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UPMINSTER & CRANHAM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Havering Council Finance Update

A Report at Havering’s October Cabinet meeting, gave an update on the Council’s budget position in July, and the processes which will be taken to balance the budget for 2023/24. The Report identified that the Council is in a seriously difficult position financially, and will continue to incur increased Social Care and Housing costs. This is coupled with continued inflationary pressures being placed on the budget too. The Report identified a projected £23m overspend for 2023/24, with a forecast gap of £31.2m for 2024/25. The Report adds that Havering is an efficient well-run authority, which has managed its budgets carefully over many years. The difficult financial position has been due to 10 years of underfunding from the Government. In addition, the formula used to allocate Social Care Grants is based on a distribution method, that is now 10 years old. This formula does not reflect the rapid change in demand on services Havering has experienced. The Council already has low reserves, and simply does not receive enough money through grants and Council Tax to balance the increased costs of Social Care. If this equation does not change, then the Council will run out of money at some point in the near future, and be forced to issue a S114 Notice, effectively declaring the Council bankrupt. The Council has identified a number of proposals to help close the gap and these will be reported to the November Cabinet. They will consult on those proposals to make sure residents, and all key stakeholders, are fully aware and are able to voice their opinions to inform Council before decisions are taken.

Cllr CHRIS WILKINS

Contacting your Residents' Association Councillors

If you have something you'd like to draw to the attention of your Councillors, your direct line to them is through either a) their telephone contact listed on page 2 of the Bulletin or (2) their email address again on page 2. Every Councillor also has a Council email address which can be found on Your Councillors | The London Borough Of Havering . We have 6 Councillors, 3 for Upminster and 3 for Cranham. For avoidance of doubt, the area North of Upminster Station (and the railway line) is covered by Cranham Councillors, the area South by Upminster Councillors. If you have general questions or queries, you can of course contact the Bulletin email bulletinra@yahoo.co.uk, but please note this may result in a delay for you to be contacted by one of your Councillors as they do not have direct access to this mailbox.

Your help needed

We need a volunteer please each month who could drop off Bulletins to 4/5 of our deliverers. If you could also assist with delivering The Bulletin to around 40 households in Upminster each month please contact me. Help us to help you. If you can assist please contact me via email gjo.anastasi@hotmail.com or bulletinra@yahoo.co.uk .

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.

Friends Of Upminster Park – Volunteers Required

The Friends of Upminster Park (FOUP) would like to encourage more volunteers to join the Group. The Friends' Groups bring together the strengths of local communities and the Council, to make a real difference to local parks. The work of a well organised volunteer group can be extremely beneficial to both the volunteers and the park in which they work. Volunteers can meet new people and gain a sense of achievement and ownership

continued on page 2



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@CllrTyler

JohnTylerUCResidents@outlook.com

Phil Ruck 07858 188939



philruckucra@yahoo.com

of the park. If you are interested in joining FOUP can you please contact the Secretary, Barry Ward at baza.999@hotmail.co.uk or Deputy Chair Brian Flavell, at brianm1937@yahoo.co.uk, who will be able to provide you with more information regarding the above Group.

Police Positive Activity Initiative

Upminster Safer Neighbourhood Team have conducted a number of community activities recently which have included a bike marking session in the park, where 13 bikes were marked; a successful crime prevention session outside Roomes Stores, where a number of purse chains were fitted along with leaflets advising on scams; and a speed check near Waitrose, where the average speed was 25 MPH. Police were also checking for seat belt and mobile phone compliance. Regrettably a number of cars were stopped for non-compliance. In addition, walk and talk events have also been conducted. Hopefully residents will have seen our SNT out and about in the town centre and taken the opportunity to talk to them

about any issues.

LINDA VAN DEN HENDE

Alley, Dury Falls Estate

Cranham Ward Councillors have been advised that Havering Council has formally adopted the pedestrian pathway that leads from Berkeley Close in the Dury Falls Estate to Hall Lane, opposite the station, from the start of October 2023. Cranham Councillors welcome this positive move. Whilst the Council has maintained the footway for many years, the formal adoption will mean that officers and local Councillors can look towards making improvements when finances allow.

