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Council Finance update

On 1st March 2023, at Full Council, the annual Budget and Council Tax was set for 2023/24. This has been one of the most challenging times a Council has faced to set budgets. It was agreed that the 2023/24 Council Tax will increase by 2.99%, with an additional 2.00%, set by Government for Social Care. This will make a total proposed increase of 4.99%. This does not include the Mayor of London's precept. The Budget will ensure residents continue to receive the key services they value and rely on, amid massive savings' targets. These savings will include keeping our roads/pavements repaired, making the Borough safer, responding to climate change and building more homes. The Budget will include the following:

- £6million investment in roads and pavements
- £650,000 to provide 30 minutes free parking in Hornchurch and Upminster town centres to encourage more trade, and to provide a boost for local businesses
- £1million to replace old lampposts with more energy efficient ones
- Additional £50,000 to upgrade lampposts for EV charging
- £290,000 to continue Council-funded Section 92 police officers
- £3.5million to push forward upgrade of CCTV in Borough
- £2.5million for improving school classrooms and buildings

Finally, I would like to remind residents that there is support available for those who need it, either through our Cost-of-Living campaign, or our Council Tax Team.

Cllr CHRIS WILKINS

Upminster walkabout

At the end of February your three ward Councillors had a walk around Upminster Town Centre to see what improvements could be made. Council funding is very short at present but it is useful to plan ahead, and some things can be done at a relatively low cost.

We are conscious of the amount of street clutter, some of which is unnecessary. The wooden seating area which appeared last year by BrewDog is hardly used, so we are thinking of relocating it to other sites. The advertising board here could also be relocated and there are several posts which are obsolete and can go too. These small changes will open up the pavements, making it easier for parents with buggies, and those using mobility scooters. The bases of our street trees need to be cleared, and a better surface put around some. Following pressure from your Association and Councillors, the Upminster Park toilet block will remain in service for another year whilst a review of the Borough's provision takes place. We are always open to ideas, if you wish to contact one of us – our details are on page 2.

Cllrs OSCAR FORD, LINDA HAWTHORN AND CHRIS WILKINS

Harold Wood and Upminster - proposed changes to bus routes 346, 347 and 497 – Consultation by TfL

TfL are undertaking a consultation process to make changes to the 346, 347 and 497 bus routes in Harold Wood and Upminster.

They propose to extend the 497 route from Upminster and Harold Wood into Cranham and the removal of the 346 altogether.

They have not provided any detail on the continuation of the hail and ride service currently offered by the 346 and they have not provided any details of where bus stops would be if the hail and ride stopped. The extended service would require the widening of Waycross Road and the installation of toilets and would be an every two hour service rather than four.

The proposal also includes the removal of the 347 service which supports the Cathedral Estate and Clay Tye Road. The suggestion is that residents on the Cathedral Estate will have access to a service 600m away. Clay Tye Road will have no service to Upminster and beyond.

The Upminster and Cranham Residents Association are pleased to hear of the proposed direct route to Harold Wood providing direct access to the Elizabeth Line, but have compiled a list of concerns with the proposals due to the reduction in service, the impact on residents, schools and businesses, and the perverse push to get more people into cars rather than encourage greater bus usage.

Respond to the TfL consultation:

continued on page 2


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ASSOCIATION COUNCILLORS

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Write to: **Freepost TfL Have Your Say** CONSULTATION ENDS
SUNDAY 16 APRIL 2023

The Residents Association full response can be found on the UCRA website, <https://www.ucra.co.uk/>

Neighbourhood Watch

A number of roads in Upminster have active Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators and the Safer Neighbourhood Team is always happy to hear from anyone who would be interested in starting up one. There is help and support available for this. In addition Havering's Neighbourhood Watch Association is looking for volunteers to join their management committee, with a number of roles available. If anyone is interested in joining that team please email Michael Winter, the Chairman michaelwinter@talktalk.net

LINDA VAN DEN HENDE

Your help needed

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

Retail crime

Shoplifting continues to be a problem in Upminster Town Centre, given the good transport links into the town. The ward Panel is looking for someone from our retail sector to join the Panel to bring both expertise and experience to this issue. The Panel meets quarterly and we would welcome anyone who wishes to contribute to this debate. Please contact me as Chair of the Panel lindavandenhende@btinternet.com

LINDA VAN DEN HENDE



ASSOCIATION CONTACTS

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Havering Against ULEZ



Cllrs David Godwin, Gerry O'Sullivan, Laurance Garrard, Gillian Ford, Oscar Ford and Graham Williamson.

