the key stops on the Eastern branch, and so the Romford-Upminster line is likely to become more of an in-demand service as people travel to and from Romford. But one of the forgotten impacts of Crossrail is on house prices. Recently, Havering Council celebrated a report showing that house prices surrounding Crossrail stations and stations that link to them are 'outperforming' those further away, with prices rising 17% faster than their wider areas.

Many people trying to get on the property ladder for the first time will not share the Council's jubilation. Owning even a modest home is already a distant dream for a lot of people aged under 30, and it is unfortunate to see that Crossrail could make this even more difficult. A lot of commuters live locally and so improved rail

infrastructure will have certain benefits, but the impact it could have on locals wishing to buy a house in our community needs to be taken into account when making provisions for a project as significant as Crossrail.

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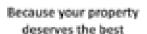


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Cycle Buddies puts new riders in touch with experienced riders in their local area. Buddies can meet up and ride together - to work, to the shops or just to the park for some practice.

Find out more and sign up to Havering Cycle Buddies at: https://www.haveringcyclists. org/cycle-buddies/

Hall Lane Playing Fields Friends Group

Thirty two residents signed up to the Hall Lane Playing Fields Friends Group and they held their second meeting on the 18 May with the three

Cranham Residents' Association Councillors. The members had made the decision to become an official Friends group, so on the 18 May they elected Nicholas Parojcic as Chair, Kevin Kilbey as Secretary and John Robinson as Treasurer.

A number of good ideas and projects have already been put forward, which will now be formulated into a vision statement. The objective of the group is to enhance and protect the playing fields and if you would like to get involved please contact Councillor Gillian Ford at gillian. ford@havering.gov.uk 01708 641317.

Cllr GILLIAN FORD

The London **Outer Orbital** Path (The

As its name suggests, the London Loop is a 150 mile (242km) long signposted walking route around the edge of outer London and celebrates its 20th anniversary this year. Broken up into 24

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manageable sections, with transport links, the walking is mainly flat and passes through a diverse range of landscapes around the capital, including parks, ancient woodlands, farmland and along rivers and canals. Section 22 of the Loop is just over 4 miles in length and passes through Upminster. Starting at Harold Wood station, the route takes you through Harold Wood Park, then follows the river Ingrebourne through Pages Wood and on to open fields beside Upminster golf course, before finishing at Upminster Bridge station.

The detailed route guides, with maps for all 24 sections, have recently been updated and are free to download at:

www.innerlondonramblers.org. uk/loop then click on the Loop

Upminster and District Men's Probus Club

The Probus Club meet on the last Wednesday in every month at the Cranleigh, Station Lane, Hornchurch at 11.30 for a 12 noon lunch. After a 3 course lunch, we are entertained by an outside guest speaker.

At our 28th July meeting, after a lunch of fillet of salmon followed by strawberries and cream, we shall be entertained by Steve Redfern who will be telling us 'Football Referee' stories. Regular coach outings are also arranged, together with the Deyncourt Ladies' Probus Club. The club is currently looking for new members.

Our website is: www. upminsterprobus.com or email:secretary@ upminsterprobus.com

Enquiries may be sent to the Club Secretary Barry on 01708 703783.

Green Bins

Recently my colleagues and I have received a number of calls from residents who's green bins had not been collected at the correct time. I took this up with the Council, and here is their reply:

continued on page 7



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"Regarding green bins, the team are aware of an increase in missed collections recently. This has been escalated to both Serco's local contract manager, and regional contract manager, who are taking the necessary action including ensuring all crews are using their in-cab devices correctly and that individual crew performance is more closely scrutinised."

I do hope this information is helpful.

Cllr LINDA HAWTHORN

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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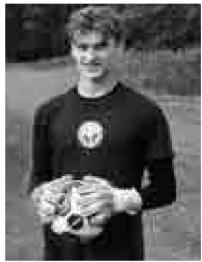
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Coaching for Keeps - Billy Lawlor

Billy Lawlor, a local lad from Hornchurch who went to Coopers Coborn School and played for Essex County, has secured a professional contract with a football club in Portugal. Coached for 4 years by Paul Madden of Coaching for Keeps, at 16 he was the goalkeeper for Aveley F.C. reserves and whilst he had trials at 3 professional clubs in the UK, it was 30 minutes into a trial in Portugal that earned him his first professional contract. Well done Billy, here's hoping your professional career continues to go from strength to strength.

Coaching for Keeps is a local business run by Paul Madden, a





professional goalkeeper coach. Paul can be contacted on **07971 964377** or via Instagram @ **coaching4keeps_academy** or Facebook.

