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UPMINSTER & CRANHAM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Happy New Year!

I hope you have all had a lovely Christmas and wish you a very Happy New Year. Firstly, I would like to thank all our volunteers, who over the past year have continued to help produce and deliver The Bulletin, as well as collecting the 2021 subscriptions in such a short period of time, which really has been an amazing achievement. The Association would also like to extend a very warm welcome to all the new households that joined us in 2021. We are looking forward to working with and representing you in 2022. The Bulletin will continue to support local organisations and provide our residents with details regarding ongoing community and charity events. Your Resident Councillors were involved in a number of projects in 2021, which included working with the local residents in Corbets Tey village, resulting in overturning the Boundary Commission's proposals to include the area in Rainham ward. There was a record number of objections from local residents, which contributed to Corbets Tey village remaining in the Uppminster Ward. We would also like to welcome Oscar Ford and Phil Ruck to the Uppminster and Cranham Residents' Association team. Both of them have the skills and ability to support our local community and will do so in 2022, and in future years. Next year will be a busy year again for your Resident Association Councillors, with the Local Elections taking place in May. We look forward to meeting you whilst out campaigning, and would really appreciate your support during the Elections. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with ideas or issues you would like us to take up on your behalf, or anything you would like to celebrate. Please all keep safe and I hope you all have a productive and great New Year.

Cllr CHRIS WILKINS

Chairman Uppminster and Cranham Residents' Association

Minster Way experimental traffic scheme ended

Many people will be aware that the experimental traffic scheme implemented by Havering Council in Minster Way, Hornchurch earlier this year, has ended, with the restrictions that had been put in place, now removed. Uppminster and Cranham Residents' Association Councillors received a large number of complaints about the scheme, many from residents of the Dury Falls Estate, mostly concerning the queues of traffic that formed at busy times. We encouraged people to take part in the public consultation, which many did,

and also liaised behind the scenes with those involved in its implementation.

Havering Council have announced that they will be looking to produce an alternative scheme in the next financial year and Cranham ward Councillors (which includes Dury Falls) have asked to be involved in this process from the outset, to ensure that any future measures will be to the benefit of all of those who live in or travel through this area.

Havering Residents Association
"Change is Coming"

The Uppminster and Cranham Residents' Association are proud to be members of Havering Residents Association - working together on behalf of local people across Havering.

UCRA Quiz Night - 7th March

Your UCRA funding and social team, set up to raise funds and bring the community together, met recently to swap ideas. A number of suggestions were put on the table, with the first event being a quiz night at the Crumpled Horn organised for Monday, 7th March. We will be selling tickets for up to 100 attendees on a first come first served basis, so think about getting a team together. Cost will be £4pp and raffle tickets will be available on the night. If you would like to participate, please email bulletinra@yahoo.co.uk and someone will be in touch.

Our website

Please look out for our website ucra.co.uk. Councillor John Tyler does an excellent job regularly updating the site and sharing really useful news.

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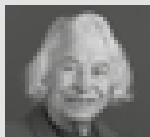
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lindahawthorn@hotmail.co.uk

Ron Ower 07721 780372



CouncillorRon.Ower@havering.gov.uk

Chris Wilkins 07960 059195



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Council Finances - Urgent News

In November, the Council's Overview & Scrutiny Board continued to debate the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy, as well as the proposed Council budget 2022/2023. It was reported that the Council was still facing budget pressures (particularly during July/August 2021) and later periods, which means a potential overspend of £14 million is still a possibility for this year's budget. Your Resident Association Councillors have requested from the S151 Officer (the Director of Finance) that the pressures be quantified and whether the Council auditors have reviewed the reserves of the Council to ensure the Council is a going concern. Years of incompetency by the current Tory Administration, fuelled by Westminster neglect have left many Councils facing financial disaster. Just a few months ago Croydon filed a S114 Agreement, the Council version of

bankruptcy. The Administration claim that the overspend is due to increased demographic pressures on Adults' and Childrens' Services and the impact of the COVID pandemic on areas such as Leisure and Transport. Resident Councillors have asked challenging questions regarding this overspend, and offered solutions on how savings could be made to help reduce this overspend, therefore hopefully mitigating the risk to existing services and in turn, lessen the risk to this Council's finances. Council Financial Officers advised that the Council's reserve could be reduced from £10.9 million to £4 million. Despite this, the reduction still leaves this Council financially vulnerable, if another economic downturn occurred. Your Resident Councillors will continue to monitor the situation and will provide you with updates next year, when there is more information to hand.