Your local Councillors were joined by Havering Residents in the protest against ULEZ in London in March. Myself and David Godwin were with Councillors from Cranham, Hornchurch, Rainham and Upminster. Whilst Havering Council have raised their objection to the implementation of ULEZ, and refused to cooperate with the Mayor, our best hope is that we can persuade the Prime Minister to intervene and stop this unfair tax, that will hit the poorest and least able to replace their cars together with local businesses and visitors to our area.

Please write to: **The Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. Rishi Sunak, 10 Downing Street, London, SW1A 2AA** explaining why you feel the ULEZ extension is unfair for Havering. We feel that if everyone

sent a letter it would have more impact than numerous emails. Please help, let your voice be heard and help us to get the message to the Government that Havering does not want need or deserve the ULEZ extension.

Cllr LAURANCE GARRARD

Lower Thames Crossing

As we were going to print the Government's decision to delay Lower Thames Crossing for 2 years was announced. Your Residents' Association had submitted comments to the Planning Inspectorate as part of the Lower Thames Crossing Planning Process. Our full submission can be seen on our website. The submission covered:

Local Traffic Impact, in particular seeking to offset the effect of higher volumes of traffic.

Ensuring Public Rights of Way are not blocked with effected footpaths etc sensibly rerouted.

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When the **New Road Opens** an effective programme to mitigate noise and National Highways undertake regular monitoring.

MIKE LONG

Queen's Theatre defibrillator

We have been keen supporters of the installation of defibrillators in our area. I saw one being installed at the Queen's Theatre when delivering the March Bulletins and obtained the following information from the Theatre"

'Last year we were contacted by London Hearts who were offering a £300 grant towards the cost of

a defibrillator bought through them. We applied for the grant and succeeded but we still had to cover the remaining cost. We were looking at fundraising ideas and spoke to Cliff Reynolds (Chairman of Havering over 50s Forum) to find a way to raise the rest of the money. A few weeks later, I received an email from Yorkshire Building Society in Elm Park to say Cliff had contacted them and they would like to put us forward for their Small Change Big Difference Scheme, where customers can choose to donate the pence of their interest to a local charity. Again, we were successful with this and were awarded £2,000. This covered the remaining cost and installation of the defibrillator.

The defibrillator unit has been installed and has been registered with The Circuit (The National Defibrillator Network). It is also connected to London Ambulance Service. This means if someone was to call 999 and needed a defibrillator the London Ambulance Service could tell them the exact location and the access code for them to use it and could help save someone's life.'

The defibrillator is outside the building close to the stairs into the Theatre.

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Tackling the immediate impact of such a disaster is dependent on aid which Havering residents have played a role in, through clothes, goods and money collections. The Hornchurch & Upminster Rotary Club are not new to donating to those in need, as they regularly raise funds for local charities including First Step and St Francis Hospice. They also provide support when there are international disasters and on this occasion they funded two Shelter boxes to be sent to Turkey.

Each box typically contains a disaster relief tent for a family, thermal blankets and groundsheet, water storage and purification equipment, solar lamps, cooking utensils, a basic tool kit, mosquito nets and children's activity pack.