Cllr JOHN TYLER

Christmas in Upminster

The popular Christmas event in Upminster Town Centre this year is planned for 23rd November from 5 to 7pm. Fingers crossed that we can all enjoy better weather than last year, when rain stopped play.

ASSOCIATION CONTACTS

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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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Not Who is TOM but What is TOM?

Havering Council has undergone a restructure. This is unlike any others that have taken place in Havering before. The Target Operating Model (TOM for short) has moved all of the different Council Services under three Strategic Directors. They are the Directors for People, Place and Resources. All of the services will be divided across the three areas and each area will have three Cabinet Members. The senior team is now in place and the process is underway to align all of the other departments and finances. Streamlining the Council in this way removes the siloed approach to working, with teams working more collaboratively. A good example of this is the removal of the cliff edge of children moving into adult services as the departments are now linked under People. In the not too distant future we will be launching the new communications system which should offer residents a much better way of communicating and

reporting through to the Council. We will advise of this closer to the time.

Cllr GILLIAN FORD

There and back again

The Council has drafted proposals for changes to its School Transport Policy and is consulting on these. The Council provides additional home to school transport support for children, according to their needs and abilities, in line with statutory guidance. The changes proposed are designed in part to help in the Council's drive to control expenditure. The main change will be a move away from expensive direct provision of taxi and bus transport, and towards personal budgets to support a more personalised range of transport options that better meet the needs of families.

The consultation will run throughout October. The Council also plans to hold a face-to-face event at the beginning of November. Further details will be found on the Council's Consultation page: <https://consultation.havering.gov.uk/>

Cllr OSCAR FORD

Local Heritage List nominations open

Havering Council previously asked residents for input into their Local Heritage List Criteria - now they want to hear about what you think should be included on the Local Heritage List.

Havering's Local Heritage List helps our communities and the local planning authority to identify heritage assets that are much loved and a distinctive part of our local historic environment. This could be a building, structure, monument, gardens, etc. All nominations received will be assessed by heritage experts against the criteria which was previously consulted on. The current list of heritage assets can be found on the Havering Heritage Register [havering.gov.uk/downloads/file/1403/heritage_register](https://www.havering.gov.uk/downloads/file/1403/heritage_register). You won't need to nominate buildings that are already on the list. To submit a nomination or nominations, visit Havering Local Heritage List Nominations webpage via consultation.havering.gov.uk/

planning/local-heritage-list-nominations/. Nominations close on 20 December 2023.

Cllr JOHN TYLER

New waste contract begins

Monday, 23rd October saw the launch of the new waste collection contract with Urbasser. Urbasser will not only be collecting our waste, recycling, green waste and eventually food waste, they will also be responsible for highways clearance and weed killing. Initially, you will continue using the orange sacks that are currently provided until stocks run out, when they will be replaced with a stronger bag.

The new service will see the introduction of new items for collection which includes glass and plastic containers. You can already dispose of batteries, small electrical appliances (hairdryers, irons), mixed textiles and clothes in separate bags through door-step collections, but there will be a new collection service with dedicated collection bags for used coffee pods.

Cllr GILLIAN FORD

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Fraud crimes are on the increase. A lot of such crimes occur online (cybercrime) but there are still the traditional dubious 'door knockers' and people dropping leaflets through the doors. Please always be cautious with whom you are dealing with.

If they are a tradesman, check them out on one of the professional trade sites eg www.checkatrade.com. They may be members, or say they are members of a professional guild. Again check that out. Sole traders and partnerships are usually people who act alone or with one or two other people. Ask to see letter-head paper and if they are a limited company, you can check them out on the Companies House website www.gov.uk/government/organisations/companies-house. If they are happy to give you their business or home address that is a good sign. Most traders now use mobile phones, so not always possible to check where that might be registered (unlike for example a 01708 landline number, which indicates it is a Romford local number or even a

01708 22 number which is usually Upminster area).

In the unfortunate event you do fall prey to a scam, you should report to Action Fraud which is the UK national reporting centre for scams, fraud and cybercrime. You can call an advisor on **0300 123 2040** or register the claim online www.actionfraud.police.uk.