Phlebotomy services at Cranham Health Centre

There have been rumours circulating recently, concerning

the continuation of phlebotomy (blood test) services at Cranham Health Centre, Avon Road. Residents' Association Councillors enquired with the appropriate authorities and have received the following reply from the Havering Clinical Commissioning Group:

A case for change for a new phlebotomy service model is going to the Integrated Care Executive Group meeting in May. The plan for this year long pilot, beginning in July, includes flexing sites according to demand.

At the moment the number and location of phlebotomy chairs for the start of the pilot is still being worked through. Piloting this new model will enable us to seek the feedback from patients, residents and stakeholders that we have not been able to gather over the past year due to COVID-19.

We are working closely with local partners around engagement and reaching those whose voices we need to hear to help inform the new service model.

Please do rest assured that all feedback will be carefully

 $continued\ on\ page\ 9$



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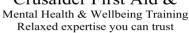
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considered and the service shaped accordingly. We are of course striving for the best geographical coverage we can, taking into account capacity and distribution of chairs. Once the pilot begins, all of our stakeholders will be kept up to date with plans and progress.

Given the importance of stakeholder feedback to ensuring the proper mapping of demand to capacity, I shall ask whether HealthWatch would be prepared to monitor the pilot and to feedback their findings to the Health & Wellbeing Board.'

Residents' Association Councillors will forward any new information, including how to take part in any survey, if and when details are made available.

CRANHAM WARD COUNCILLORS

Upminster Park Townswomen's' Guild

We are a friendly group of ladies enjoying a chat over tea and biscuits, listening to a good speaker or entertainer, going on outings/theatre trips and promoting friendships and wellbeing.

We meet at St Laurence Church, main hall Upminster on the third Monday of each month at 1.45 until 4pm.

For further information contact *Anne Monk 01708 226305* or simply come along.

CHRIS SCOTT, Treasurer

'Fearless' – Young person friendly version of Crimestoppers

The Crimestoppers Trust, known to people across the country as the best way to anonymously report information regarding crimes and criminals, has launched Fearless, a young person friendly version of Crimestoppers.

Fearless is a site where you can also access non-judgemental information and advice about crime and criminality. What makes the site different is that they also provide a safe place to

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give information to them about crime – 100% anonymously.

To learn more or contact them anonymously visit *fearless.org*.

Lower Thames Crossing

One of the many aspects that concern your Residents' Association Councillors about the proposed crossing is the lack of a hard shoulder. Smart motorways, as they are called, have received many comments and complaints over the past few years, with fatal accidents being contributed to them. If it is the car that breaks down, the AA have been advised not to try and mend the car whilst on the road - hopefully the driver will get enough notice to get the car to the nearest service station, where it can be attended to, otherwise the police will attend and call a technician.

More seriously perhaps, is if it is the driver, who might be experiencing chest pains, or becoming dizzy or disorientated stopping is a must in these cases, and a serious accident can occur if a driver loses consciousness at the wheel

A stopped car is picked up by the motorway cameras, and broadcast on the information boards, but this can take up to 17 minutes - far too long.

Cllr LINDA HAWTHORN

'Frozen II' Summer Drama Workshop Upminster with OD Theatre School

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From arrival students will be caught up in the thrills and excitement of fun, hard work and creativity, working towards a performance at the end of day two. They are encouraged and supported to learn lines, songs and choreographed dances; building confidence to perform,

continued on page 11

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Thames Chase – **Art Competition** for Children

Thames Chase is running a special art competition for children to showcase their talents along the theme of 'Out and About' after many experienced more of the Thames Chase **Community Forest during** lockdown.

The project is part of the Thames Chase annual art exhibition where over 150 local artists participate in a display at the Forest Centre.

This is the 3rd children's art



Fern Gibson, Age 6, 2020 winner of the 4-10 age category



Sivona Bhandari, 2020 winner of the 11 - 16 age category

competition, and this year, local artists will deliver inspirational holiday sessions to inspire young minds.

Trustee Mary Wright says, "Inspiring the next generation to understand the world around



them is vital to ensure that they take care of the landscape and continue to protect the environment."

See the website for how to get involved:

https://www.thameschase.org. uk/home-activities/childrensart-competition

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Havering Council Highways Contract Requisition

Upminster and Cranham Residents' Association Councillors, supported by RA Councillors from across the borough, recently requisitioned (called-in) Havering Council's decision to extend the current Planned Maintenance and Construction Improvement Schemes Contract by two years from 2022.

The Council document stated that '....the Contractor has met the expected standards...... During the last 12 months there have been no issues raised with regard to the service delivery or performance......' However, locally, we have seen several instances of poor standards of workmanship.