If you would like to be part of an

organisation that raises funds for those in need, think about joining the Rotary Club, we would love to see you at one of our meetings so you can see and hear for yourself what we can do together to help others. Contact: **Terry Monk** 01708 226305

Cllr GILLIAN FORD

'Try Before You Bike' comes to Havering

Thinking of taking up cycling but not sure it's right for you? Try Before you Bike is a scheme that allows anyone who lives, works or studies in Havering to try out a new or nearly new bike for a monthly fee which you can claim back if you want to buy the bike. The monthly fee to hire a bike starts at £10 per month for kids bikes, £30 per month for a standard hybrid bike or folding bike. The bikes come with lights, lock and a helmet and free delivery to your door by a cycling expert who will help get you started. If you love your bike you get the hire fees deducted from the price and you can pay the balance through an interest

free payment plan or by using the Cycle to Work scheme. All the bikes are good quality from makes like Raleigh and Ridgeback and the online ordering system makes it simple to select the right size bike for you. If you are a beginner and require more training you can get free cycle skills sessions through the Council's cycle training program, details of which will be provided when you order your bike (subject to available Council funding). Thousands of Londoners have started cycling using this flexible, supportive scheme and it is a great way to get into cycling if you are not ready to go out and buy a new bike. Find out more from Havering Council's partners <https://www.peddlemywheels.com/try-before-you-bike> who run the scheme on their behalf.

ULEZ – an unfair tax

Whilst we have heard that Havering Council has voted against the expansion of the ULEZ area, there are many concerns about the impact this unfair tax will have on a large number of people, particularly pensioners

and those that are less well off.

I bought a Volvo petrol car in 1999 which at the time was considered to be one of the most efficient and long lasting vehicles. Over the last 3 years our average annual mileage is only 1,800 miles, but our short journeys are essential and public transport cannot be used for them. As an example, public transport is not available to take our grandson from Upminster back to Warley after school, nor is it feasible to travel from Upminster to be at a Riding School for 9am where my wife is a volunteer helper for Riding for the Disabled Association. The stables are not accessible by public transport. I am 78 and it is not sensible to spend a huge amount of money to buy a new car or even a compliant second hand vehicle, which I have found to be in the region of £15,000 upwards. New cars are not readily available and there are lengthy waiting lists even if one could afford this.

It is the pensioners, the poor and those that have looked after their vehicles and not been profligate in buying new cars every few years that are being punished. I fear many who think that this tax

continued on page 7

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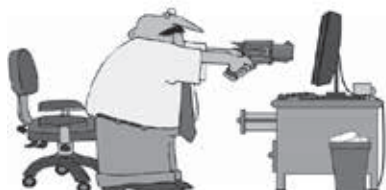
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does not affect them now, will find that within two or three years their vehicles will be deemed non-compliant. It seems that there is nothing that can be done to get this unfair tax deferred until viable travel alternatives are available to those affected.

Sadiq Khan has boasted that the expansion will bring in £300million and that this is a great success. It is not. No-one wants to pay the charge but they will be forced to do so because they have no alternative. I sincerely trust that our Council will insist on deferring this tax until viable travel alternatives are available to those affected. We must bring what pressure we can to highlight this undemocratic action by the Mayor of London.

RICHARD MOOREY

Ukrainian Community Café

At the end of January the café opened in Church House, Romford Market thanks to a grant from the London Borough of Havering's Homes for Ukraine

department. Hosted by a small team of Ukrainian project workers, the café is open to the public for tea, coffee and light refreshments, plus a range of relaxing creative activities. All are encouraged to come along and take part in the different activities and learn new arts and crafts. The café is open from 10am to 2pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays during term time. Everyone is welcome.

Cabinet Member for Adults and Health

Over the last few months having taken over the role of Cabinet Lead for Adults and Health, I have been visiting the care provision that Havering has to offer, including day services for adults with special needs and disabilities. The Council do not own any care homes but we do place residents in these homes and have a responsibility to oversee their wellbeing. It is therefore important that I get to know the issues and challenges

that all parties face including capacity in the system and staffing levels. This has already resulted in some changes in practice for the benefit of all.

I am also responsible for Health, which includes chairing the Havering Place Based Partnership Board. The membership of the board includes, the NHS, NELFT, BHRUT, GPs, Council, Healthwatch. I am delighted to say that the work that is starting to come out of the Partnership is looking very positive. The Cost-of-Living work and website link has been one such initiative that the Council has led on, supported by our partners. Another is the £100k coming from the NHS to support community groups through the 'Community Chest'. The role for the Council was to undertake the application process and the allocation of the funds. I am pleased to say some great community projects have been beneficiaries including 'Proper Blokes' who hold a walk and talk group for men in Upminster. The group aim to support men, who would not normally talk about their situation including problems from addiction, mental health, relationship problems, or just the

need for space to walk and talk to someone.