Cllr CHRIS WILKINS
and PHIL RUCK,

Upminster & Cranham RA Team

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Full Council Meeting report

At the November Full Council Meeting, Havering Councillors voted to endorse or approve the following:

- Havering Climate Change Action Plan
- Local Government Association Independent Race, Equality, Accessibility, Diversity and Inclusion (READI) Action Plan
- Adoption of the Havering Local Plan

Due to time constraints, none of the Members' Questions were able to be heard and all Motions For Debate went straight to a vote, without being debated. Full details of these, and a link to the video of the meeting, are available on the Council website www.havering.gov.uk.

Upminster and Cranham Residents' Association Councillors submitted Members' Questions concerning the renewal

of allotment society leases, reporting dangerous conditions on roads and pavements and pay and display parking machines. For more details on the meeting visit our website - www.ucra.co.uk

Cllr JOHN TYLER

Roads and pavements

Every year the Council issues a list of roads and pavements that they are planning to refurbish. This can always change of course, if other roads are found to be in a worse condition, or funding is diverted elsewhere. We are always asking for other roads to be considered and added to the list, and I have been successful in getting the pavements of Howard Road, Chester Ave and Gaynes Road added, and the roads of Meadowside Road and Gaynes Road. This will take time, sadly there are just too many roads that need repairs.

Cllr LINDA HAWTHORN

Pinney Talfourd Christmas competition


Pinney Talfourd was delighted to team up with Corbets Tey School again for their 'Design a Christmas Card 2021' competition. Children from all years designed cards with Pinney Talfourd selecting a winner and runner up to create the firm's Christmas cards sent to clients and contacts. The winner was Tyler Suchley of Apple Class with his polar bear design. The runner up was Olivia Coster from Mulberry Class with her candy cane design. The winner received a toy of their choice and Pinney Talfourd also provided prizes for the best card in each class. The Residents' Association of Upminster and Cranham support this project every year. The Bulletin is also pleased to sponsor the prize for the runner up.



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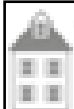


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It's a great friendly club, go along and support The Urchins your local team. The club also has an excellent website <https://www.hornchurchfc.com/>

Remembrance Sunday in Upminster

The Remembrance Sunday service took place on Sunday, 14 November 2021 at the War Memorial in Corbets Tey Road. The event was well attended, which was particularly pleasing after it not being able to take place in 2020. Cllr Linda Van den

Hende laid a wreath on behalf of the Mayor of Havering and Cllr John Tyler did likewise, on behalf of the Upminster and Cranham Residents' Association



Lest we Forget

It was nice to see Poppies being sold locally and worn for Remembrance in November. The displays at the Bell school (Upminster Junior and Infants) and St Joseph's school, both in St Mary's Lane looked magnificent

Un-Healthy Streets

In Havering we are ranked 32 out of 33 boroughs on the Healthy Streets scorecards. Parents drive

their children to school as they are worried about pollution. Nothing to do with convenience? Children are five times more exposed to pollution when travelling to and from school than at any other time. Children breathe more toxic fumes whilst sitting in a car than if they walked.

Columnists, an MP and the BBC asked: "Is it OK to drive your children to school whilst still wearing your pyjamas?" Really! Surely it should read "Given pollution levels, is it still ok to drive your children to school?"

Closing roads around schools at drop-off /pick-up times cuts toxic nitrogen dioxide levels by up to 25%. Schools state they are considering banning the school run - good luck. The government has been defeated three times in court over its air pollution plans and cite the school run as a major factor of pollution. Parents common phrases "I'll only be 10 minutes - just dropping the kids off". Why "school run"? It's not a run or a walk it's a "school car". I'm not saying the "school run" is the only factor in pollution, but the above speaks for itself.

