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## UPMINSTER &amp; CRANHAM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

## Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all, our Bulletin readers and our members. I would also like to welcome all those who have joined the Residents' Association in 2022. Again, this year I am pleased to report that we have been able to support various local organisations and charities, which have benefited from the Association's financial donations. This is a result of your ongoing generosity. It has again been a difficult year for all of us, and the Executive Committee would like to thank our Bulletin team, Advertising/Accounts' section, Area Co-ordinators, Deliverers/Subscription Collectors, and all those involved in producing the Bulletin, during another challenging year. We would also like to thank all of the residents, who have supported our ongoing 'Shop Local, Hire Local' scheme. It was great to see so many new diverse business outlets opening in our town centres this year, and to see them being used by local residents. We recognise that there are difficult times ahead for our residents, and the Council has created a section titled Havering Council Cost of Living on their website, which is devoted to providing useful information to help residents through these financially challenging times. Finally, your Residents' Association Councillors are committed to serving the people of Upminster, Cranham, North Ockendon and The Dury Falls Estate, and will continue to do so this coming year and thereafter. Thank you for your continued support and have a great Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Cllr CHRIS WILKINS - Chairman Upminster and Cranham Residents' Association



## Proposed quarry update

Following on from our last article regarding the proposed quarry, which will be sited at Rainham Lodge Farm, Berwick Pond Road, we would like it be clear to our residents that your Upminster Councillors are opposed to the scheme, and if an application is submitted to the Council, we will call-in the application, so that the matter is discussed at the Strategic Planning Committee. Your local Councillors will be raising objections to the scheme, which will include:

- The bridge between Parklands and Bonnets Wood is probably not structurally strong enough to withstand the increased number of Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs).
- Effects on the water table, which could lead to local flooding in the area.
- Extra HGVs on already busy routes - mostly narrow lanes.
- Noise pollution from activities and machinery.

UCRA Councillors Linda Hawthorn and Chris Wilkins joined Councillors Gerry O'Sullivan, Graham Williamson, Reg Whitney and the Leader of the Council Ray Morgon at a meeting organised by the Quiet Not Quarry Group. UCRA Councillors spoke at the meeting and pledged support and offered to work with the Quiet Not Quarry Group opposing any planning application for the proposed new quarry. Should there be an application made, we request residents to send individual objections into the Council Planning Department, rather than a petition as this will be counted as one objection.

Cllrs LINDA HAWTHORN and  
CHRIS WILKINS

## Budget Update

Councillors Linda Hawthorn and Chris Wilkins attended the Council Budget Consultation meeting on Saturday, 5 November at Upminster Library, which was very well attended. The session gave an opportunity to discuss and influence the Council's budget proposals for next year. Residents at the meeting stated that they required more details on how savings would be achieved by, for example, collecting refuse bi-weekly as well as questioning why the toilets near Upminster Park had to be closed. There were serious concerns raised regarding the cutting of Havering's Citizen Advice Bureau's grant, especially whilst there is a cost-of-living crisis in the country. We will consider these views when setting the 2023/24 budget. For further details and how to complete the Budget Consultation Survey, visit Havering Council's Budget Consultation 2023.

Cllrs LINDA HAWTHORN and CHRIS WILKINS

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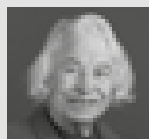
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## ASSOCIATION COUNCILLORS

### UPMINSTER WARD

**Linda Hawthorn** 01708 225451



lindahawthorn@hotmail.co.uk

**Oscar Ford** 01708 641317



oforducra@gmail.com

**Chris Wilkins** 07960 059195



CouncillorChristopher.Wilkins@havering.gov.uk

### CRANHAM WARD

**Gillian Ford** 01708 641317



councillorgillian.ford@havering.gov.uk

**John Tyler** 07982 962925



@CllrTyler

JohnTylerUCResidents@outlook.com

**Phil Ruck** 07858 188939



philruckucra@yahoo.com

## Europe's largest data-centre

The Council has been in negotiations with a private sector developer, Digital Reef, who wish to build Europe's largest data-centre on a site of 175 hectares to the east of the M25. The location has been identified as being close to the necessary power supply from the Warley Power Station, and with good access to fibre data cabling.

This proposal would represent a major development on land that sits within the Green Belt and so requires special circumstances to be demonstrated which will need to pass through a full Planning and approval process.

It is expected that this will require significant engagement with the community through the planning and development stage, and in relation to onward employment, educational and research activity, along with the design of publicly accessible green space, if the project goes ahead.

Amongst the suggested benefits are the creation of around 2,370 jobs for local people. Environmental research and educational activity is planned in partnership with Leicester University and others. Most of

the currently privately owned site, around 121 hectares, would become an ecology park for public recreational use. In the round, it is the intention that the data-centre project would be carbon neutral.

Cllr OSCAR FORD

## Reflections of the first 6 months

As I write this, it has been just over 6 months since I was elected a ward Councillor. A great deal has happened during that time; the merry go round of Government ministers, the state of the economy, and the cost of living crisis has impacted severely what we have tried to achieve. In practical terms it has resulted in trying to stabilise an organisation that was suffering from vast amounts of underfunding and a high level of overspend. The capital budget, where we seek to provide outcomes that improve our community has been badly affected by interest rate rises and increasing costs. That said, your ward Councillors will endeavour to strive for improvements and higher levels of customer service and transparency.

