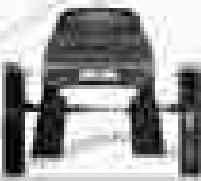


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Finance Update Budget Setting and Council Tax update

Havering Council has one of the largest elderly population in London, which is growing, and one of the biggest growing young persons' population too, based on recent Census data. This puts us in a unique position. Before Christmas the Leader of the Council and Officers met with Local Government Minister, Lee Rowley MP to outline our position. The Council has since received its Government funding settlement for 2023/24, and at £12 million this is the most generous in a decade. This increase, in part, reflects Havering's growing needs, however our Revenue Support Grant (RSG) has remained relatively the same as last year's, with a top up grant carried forward from last year increasing the RSG for the next financial year to £1.739 million. The Government has also confirmed that Local Authorities can increase their Council Tax by up to 5% for 2023/24, and expect them to do so.

With our increasing older and younger population comes an increase in social care costs; our spending pressures are going up by about £34 million. Even with the increased grants, the Council is facing funding gaps and more help from the Government is being sought. We need the Government to listen to us and allocate more money. The Government is running a consultation exercise and we will be making our voices heard.

Councillors will be meeting over the coming weeks to consider all options and to work out what this means in financial terms in respect of next year's Budget and the 2023/24 Council Tax. In this Budget setting consultation period, ahead of our Council meeting on 1st March, we will further be taking into consideration the views of 3,000 residents as shared through the recent consultation exercise, which received the best response in years.

Cllr CHRIS WILKINS

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

Cllr GILLIAN FORD

ULEZ Responses

As reported in the last Bulletin all Havering Councillors opposed ULEZ due to the impact on the Borough. I have attached a link to the Borough's response to the ULEZ consultation which was too long and comprehensive to be included in full within The Bulletin:


https://www.havering.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/5591/ulez_response_from_august_2022.pdf

I have also attached the response released on hearing ULEZ will be implemented on the 29th August 2023:


https://www.havering.gov.uk/news/article/1175/ulez_expansion_havering_council_response

The Council is fully behind improving air quality and as you will see from the responses above, we raised concerns over the limited transport infrastructure Havering has compared to inner London, who have multiple train stations and bus routes. This means Havering residents are dependent on the car when travelling across the Borough including to hospital appointments etc. The Council's responses are self-explanatory and have taken into consideration residents, staff, and employers concerns. Just as an example a resident contacted me devastated that they will have to resign from their job, as their car is not compliant, they have a disability, no transport goes to their work place, they cannot afford an alternative vehicle and their car will not be eligible within the scrappage scheme.

We completely understand and accept there will be some residents who will feel no impact, and approve of the implementation of ULEZ but as Councillors, we are responsible for representing all views, and lobbying for modifications, support and improvements when and wherever we can.



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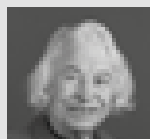
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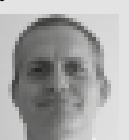
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John Tyler 07982 962925



@CllrTyler

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Phil Ruck 07858 188939



philruckucra@yahoo.com

Christmas in Upminster

The January Bulletins were printed before Christmas and whilst the festive season may have become a distant memory, we would like to congratulate all the local shops and businesses who had really nicely decorated windows. Apologies if we have missed anyone, but a big thanks to Filati men's outfitters, Roomes Stores (with a special mention for their lights), Pinney Talfourds Solicitors and further along the town centre in Corbets Tey Road, the restaurant Osteria.

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.

Association AGM

Kindly note the Annual General Meeting of the Upminster and Cranham Residents' Association will be held on Monday, 20th February starting at 7.30pm in the Minor Hall, St Laurence Church, Upminster. Doors open 7.15pm.

MIKE LONG, Secretary

Your help needed - Upminster

If you could assist delivering around 40 Bulletins each month please contact me.

Likewise if you could drop off Bulletins to 4/5 of our deliverers. Help us to help you.

If you can assist please contact me on **07908 916119** or email **gio.anastasi@hotmail.com** or **bulletinra@yahoo.co.uk**.