Air pollution is invisible but the damage it causes our atmosphere is not. This won't be popular but ditch the car, walk your child to school.

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continued on page 7

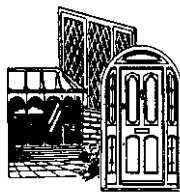
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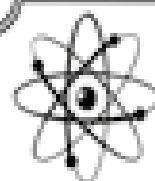


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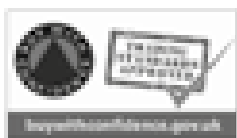
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Potholes

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COP26: Changing transport

Reflecting on the discussions from the COP26 climate summit in November of last year, it was interesting to hear how the transport sector will have to adapt. 75% of total emissions from this sector come from road vehicles, and aside from the obvious health implications of this, road congestion costs the UK economy £6.9 billion each year.

Solutions are not as straightforward as simply changing en-masse to electric vehicles – entire infrastructure systems would need to adapt, and progress is slow. So, the main short-term proposal is to replace mass car-ownership with a culture of walking, cycling and the use of public transport.

Sadiq Khan wants 80% of all journeys in Havering to be made using one of these three methods (up from a 65% average currently across London) by 2041. How implementation of this is planned remains to be seen, but if electrification is not deemed to be a solution that can be implemented quickly enough, it will take some swift thinking from government and local authorities on how other solutions can be achieved.

DAVID TYLER

Gong Hei Fat Choy

Wishing you great happiness and prosperity.

Chinese New Year. The Year of The Tiger is on Tuesday, 1st February.

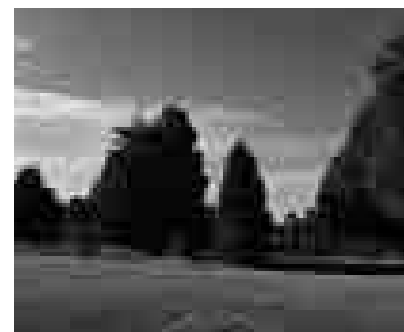
Hall Lane mini golf site sold

In late November, Havering Council confirmed that the sale of the Hall Lane mini golf site had been completed, for a fee of £13.5 million. This is around £3.5 million more than the Council's original estimate and is a reflection of the profit the new owners will be hoping to make.

It was a sad day for the area, and one that Resident Association Councillors and many residents had hoped would not happen, but the site is now likely to be the subject of a full planning application at some point to turn it into housing. Cranham ward's Resident Association Councillors immediately received complaints regarding the fencing that has been erected, and a suggestion that a tree covered by a Tree Protection Order may have been cut down. At the time of writing, we are liaising with Council Officials and will continue to monitor any activity on the site,

to ensure that works comply with planning regulations. The mini golf is now a sorry sight, but below are a few pictures which show it in better days.

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National Ballet's Dance for Dementia

Derham House, Harwood Hall Lane, Upminster is receiving specialist training as part of English National Ballet's Dance for Dementia initiative and ongoing partnership with parent company, Barchester Healthcare. Staff at the home have been specially selected to receive training and to attend interactive sessions led by English National Ballet Associate Dance Artists and Musicians in order that they can help lead dance and music-inspired workshops for their residents. Dancing and creative arts and music interventions engages the brain and can help with symptoms associated with dementia such as memory loss, communication, and physical coordination. Sessions foster creativity and can help improve symptoms as well as providing artistic stimulation and social interaction.



Queen's Scout Award

It was with great pleasure that I was able to present 5 of our wonderful leaders with their Queen's Scout Award. Back in November I met up with the leaders whilst they were helping with Cubs at Thriftwood Scout campsite. The Queen's Scout award is the highest youth award in the Scouting Movement and is one that these young men have enjoyed gaining. They have experienced everything from camping in the Lake District to helping rebuild a maternity unit in Gambia. So who are they, I hear you ask! They are Sam Taylor, Jamie Duffy, Alex Lane, Michael Lillington and Richard Banks. In recognition for gaining the award they were invited to take part in the Remembrance Service at The Cenotaph in London.

I first met these young men when they joined me at Scouts. They had started their journey at Beavers, before moving onto Cubs and finally joining me at Scouts. It's a privilege to have seen you grow from young Scouts into adults and

gain this amazing award. We are super proud of your achievements and here's to many more. Well, done lads.