Cllr PHIL RUCK

## Your Upminster and Cranham Residents' Association Councillors are on facebook

For Upminster search: 'UCRA Oscar Ford'

For Cranham search: 'UCRA Phil Ruck'

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## Cost-of-living

The cost-of-living crisis is high up on the Council's agenda. In collaboration with partners, information, advice and support has been put into place. A dedicated website has been set up, which includes links to information and advice on general finances, foodbanks, benefits, energy support, children and schools. Information on the Borough's warm places will be added. Please use the website to signpost family members and friends who may not have internet access. The website is intended to be used by front line practitioners, the voluntary and private sectors and residents. It will be updated with more information over the coming weeks.

[https://www.havering.gov.uk/info/20096/community/759/financial\\_help\\_and\\_advice](https://www.havering.gov.uk/info/20096/community/759/financial_help_and_advice)

Cllr GILLIAN FORD

## Proposed development on Station Road, Upminster

## (former Time-Tees site):

A planning application has been lodged for the site vacated by Time-Tees, a regular Bulletin advertiser whose services were used by many local residents. The proposal is for an 82 room hotel which has been designed for Travelodge. Included is a commercial unit likely to be rented to a major retailer. The Costa outlet would remain as part of the development. Residents wishing to review the application you can use the following reference and link on the Council's website, where comments on the application can also be submitted:  
Planning reference P1585.22  
<https://development.havering.gov.uk/OcellaWeb/>  
Your Upminster Councillors have already received some comments regarding the application and would urge anyone with a view to submit their comments via the link. In view of the feedback received, a call-in has been lodged with the Planning Office, which means that the Planning Committee will have an opportunity to consider all of the concerns before a decision on the proposal is taken.

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## Upminster Methodist Church Festival of Stars

Saturday 3rd to Sunday 11th December. After the success of the Christmas Tree Trail in 2020, we have decided to repeat this for 2022. This year, the intention is to create a trail of Christmas trees around the streets of Upminster and Cranham. We intend to have more than one trail, so if you are planning to decorate a tree in your front garden at Christmas, perhaps you may consider joining in? The more trees we have, the better the trail will be. The theme is "Stars" which lends itself to many different ideas. Contributors will be given a "star sign" to show that they are part of the trail and hopefully this year, turn the Christmas Tree Festival into a Festival of Stars.

This event will be a fund-raiser to support the local foodbank and a "Just Giving" page will be set up for donations. As in previous years we will be having a Memory Tree inside the Methodist church for visitors to add a star for thanksgiving or remembrance and the church will be decorated for Christmas on this theme. We

intend to open the church on Saturday 3rd and 10th December from 10-2pm and Sunday 4th and 11th December from 2-4pm during the Festival. There will be refreshments available on those days. During the Festival week we are holding various events in the church including visits from the local primary school choirs. More information will be displayed on posters and advertised on the Upminster Methodist church website and social media. If you would like any more information about the Festival, please email [Upminsterchristmastreefest@gmail.com](mailto:Upminsterchristmastreefest@gmail.com)

## Sleeping Beauty Panto

All Saints Players' present their forthcoming production Sleeping Beauty, by Alan P Frayn. Journey to Muddleby on Marsh and watch the story unfold of Princess Rose and the spell to send her to sleep for 100 years. Join Nurse Hettie Harpic, a puddle-brained handyman and two hapless heralds along with royalty, fairies and an evil witch in a pantomime for all the family. All Saints Church Hall, Ardleigh Green Road, Hornchurch, RM11 2LG. Performances are at 8pm on Thursday 26 and Friday 27 January 2023 and at 2.30pm and

*continued on page 5*

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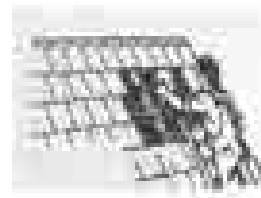
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## Arnie De'Milia raising funds for charity

Local business owner, Arnie De'Milia of De'Milia barbers at Upminster Bridge (and Brentwood) is a British-Albanian living in Essex since 1998. He is a regular participant in charity fund raising events. Last year he raised a total of £628 for Lennox children's cancer fund, and this year took place in the London to Brighton 100K off-road bike ride raising £694 for the British Heart Foundation. More recently, in October, he flew to Tirana Albania, along with 32 British-Albanian professionals and business owners from across different parts of the UK. They joined 200 Albanian runners from

across the UK, Germany, Italy, USA and Canada to take part in a half marathon for children of Albania with Down Syndrome. These children do not get any support from the Albanian government and desperately rely on the donations raised. For every 5 euros raised it enables 1 child to go to a day centre which helps with food, education and treatment. The alternative is the child stays at home every day all year round. Collectively they raised a total of 21,359 euros, 2,000 of which was raised by Arnie from customer donations. This will support 10 children with Down Syndrome to go to the day centre for 1 year. Arnie is already looking forward to repeating this again next year and has been touched by the love and thanks he has received from the Albanian families. A fantastic achievement, well done Arnie!!