In the coming months I hope to be able to share a number of initiatives that will be rolling out across the Borough.

Cllr GILLIAN FORD

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**.

Moor Lane Church Pre-school

We have places available for September 2022 at our small friendly pre-school in Cranham. We take children from two and a half years offering morning

continued on page 9

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sessions 9am - 12.10pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday or full day sessions 9am - 3pm Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday term time only. If you would like to come and visit please contact us to arrange this, we would love to show you our preschool.

For more information, please email moorlanechurchpreschool@gmail.com or call Anita on 07599 930469.

Upminster Dementia Choir

Dementia can be a particularly isolating disease, both for the person living with, and their carer, but it doesn't have to be. There are a variety of different cafes, groups and organisations ready and waiting for you to join them.

I set up the Upminster Dementia Choir a number of years back, first starting at All Saints Church, with the kind support of the Rector Marion Williams. Since COVID we have relocated to the Queens Theatre in Hornchurch which provides parking and is on a bus route.

We start with tea and coffee at 10am for a little socialising and then the Choir starts at 10.30am until 11.30am. All of the song words are printed and laminated, so there is no need to worry about not knowing the words, and there is no competition for the best singing voice! We like taking requests for your favourite songs and are building up a good repertoire.

It is £2 per session and we meet every other week. If you are living with dementia or care for someone living with dementia, come along and enjoy some light relief with a cheery sing and chat.

For further information contact: Gillian Ford - 01708 641317

Havering On Line Watch Link

As an effective way to deter car thieves, the Police continue to advise car owners to have the registration number of their vehicle permanently security-marked onto all the windows. Simply by fitting false number plates, a thief can alter the true identity of any car in minutes

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- but having to replace every piece of glass would prove time-consuming and very expensive.

The Identimark car window etching service is £29.95 per vehicle at your premises. Please contact for appointments/advice - Matthew Marcus - Identimark Mobile Operator (1985). Tel: 07518 999175.

Thames Chase

Spring is here! Make a beautiful Spring wreath on Sunday, 2nd April at Thames Chase with Clare from Bliss Flowers. All materials will be provided and the wreath will last the season. If you have anything you wish to add to your wreath please bring it with you on the day.

2nd April from 10.30am - 12.30pm, £40 per person. Please call the visitor centre reception to book: 01708 642970.

Save the date! The Thames Chase Spring Fair takes place on 16th April. Join us from 10am. The day will include heritage book talks, led by local author and historian Sue Smith plus various guest authors speaking on local history from 10.30 - 11.30am. Stalls showcasing our local heritage

including Upminster Tithe Barn plus various demonstrations of crafts will be on show. Families can make a mini scarecrow, take part in seed planting or enjoy an Orchard Walk. Food will be provided by the Giggly Pig and refreshments by The Beanery. Full details of the day will be shared on our website: www.thameschase.org.uk and across social media.

Big Band event

The Rotary Club of Hornchurch and Upminster will be holding their annual charity Big Band event at The New Windmill Hall, St Mary's Lane, Upminster. The event will feature the Ken Turner Big Band who will entertain us with music from the fabulous swing era. The date is 29th April 2023 with music from 8pm. Admission is by prepaid ticket only on sale at £25 each which includes a fish and chips, chicken and chips or vegetarian option supper. All proceeds from the evening will be donated to local charities. For tickets please contact Terry Monk on 01708 226305.

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Friday 26th May 2023

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Join us for a day of fun which will include a full english breakfast, 18 holes, prize holes, dinner and presentations.

Full details on our website: www.firststep.org.uk or call Caroline or Catherine on 01708 556355

Not a golfer? You can still support this event by sponsoring a Golf Hole, please give us a call
Vital funds raised at this event will help us with our work in supporting families of babies and young children with special needs and disabilities.

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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.