MARK SCRACE GSL,
3rd Upminster Scouts & Trojan Explorers



Uncertainty over Dial-a-Ride evening services

Dial-a-Ride is operated by Transport for London (TfL), and used to operate late into the evening as well as during the day. Since COVID restrictions were eased, Dial-a-Ride has only been running between 8am and 8pm.

A local resident contacted Dial-a-Ride in November to ask when they were reinstating their full service and received the following response:

'We are still receiving less than 50% of our pre-pandemic journey requests. This, along with changing travel patterns, means we need to manage our service very carefully, and analyse any proposed changes thoroughly. We are currently looking at extending the service hours to 22.00, and hope to reach a decision within the next four weeks.'

At the time of writing, we have not received any further information from TfL but we will update you when we know more.

To contact TfL Dial-a-Ride, e-mail them at dar@tfl.gov.uk, call them on 0343 222 77 77 or write to them at **PO Box 68799, London SE1P 4RD**. You can also visit their website - tfl.gov.uk/modes/dial-a-ride/.

Feral pigeon problem

With the colder months upon us some people will be putting food out to help the birds survive the cold spell. However some birds such as feral pigeons are a nuisance and take the food from

continued on page 11

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smaller birds. Pigeon faeces also carry diseases; Histoplasmosis (which can be fatal if left untreated) as well as Candidiasis and Psittacosis. Their droppings are very acidic and can damage cars and painted surfaces. Feral pigeons can breed all year round if their food source is plentiful. 5 pigeon pairs can become 400 over a period of 2/3 years. When the pigeons nest or sit on roofs and buildings, their droppings act as a fertiliser and cause the acceleration of moss growth. This can subsequently damage roof structures. The RSPB sells pigeon proof bird feeders as food left on the ground attracts rats and mice. Let us help the smaller birds survive the winter, they only breed in the spring.

Give them a chance.

JANE LEGGE

Knives

In response to a question from a local resident who wanted to know where they can dispose of old kitchen knives. Kindly note following information from the local Police.

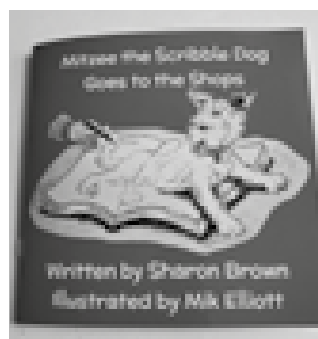
"At the Gerpins Lane Tip there is

a knife bin. That's the best place to dispose of them. Wrap them up safely and take there."

Mitzee the Scribble Dog goes to the shops

Sharon Brown, a former Cranham resident for 57 years, has recently published a book based on a real life dog, rescued by her daughter and her family from the Dogs Trust. Mitzee, the Scribble Dog is perpetually wet, dirty, full of fun and adventure - of course she is white which accentuates the mud and dirt. Her appealing eyes and amiable nature make her hard to resist. Mitzee adores being around small children and, as most children have vivid imaginations, the idea of combining the two arose. To a small child enjoying a scribble pad, what could be more exciting than a real live dog coming to life from the page, leading the way to adventure and fun before, as ever, adult intervention rapidly closes the story - until such times, in future stories, it can all happen once more.

As the Dogs Trust was where Mitzee was rehomed from, Sharon wanted them to be part of her story and benefit from the book sales by receiving £1 from each book sold. Books can be ordered from Sharon at sharonbrown200@btinternet.com or by phone 07941491470.



Special place, special people

Osteria is my favourite local restaurant. It is also very popular with my friends, family and many other people in Upminster. I have now discovered that it is extra special. I collapsed in the

restaurant in October and was admitted to Queen's hospital with pneumonia. The care I received from first aiders, Sherine and Lauren, while waiting 4 hours for the ambulance, was way above the expected. Then they looked after my worried husband after I left. I am truly grateful.