Cllr JACQUELINE WILLIAMS

The Hole Truth

It sometimes feels that we have a plague of street works causing disruption to traffic through the area. I recently contacted the Council's Highways department regarding overrunning works in St Mary's Lane. The Council has to facilitate the organisations that have statutory responsibilities and powers to carry out works, and there is a responsibility to minimise disruption. Works can be extended within reason, it is not always certain what will be found when you open up the ground, but the Council does have powers to levy charges if works extend beyond permitted timescales. For information on planned and current roadworks

the following website can be helpful: <https://one.network/>

Cllr OSCAR FORD

Winter is coming – Havering Helps

Havering Council have launched their 'Winter is coming' campaign, which is part of Havering Helps, their Cost of Living support network. Their Cost of Living website support page is available via havering.gov.uk/financialadviceandcol, and contains all the information residents need to check their benefit entitlements, increase their income, ensure their home is ready for winter and much more.

You can make sure you are ready by following these simple steps on the support page:

- Book a free Energy Doctor appointment
- Check the benefits calculator
- Sign up for the Cost of Living bulletin

Substance abuse

Havering is working with its key partners to ensure that there is a coordinated approach to tackling the issues arising from substance abuse. Drug use increases crime, damages people's health, puts children and families at risk and reduces productivity. Substance misuse not only harms the individual, but also their family, communities and society. Havering Council is seeking feedback on its proposed Combating Substance Misuse Strategy 2023-2028. The consultation runs for 6 weeks, starting 18 September to 29 October 2023. Details can be accessed via this web link: <https://consultation.havering.gov.uk/public-health/havering-combating-substance-misuse-strategy/?fbclid=IwAR2aGvmxKKK7xBwblFd26XkFDuvFxFXzg3V15jeflrnRTKzyKdgYOh9pCgk>

Cllr GILLIAN FORD

Local Government Finance

As my article in last month's Bulletin went to press, further

continued on page 7

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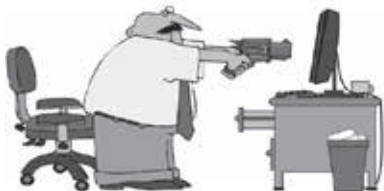
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Councils issued Section 114 notices (S114) which enables Council Officers to limit expenditure. They do not need Councillors' permission to do this. Woking Council went into emergency financial measures in June. As previously pointed out this follows Croydon and Havering's neighbour, Thurrock. Birmingham City Council, one of the largest in the UK, issued its own S114 notice thus going into emergency measures. A number of other Councils are on the brink of going under as well. Looking at the financial figures it was quoted in the national press that it costs £100 billion to run local authorities a year. The Local Government Association who are the national voice of local Government working on behalf of member councils to support, promote and improve local Government estimate that Councils face a funding gap of £3 billion over the next two years. Why are so many Councils in such a dire financial situation?

Severe cut backs from Central Government grants, record levels of inflation and the huge rise in demand for services, especially adult social care. Havering has one of the largest elderly

populations in the country - talking to a wide range of residents in our community many local elderly residents are making their own arrangements for social care, however their savings cannot go on forever. Without doubt there will be a General Election next year and we have already seen this Government flip-flopping and making major U-turns on policies in an effort to stay in power. Havering Council is facing its biggest financial struggle in the history of the Borough. Looking at other Councils where there has been huge cut backs in services, we should be aware the Government, of whatever political persuasion, needs to act now.

RON OWER

Upminster Windmill Restoration

Press and media were invited to the official opening of the Upminster Windmill on 14th September. The event told the story of a local community group with serious ambition to deliver a world-class restoration

of a 200 year old windmill to working order. Following a 7-year transformational project, led by passionate volunteers, the windmill has undergone full restoration and now has a new lease of life both as an icon of the area's heritage and as a community and education hub, fit for the 21st century. You may have seen the story featured on BBC news. The windmill really is a fabulous sight to see and something for Upminster to be very proud of.