First Step Golf Day 2023

On Friday, 26th May, First Step will be holding their annual golf day at Langdon Hills Golf Club. On the day you will enjoy

a full english breakfast, 18 holes, dinner and presentations. Prizes for individual winner, winning team, nearest the pin and longest drive, plus prize holes. £95 per person (£380 per Four-Ball). To book your Four-Ball go to <https://www.firststep.org.uk/fundraising/first-step-golf-day-2023/> or call the office and speak to Caroline or Catherine on **01708 556355**.

Havering Association for People with Disabilities

Most people know us as H.A.D. We are a small charity based in the green hut just off Wingletye Lane in Hornchurch. We provide a range of groups from social clubs to wellbeing activities, art sessions, days out and lots more for adults with additional needs. All our regular groups and activities cost less than £5 and are held in our hall which is fully accessible.

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fundraising events:

24th April – Quiz Night at the Crumpled Horn, Upminster, 7pm start, £5 per person.

12th May – Golf Day at Maylands Golf Club, Romford. Meet at 9.30am for coffee and a light breakfast, £200 for a four-ball including breakfast and lunch.

If you would like to get involved or require more information you can contact us on **01708 476554**, e mail admin@hadhaverling.co.uk, follow us on social media @hadhaverling or check out our website www.hadhaverling.co.uk

Building repairs at St Laurence's Church

From mid-March until approximately the end of June, St Laurence's Church in the centre of Upminster is undergoing a programme of internal and external repairs to ensure that this beautiful, peaceful and historic place of worship can continue to be available to the local and wider community. One aspect of the

repairs will be the replacement of the weathervane that was damaged last year by Storm Eunice.

The church will continue to be open daily to visitors during this period and services continue as advertised, but please be mindful of safety when near areas where work is taking place.

As a separate initiative, the church continues with plans for a project which will introduce improvements to the building including a disabled toilet and better meeting facilities. More information about the plans is available inside the church.

The Brain Tumour Charity - The Judy D'cruz Fund

Many of you may have heard by now that my lovely wife Judy D'cruz passed away on 20th January this year after a brave and long battle with a Brain Tumour. The Judy D'cruz Fund

continued on page 13

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*Vital funds raised will help us with our work in
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which has been set up to fight to find a cure for this deadly disease currently stands at £80,210.21. I will continue this fight until a cure is found. To this end we are holding an evening of live music at the "SX", Essex Arms, 10 Warley Hill, Brentwood (30sec walk from Brentwood Station) from 8pm -11pm on Saturday, 20th May. Tickets are just £12 with every penny going to the cause due to the kind sponsorship of E.J. Roberts Roofing. Please come and join us for the first ever "JudeFest", we will raise a glass to her memory and then dance the night away as she would have loved us to do. You can donate at any time to the fund via www.judydcruz.com

WIN D'CRUZ, Ambassador,
The Brain Tumour Charity

Artisan events UK craft markets

Please note following dates at The New Windmill Hall, Upminster.
April is on Sunday, 16th and May on Sunday, 14th - both trading between 10am to 3pm.

Hornchurch Football Club

We are almost at the end of the season and what a season it has been for our local club. There has been some terrific games at the local stadium and good attendance levels. Please note the following home fixtures at The Stadium, Bridge Avenue - kick off 3pm.

Saturday, 8th April home to **Billerica Town**

Saturday, 15th home to **Bowers and Pitsea**

Come along, you'll have a great afternoon and the club also has a really nice bar.

Please keep an eye on the club's website for further news.

Upminster weather

When you meet people and mention that you are living in Upminster, many will say yes it's at the end of the District Line and a number will say you have a working windmill. With the BBC weather programme showing Upminster every day in their

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Easter Greetings

As nice as they are, Easter is not about chocolate eggs, chicks, bunnies, or even hot cross buns, but the fact that Jesus Christ was put to death, unjustly and cruelly, to restore our relationship with God. Yes, it was our sin that nailed Him to the cross - He became our substitute, so that anyone who believes and trusts in Jesus will not die, eternally, but instead, have the certain hope of Heaven. There's lots more to explain, so why not join our service on Good Friday at 10.30am in Upminster Park (or Trinity Church, if it's raining), or visit one of our churches over the Easter period? Website details are on www.ctucno.org. Happy Easter!