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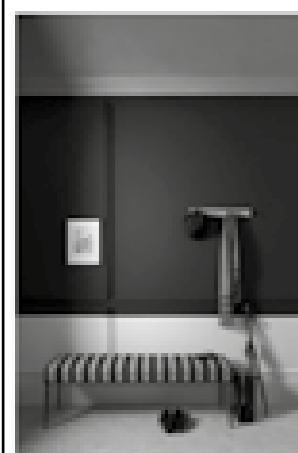
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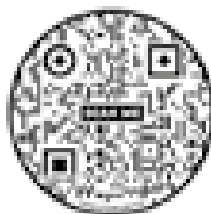
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London Ambulance Service advice to Londoners

The London Ambulance Service (LAS) has faced unprecedented pressure since the start of COVID-19. A busy day used to see their 999 control room teams take around 5,500 calls. Since last Spring, this has risen to an average of over 6,000 calls and has occasionally been over 7,000 in a 24 hour period.

The LAS are therefore encouraging Londoners to use their services efficiently to allow them to help as many people as possible, and have given the following advice:

- To help them reach patients quickly, call **999** if it's a serious medical emergency.
- For urgent medical help when it's not an emergency, go to **NHS111** online first.
- If your medical concern is urgent - but you don't need an emergency ambulance, you can also use the **111** phone service and you will get the support you need.

- If you no longer need an ambulance or you can make your own way to hospital, please call them back on **999** to let them know. Their crews can then be redirected to another patient who needs them.

Lock your vehicles

May we remind you not to leave valuables on display in your vehicles. Please also ensure that they are locked when not in use. Sadly opportunist thieves are out there!

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A reminder of the return of Pinney Talfourd's popular seminars on Wills and Lasting Powers of Attorney. The next seminars will be taking place on the following dates:

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of Attorney is, and how they can help with both. There will be refreshments on offer and lawyers from the team will be available to answer any questions attendees may have.

For more details visit their website here <https://www.pinneytalfourd.co.uk/news/free-wills-lpa-january-february-upminster>

To book a free place, email Marketing Manager Jo Smith - joanna.smith@pinneytalfourd.co.uk or call her on **01708 229444**.

TfL consultation on step-free Tube access

Transport for London (TfL) are currently conducting a public consultation on step-free access to Tube stations on the Underground network. They particularly want to hear from people who rely on step-free access and what is most important to them.

To take part visit the TfL step-free consultation webpage, which can be accessed via our website - www.ucra.co.uk/tfl-consultation-on-step-free-tube

access/, call **020 3054 6037** or use textphone on **0800 112 3456**.

You can also submit your views without completing the survey, by e-mailing TfL via Haveyoursay@tfl.gov.uk or by writing to **FREEPOST TFL HAVE YOUR SAY**.

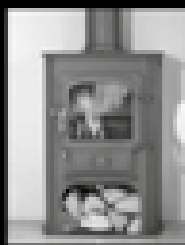
The consultation ends on 10 February 2022.

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As the New Year dawns, many of us start thinking about resolutions after the Christmas excess. This year, why not head outdoors and challenge yourself to walking one or more of the 8 paths which make up the 43 mile Thames Chase Forest Circle? The 43 mile Forest Circle was mapped by the Thames Chase Volunteer walks team in partnership with the Land of the Fanns Landscape Partnership Scheme during 2021, but the concept originated over 30 years ago, when the Community Forest was first established in 1990. The

continued on page 15

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vision was to promote informal access to all regenerated areas of the Community Forest on foot, cycle and horse with an improved rights of way network, to meet the needs of residents, visitors and landowners.

To find out more, or purchase a set of the 8 Forest Circle Walks leaflets produced in partnership with Land of the Fanns, visit Thames Chase Forest Centre in Upminster.

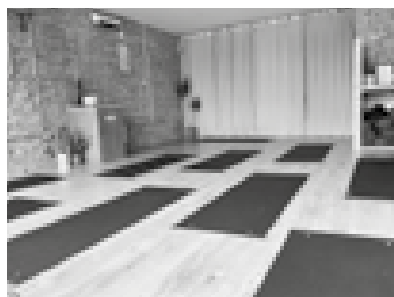
<http://www.thameschase.org.uk/>

Free Yoga Open Day at A Fine Balance Studio, Upminster

Have you tried A Fine Balance yoga studio yet? Looking to get back into yoga this New Year? A Fine Balance studio in St Mary's Lane is hosting an Open Day with free yoga classes all day on Saturday, 15th January. You can join them in-studio or via zoom.