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Upminster Organiser Gio Anastasi 07908 916119 gio.anastasi@hotmail.com	Cranham Organiser & Residents' Association Website John Tyler (07982 962925) www.ucra.co.uk

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Warm Spaces in Havering

May we remind you that Havering Council have published a list of Warm Spaces available for people to visit this winter if they are struggling to keep warm at home. To see the list visit www.havering.gov.uk and enter 'warm spaces' in the search box. All of Havering's libraries, plus Sapphire Ice and Leisure in Romford and Harrow Lodge Leisure Centre in Hornchurch, are also providing space for residents to stay warm during opening hours.

Clarifying the free parking in Havering

You may have recently received a slightly misleading leaflet regarding changes in free parking – this actually related to the free hour parking that was provided during the COVID period and financed for the first year by the Government. It was extended by the Council for a further year at their expense, but the Council

is unable to finance a further year. However the HRA are still campaigning to have free 30 minute parking in Hornchurch and Upminster to bring our area into alignment with other areas like Elm Park.

Cllr LAURANCE GARRARD

Havering says no to Engine Idling

Engine Idling by stationary vehicles causes unnecessary pollution which harms public health, (particularly children and people with breathing complaints) and the environment. Vehicle idling contributes to localised poor air quality, particularly in areas with large numbers of waiting vehicles, such as outside schools, hospitals and bus stations.

Back in 2019 Havering joined the Mayor of London's London-wide Idling Action project, which is largely a behaviour change campaign and as part of the project, the Greater London Authority requires that all participating local authorities

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adopt enforcement powers. The Road Traffic (Vehicle Emissions) (Fixed Penalty) (England) Regulations 2002 give discretionary powers to Council officers to issue fixed penalty notices to drivers who allow their vehicle engines to run unnecessarily whilst the vehicle is stationary on the public highway.

Havering's new Administration recognised the importance of improving air quality as part of the Borough's Air Quality Action Plan and have now adopted the anti-idling legislation and will be using enforcement action under the Road Traffic (Vehicle Emissions) (Fixed Penalty) (England) Regulations 2002.

Residents now need to consider their actions switching off their engine while stationary and in turn, help to improve the air quality within the Borough. Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) will be used as a deterrent and only issued as a last resort when a driver is uncooperative and refuses to switch off their vehicle's engine when asked to do so by an authorised officer.

Cllr GILLIAN FORD

London City Airport expansion planning application

London City Airport recently submitted a planning application to Newham Council, to make changes to the airport's existing planning permission conditions.

The main changes applied for are:

- At present no flights are permitted between 12.30pm on Saturdays and 12.30pm on Sundays. The application is for this to be changed to allow flights on Saturday to end at 6.30pm (7.30pm at the height of summer).
- Allow three extra flights during the first hour of operation, from 6.30am – 7am.
- Increase the cap on passenger numbers from 6.5 million to 9 million passengers per year by 2031.
- A requirement that all aircraft operating in the newly

continued on page 5

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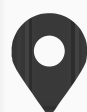


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Cllr JOHN TYLER

Ice and snow highway damage

The snow in December had a magical effect on the landscape and would have been enjoyed by many. However, it soon turned to an icy nuisance creating some treacherous conditions. The combination of freeze, gritting and thaw has resulted in an increase and enlargement of some potholes. Councillors have been reporting these and residents can report pavement and road defects through the Council's online system: https://www.haverling.gov.uk/info/20026/roads/98/damaged_roads_and_pavements

It is worth noting that for a pothole to be considered, it

must be at least 40mm deep and 300mm wide. A pothole or a raised paving slab on the footway must be 25mm deep.

Cllr OSCAR FORD

Pinney Talfourd's Christmas at the Queen's raises £3,646 for charity

After a three-year absence due to the pandemic, the annual charity Christmas concert made a return raising £3,646.98 for two deserving charities - Queen's Theatre Charitable Trust and Pinney Talfourd's charity of the year, Kids Inspire.

Originally scheduled for Monday, 12 December, the concert unfortunately was postponed by a week due to the travel chaos caused by the snow. However, this didn't stop Pinney Talfourd from ensuring that the 'show went on' allowing the audience to get into the festive spirit. Catherine Polli, partner said "thanks to the help of many volunteers, businesses and attendees who supported,

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we were able to exceed our fundraising target and set a new record. A huge thank you also to the 'Hornchurch Can't Sing Choir' for leading, the amazing children of Benhurst Primary School and our very own Pinney Talfourd Choir for supporting.