PRESENTS

# Christmas

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## Local Government

Back in the September I wrote regarding Havering Council and the work by Councillors. When I was first elected in 1978 the Council worked on a Committee system. This stopped in 2002 when the Council went over to a Cabinet system similar to central government. Here in Havering the Leader of the Council appoints a Cabinet with around 8 members each having a specific responsibility portfolio ie Housing, Adult Care etc. There are still several committees for Planning, Licensing and Scrutiny etc. The current Havering Council is led by Havering Residents Association. It was pleasing to see that elsewhere in the country more and more Residents' Councillors are getting elected. I would like to thank those of you who got in touch with me regarding the potential to become a local Councillor in the future. This area has an excellent tradition of electing Residents' Association Councillors. Being a member of Havering Council is an honour and very rewarding. If you have ever considered becoming a Residents'

Association Councillor and would like further information and wish to discuss this, please contact me at [bulletinra@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:bulletinra@yahoo.co.uk).

RON OWER

## WWII Invasion defences

I wonder how many people have walked past the small concrete construction in Hall Lane Playing Fields between the cricket pavilion and Hall Lane, just by the line of trees and wondered what on earth it was for. With the help of Simon Donoghue Local Histories Librarian based at Romford Library and his huge knowledge of places to look for information I have been able to find out.

Tony Philpott Chairman of the Trust, RAF Hornchurch Heritage Centre was able to identify it as a Spigot Mortar Mounting which would have been manned by The Home Guard in time of invasion. The Spigot Mortar was an anti-tank and anti-personnel weapon capable of projecting a 20lb bomb 900 yards. A number of these mounts were placed at strategic points for defence and another was in Station Lane Hornchurch

*continued on page 7*

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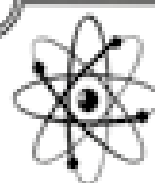


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near the site where the original Queen's Theatre stood. So now we know what it was for and I hope that it is preserved as part of our wartime history. The Pill Box Studies Group have now added it to their Register.

**Grid Reference TQ 56599 87844**

**RICHARD MOOREY**



## Lower Thames Crossing : Planning Application submitted

The Cranham and Upminster Councillors have maintained the pressure on National Highways over the summer, around the development of plans and consultation approach for the Lower Thames Crossing project, raising concerns in relation to traffic impact on schools, general access issues during construction, and in particular a potentially serious impact on the Upminster Crematorium and some local businesses due to local road closures. The re-siting of the proposed construction compound to a location close to Church Lane had been raised as being of a particular concern for some local residents. Ward Councillors highlighted that consultation around that important change had not taken place, and the National Highways representatives have subsequently followed this up. National Highways have now formally submitted their Planning Application for the project to the Planning Inspectorate. If the Inspectorate accepts the application, it will move into the examination stages in December, where supporting evidence and concerns can be considered. There remain a number of design elements to be worked through and National Highways will

maintain an ongoing dialogue with the Council and Councillors ahead of any final approval decision by the Secretary of State.

Cllr OSCAR FORD

## 11 Station Road, Upminster

Eastern Iron Works are bringing forward a proposal for the redevelopment of the former Time Tees garage site on Station Road. It will deliver an 82-bed hotel in a part four and part five storey scheme over new retail units at street level. It will retain a unit for Costa. It will provide an economic boost for, and a signal of investment in, Upminster. The hotel has been configured as a business hotel for short term stays which provides no catering or restaurant facilities. Hotel residents and visitors will bring spending to local shops and services and provide a much-needed local facility which sits outside of Romford. The hotel and retail units will provide local jobs. Several local businesses have already expressed interest in occupying the retail units. Considerable investment and construction jobs will arise through the

17-month development phase. Careful attention has gone into the scheme's design. This reflects the local use of brickwork detailing and emphasises certain architectural features of the façades. Being located in the Town Centre, access by train and on foot will help reduce car use. We expect the Council to grant planning permission early next year followed by a start on site and completion by Summer 2024.

EASTERN IRON WORKS



## Upminster welcomes BrewDog

As we go to print, the Upminster BrewDog in Station Road has now opened. The opening in Upminster is part of BrewDog's plans to increase its number of outlets across the UK. With a roof terrace, 30 taps of craft

*continued on page 9*

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of hours emergency number is 01708 433999. Please try and give the post code for where the problem is or as much information as possible. The office hours number is 01708 434343.

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Tickets are available on the door: £10 Adults, £8 for concessions and £6 for children (up to 16). As usual Senior Citizens are admitted free on the Thursday and Friday evening shows. We accept card payments on the door and there is a discount if you book direct through our website. [www.wesley-players.co.uk](http://www.wesley-players.co.uk). Alternatively, you can reserve tickets by Text to Box Office on 07708 214 742 or email [tickets@wesley-players.co.uk](mailto:tickets@wesley-players.co.uk)

## True hope at Christmas

Many people I've spoken to have expressed a longing for real hope - in relationships, employment, their family, a health issue, finances, etc. The Christian community would love you to know that the God of the Bible, who created the universe, is searching for a personal relationship with you and me, and He took the initiative on an occasion we've called 'Christmas',

to come to earth in the human form of Jesus Christ, to pave the way for that friendship to happen. We invite you and your family to visit a service in one of our local church groups, and experience the wonder, purpose and only true HOPE for yourselves. Happy Christmas, everyone! PAUL THOMPSON, Leader of King's Church, Upminster, on behalf of: Churches Together in Upminster, Cranham and North Ockendon ([www.ctucno.org](http://www.ctucno.org))