The matter was brought before the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Board (OSB), where we submitted 17 questions covering performance, monitoring, time

taken for reactive work (such as potholes) and value for money. Council officers provided written and verbal answers to these and a large number of follow-up points. It became clear, that officers are content with the performance of the current contractor, and that many of the problems were actually due to failings within the Council's own Highways Department.

At the end of the meeting, OSB members voted not to pass the matter onto the Cabinet for further review, and the extension will proceed.

We are disappointed that the serious issues highlighted within the Highways Department were not previously brought to Councillors' attention officially, and we will continue to hold the current administration to account if the situation does not improve.

Cllr JOHN TYLER

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Busy Weekend at Clock House **Bowling Club**

The weather couldn't have been better for Clock House's Open Weekend on 29th/30th May, part of Bowls England's Big Weekend, a national initiative offering clubs the opportunity to promote our

Saturday saw a steady flow of people through the gates, with 29 registering an interest in followon coaching sessions.

Ed Morris, the Bowls England Men's Singles Champion and member of England's Commonwealth Games squad, visited the Club. As well as passing on his experience, he took part in an exhibition match between a selected team of the Club's Ladies and a Men's team skipped by Ed himself. A close match ended with a victory for the Men.

A further 22 people expressed an interest in bowling again, making a total of 51 over the weekend. They will be offered group coaching sessions with Trevor

Plank, the Club and County coach, to help them decide whether bowls is the sport for

BOB PUDNEY

Byron Mansions

As readers might remember, a while ago now, the glass was removed from the canopy over Byron Mansions, as it had become dangerous, and the only course of action was its removal. I made contact with the Council regarding its replacement. The reply I have received from the Council is as below.

Cllr LINDA HAWTHORN

"Dear Councillor Hawthorn

Thank you for your enquiry I have been provided a response from Building Control, which is below.

Following further deterioration of localised cracked and damaged areas of the Georgian wired glass canopy back in 2019 it became necessary to remove certain nanels.

The landlord/s then decided it would be expedient to remove all glazed roof panels thus

continued on page 15







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eliminating potential future risks.

I was advised that following removal it was planned to consult the shop/restaurant tenants with a number of options for a new canopy utilising existing cantilever beam supports or canopy removal. I am unaware if this consultation has actually taken place and from a building control perspective this is outside our remit.

I do suspect however, that if the replacement options involve financial contributions then under the present climate with repeated lockdowns there may be a reluctance for tenants to contribute.

It needs to be remembered that the structural support beams could also deteriorate to an extent where either significant repairs or removal is required thus making re-establishing a covered walkway even more expensive.

I do hope this update is helpful."

Havering in Bloom 2021

The annual Havering in Bloom competition has now been launched by Havering Council,

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Entry is free, with the closing date for entries being 10 September 2021. Judging will take place at the end of September, and the winners will be announced during October. For further details, including how to submit entries, visit havering.gov.uk/ InBloom.

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IOPC publishes **Outcome** Reports

The issue of police conduct is often highlighted in the press, TV and online. Like many other stories, the coverage given is not always subjective and can easily lead to misinformation being widely circulated. However, whenever allegations of misconduct are made against officers, these can be referred to the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC).

The IOPC has recently published two Outcomes Reports, for 2018/19 and 2019/20. These reports cover the decisions made as well as the outcomes of any proceedings that followed.

For further information on the work of the IOPC and to view the two reports, visit ${\it police}{\it conduct}.$ gov.uk/ and enter 'outcomes' in the search box.

Cllr IOHN TYLER

Reptiles as Pets

Once upon a time cats and dogs were the most popular pets for us humans to keep. There is a trend now for keeping more unusual pets such as reptiles. Unfortunately we are seeing a growing number of these animals who are suffering due to a lack of understanding of their needs by their well-meaning owners. All reptiles are ectothermic which means they use the temperature of their environment to regulate their body temperature. Each species will have its own preferred temperature range and Ultraviolet Light requirements as well as specific nutritional needs. It is, therefore, important to research the species you wish to keep ensuring you provide it with an adequate living environment. Failure to do this results in poor

continued on page 17

at the end of IOPC investigations,

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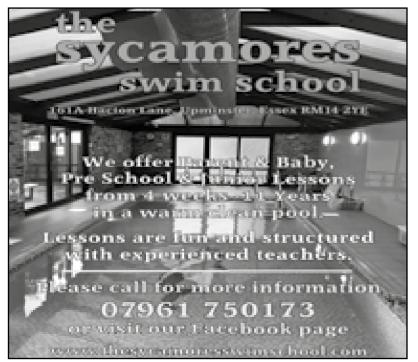
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health and this can be expensive to try to correct. Most reptiles will not show signs of ill health until they are seriously ill so if you are concerned about subtle changes in your reptile's behaviour it may be time to arrange for a health check with your Vet. Telephone Lawton and Stoakes 01708 384444 for an appointment with one of our vets to discuss your pet's health.