How to get involved in the Lower Thames Crossing (LTC)

Planning review process (updated 09/01/23):

National Highways formally submitted their Planning Application for the LTC to the Planning Inspectorate at the end of October and the Inspectorate accepted the draft Development Consent Order (DCO) for Examination on the 28th November 2022. There follows a period when representations by individuals and organisations can be made during the Examination period.

Details about how to register to become an Interested Party have now been published:

Register to take part in the process

Today the Planning Inspectorate opened the period for stakeholders and members of the public to register to become an Interested Party by making a Relevant Representation. A Relevant Representation is a written summary of your views on the Lower Thames Crossing. You can register to become an Interested Party on the Planning Inspectorate's website until 24 February.

The Planning Inspectorate has published a document with answers to Frequently Asked Questions about the pre-examination stage and registering as an Interested Party that you might find useful.

If you are unable to complete a registration form online and would like to register your interest, please call the helpline on **0303 444 5000** or email the project mailbox, as found on the project page, for advice on how to register.

Interested Parties are invited to a Preliminary Meeting to consider how the application will be Examined. Before the Meeting, the Examining Authority will

continued on page 7

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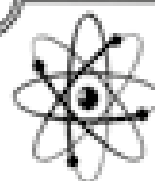


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provide a draft Examination Timetable plus its initial assessment of principal issues. The Examination starts the day after the Preliminary Meeting and can last up to 6 months.

During the six month Examination, Interested Parties will be invited to attend the Hearings (Issue Specific and Open Floor), provide written responses to the Examiners Questions and written representations. There is no cross examination process in DCO Hearings and the process is focussed on the written submissions.

The Hornchurch & Upminster Rotary Club

The Hornchurch and Upminster Rotary Club would like to thank you for your kind donations during our Christmas collections. We had to think about the safety of our members and the difficulties in moving the sleigh, meaning we had to cancel all but one of the evening collections due to the snow and ice. We did however manage to set up in

Upminster at our usual pitch. Despite the reduced collections we raised an amazing £3,000 for local charities.

Council emergency number

Kindly note the Council's out 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**.

Thames Chase

This month at Thames Chase our Wellbeing and Tree Walks continue every Thursday. Meeting outside the Forest Centre at 10.30am for a 1 hour walk, a great way to enjoy the sights and sounds of the forest and learn more about the surroundings and tree identification, followed by tea and biscuits. Suggested donation £3. Please call the Forest Centre to express interest on **01708 642970**.

For children we have some fun activities planned for half term

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with a session on Tuesday, February 14th, 10.15am-12.15pm (£3 per child) followed by Make A Bird Box and Bird Feeder on Wednesday, February 15th, during the morning (Time tbc, £8 per child suitable for age 6+). Please call the Forest Centre reception on **01708 642970** to make a booking. Keep up to date with our events on social media and website: www.thameschase.org.uk Our next Sunday market takes place on Sunday, February 19th.

White line bays

The Council introduced "white line bays" around 35 years ago following requests at the time from a number of residents. These bays make it permissible to park partly off the road, thus making it easier for traffic to move down narrow roads. Please note that a number of these bays are in "controlled parking zones", ie roads with parking restrictions as an example 8am to 9.30am and 8pm to 6.30pm. We wish to remind you again that if you park in the white bays during these times you are not exempt from receiving a penalty ticket. A

number of drivers have received tickets.

Please pass this information on.

Cost of living support

Please check Havering Council's website haverling.gov.uk/costofliving. You will find advice on budgeting, financial support and debt advice and help with energy costs.

There is a dedicated team to help residents who need extra help and support telephone **01708 432 280**. The website also gives details of a number of organizations offering warm spaces facilities.

Going cashless

Many of you have contacted me with regard to the current move to a cashless society. This impacts us in many ways. Often I find that we either don't trust the electronic machines we interact with or we do not have, or cannot use for a variety of reasons, the necessary tools, such as smartphones to interact with the required technology.

continued on page 9

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As an example, unfortunately vandalism of parking ticket machines is causing the Council to commission machines that do not accept cash. I have asked that the Council investigate ways in which those who still rely upon cash as a form of payment can still access Council facilities, such as pay for car parking and I will report back to you on the options.