Thames Chase - November 2023

Make it a magical Christmas at Thames Chase this November with our fabulous festive events. Join us for an enchanting afternoon of live music, with soul-stirring melodies from folk duo Christina Alden and Alex Patterson on 5th November. The folk duo will be stopping by Thames Chase as part of their

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UK tour this Autumn. Tickets are available via the Thames Chase Visitor Centre **01708 642970** and you can learn more about the folk duo here: christinaaldenandalexpatterson.com.

This year's bumper Christmas Market takes place on 18th and 19th November from 10am - 3pm. A chance to shop local and pick up a unique gift for a loved one or treat yourself. There will also be a chance to take part in Christmas Eve Box decorating and some Christmas crafts for children. The Thames Chase Forest Centre Tea Room will also be open serving a selection of hot food and winter warmers.

In memory of Sgt Graham Saville

It was very sad to hear of the death of Graham Saville, a serving Police Officer who sadly lost his life after being hit by train while trying to save a distressed



continued on page 9

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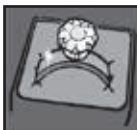


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man in Newark in August. This tragedy received significant coverage in the national media. A former resident of Upminster, Graham will be known locally having lived in Upminster from 1976 attending Oglethorpe Infants School, Upminster Junior School and then Coopers. He went to cubs and scouts in Upminster until he went to the University of Northumbria in Newcastle. After a successful early career in Management Accountancy he became a Police Special volunteer and enjoyed the response work so much he joined the Police full time, working first in the Met in Newham, until the family moved to Nottingham and he joined the Nottinghamshire Police. He leaves behind a loving wife, two young children and two pet dogs, in addition to his parents and sister, who live locally. Social media has warm tributes from many friends and work colleagues showing what a popular man and wonderful Police Officer he was.

Something In The Air

The issues surrounding disposable vapes have made the

news recently, with a potential ban mooted. Concerns over the take up of vaping by young people are serious, with colourful displays and cheap purchase prices being contributing factors, despite the ban on sales to those under 18. Environmental concerns are also an issue due to the throw away nature of items that are predominantly plastic and can present a potential fire hazard from lithium batteries. Sadly, it is not uncommon to see these items discarded on the streets and in our parks. Some high street retailers have already taken the step to stop selling these items, Superdrug being one example, but more needs to be done to restrict access and to educate our young people about the associated health risks.

Cllr OSCAR FORD

Noël, Noël by Peter Larner

We are delighted to share with you a summary of the newly published children's book written by our very own Upminster based author Peter Larner. Peter has been an Upminster resident for over 30

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years and has written 16 novels, now venturing into children's literature.

Cribble is coming for Christmas - one stormy December night, two children are astonished to discover an elf in their bedroom. As the shadowy figure steps out from the gloom, they see a pair of startled eyes gazing back. It is impossible to say who is more shocked, Isobel, Jack, or the peculiar elf with floppy ears staring at them in utter surprise. 'Gundyguts, Gundyguts,' the elf sighs. Cribble's job is to find ways for Santa to get into houses to leave presents at Christmas. He explains this is a frequent problem nowadays, as Santa has fewer chimneys to climb down. To dissuade them from telling Santa they have seen him, the time-travelling elf agrees to take the children back to Bethlehem to witness the nativity. But an error on their return journey causes them to arrive home in the future.

Noël, Noël is a heart-warming adventure of kindness and collaboration. An ideal Christmas gift, available from Amazon from 20th October - £7.99.

Father Christmas comes to Thames Chase

Can you help Father Christmas fix his sleigh in time for Christmas Eve? Join Father Christmas and his helpers in his magical workshop. Let your child feel the magic of Christmas, here at Thames Chase. Let your child be told a story by Father Christmas, take part in the magic of fixing his sleigh, make some reindeer food for Christmas Eve and then take photos with Father Christmas and his sleigh, whilst receiving a gift from the Big Man. This really is one grotto experience not to be missed. Our 17th century barn will be transformed into Father Christmas' workshop. The experience will last for 30-45 minutes. Please ensure that everyone is wrapped up warm as it gets cold in the North Pole. (Parents/carers must stay with their child during this magical experience). Various dates from 25th November and throughout December, including a relaxed session on 3rd December suitable for anyone with additional needs.

continued on page 11



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One day travel cards

I was disappointed to hear Transport for London are stopping the sale of one day travel cards. I understand over 40 million were sold last year. They are very convenient, especially for visitors to London. The alternative is Oyster cards and contactless card payments.