## Hedgehogs

Driving back through Upminster recently one evening I saw a hedgehog walking across the road. Whilst we often see foxes locally, I had not seen a hedgehog for some time. Looking into this I am informed that their numbers in the last two decades have declined where once there were millions, I understand numbers are now in the hundreds of thousands. The UK dwelling hedgehog is on an international red list, thus there is a threat of extinction. The loss of hedgerows in the countryside which provide food and shelter for hedgehogs

*continued on page 11*

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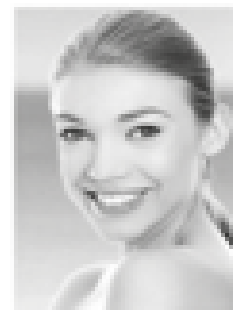
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has led to the drastic reduction in numbers. In built up areas where there are lots of fences, it is suggested that drilling a hole at the bottom of the fence would allow hedgehogs to roam during the night. They love a nice area to sleep during the day in a nice hideaway made up of leaves etc in gardens. Please be careful if you have a heap of leaves that you intend to dispose of at this time of year, it may be a home to a hedgehog!

RON OWER

## Hornchurch Football Club

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## Bring a Bottle

Upminster Station has seen a wide range of improvements over the years. I remember this Association requesting a permanent entrance onto platform one to prevent car park users having to go all the way up to the main entrance. Interesting to see how well this entrance is used. Just a reminder that a water station has been installed on platform one - a welcome addition.

RON OWER

## Upminster CC v Essex CCC

After a Covid enforced absence, the Annual Benefit Match against Essex County Cricket Club resumed on Sunday, 18 September. During the morning there were training sessions and cricket matches involving young Colts and our girls and ladies. Our young Colts were also involved in a closely contested match against a Havering XI within their age group. The main event was a 20 over match against the County Eleven which was played in good spirit and resulted

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in an Essex victory by a narrow margin. It is anticipated the number of spectators on the day exceeded 1,000 and Upminster Cricket Club wishes to place on record, its appreciation of the continuing support of the Upminster public on the occasion of these matches. As a result of a raffle and other fundraising activities, a cheque for £3,500 was presented to the Essex Cricket Foundation, a charity formed for promoting cricket at all levels within Essex. Any residual monies on the day will be donated by the Club to the promotion of Upminster Youth Cricket.

DAVID PARISH

## Thames Chase

Season's greeting from the team at Thames Chase. We do hope you can join us during December as we have lots of festive events for all ages. Our popular family winter walks return, get into the Christmas spirit and join us for a magical walk from the Thames Chase Visitor Centre to enjoy

the special beauty of trees in winter, with carols and poems to share as we make our way around the paths, a great way to begin the festive season. Join us for a glass of mulled wine or juice and a mince pie afterwards. Please ensure dogs are on a lead. Suitable for ages 4 years and over. Not suitable for buggies. Date: Sunday 4th / 11th December 2022  
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*continued on page 13*

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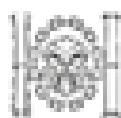
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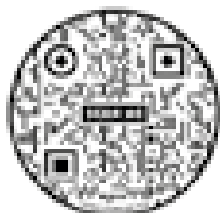
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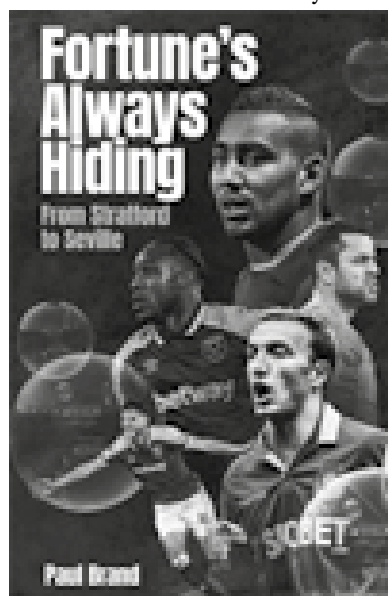
individual or £20 for a family of 4. Have the best dressed front door this Christmas! Clare from Bliss flowers returns on December 4th and 11th for a Christmas wreath making workshop. All materials will be provided including a hot drink and mince pie. £40 pp, call to book: 01708 642970. This year our Christmas Celebration takes place on Sunday, December 18th. Find that last minute unique gift from a wide range of craft and food stalls. There will also be some children's activities during the day and live festive music for all to enjoy

## Kushoom Bugh Restaurant

It's nice to meet up with family and friends over the Christmas and New Year period and enjoy a meal together. The Kushoom Bugh Indian Restaurant in St Mary's Lane will only be shut on Christmas Day. This family run business established in 1978 is fully licensed and air conditioned. Full contact details are in their advert on page 12.