Cllr PHIL RUCK

BOOK REVIEW: The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo – Taylor Jenkins Read

On the surface, Evelyn Hugo appears to be a glamorous film star who can't make up her mind when it comes to love. However, when you delve deeper it becomes clear that she is not all she seems at surface level ...

Evelyn Hugo is presented as a determined but also manipulative woman who will do anything to achieve her dreams of 'making

it big' in Hollywood – including marrying seven men in the process! Although she has some deceitful qualities, the author manages to make sure you sympathise with Evelyn.

This book went viral on social media recently and this is where I first heard about it. Though there were mixed reviews of the ending, I liked it, as I found it

difficult to predict which added an interesting dimension to the book. The narrative contains a healthy mixture of thought-provoking, emotional and humorous elements.

I feel the book takes a little while to really get going but it truly is worth the wait to peel back the layers of the onion that include drama, love and loyalty. Another layer is the LGBTQ+ recognition that is so poignant because the 50s, when the majority of book is set, was less accepting of the community than we are now.

This book had me crying tears of immense joy but also immense sadness and made me rapidly turn the page, excited or fearful for the next rollercoaster. I feel inspired to highly recommend this book.

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Diabetes in cats

It is often said that a cat is not a small dog in terms of their medical conditions. When it comes to diabetes, however, a cat could be considered a small human. Cats tend to develop Type 2 diabetes much like humans. This is caused by a resistance to rather than a deficiency of the hormone Insulin. It is one reason why cats can be hard to stabilise on insulin injections. The other reason cats are challenging to manage is because they often have other conditions alongside their diabetes. Diabetes often occurs in middle-aged, obese cats and signs include sudden weight loss despite an increased appetite and an increase in thirst and urination. Fortunately, diagnosis is relatively straight forward with a blood sample showing an increase in glucose and glucose in a urine sample. As with any condition the earlier signs are spotted the better the treatment prospects are. If you have an older, overweight cat that has any of the signs above consider asking your Vet to check for Diabetes among other conditions. For an

appointment with one of our Vets telephone Lawton and Stoakes
01708 384444.

Preventing catalytic converter theft

Catalytic converter theft from vehicles is unfortunately a common occurrence, with thieves attracted to the different precious metals contained in them. For practical advice on preventing such thefts visit the Met Police website www.met.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/keeping-vehicles-safe/catalytic-converter-theft/.

Cllr JOHN TYLER

Garage burglaries

Please note the following warning we have received from the local Police. "Following several garages that have been broken into, I've had a look online and seen garage door blockers, garage door defenders and garage door security bars of all

continued on page 11

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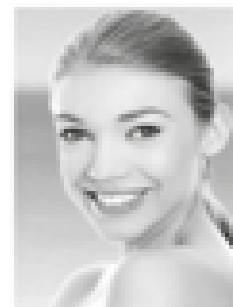
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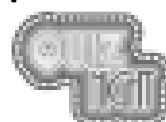


First Step



Friday 24th February 2023

7pm for a 7.30pm start



**SATURDAY
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7pm for a 7.30pm start

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Multi-Service company supporting the Deaf community

Positive Signs opened their office and drop-in centre at 1a St Lawrence Road, Upminster, Essex RM14 2UN in April 2022, and have received a fantastic welcome and a growing interest from the Upminster community during that time.

Positive Signs provide British Sign Language (BSL) services, including support workers for Deaf students at college and university, a range of Employment related support services - provided for Deaf people seeking Employment, Language Support Professionals, and we also run accredited training courses in BSL. If you're interested in using

one of our services or would like to start your Sign Language journey and train in BSL, why not drop in and speak to one of us at our office.

We already feel we are making a difference to the community, including providing a Father Christmas that signs for Deaf children to experience.

We look forward to bringing more awareness to the community in the future.

You can also take a look and book our services via our website: www.positivesigns.uk or give us a call: **0208 064 0192**.