PAUL THOMPSON:

Leader of King's Church, Upminster, on behalf of 'Churches Together in Upminster, Cranham and North Ockendon.'

Shirley Tours

11th - 12th May, **West End Musical - Six**. Hotel stay with breakfast. Good seats in stalls for show. 8.30pm start. £99, plus £5 donation to Shirley Tours. Twin rooms, no coach.

29th July **7 nights music themed cruise "Land of the Vikings"** (Limited availability) Motown meets rock n roll legends with Kiki Dee plus Elvis impersonator. Ambassador Cruises sailing on cruise ship Ambience from Tilbury port. Ports of call include Gothenburg, Copenhagen,

Kristiansand with possible chance to visit "Graceland" new Elvis themed museum in Aarhus Denmark. Booking now, request flyer for details. Full vaccinations required.

12th to 13th December. **Thursford Spectacular Show**, Norfolk. £279pp. By coach with overnight stop at hotel in Norwich, with light lunch at Pensthorpe Wildlife Bird Sanctuary en route, Tickets for Thursford Matinee Show and Dinner at overnight hotel. Free time in Norwich next day before returning home. Now booking.

February 2024: We will be making a return visit to **Brick Lane Music Hall, Adult Panto - Peter and the Loose Boys** - contact Shirley for details.

Email: shirley@shirleytours.co.uk or call **01708 227884**

or **07966 146956** (leave name and contact details on mobile answerphone). Fund raising for James Oglethorpe, Engayne, Hall Mead schools, All Saint's Church and All Saint's scout group. Pick-ups from Jobbers Rest (can park cars there), Plough Pub, Avon Road both ends.

OUT AND ABOUT - CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

Havering Ladies Probus Club

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surroundings? If so why not come along to our meetings on the first Wednesday of the month at Top Meadow Golf Club, Fen Lane, Upminster. We are a very friendly group and have really interesting speakers and quizzes as well as theatre trips and outings, but more importantly it's a great opportunity to socialise and have a good chat and make new friends. If you would like to know more or to come along please contact our Secretary Barbara on **01708442756**. We look forward to hearing from you.

Havering Antique Collectors Club

Friday, 21st April - Steve Jester - jewellery back to basics. 7.30 for 7.45pm start. Harold Wood Neighbourhood Centre, Gubbins Lane - Annual Membership £35, Guests £5. Chairman Mrs Chris Lovett **079 4736 7258**.

The Old Chapel Tea & Talk

Wednesday 12th April - **Two Victorian Philanthropists** - Margaret Mills will talk about two Victorians with a social conscience, Sir Titus Salt and Angela Burdett-Coutts. Opinions are divided about them, and one of them scandalised Queen Victoria!

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**.

Havering & District National Trust Association

We meet on the 4th Saturday of the month in the large hall at Ardleigh House, Hornchurch. Meetings start at 2.30pm and run for 90 minutes. Our speaker on 22nd April is Paul Harrison, speaking about the '50 perennials every garden must have'. Others talks this year range from the 'world of spring flowers' to 'seasonal customs and traditions of Essex'. You don't have to be a member of the National Trust to attend. Visitors are welcome at a cost of £3 per meeting. For further details e-mail HaveringNTA@hotmail.com or call the Secretary on **07939101802**.

Interested in Playing Bowls?

Have you ever fancied taking up the best game in the summer sunshine? Then join us at Upminster Bowls club for the finest scenic setting in Essex and take up the wonderful game of bowls. The season officially begins on 29th April and the club would welcome all new members. Enjoy a great social calendar

continued on page 17



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throughout the year and all the additional facilities at Upminster which include a subsidised licenced bar with Sky TV, a snooker room, and a restaurant. The club has a lot to offer so please come down and check us out for yourself or visit the website at upminstergolfclub.co.uk for full details including pictures. If you prefer to talk and have any questions, then please contact Debra Shaw on **01708 222788** or email Debra@upminstergolfclub.co.uk We look forward to hearing from you.