Find out more and book: www.afinebalance.me/free-yoga-classes.

A Fine Balance offers daily yoga classes for all levels as well as



courses for beginners and expert workshops.

Yoga is great for stretching and strengthening the body, as well as finding peace of mind. A great way to find balance in 2022!

Zebra Crossings

Resident Association Councillors have been contacted a couple of times recently concerning some

drivers and cyclists not giving way to pedestrians at Zebra Crossings. Whilst the majority of people do give way, we would like to remind everyone (including cyclists) that such crossings are there to provide a safe place for people to cross busy roads. Rule 195 in the Highway Code states that "you must give way when a pedestrian has moved onto a crossing".

News from Upminster Methodist Church

In September we welcomed Rev Rohama Asif to Upminster. Rohama, together with Rev Joseph Ribeiro, has responsibility for five churches locally. Many have already had the opportunity to meet her at recent All Age Worship. She can be contacted on 01708 788783 or revrohama@yahoo.com. Rev Jason Vinyard and his family have moved to Bury St Edmunds. After 11 years here, he was well known and had made a big impact on our community, for which we are very grateful. Many will remember Keith and

Hazel Nichols, who recently moved closer to their family. In the Triune Youth Club in the 1970s/80s Keith was a leader on Tuesday evenings and at camps, discos, etc. More recently, they have helped provide a place of friendship at the Gateway Coffee mornings, plus involvement with many other activities over 50 years. It is almost certain that if you have entered the Methodist Church and its halls, you will have received a warm greeting from them. We wish them all well.

Double Lock Your Doors

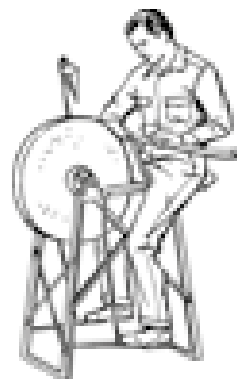
Please note the following message we have received from the local police.

"Please make sure you double lock UPVC front doors by lifting the handle and locking it with a key. Just lifting the handle makes it easy for burglars to get in. If you have a wooden door 2 locks are advised or more if you prefer. Also make sure the porch door is locked if you have one. Burglars will try and get in, please make sure you lock your door properly."

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Theft from motor vehicles

Please note the following advice we have received from the police.

"If you are having work done at your home can you ask your contractor to make sure their vehicle is locked. There has been a few reports made over the past few weeks of vans being broken into when they have been working."

Report crime by calling **101** or in an emergency call **999**.

Remember, you can also report crime online on our website:
<https://www.met.police.uk/>.

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.
- 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/.

OUT AND ABOUT IN YOUR LOCAL AREA

Bretons Sea Angling Club

Established in 1981, we fish from boats around the East & South coasts twice a month. Secretary Nigel Blythe, from Emerson Park, would like to hear from anyone who may be interested in joining. Our venues for this year include Leigh on Sea, Littlehampton, Lymington and a weekend in Mevagissey, possibly Weymouth too.

Please contact nigel@bretonssac.co.uk for further details.

The Cappella Singers of Upminster

Come and join us. We meet on Thursday evenings, 7.30 – 9.30pm at Trinity United Reformed Church, Station Road, Upminster. We currently have 16 singers and could do with more. New members welcome - especially men. If you are interested please contact Ian Pirie on **01708 641718**, email: ian_michael_pirie@btinternet.com

The Wesley Players - Rapunzel

Story: The Wesley Players are proud to present their annual family pantomime, Rapunzel. Follow Rapunzel's plight as she is kidnapped by the evil witch. Cheer the good guys as they attempt to save the day! Can Rapunzel

continued on page 19



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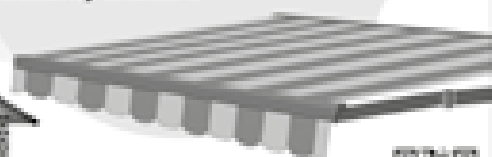
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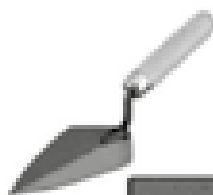


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Tickets will be available on the door or may be booked in advance via the Box Office on **07708 214742** or email tickets@wesley-players.co.uk.