Havering Rotary Club

Havering Rotary Club would like to thank everyone who donated to our Christmas collection this year. Our campaign consisted of two day collections at Tesco, Gallows Corner and the street collections around the roads of Upminster and Cranham. The club would like to apologise to the

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areas we could not visit due to the inclement weather. Our collectors had great difficulty walking on the icy pavements, and poor old Father Christmas on his sleigh could not get along many of the roads. Nevertheless, we did manage to collect £6500 for which we thank you. This money will be donated to a variety of local charities.

If anyone would like to know more about our work and activities, or what Rotary entails, please email your enquiry to haveringrotaryclub@gmail.com

Hornchurch Football Club

Your local club who play at The Stadium, Bridge Avenue look forward to seeing you watch them play. Please note the following home fixtures:

Saturday, 11th February -

Potters Bar Town

Saturday, 18th February -

Herne Bay

Saturday, 4th March - **Lewis.**

Kick off 3pm. A great afternoon out. Go along and support The Urchins.

Be on your guard

The local Police have asked us to warn residents not to be taken in by confidence tricksters. Sadly there have been several people duped into giving credit / bank card details to a trickster where a parking cash machine is out of action. They are being approached by someone as soon as they get to the machine before they've had a chance to put money in who tells them the machine is only accepting credit cards. This person then watches as they put their pin number in and manages to take their card without them seeing this. Please be careful and do not be taken in.

UCRA Coach outing news

We are running a full programme of coach trips this year starting with the Thriplow Daffodil Festival planned for Saturday, 25th March 2023. Every year Thriplow and its surrounding communities work hard to pull off one of the best loved charity

continued on page 13

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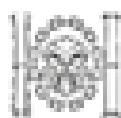
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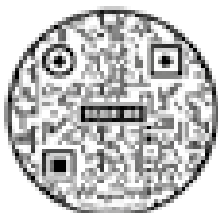
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Now booking for Saturday, 27th July 2024: **Italian holiday in Dolomites**, Hotel Paganella www.hotelpaganella.it 8 days, 7 nights, request flyer for details and prices.

Email: shirley@shirleytours.co.uk or call 01708 227884 or 07966 146956 (mobile has answerphone so please leave name and your contact details).

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Seated, Supported and Standing Dance Class for Older Adults

Sue Wilson has been teaching toddlers, children and adults to dance in Upminster & Cranham since 1989. She is now reaching out to include the older adults of our community and those with long term health conditions and disabilities - with a very special inclusive and accessible dance class that incorporates Falls Prevention techniques. Participants can sit, or stand with or without support for the whole class, making this a truly fully inclusive class. After singing and dancing along to an enjoyable range of music, everyone is welcome to stay for a cuppa and

chat - a great way to make new friends.

If you, or anyone you know would benefit from increased activity levels for better health and mobility and general wellbeing in a fun and enjoyable way, come along to Cranham Community Centre on Mondays 12 - 12.40pm where your first class will be free, normally £6 each week. Sue can be contacted on **07940 781881** or email her on: sue.danceaway@yahoo.com

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

continued on page 15

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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. Partners and carers are also most welcome. For more information please get in touch.

Doreen & Ian Russell -
Ian.doreen@btinternet.com
Denise Hosking -
Denise.hosking@gmail.com

The Old Chapel Tea & Talk

Wednesday, 8th February - 'Miss Willmott's Ghosts: the extraordinary life and gardens of a forgotten genius.' Journalist and author Sandra Lawrence has spent seven years researching Ellen Willmott of Warley Place discovering new aspects of her life.

Wednesday 8th March - Reputed Friends: The extraordinary Quakers of London in Essex.

Kate Poole will recount the history and influence from the 18th until 20th century of the Quakers of East London such as Elizabeth Fry and Joseph Lister.

Email: **friendsoldchapel@mary.havering.sch.uk**

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 Scottish dancers

Come Scottish dancing, held weekly on Friday mornings in St Laurence Church small hall (behind main hall), Corbets Tey Road, Upminster, RM14 2BB from 10-11.45am. First class is free, thereafter £2 per session. Tuition given. No need to bring a partner, but wear flat shoes. Telephone Fiona **07976 438950** or just turn up.

Learn, Laugh and Live

Havering U3A has a change of venue, with monthly meetings taking place in the Hall of Romford Baptist Church, Main Road, RM1 3BL. We meet at 2.15pm, on the second Wednesday of the month, doors open 2pm.