RON OWEER

Fireworks and Pets

Once again it is that time of the year where we celebrate by letting off fireworks. Each year they are louder and brighter. If you are going to host a firework party please consider peoples' pets. The sudden loud noises and flashes combined with the smell of smoke can be terrifying for pets and wildlife alike. Cats and dogs should be kept indoors after dark and close curtains

and put the TV volume up to disguise the light and sounds. A box or table covered with a large blanket to make a secure den in which to hide can help and remember to stay calm yourself to avoid transmitting your fears to your pets. Outdoor pets should ideally be brought inside or into an outbuilding. Remember too that your bonfire might be seen as an ideal place for a hedgehog to hibernate so please check prior to lighting it. For advice about pets this season please telephone Lawton and Stoakes **01708 384444**.

Review: The Invincibles – Queen's Theatre

This year has seen a real resurgence in interest in women's football, culminating in the Lionesses' almost perfect World Cup run. It's unbelievable to think that women were actually banned from playing professional football by the FA from 1921 until 1970.

This play juxtaposes England's 2023 World Cup story with that of a 1917 women's team, Sterling Ladies, who came from

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Dagenham. In an unbeaten run they came to be known as The Invincibles, but, in spite of their success, were forced to give it all up when the men came back from the trenches and life returned to some sort of pre-war normality.

On a minimal set that features a turntable stage and LED goalposts, on which most of the action is played out, this production tells the story of the formidable bunch of factory girls who fulfilled their dream of playing football and in the process, raised money for the troops fighting in Flanders fields. Their reasoning - they were working in men's jobs so why couldn't they play men's sport? Meanwhile in London in 2023, injury forces a passionate young teenager to give up the game she loves. She defies her mother by avidly following the Lionesses' victories as they march towards the World Cup final and hopes for glory whilst she decides what to do with the rest of her life.

The scenes cleverly interweave as we follow them on their journey and realise their stories aren't so different.

Although this show is no longer at the Queen's Theatre, they

have many other exciting new shows fast approaching such as Blueprint, Killing Jack and of course the iconic pantomime which this year is Dick Whittington!

ROSIE MEADWAY

Upminster Art Society Exhibition

The Society will be exhibiting members' paintings at Upminster Library from Monday, 6th to Saturday, 18th November. There will be a varied range of subjects and all paintings will be for sale. Please come along and take a look. For more information contact Terry on **07880 770324**.

Hornchurch Football Club

Please note the following home fixtures this month: Saturday, 4th November, Enfield Town; Saturday, 18th November, Potters Bar Town; Saturday, 2nd December, Whitehawk. Kick off 3pm. Go along and support your local football team at The

continued on page 13

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Hornchurch and Upminster Fund Raising Group are holding a quiz fund raising event on Monday 27th November at **The Crumpled Horn pub**, 33-37 Corbets Tey Road, Upminster, RM14 2AJ at 7.30pm.

Tickets are £7.00 each and a maximum of 8 people per table and over 18 years only. There will also be a raffle drawn on the evening. We are only able to accept cash. The pub's kitchen will be open for food orders at your own expense.

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Engayne Primary School receives prestigious Artsmark Award

Pupils and staff at Engayne Primary School are celebrating after receiving a prestigious Artsmark Award in a momentous year for the programme as it celebrates 20 years of arts, culture and creativity in schools. The Artsmark Award is the only creative quality standard for schools, accredited by Arts Council England. It supports schools to develop and celebrate arts and cultural education, putting creativity and wellbeing at the heart of the curriculum. Artsmark ensures every young person can be creative and access a diverse, high-quality cultural education. In order to achieve their Artsmark Award, the School

had to develop their arts and culture provision to embed a broad and ambitious curriculum. This was achieved by creating an overall plan that was committed to and delivered across the whole school.