The Arts Society, Havering

Our April talk will be 'Babylon: Art and Legend' by Sue Rollin. Once one of the greatest cities in the ancient world, a vanished metropolis which lay ruined and deserted for over 2000 years, its history has become bound up with myth and legend but it has never been forgotten. Taking place on Tuesday, 11th April 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**.

Havering Astronomical Society

Wednesday, 19th April, 7.15 for 7.30pm. **Konrad Malin-Smith**, founder member of the HAS, and a regular speaker to our club, will present a talk entitled '**Supernovae of the First Kind: white dwarf detonations**'.

Young Astronomers (aged 8-16)

- Thursday, 27th April 7-8pm. There is a mix of space news, talks observing when possible.

All of the above meetings held at Thames Chase, Pike Lane, Upminster. New members are always welcome. If you are interested in joining us there are more details on the website www.havastro.co.uk or email enquiries@havastro.co.uk or email young.astronomers@havastro.co.uk

Bretons Sea Angling Club

Bretons are an established sea angling club in Havering and all of Essex. New membership is now open to anyone that may be interested in joining. Novices are very welcome and friendly advice is always available. If you are interested call Peter on **07837 729229**.

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, 12th April - Peter Jones - How to do Everything and Be Happy. Peter's recent book is for ordinary people with ordinary lives. It's for people who have been ambling along and wondering why they're not, well, just that little bit happier. It's for most people and that includes you.

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

Harwood Ladies Probus

We are a group of retired

continued on page 19

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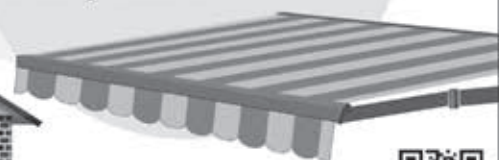
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225629**

Upminster and District Probus Club

Gentlemen, are you retired
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Club meet at the Cranleigh
Restaurant in Hornchurch on the
last Wednesday of each month,
where we enjoy a 3-course meal
followed by a speaker. Our April
speaker will be Steve Redfern who
will be talking about offensive
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The Secrets of Hever Castle

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from Neil Miller, Head Gardener
at Hever Castle. Neil's arrival
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example of being in the right
place at the right time. Neil was
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started chatting to the Head
Gardener and his enthusiasm and
passion led to a position at Hever
which he started in February
2002, becoming Head Gardener
in 2006. We go behind the
scenes of the gardens from their
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century to current times.

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upminsterhorticulturalsociety.
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Craft sale – Trinity Church

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Upminster Police update

At a recent ward panel meeting we had a speaker from Havering's Joint Task Force, who gave us an update on their work. Sgt Sehmbly had arranged this as Upminster has had a high number of thefts of motor vehicles and we have had this as one of our priorities for some time. The Task Force officer was able to outline how they use intelligence to target areas and have had significant success in recovering vehicles and disrupting activity. In January 14 vehicles were recovered across Havering and returned to their owners. Upminster crime figures show that in the last 3 months 12 vehicles were stolen which is a reduction from 17 in the same period last year. Still too high but shows a decline. The police continue to recommend the use of steering locks, drive posts and Faraday bags as preventative measures. Theft from vehicles has significantly reduced from 15 in 3 months last year to 4 in the most recent 3 months. This seems to indicate that residents are becoming more careful about locking vehicles and taking care not to leave things visible. Burglary has reduced from 5 to 4 in the same period. The SNT will be focusing on robbery, vehicle

crime and retail crime around Upminster Station for the next 3 months.

LINDA VAN DEN HENDE

Upminster Park crocuses

We often mention how nice and proud we are of our award winning park in the middle of our Town Centre. Upminster Park has an active Friends Group. Really great seeing the crocuses coming out again at the front of the park beside Corbets Tey Road. How many years has it been since they were planted?

Building On the Green Belt refused

In a previous issue of The Bulletin we reported on the Planning Application received by Havering Council at the Harwood Equestrian Centre, rear of Harwood Hall Lane for "demolition of existing buildings and construction of 9 new dwellings and associated development" on Reference P1768.22. The Application was refused by Council Officers under delegated powers. Amongst the reasons for refusal was the proposal is considered to give rise

to inappropriate development which is harmful to the openness of the Green Belt. Also the development is inappropriate in the Green Belt, loss of recreational facilities in the form of an equestrian centre which would be contrary to the Local Plan. If you wish to see the full detailed list of reasons for refusal please see Havering Council's Planning Search and insert reference P1768.22.