## Fortune's Always Hiding

Fortune's Always Hiding: From Stratford to Seville is a 352-page hardcover must-read book for all Hammers devotees. The author, Paul Brand, was brought up in Upminster and attended Upminster Infant and Juniors school and Coopers. Paul takes us through the Hammers' recent history, with a fan's-eye view that reads like "The Secret Diary of a



West Ham Fan Aged 40 and 3/4". Chronicling a turbulent few years, from the final days at Upton Park to a European semi-final, this captivating account will resonate with anyone whose happiness is unwisely invested in the fortunes of their favourite team. The release date of the book is January 9 2023, about the same time as your Christmas cards are likely to be delivered, if my recent experience of the postal service is anything to go by. The book is published by Pitch Publishing Ltd. and is now available to pre-order from Amazon priced at £18-99. If you would prefer to order from another source the ISBN-13 is 978-1801504164. ROY BRAND

## 3rd Upminster Scout Group Adult volunteers needed

The 3rd Upminster Scout Group, has a 91 year history of providing fun and adventure for young people of Upminster, and we are a successful and large group in

a good financial position. We meet at and are sponsored by Upminster Methodist Church and Trinity United Reformed Church. We currently need more adult support across our 5 sections (Beavers 6-8, Cubs 8-10.5, Scouts 10.5-14). This could be in a leader or assistant role in one of our sections, or a support role helping with administration, equipment, Group HQ or Group Executive. Our associated Explorer Scout Unit (14-18) also needs adult support. Appropriate training and support will be provided by experienced leaders. We can also support young leaders (14-18) in support of Duke of Edinburgh service element in our sections and as part of our District programme. Our Cub Scout Pack meeting at Trinity URC on Tuesday evenings (6.30pm - 8pm) currently has space for young people aged 8-10.5 years old wishing to join. Please contact 3rdups.scouts@gmail.com if you can offer any help or would like to make a joining enquiry for a young person. MARK SCRACE, Group Scout Leader ADAM WOODGATE, Deputy Group Scout Leader

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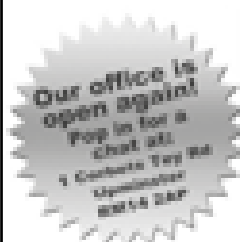


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## CHRISTMAS CONCERTS



**Christmas Voices In aid of Saint Francis Hospice** - This concert for Choirs and Audience directed by Mac Crawford, will take place at St Andrew's Church Hornchurch on Saturday, 10th December at 7pm. Admission £5 (children free). This year we feature St Andrew's Church Choir, Sound Company, Saint Francis Hospice Choir and Children from St Edward's Primary School. Start your Christmas with a sing and help us to raise much needed funds for Saint Francis Hospice.

**Christmas concert by The Liberty Singers** - (formerly The Kingsley Choral Group) under their new Musical Director Mac Crawford, at Trinity Church, Station Road, Upminster on Friday, 16th December at 7.30pm. Tickets cost only £7.50 on the door. Seasonal refreshments are included.

**The Havering Concert Orchestra Christmas Concert** - Come and singalong with favourite Christmas Carols. The Concert starts with Sibelius' Karelia Suite and Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite and other Christmas favourites. Then, maybe a glass of seasonal cheer. Followed by a festive singalong to usher in the

Christmas season. Saturday, 3rd December 7.30pm at Frances Bardsley Academy, Brentwood Road, Romford RM1 2RR. Advance tickets available online via [www.hcoweb.co.uk](http://www.hcoweb.co.uk) where more details can also be found. Tickets will be available on the door, but will be more expensive.

**Christmas at the Queen's** - Pinney Talfourd solicitors presents Christmas at the Queen's on Monday, 12th December 2022 from 11am to 1pm - Queen's Theatre, Hornchurch. Special guest performances from The Hornchurch Can't Sing Choir, Benhurst Primary School Choir and Pinney Talfourd Choir. In aid of Kids Inspire. To book tickets please call the box office at Queen's Theatre on 01708 44333.

**New Dimension Choir - Christmas Concert** - Friday, 2nd December, Havering Road Methodist Church, Moray Way, Romford RM1 4YD and Sunday, 4th December, All Saints Ardleigh Green, Hornchurch RM11 2LG. Doors open at 7pm, concert starts at 7.30pm. Tickets £7.50, under 16s free. Tickets available on the door [www.newdimensionchoir.com](http://www.newdimensionchoir.com)

**Havering Singers** - Present their Christmas Concert for 2022 where they will be joined by pupils from St. Mary's Catholic Primary School, Hornchurch. The programme will be a varied selection of seasonal favourites with a few surprises. Tickets are priced at £12 for adults and £5 for children and can be purchased via <https://www.haveringsingers.org.uk/> or via the contact number 07342 883211 Saturday December 17th @ 7:30 pm at Holy Cross Church, 260 Hornchurch Road, Essex. RM11 1PX

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**Upminster Lymphoma and other Blood Cancer Support Group**  
We are an independent support group and if you, or anyone you know, have received a blood

cancer diagnosis and wish to be involved with others in a similar position who have this shared experience, then why not join our friendly support group. We meet monthly at 1.30pm on a Tuesday afternoon at Upminster Baptist Church, Springfield Gardens, with a full program of interesting speakers and time to chat too. Our next two meetings are 22 November and 13 December. Partners and carers are also most welcome and if you would like more information then please get in touch. Doreen & Ian Russell - [ian.doreen@btinternet.com](mailto:ian.doreen@btinternet.com) Denise Hosking - [Denise.hosking@gmail.com](mailto:Denise.hosking@gmail.com)

**The Arts Society, Havering**  
Tuesday, 13 December 2022 - the Curious History of Christmas Food by Dr Peter Ross. The foods we eat at Christmas have a long, curious and visually spectacular history. This lecture narrates and illustrates that history from medieval boar's head and brawn, by way of highly decorated seventeenth century mince pies to the almost forgotten Twelfth Night cake. 10.30 am at the New Windmill Hall, Upminster. Visitors welcome for a fee of £8. Please visit our website [www.tashavering.org.uk/Lectures/FutureLectures.aspx](http://www.tashavering.org.uk/Lectures/FutureLectures.aspx) Facebook: [www.facebook.com/groups/199870022175485](https://www.facebook.com/groups/199870022175485) or contact us at [info@tashavering.org.uk](mailto:info@tashavering.org.uk), or telephone 01708 221903.