Performances: are at 8pm on Thursday, 27th and Friday, 28th January and at 1.30pm, 4.30pm and 8pm on Saturday, 29th January 2022.

Location: Wesley Hall, Upminster Methodist Church, 10, Hall Lane, Upminster, Essex. RM14 1AE.

The Old Chapel Tea and Talks

Wednesday, 12th January 2022.
Flying the Flag for Women - David Williams a City of London guide and lecturer will talk on the final decades of the 19th century when women were beginning to make their voices heard in a male-dominated society and paved the way for the Suffragette Movement.

Wednesday, 9th February 2022.
The Hidden History of Romford Market - Ellen Owen will explain how Romford Market has all the ingredients of a best seller, from villainy, skulduggery, romance trading through the years and the secrets which lay below your feet.

Doors open at 10am, talk commences 10.30am. Talks are free to registered members and £2 to non-members with refreshments afterwards.

Contact: friendsoldchapel@mary.havering.sch.uk for further information.

Venue: **Roope Hall, Trinity URC Church, 29 Station Rd, Upminster RM14 2SJ.**

Charity Family Disco in aid of Cancer Research

**** Cancelled from 2021 due to the pandemic, we're back for 2022 ****

Join us on 26th February 2022 from 7pm at The British Legion Hall, St Mary's Lane, Upminster for a family evening of music, dancing and prizes. The evening will feature a kids disco, some proper dancing (like Strictly: Waltz, Quick Step etc) and a game or two, as well as music from 60s to the present time. So get on your glad rags and come along and help us raise money for a great cause. Tickets are just £5 for adults, £3 for children. Phone Rocco on **07906 396292**.

Havering Antique Collectors Club

With interesting speakers on antiques, please come and join us. Our next meeting is on Friday, 21st January - 7.30 for 8pm @ Harold Wood Neighbourhood Centre, Gubbins Lane, Harold Wood.

Annual Membership £30. Guest £5/£8. Further details from Chairman Mrs Chris Lovett **07947 367 258**.

Upminster & District Horticultural Society

Happy New Year and what better way of starting the year by preparing our gardens.

On Tuesday, 11th January we have a lecture on Flowering Shrubs in July and August presented by George Lockwood. If you are looking for low maintenance and plenty of colour in your garden then come and join us in the New Windmill Hall, St Mary's Lane, Upminster. The evening begins at 7.45pm with our AGM followed by our lecture and finishes at 9.45pm. There will be break for tea and biscuits, with a raffle at the end of the evening. Entrance is free to members and is £2 for non-members. You can find out more about our society by visiting our website www.upminsterhorticulturalsociety.co.uk.

Upminster and Cranham Royal British Legion

New social members welcome. Come along for a sociable afternoon or evening. Upcoming events:

Saturday, 15th January - Paul Jerrom

Friday, 28th January - Quiz bingo

Saturday, 12th February - Gaz Vegas

Friday, 25th February - Quiz bingo

Sky Sports and BT Sport showing all major sporting events.

Knit, Sew and Natter Club (Thursdays 2pm - 4pm). Call Lorraine on **07796 992000** or the club **01708 223157**.

Unwanted travel money collection (coins and notes) is ongoing - proceeds to the poppy appeal. Total so far, a massive £503.

Check the British Legion Branches website. Call the club **01708 223157**. Email UPRBLClub@gmail.com

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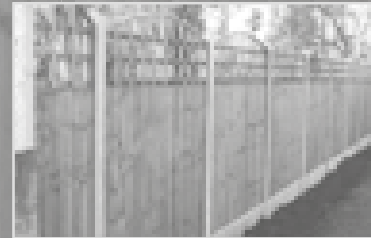
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Christmas in Upminster