Subscriptions

Have you paid your £2 annual subscription for the UC&RA? 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.

Your Upminster and Cranham Residents' Association Councillors are on facebook

For Upminster search: 'UCRA Oscar Ford'
For Cranham search: 'UCRA Phil Ruck' or 'Councillor Gillian Ford'

Footsteps at St Laurence Church

St Laurence Church in the centre of Upminster is holding short services for children under 5 and their parents / carers. Services at 9.30am on Monday, 24th April and Monday, 22nd May. For further details please contact the Church Office on **01708 220696**.

Litter around bottle banks in Cranham Village

In February, I reported via the Love Clean Streets app that the area around the bottle banks and recycling bins at the rear of the public car park in Cranham Village was in a dirty state, with large amounts of broken glass and rubbish collected behind them. The message was marked up as being resolved after a couple of days, but nothing apparent has

continued on page 22



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been done at the time of writing (early March). I have therefore highlighted the issue to Havering Council and will also take up the matter of Love Clean Streets reports not being adequately dealt with, as this is not the first time that this has happened.

Cllr JOHN TYLER

Cranham Community Centre, Marlborough Gardens

We are pleased to say we are now holding 'pop up' shops. We will be showcasing any local business that wishes to sell their produce. This will be advertised on Facebook and other forums. Please contact the office if you are interested **01708 220941**. We also have our two brand new rooms back up and running if anyone is interested in hiring these. We already offer lots of classes so please check us out on Facebook or call for any more information.

Litter near Avon Road shops

Towards the end of last year, I was contacted by several residents concerning the state of the area of

Avon Road, Cranham, near to the shops.

I contacted the Council to ask for the area to have a thorough litter pick and was assured that the area would be regularly cleaned. However, anyone who has been there lately will see that this has not happened, with large amounts of litter collected in areas such as the bushes near to the bus stop opposite the shops.

I have therefore requested a meeting with a Council Officer from their Environment Department, to highlight the issue in person.

Cllr JOHN TYLER

Updated UCRA constitution

At the recent Upminster and Cranham Residents' Association (UCRA) AGM, it was agreed that minor draft changes to the constitution (Association Rules) would be formally adopted. The new Association Rules are available on our website www.ucra.co.uk - just click on the 'UCRA Rules' button on the front page.

Upminster Councillor surgery

Please note that the April surgery for your Upminster Councillors'

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will be held on Monday, 17th April at Costa Coffee on the eastern side of Station Road between 10 to 11am, a week later than usual given the Easter break. 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

Moor Lane traffic calming

I have been contacted on several occasions concerning Moor Lane immediately south of the junction with Heron Way nearest to Kings Gardens. Anyone regularly using this section of road, will know that vehicles travelling up the hill frequently have to do so on the wrong side of the road, due to parked cars, with the brow of the hill preventing vehicles travelling in either direction being able to see each other until they are quite close.

Cranham ward Councillors met with Highways Officers from Havering Council prior to the pandemic but nothing positive materialised. Towards the end of last year I contacted Highways Officers again, to request that

they look into the possibility of introducing measures to reduce the potential danger but received the reply that they would not do this as records showed that there had not been any serious accidents in the last five years. This makes no sense to me, as the risk is obvious. I have therefore contacted the Cabinet Member for Environment (whose remit covers Highways), to ask him for a meeting at the location. I will keep residents updated with any progress I make.

Cllr JOHN TYLER

David Durrant leaflet

Residents will have been receiving leaflets through their letter boxes from David Durrant. David failed to get re-elected in the 2022 May elections and it has been suggested he is looking to stand in the General Election when it is called. He has publicly denounced COVID as a conspiracy, disapproves of the COVID vaccine roll out and also disagrees with established scientific facts around climate change. This will hopefully put some context into his leafleting.

Cllr GILLIAN FORD

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