**The Old Chapel Tea & Talk**  
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*continued on page 17*

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Roope Hall, Trinity Church, Station Road, Upminster.  
Doors open at 10am – talk starts at 10.30am, £2 supplement for members, £4 admission for non-members. Tel: 01708 224830 or Mob: 07870 558408.

**Upminster British Legion**  
Knit, Sew and Natter goes from strength to strength, there is always plenty of room for more knitters/crafters. If you can't knit or sew we will help. Or just come along for the cuppa and chat (don't sit indoors alone) Thursdays 2-4pm. We have Sky sports and BT sport in the club - this now includes the racing channels. On 3 Saturdays each month entertainment is provided in the club and Quiz Bingo on the last Friday of the month. Call the club for details or check our website [branches.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/upminster](http://branches.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/upminster)

**Upminster Wine & Social Club**  
We are a lively social club that started in 1965. We meet every 3rd Thursday in the month at 8pm in the Cranham Social Hall in Front Lane RM14 1XN. We always have a speaker and enjoy some wine to taste. At Christmas we push the boat out and have a small party and we organise two dances a year and some outings. Club membership fees are £26 a year if you would like to join us, please come along at 8pm on the 3rd Thursday of the month if you want to see if our club is for you - visitor fees are £4. For further information please contact Kevin Watkinson 01708 456533.

**Essex Wildlife Trust, Havering - monthly walks**  
Saturday, 3 December – 10.30

– 12.30pm – Heybridge Basin, Basin Road, Maldon CM9 4RW. Walk along the river Blackwater in Heybridge Basin. (Meet at the car park CM9 4RW).  
Sunday, 1 January 2023 – 10 – 12.30pm join us for a stroll around Hornchurch Country Park – meet at Ingrebourne Nature Discovery Centre, Hornchurch Country Park, Squadrons Approach, Hornchurch, RM12 6DF (sat nav RM12 6TS)  
The walks are free and suitable for families and adults. Dogs permitted but not in the Nature Discovery Centre. Please wear suitable clothing and footwear. Booking Terry Smith tel: 07802212151 or email [ts15457@netscape.net](mailto:ts15457@netscape.net)

**Learn, Laugh and Live**  
Havering U3A meets at 2.15pm, on the second Wednesday of the month at a new venue - Romford Baptist Church hall, Main Road, RM1 3BL. Interest groups run throughout the month. Doors open 2pm.  
On Wednesday, 14th December swing into Christmas with the Rat Pack, presented by Howard Slater. Festive classics performed by Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis Jnr and Dean Martin. For more information come along or see our website: [u3asites.org.uk/havering](http://u3asites.org.uk/havering)

**Growing Vegetables**  
What better way of spending these dark evenings than planning what vegetables to grow in your garden next year. Mike Jervis is a nationally qualified judge for vegetables and will be passing on first hand his gardening knowledge. You will have the opportunity to ask questions and share any problems you may have experienced in the past. Join us on Tuesday, 13th December in the Windmill Hall. Doors open at 7.15pm with the lecture starting at 7.45pm and ending at 9.45pm. There will be refreshments during the interval and 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](http://www.upminsterhorticulturalsociety.co.uk)

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### Cake Decorating Club

We are a friendly group, and  
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at the Royal British Legion  
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different aspects of sugarcraft.  
It might be royal icing, sugar  
flowers, or fondant models.  
Sometimes we have a 'hands on'  
afternoon where we have a go  
ourselves. Visitors are always  
welcomed. More details from  
Joy tel: 01708 767145.

### Essex Wildlife Trust, Havering – Indoor meetings

Monday, 9th January – Wildlife  
photography as seen by Tony on  
his travels throughout the UK.  
Meetings held at Fairkytes Arts  
Centre, Billet Lane, Hornchurch  
RM11 1AX. Donation £3.  
2.15pm – 3.45pm.  
Contact / Booking Joy Emerson,  
Secretary 07759 869910 or  
Email [joyem.109@gmail.com](mailto:joyem.109@gmail.com)

### Upminster and District Probus Club

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a gentlemen's club? Are you  
wondering if you would fit in?  
Why not come along to one of  
our lunch meetings, held at the  
Cranleigh Restaurant, Hornchurch,  
and find out for yourself? You  
can be sure of a warm welcome.  
If you wish to attend you will  
need to book your lunch in  
advance by telephoning our  
Lunch Secretary, Stephen Foster  
on 01708 557690 or emailing him  
at [upminsterprobus.lunch@gmail.com](mailto:upminsterprobus.lunch@gmail.com).  
A three course lunch costs  
just £20, payable at the meeting.