Upminster Library now fully open

For those who may not have heard, Upminster Library returned to being open six days a week in early June. Other libraries around Havering, have also returned to their normal opening days. Measures are still in place to ensure safety for visitors and staff. The opening hours at Upminster Library are below:

Monday and Thursday 10am to 8pm

Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 9am to 5pm

Saturday 10am to 4pm Sunday closed

Havering **Astronomical** Society

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'

Wednesday, 21 July 2021, 7.15 for 7.30pm

Dr Benjamin Joachimi,

Reader - Department of Physics & Astronomy, University College London -

'How clumpy is the Universe?'

With a break in August we resume:

Wednesday, 1 September, 7.15 for 7.30pm

Paul Fellows, Chair, Cambridge Astronomical Society -'Quark Stars and Strange Matter'

If you are interested in joining the society or would like details of how to join these meetings please

visit our website www.havastro. co.uk and email secretary@ havastro.co.uk or enquiries@ havastro.co.uk or call Liz on 07706885948

Young Astronomers

Young Astronomers is for 8-16 year olds who are interested in astronomy and are curious about the night sky. Meetings are held online every month until we are able to meet in person and cover subjects such as the solar system,

the life and death of stars and what can be seen in the sky each month. Next meeting Thursday, 29 July 7-8pm.

If you or a young person are interested in joining this fun and interactive way of learning please email young.astronomers@ havastro.co.uk or call Liz on 07706 885948 and check out the YA's section of the website www. havastro.co.uk.

Funding for Tree Planting Projects

The government supported Urban Tree Challenge Fund has re-opened to applications from community and volunteer groups, town councils and individuals, for tree planting projects in cities and towns across England.

The funding is open to applications from -

- Small organisations or community groups for between £10,000 and £30,000, for smaller, focused areas of planting.
- Block bids of over £250,000 with no upper limit to enable multiple projects that are either geographically dispersed or focused in one area, to be submitted under one application.
- The fund provides 50% of standard costs for planting and establishment. The remaining 50% must be met through match funding.

The deadline for applications is 11:59pm on the 25 July 2021. For further information see the Urban Tree Challenge Fund webpage - gov.uk/guidance/urban-treechallenge-fund .

Cllr JOHN TYLER

Adventure Island

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

Also available, Southend Sealife 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.

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TEL: 01245 420351 MOBILE: 07768172842 Royal Albert Hall in November. From the very best classical music and state of the art technology to electrifying multi-coloured laser displays and the famous thundering finale to the music of the 1812 Overture. November's programme includes all your Proms favourites, Land of Hope and Glory, Rule Britannia, Nessun Dorma performed by the London Philharmonic Orchestra. Seating will be in Choir West & Choir East which looks down into the orchestra and out into the auditorium giving excellent views and value for money.

Date **Sunday, 7 November** (matinee)

Departing Upminster at approx 12.30

Price £39, includes Choir seating, return coach from Upminster, flag & song sheet.

We also have availability on "Salute to the 40s" at Chatham Dock Yard Saturday, 18
September and the Thursford Christmas Extravaganza with overnight stay in Hunstanton on Thursday, 16 December.

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**. Email *gina.savill-turner@email.com* or *Joan Carroll* on **07789 956399**. Email *joancarroll66@gmail.com*

Havering Local Group - Canvey Wick Nature Reserve Walk

Canvey Wick nature reserve, Northwick Road, Canvey Island, Essex, SS8 0PT

Join us for a walk where we will be enjoying the flowers, birds and insects the site has to offer.

Meeting point: carpark situated on Northwick Road

Date: Saturday, 7 August 2021 @ 10.30am - 12.30pm

About the event: This is an important reserve for endangered invertebrates and the site includes scrub and wooded areas and an adjacent estuary. The walk will take about 2 hours and optionally continue after lunch. Wear suitable clothing and footwear. Bring a packed lunch if needed. Numbers may be limited so please check beforehand.

Book by phone: *Tony Loveless* **07413 649006** or by email: **grandadtone@gmail.com**

Price: Free - suitable for families, adults

Safe Spaces Online Initiative

UK SAYS NO MORE is a national campaign to raise awareness to end domestic abuse and sexual violence across the UK. Launched in 2016, it has a network of over 1000 partners, ambassadors and parliamentarian champions across the United Kingdom.