On receiving the award, Head teacher, Sara Sankey said: "We're extremely proud of achieving our Artsmark Platinum Award. We are committed to delivering a high-quality arts and cultural education and we look forward to continue to grow with Artsmark. I would like to thank Miss Jupp, Art leader and Mrs Francis, Governor for their work on the award but also all the staff and children for their commitment. We are the only school in Havering to have achieved this".

OASIS

On behalf of everyone at Oasis, thank you UCRA for your generous donation towards our summer coach trip. Oasis is an all-age accessible church group that meets once a month on a Sunday afternoon at Cranham Baptist Church. In August, we travelled from Cranham Baptist Church to Southend Sea Life Centre to enjoy a day at the

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seaside. The staff at Sea Life were very welcoming and helpful and we all appreciated the visit. Most of us indulged in the traditional fish and chips in their café. The weather wasn't that great but some of us braved the wind and rain to go on the rides in the Adventure Island. With UCRA's support, our Oasis members were able to have a social day with no worries about travel or booking tickets. We are an informal friendly group and everyone is welcome. To find out more, contact Daisy on **01708 223551** or **07714 853545**

Upminster School Fireworks

Please come along to Upminster Infant and Junior School playing field on Saturday, 4th November for our annual Fireworks display. Doors open at 4.30pm and the display will start at 6.30pm. As usual, a fantastic fireworks display, food vans, lots of glow products, etc. Please visit our website www.uspfa.co.uk for more details. We look forward to seeing you there.

Musicals & Medleys – New Dawn Chorus

Queen's Theatre - Sunday, 12th November at 2.30pm - tickets £5. New Dawn Chorus is a local Community Choir that was only formed this year and entertains at friendship clubs, care homes, and day centres, offering a wide range of songs that will get your toes a-tapping! We raise money for Saint Francis Hospice and other local charities.

Following our first performance at Queen's in June, we were thrilled by the wonderful comments and standing ovation by the audience, and that all tickets were snapped up 3 weeks before our highly successful show. Although our members are mature, they are young at heart and love singing and bringing a smile to the faces of our audiences who are actively encouraged to join in. As before, this concert will include songs from the 60's, from musicals, and exciting medleys and you will be taken on a nostalgic journey

continued on page 15

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to register for your free trial or visit [@singtokofficial](#). We will be performing in Romford for the Christmas light switch-on on 26th November so come and say hello!

Coopers Coborn Annual Fireworks

Annual Fireworks display Saturday, 11th November. Gates open at 5pm with the display due to start at 6.30pm. Pop up craft fayre, BBQ/Bar and music throughout the evening. Limited free parking available on site. Advanced ticket sales: Adult £7, Children (Under 16s) £5. Family ticket £18 available all available from the School Shop or Office. Tickets on the night: Adult £8,

Children (Under 16s) £6 and under 3 Free.

Christmas Judefest

On 9th December 8-11pm at Cranham Community Centre, Marlborough Gardens, RM14 1SR we will be holding Christmas Judefest - an evening of live music entertainment. Last year's event was sold out and the place was packed to the rafters. This year to make things more comfortable we are limiting ticket sales so please purchase your tickets early. Tickets are £12pp and can be purchased by contacting me on **07896724768** or email judyandwin@ntlworld.com. Please bring your own food and drink.

OUT AND ABOUT - CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

Pats Pottery Club

For over 40 years, pottery classes have been taking place every Wednesday in Ardleigh Green and new members are always welcome to come along and have a go. Whether you are a seasoned potter or complete novice, the friendly club at Ardleigh House on Ardleigh Green Road will help you learn, develop or simply have a go at making pots, bowls

continued on page 17

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The World of Flowers: Spring Bulbs

Nick Dobson joins us again after a few years absence. Previously he has entertained us with his knowledge of fuchsias and dahlias, this time it is the turn of Spring bulbs. Nick will provide a lavishly illustrated look at four of our favourite Spring Bulbs: Snowdrops, Crocuses, Narcissi and Tulips. If you have not decided what to plant come along to find out more. The lecture is on Tuesday, 14th November in the Windmill Hall. Doors open 7.15pm, for a 7.45pm start. There are refreshments during the interval and a raffle at the end of the evening closing at 9.45pm. Entrance is free to members and £3 for non-members. You can find out more about our society by visiting our website www.upminsterhorticulturalsociety.co.uk or the Upminster Horticultural Society Facebook