### Yoga and Meditation at Hornchurch Library

Yoga and Meditation classes are  
back at Hornchurch Library. Join  
us on Wednesday mornings,  
between 10.30am to 11.30am.  
All abilities are welcome, no  
previous experience necessary.  
Sessions are guided by Meeta  
Rajani, an experienced meditation  
practitioner. Please book on  
07949 148211 or via email  
[meetarajani@outlook.com](mailto:meetarajani@outlook.com)

### Havering Astronomical Society

Wednesday, 14th December 7.15  
for 7.30pm. Peter Morris and  
Magda Wheatley will present  
our Christmas Quiz. The quiz  
will be followed by the results  
of our third annual Photography  
competition. Meetings held  
at Thames Chase, Pike Lane,  
Upminster. If you are interested in  
joining us there are more details  
on the website [www.havastro.co.uk](http://www.havastro.co.uk)  
or email [enquiries@havastro.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@havastro.co.uk)  
Young Astronomers (aged 8-16)  
- Thursday, 29th December 7-  
8pm. Meetings held at Thames  
Chase, Pike Lane, Upminster.  
There is a mix of space news,  
talks observing when possible.  
Please email [young.astronomers@havastro.co.uk](mailto:young.astronomers@havastro.co.uk)  
for further details.

### Craft sale

Coffee morning and Festive Fayre  
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from 10am to 12noon at Trinity  
Church, Station Road, Upminster.  
On sale will be cards, jewellery,  
china and glass, jigsaw puzzles

and Christmas items. All  
proceeds to Ahava (formerly  
Hope4Havering).

### Cards by Candlelight

Sunday, 18th December at Trinity  
Church, Station Road, Upminster  
at 6.30pm. Refreshments  
available. Everybody welcome.

### Music Afternoons at Hornchurch Library

Wednesday 14th December  
2pm–4pm. Our traditional  
yuletide programme containing  
a seasonal mix of items from this  
and other countries. A variety of  
music associated with Christmas  
and other religious festivals, as  
well as readings of poetry and  
prose inspired by the festive  
season. Hot punch will be served  
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Admission is free of charge  
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Raindle 01708 470670 or email  
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### Saturday Talks Club

Saturday, 10th December at  
2pm - Ralph Vaughan Williams :  
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Andrew Rothwell. At Roope Hall,  
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146956 (mobile has answerphone  
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details). Fund raising for James  
Oglethorpe, Engayne, Hall Mead  
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points: Jobbers Rest, Plough Pub  
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### St Luke's and Moor Lane Church invite you to celebrate Christmas

Saturday, 17th Dec - Moor Lane  
5pm Carols by Candlelight  
**Sunday, 18th Dec** - St Luke's  
10.30am – 'Dickensian Special';  
St Luke's 6pm - Carol Service; St  
Luke's Centre 7.30pm - Kingdom  
Overflow Christmas celebration  
(Christmas quiz night with short  
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**Christmas Eve** - St Luke's 4pm  
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come at 3.15pm to make your  
Christingle; St Luke's 11.30pm -  
"Midnight" Communion Service  
**Christmas Day** - Moor Lane  
10am - Family Communion  
Service; St Luke's 10.30am -  
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[www.stlukescranham.org](http://www.stlukescranham.org)  
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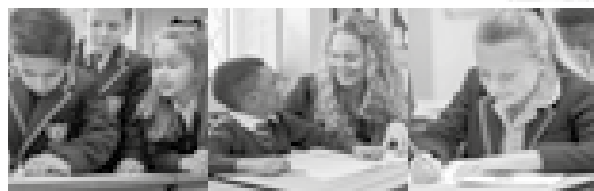
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## Meet with your Safer Neighbourhood Team

Cranham Police Safer Neighbourhood Team will be holding two drop-in meetings in December, on Friday, 9 December from 12-1pm outside the Avon Road shops and on Saturday, 17 December from 12-1pm in Berkeley Close on the Dury Falls Estate. Our local officers will be happy to speak about any issues in the area or if you would like crime prevention advice.

## Tell us what you think

Do you know of a way in which we can improve our services? If so please inform us by contacting your ward Councillors via the details on page 2. Of course it may be that you are not happy with the way a Council decision was made or perhaps the way a service is run. The Council operates in a similar way to Westminster in that it has an appointed cabinet, however there is an Overview & Scrutiny Committee, of which I am vice-chair, which can review decisions and the

way services operate and make recommendations to cabinet to address any changes required. If you know of any areas that you feel warrant such attention please do get in contact.

Cllr PHIL RUCK

## Havering Rotary Club, Christmas Float Routes 2022

Havering Rotary Club, with the help of Upminster 41 Club, will once again be bringing joy to young and old in Upminster and Cranham. Monies raised during this period will be donated to local charities such as First Step, St Francis Hospice, Dycourts School and Riding for the Disabled. \*Float starts 4pm on Sundays and Christmas Eve, otherwise 6.15pm. More information on our Facebook Page. We will be making door to door cash collections this year, or you can make an online donation at [www.justgiving.com/rotary-haveringeast](http://www.justgiving.com/rotary-haveringeast)

**\*Sun 11th Dec:** Gaynes Park Road, Sycamore Ave, Beech Ave, Oak Ave, Elm Ave, Maple Ave, Acacia Ave, Lime Ave, Southview Drive, Cedar Ave, Hornbeam Ave, Aspen Grove.