Wednesday, 8th February - Lucy Lewis - "Lighting the Fuse".

Lucy was the British Army's first woman bomb disposal expert.

Wednesday, 8th March - The Dick and Dave Audio Visual Show. Dick and Dave are members of the Essex Audio Visual club. They make sequences of photographs with an accompanying soundtrack.

For more information come along or see our website: **u3asites.org.uk/havering**

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Hornchurch Group of Diabetes UK

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Cake Decorating Club

We are a friendly group, and we meet on the first Saturday afternoon of each month at the Royal British Legion in Hornchurch. We have a demonstrator who shows us 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**.

The Arts Society, Havering

Our February talk will be The Magic of Pattern by David Phillips. From the Alhambra to William Morris, patterns can be gorgeous, yet pattern has often been dismissed as "mere ornament" in comparison with painting. We will discover what a mistaken view that is as we look

at the ideas that inspired some of the great pattern inventors and traditions from around the world. Taking place on Tuesday, 14th February at 10.30am at the New Windmill Hall, Upminster. Visitors welcome for a fee of £8. Please visit our website

<https://tashavering.org.uk/Lectures/FutureLectures.aspx>

Facebook: **<https://www.facebook.com/groups/199870022175485>**.

or contact us at **info@tashavering.org.uk**, or telephone **01708 221903**.

Essex Wildlife Trust, Havering - monthly walks

Thameside Nature Discovery Park, Mucking Wharf Road, Mucking, Stanford-le-Hope, SS17 0RN. Saturday, 4 March 2023 from 10am - 12.30pm. Come and enjoy spectacular views over the Thames Estuary with both shipping and birdlife to view. A great place to see avocet and godwits on the mud flats. Meet at the car park at the Nature Discovery Centre.

The walks are free and suitable for families and adults. Dogs on a lead are permitted in the park, but not in the visitor centre. Please wear suitable clothing and footwear.

Booking Terry Smith
tel: **07802212151** or
email **ts15457@netscape.net**



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Essex Wildlife Trust, Havering – indoor meetings

Monday, 13th February – Wildlife talk, topic to be confirmed.

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Buses 165, 365, 252, 193, 248, 370, and 256 all stop within walking distance of the venue. No onsite parking. Public pay car parks are available nearby.

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.

Upminster and District Probus Club

Have you ever thought of joining 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. We also periodically run outings to places of interest.

If you wish to attend you will need to book your lunch in advance by telephoning our Lunch Secretary, Robert Langstone on **01708 226705** or emailing him at upminsterprobus.lunch@gmail.com. A three course lunch costs just £20, payable at the meeting. Find us on <https://upminsterprobussec.wixsite.com/upminster-probus>

All proceeds to Harold Hill Foodbank.

Deyncourt Ladies Probus Club

We are inviting ladies aged 50+ to join our friendly luncheon club which is held on the third Wednesday of each month at the Masonic Hall, Deyncourt Gardens.

It offers ladies the opportunity to meet and socialise and enjoy a 3 course meal with tea or coffee. We also have guest speakers who entertain us on a variety of topics and there are selected outings during the year to enjoy if you so wish.

If you are interested you are welcome to come along as a guest on 2 occasions at no charge, merely paying the luncheon fee, currently at £20.

For more information contact our secretary Pauline Diable on **01708 554514** or prdiabile@hotmail.co.uk

Havering Astronomical Society

Wednesday, 15th February, 7.15 for 7.30pm. Richard Ellis, Professor of Astrophysics at University College London, will present a talk entitled '**Cosmic Dawn: The Quest for the First Galaxies**'.

Meetings held at Thames Chase,

continued on page 19

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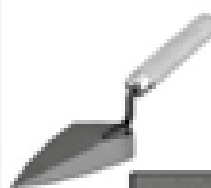


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Our new meeting day is Wednesday 1pm- 4:40pm
Upminster Baptist Church, 1 Springfield Gardens, Upminster, RM14 3HE

Our shed is equipped with tools and materials that have been generously donated by the public and local rotary. We are mainly a woodworking community although we're happy to try our hand at almost anything. You can drop in anytime the shed is operating so why not stop by for a look around and a decent cuppa; we'd love to have you working alongside us.