As part of the campaign, they have launched a 'Safe Spaces' button on partner websites, such as Royal Mail, Ministry of Defence and UK Power Networks, where clicking the button takes you to detailed information for victims of domestic abuse.

The Safe Spaces information is available in many languages. Using the link leaves no trace on your internet history and you can leave the page quickly by pressing 'ESC'.

To find out more, including how companies can take part in the initiative by including the Safe Spaces button on their website, visit *uksaysnomore.org/online-safe-spaces/*.

Cllr JOHN TYLER





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Claire Grainger



After a three year battle with cancer, Claire Grainger passed away peacefully in her sleep at home at noon on Sunday, 9 May, with her family

by her side. The funeral was held at the South Essex Crematorium on Tuesday, 18 May. Her working life was spent at the Travel Club of Upminster and in her spare time she was a keen gardener, an active and popular member of many local U3A groups - walking, Rummikub, Mahjong etc., a keen walker with the Macmillan / Local Authority Walking for Health scheme, a regular outdoor swimmer at Clearview and previously a member of our own local famous Oglethorpe Players.

As her partner, I do not have your individual addresses so would like to take this opportunity to thank the many members of these various groups for their kind thoughts and wishes at this difficult time. If you would like to make a donation in her memory, her chosen charities are St Francis Hospice and Marie Curie nurses, who gave us so much fantastic help and support in her final days.

TREVOR PEDLEY

Upminster Park

Recently Councillor Chris Wilkins and I had a walk around our Upminster Park, with the Secretary of the Friends Group, to identify any problems. Although we are pleased with the general maintenance of the park we found a number of items which should be dealt with including repairs to the tennis courts, the fencing around the park, the gate springs to the children's play-area which are broken, tree planting and landscaping. The wild-flower area which attracts a lot of attention from people, as well as insects, also needs to be looked at.

We have passed our concerns on, and will keep you up to date in future editions of The Bulletin. We are very proud of our award winning park.

> Cllr LINDA HAWTHORN Cllr CHRIS WILKINS

Upminster Police update

The crime figures for the past two months, compared to the same months in 2020 are showing an increase. These figures are for the three ward priorities set by the Ward panel at their bi-monthly meeting. Theft of motor vehicle



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- in 2020 there was one, whereas in 2021 there have been six, theft from motor vehicle - in 2020 there were two, and in 2021 there have been ten. In the case of burglary - in 2020 there was one, and in 2021 there have been three and one attempted. These figures are worrying and a reminder that we all need to ensure we double lock doors and close windows when we leave the house and ensure we lock our vehicles and do not leave property on show which

encourages criminals. There is some evidence that vehicle thefts are opportunist, rather than planned, but any crime is one too many. There have been a number of persistent shoplifters visiting the area recently and arrests have been made by our dedicated ward officers. Remember, call 101 if you want to report a crime that has happened, but 999 if there is a crime in progress.

Cllr LINDA VAN DEN HENDE





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CONTACT: Sheila Cuthbert (Secretary)

01708 470751

Michael Rigby (Treasurer)

01708757595

Upminster – The Place To Be

Many thanks for all the kind comments on my article in last month's Bulletin. This came in from Mary of Gaynes Park Road; she sums up a number of thoughts on our great area.

Mary mentions our wonderful Windmill and how Upminster benefitted hugely from the arrival of the London to Southend trains, running from Fenchurch Street. The new trains from Romford are not a patch on the Upminster ones - just ask people travelling from Romford who struggle to get to the City without delay.

Upminster is a very settled community. A while ago, one of the big newspapers did a survey on which places in England are very settled, as compared with areas where people don't stay long. People like to settle here, often only leaving feet first. Mary has been in her home for nearly 60 years and comments that her neighbours are also very settled. Try buying a house in Upminster - they seem to be rather expensive - most were built about 1930, and many of the

same homes are still all occupied. Similarly businesses stay, often for many years. Look at Roomes

and until recently, we had an

excellent book-shop. We also have an excellent fish shop, and an excellent butcher.

Thank you Mary for sharing these additional highlights.

Cllr RON OWER

A Big Welcome

We regularly welcome new ventures to our area. With eating out becoming more and more popular, Arians Restaurant & Lounge has opened in St Mary's Lane opposite the Shell garage in the former Cafe Le Raj Indian Restaurant premises - go and have a look at the menu.

In Corbets Tey Road, close to our magnificent park in the former Kalijeera premises, Korat is due to open shortly as a Thai restaurant. Welcome to all.



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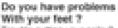
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