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**Mon 12th Dec:** Little Gaynes Lane, The Grove, Parklands Ave, Huntsmans Road, Foxhall Road, Freshfields Ave, Corbets Ave, Tawny Ave, Clayton Ave.

**Wed 14th Dec:** Moor Lane, Queens Gdns, Cranham Gdns, Roseberry Gdns, Waycross Road, Laburnham Gdns, Fairholme Gdns, Sunnycroft Gdns.

**Thurs 15th Dec:** Deyncourt Gdns, Courtenay Gdns, Grosvenor Gdns, Claremont Gdns, Marlborough Gdns, Esdaile Gdns, Holden Way, The Fairway.

**Fri 16th Dec:** Springfield Gdns, Ashleigh Gdns, Roxburgh Ave, Meadow Way, Fairfield Ave, Leasway, Rushmere Ave. The Shrubbery

**\*Sun 18th Dec:** Moor Lane, Heron Way, Swan Ave, Limerick Gdns, Kings Gdns, The Crescent, Brunswick Ave.

**Mon 19th Dec:** Waldegrave Gdns, Engayne Gdns, Spencer Ave, River Drive, Ashburnham Gdns.

**Wed 21st Dec:** Chester Ave, Peterborough Ave, Winchester Ave, Rectory Gdns, St. Albans Road, Canterbury Ave, Westbury Terrace, Lichfield Terrace.

**Fri 23rd Dec:** Park Drive, Cranston Park Ave, Melstock Ave, Coniston Ave, Brackendale Ave,

**\*Sat 24th Dec:** Severn Drive, Fleet Ave, Isis Drive, Stour Way, Humber Drive, Mersey Ave, Forth Road, Trent Ave, Chelmer Road, Clyde Crescent.

Can you help us?  
We need volunteer collectors, email for details  
[haveringrotaryclub@gmail.com](mailto:haveringrotaryclub@gmail.com)

## Parklands

One of the 3 parks in Upminster is Parklands, the most tranquil one, which runs between Corbets Tey Road and Park Farm Road. Like most of our parks, it is suffering from lack of funding, but an active Friends Group help to keep the park in good order, with litter picking, pruning and general maintenance. They would welcome more volunteers; the work is varied and can be tailored to suit individual preferences. More Friends would also be welcome, to provide income for bird boxes, wild-flower bulbs, etc, to keep the park looking well-maintained and attractive. More information, including a contacts page, can be found at [www.friendsofparklands.org.uk](http://www.friendsofparklands.org.uk)

Cllr LINDA HAWTHORN



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## Upminster Police

Please note the following dates to meet with the local Police Safer Neighbourhood Team in Upminster. 6th December from 2-3pm Upminster library and 18th December 1-2pm, Costa, 11 Station Road.

## Govani Chemists

Please note opening hours over Christmas and New Year:  
Saturday 24th - 9am to 5.30pm  
Sunday 25th - 10am to midday  
Monday 26th - 10am to midday  
Tuesday 27th - 10am to midday  
Wednesday 28th to Saturday 31st - normal hours  
Sunday 1st January - 10am to midday  
Monday 2nd January 10am to midday  
Tuesday 3rd onwards - normal hours  
Please see their advert on page 4 for contact details.

## Subscriptions

We are currently collecting annual subscriptions at only £2 per household. Whilst we hope to cover the cost of The Bulletin through advertising, which we generally do, we need funds to cover any legal bills to fight any problems on your behalf.

If you are out we will leave an envelope. Please return this to the address on the front. A number of residents have indicated they are happy to pay by cheque and increase their donation. Any cheques should be made to Upminster & Cranham Residents' Association. We take an active interest in supporting you and will continue to do so. We are active all the time, not just election times.

## Brooklyn Eat Out

If you like homemade fully loaded burgers and fries, or wings, ribs, nachos or milkshakes, then visit Brooklyn Eat Out, a recent addition to Cranham. Offering something a little different to your everyday take out, with fresh food made on the premises at great prices, go along and give them a try. [www.brooklynseatout.com](http://www.brooklynseatout.com)

## Upminster Councillor Surgery

Please note that the Upminster Councillors' ward surgery will be held on Monday, December 12th, at Costa Coffee on the eastern side of Station Road between 10 to 11am. We would be pleased to see you. In the meantime, if you need to contact us our contact details are here on page 2.

Cllrs OSCAR FORD,  
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## Foodbank

With the rising cost of living 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. And 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/give-help/donate-money/>. Please consider donating - it could make so much difference to a family in need.

## Queen's Theatre, Spring 2023

Queen's Theatre has announced three productions for its Spring 2023 season, which will include the world premiere of Rebus: A Game Called Malice by Ian Rankin and Simon Reade, produced by

Dan Schumann, Lee Dean and Queen's Theatre Hornchurch. Playing 2 - 25 February. From 2 - 18 March, the theatre premieres its commission of The Flood by Thurrock based nationally acclaimed playwright, Vickie Donoghue. This major new drama, inspired by the Canvey Island floods of 1953, is an extraordinarily tender and timely play about calling a place home - and what that really means. Finally, the theatre will be producing a new Theatre Nation Partnerships production of Roy Williams' award-winning play Sucker Punch from 30 March - 15 April. After opening in Hornchurch, Sucker Punch will be touring the UK. Sucker Punch is a bruising and funny play, winner of the Alfred Fagon Award, which explores being young and black in the 80's.



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