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Meetings held at Thames Chase,
Pike Lane, Upminster. There is a
mix of space news, talks observing
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young.astronomers@havastro.co.uk
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New members are always
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Music Afternoons at Hornchurch Library

Music afternoons offering a wide
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your enjoyment.

Wednesday, 15th February -
"Occupations & Aspects of Life"
revisited - presented by Harry
Newman.

*Wednesday, 1st March - Cross
My Heart* presented by Mike
Beaman.

Our music afternoons take
place in the main meeting
room, 1st floor (lift available) at
Hornchurch Library, North Street,
Hornchurch and commence at
2pm ending by 4pm. Admission
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Further information you can
phone Stephen Raindle **01708
470670** or email sraindle@aol.com

Havering & District National Trust Association

We meet on the 4th Saturday of
the month in the large hall at
Ardleigh House, Hornchurch.
RM11 2LG. Meetings start
at 2.30pm, and last for
approximately 90 minutes. At
each meeting we have a speaker.
The speaker at our first meeting
of 2023 on February 25th is
Geoff Bowden who will be telling
us about the Solo singers of
the Swinging 60's. Other talks
this year range from the The
Suffragettes & Suffragists to 50
Perennials Every Garden Must
Have.

Why not come along and join us
for an interesting afternoon? You
don't have to be a member of the
National Trust to attend. Visitors
are welcome at a cost of £2 per
meeting.

For further details e-mail
HaveringNTA@hotmail.com
or call the Secretary on
07939101802.

Harwood Ladies Probus

We are a group of retired
women who meet each month
to socialise, enjoy a three
course lunch and listen to a
guest speaker. We meet at Top
Meadow Golf Club on the second
Wednesday of each calendar
month and we currently have
vacancies for new members. If
you enjoy making and meeting
new friends, then please contact
Sheila Stringer on **01708 225564**
or Helene Carter on **01708
225629**

Saturday Talks Club

*Saturday, 11th February - The
Victorian Working Class.*
Speaker Ted Woodgate. Venue
is Roope Hall, Trinity United
Reformed Church, Station Road,
Upminster from 2- 4pm. Doors
open 1.45pm. £5 including tea
and biscuits. Enquiries to Mrs
B Bland **07951217930 / 01689
858701 / porcupiner@hotmail.com**
Mrs G Blake **07788751407 /
01708 227512 / arwb@aol.com**

Havering Branch - East of London Family History Society

*4th February - Institutions in the
Censuses* - Kathy Chater
*4th March - DNA surname and
family history* - Dr Mark Carroll
*1st April - The East India
Company* - Jeff Page
First Saturday of every month,
at Roope Hall, Trinity Church,
Gaynes Road, Upminster, RM14
2YS. Doors open 1pm, talk starts
at 2pm for 90 mins. Tea, coffee
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Havering Antique Collectors Club

*Friday, 17th February - Geoff
Bowden - life and music of Iver
Novello.*

*Friday, 17th March - Ann
Willmore - antique memorabilia
quiz.* 7.30 for 7.45pm start.
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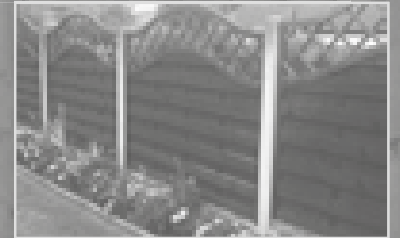
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St Laurence Church

As well as the Christmas Tree at Bell Corner, it was lovely to see the Christmas Tree - Tree of Hope outside St Laurence Church in Corbets Tey Road, donated by the Children's Society. Residents were invited to tie a ribbon in memory of loved ones.

Green Gym arrives

Good news for the New Year. The Friends of Hall Lane Playing Fields are delighted to announce that our new green gym has now been installed and is ready and waiting for you. The equipment is located close to the children's play area, has 12 items of equipment and is easily accessible from the car park. The green gym is one of the many projects that we've identified for improving the site. Our focus is now on freshening up the appearance of the playing fields through the planting of new trees and shrubs, provided by the Woodland Trust for community groups. If you're interested in joining our Group and becoming involved in this and other exciting projects then please do contact the secretary at: k.kilbey@ntlworld.com.