The end of November saw the annual Upminster Christmas event. Due to health and safety/COVID, it was not possible to have a "lights switch-on" at Bell Corner and the lights on the tree were therefore switched on several days before the event, as were the street lights. We were delighted with the stalls that were there along with Primary Ambulance, Bedrock Hospital Radio playing wonderful Christmas music and Waitrose who kindly gave out mince pies. The Council organised the popular ELF trail where children had cards to get stamped and then received a free santa hat. Our local Neighbourhood Police attended, along with a Choir made up of members from local churches. At the Bell school there were two childrens' rides and a number of walkabout characters ... great to see children having their photo taken with them. A big thank you must go to Nicola Bowen and Jacqui Best from the Council's Communications department who put a huge amount of work into organising the event. Thanks also to the Upminster & Cranham Residents' Association for contributing towards the extra lights on the Bell Corner Christmas tree and the childrens' rides at

the Bell school, St Mary's Lane. It was wonderful that so many locals attended in what has been a difficult time.

Upminster Cllrs LINDA HAWTHORN,
RON OWER AND CHRIS WILKINS

Reporting dangerous roads and pavements during icy conditions

In the November edition of The Bulletin, I reported the problems I had persuading Havering Council to take measures at the corner of Deyncourt Gardens and Eversleigh Gardens, which frequently becomes icy during the winter months.

I submitted a question at the November Full Council Meeting, calling for a telephone number allowing fast-time reporting of dangerous conditions, to be advertised on the Council's website. Unfortunately, the response I received was that people should call the normal Council switchboard number. To see how easy this would be, I made a test call, which involved pressing five different sets of options over a period of around five minutes, before actually getting through



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to the Environment Services department. They were helpful, and told me that they could take details and pass them on to the gritting teams, who would respond quickly in an emergency. They said that they were happy for their direct line number to be published on the Council's website, which brings me to ask the question - 'Why is it that those running the Council are unwilling to implement a simple safety improvement, when the staff who would actually deal with the matter are happy for it to be put

in place?' I have questioned the Cabinet Member for Environment and will update residents when I get a reply.

Cllr JOHN TYLER

Subscriptions

Thanks again to all those who paid. If any collectors have any envelopes come through their doors, please contact John (Cranham) or Chris (Upminster). Contact details on page 2.



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Volunteer Area Controllers needed

The Upminster and Cranham Residents' Association are always grateful to the many residents who help us. We are currently looking for two new volunteer Area Controllers to deliver quantities of Bulletins (230 and 350) once a month to deliverers in the Cranham Gardens area and also to the Cathedral Estate. Having your own transport would be an advantage. We also still need a deliverer in Clyde Crescent.

If you are able to assist us with any of these, please contact Cllr John Tyler on **07982 962 925** or via JohnTylerUCResidents@outlook.com.

Your new Upminster and Cranham Residents' Association representatives are now on Facebook

Social media across a range of platforms, including Facebook, Twitter and others, justifiably attracts criticism in relation to its capacity to spread abusive, misleading and offensive material. This can be targeted at specific individuals or simply pushed out to attract the gullible or to reinforce extreme views. The Government is drafting legislation which may be

of help in tackling the more toxic aspects described here.

There is of course a whole other side to social media. As an accessible and immediate form of communication it offers a great means of sharing our experiences, distributing news, exploring issues and differing points of view, highlighting need and supporting fundraising, information and advice, signposting to organisations and services, and for promoting good causes, events and commerce.

For Upminster representative Oscar Ford search: **'UCRA Oscar Ford'**

For Cranham representative Phil Ruck search: **'UCRA Phil Ruck'**

Recycling your Christmas tree

Wondering what to do with your real Christmas tree? You can take it to Gerpins Lane Reuse and Recycling Centre or recycle your tree at Gidea Park Sports Ground, Main Road, Romford on Saturday, 8 January 2022 between 10am to 2pm. If you are a garden waste customer, you could cut your tree and place into your green bin which will be collected on your usual collection day - please make sure the lid is closed. For useful tips on recycling other unwanted items after Christmas, check out the Council website https://www.haverling.gov.uk/info/20093/reducing_waste/730/reducing_waste_at_christmas



ASSOCIATION CONTACTS

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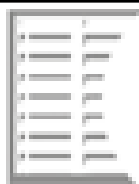
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