Update on River Ingrebourne inspection

Following on from our previous article regarding the Environment Agency agreeing to inspect the River Ingrebourne near to the Dury Falls Estate, this took place in late November and the Environment Agency's field team then cleared fallen trees and debris found along the river. In these days when it often takes a considerable amount of time to get public bodies to take action when it is needed, it was a refreshing change for the Environment Agency to deal with the matter so swiftly.

Cllr JOHN TYLER

Keeping Upminster Methodist Church active

Upminster Methodist Church in Hall Lane has been part of the community for over 100 years. There is an open meeting on Sunday, 5th February at 10.45pm in the Church to discuss how the Church can remain active and relevant for the next 100 years to

be part of the local community. We do need your input and support from as many voices as possible and look forward to meeting many of you from the community on the 5th February.

Upminster Police meetings

Please note the following dates to meet with the local Police Safer Neighbourhood Team at Upminster Library, Corbets Tey Road on Friday, 10th February 12pm to 1pm and Monday, 20th February 4pm to 5pm. Please note these meetings could be impacted if a police emergency arises. Go along and say hello.

The Saturday Night Lounge

Come and join us for fun, friendship, pool, quiz nights, music and events. All are welcome, alone or with friends, no plus 1 needed. Serving soft drinks, hot drinks, snacks, soup and roll. No payment required for any part of this event. First Saturday of every month (from 4th Feb) from 7.30pm to 10pm. At Moor Lane Church, Cranham

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Upminster Councillor surgery

Please note that the Upminster Councillors' ward surgery will be held on Monday, 13th February at Costa Coffee on the eastern side of Station Road between 10 to 11am. We would be pleased to see you and listen to your concerns and ideas. In the meantime, if you need to contact us our contact details are on page 2.

Cllrs OSCAR FORD,
LINDA HAWTHORN AND
CHRIS WILKINS

Meet your Cranham ward Councillors

You can meet your Cranham ward Councillors on 7th February at Cafe4You, Front Lane to discuss any Council issues or concerns. You can also contact your ward Councillors via the contact details on page 2.



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Cllr JOHN TYLER

Car crime

We have received the following advice from the local Police. There has been an increase of car crime being reported locally. Please have a look at the security you have in place and if you have a keyless car use a Faraday bag or metal tin to stop the signal from the keys to the car being intercepted. 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/>

Warm Spaces Initiative at churches in Upminster and Cranham

Local churches who are members of 'Churches Together Upminster, Cranham and North Ockendon,'

have compiled a list of activities that they offer the community as part of the 'Warm Spaces' initiative. They offer a warm welcome to any of their churches during the current financial pressure.

For details of the times and venues see the UCRA website - ucra.co.uk and enter warm spaces in the search box.

Cllr JOHN TYLER

Police weapons sweep in Upminster Park

Our local Police Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) officers recently undertook a weapons sweep of both Upminster Park and St. Andrew's Park in Hornchurch, as part of an Operation Yamhill Day of Action. They were happy to report that no weapons were found in either park.

Operation Yamhill was set up to tackle violent crime and anti-social behaviour.

Twittering Councillors

Councillor John Tyler has a Twitter page, with news of some of the things happening in Cranham ward and his own personal take

on local politics and occasionally, the wider world. He is also happy to receive messages from residents via his account **@CllrTyler**

You can also find Councillor Gillian Ford on Twitter and she is happy to receive messages from residents via her account **@CllrGillianFord**

The Reading Room, Church Lane, North Ockendon

A meeting for local residents has been convened to discuss the future of The Reading Room. The meeting will take place at the Church Hall, Church Lane, North Ockendon on Wednesday, 8 February at 5.30 pm. All residents in North Ockendon are welcome to attend in order to obtain their views.

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.

5th Upminster Guides - welcomes new members

We are a very friendly group who meet at St Peters Hall, Front Lane, Cranham on Thursday evenings, 7pm to 8.30pm. Forthcoming events include visits to the pantomime and cinema. Our evenings during term time are busy with craft, cooking, badge work and much, much more. Girls aged ten to fourteen are warmly invited to join us for a taster evening. Please ring Diane **01708 558165** for more information.

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