Havering Astronomical Society

Wednesday, 15th November, 7.15 for 7.30pm. Nik Szymanek – amateur astronomer, renowned astrophotographer and author – will present a talk entitled **'Update on Robotic Imaging'**. **Young Astronomers** (aged 8-16) *Thursday, 30th November,* 7 to 8pm. A mix of space news, talks and observing when possible. Contact young.astronomers@havaastro.co.uk for more details. Meetings held at Thames Chase Forest Centre, Pike Lane, Upminster. If you are interested

in joining the society, please email enquiries@havaastro.co.uk or look at our website www.havaastro.co.uk.

Friends of the Old Chapel – Tea and Talks

Wednesday, 9th November – Tis the season to be jolly – Christmas comes early at the Old Chapel. Danielle Barnett will take us on a fun look at the weird, wonderful and somewhat wacky Christmas traditions all over the world. Venue: 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. Teas and coffee served at the end of the meeting.

Craft sale – Trinity Church

Coffee morning and Christmas themed sale of crafts and goods in the Commemoration Hall at Trinity Church, Station Road, Upminster on Saturday, 11th November from 10am to 12noon. There will also be a cake stall and all proceeds to Harold Hill Foodbank, Trinity's charity for this year.

"Learn, Laugh and Live"

Havering U3A meets in the Hall of Romford Baptist Church, Main Road, RM1 3BL. We meet on the second Wednesday of each month from 2pm. Wednesday, 8th November, My Story – Tracy Mackness. Tracy is a former prisoner turned farmer and is the owner of the successful 'farm to fork' Giggly Pig company, selling sausages and hog roasts at farmers' markets across the UK. Born and still working in Harold Hill, her story is truly special. For more information see our

continued on page 19

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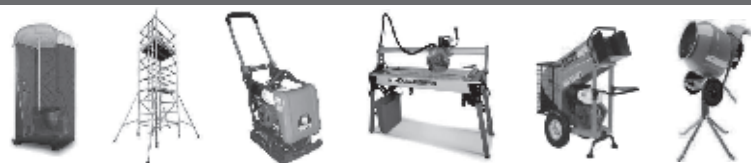
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Saturday Talks Club

History of Lifeboats : Grace
Darling. Speaker is Mark Lewis
on Saturday, 11th November
2pm - 4pm (doors open 1.45pm).
Venue Roope Hall, Trinity United
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/ porcupiner@hotmail.com
Mrs G. Blake **01708227512 /**
07788751407 / arwb@aol.com

Havering Singers Concert

Saturday, 18th November at
7.30pm. Fauré - Requiem &
Poulenc - Gloria

Venue St Peter's Church, Gubbins
Lane, Harold Wood. Tickets
£15 from Choir website www.haveringsingers.org.uk / ticket
hotline **07342 883211** or on the
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Ardleigh House

**Cruise into Christmas - Monday,
11 December 2023.** This is
traditionally our last trip of
the year. A 3 hour cruise along
the Thames with a free glass of
prosecco, 3 course Christmas
hot turkey lunch, with all the
trimmings, tea/coffee a DJ and
Christmas music and everyone
dancing. It's become our
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Havering Essex Wildlife Trust Talk

Monday, 13th November,
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Schwar will talk about South
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South Essex Townswomen's Guild Leisure Day 2023

Our annual leisure day will be
held on Tuesday, 28th November
at the New Windmill Hall, St
Mary's Lane, Upminster. Doors
will be open from 9.30am. Tea,
coffee and biscuits will be served,
followed by three informative and
entertaining speakers. There will
be a break for lunch when ladies
can enjoy the local lunch venues.
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Cop Corner

As reports of anti-social behaviour rise across London, one type of anti-social behaviour that is particularly concerning to Londoners is the use of nitrous oxide or "Laughing Gas". Offences relating to nitrous oxide, fall under the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016. In this act, a psychoactive substance means any substance which is capable of producing a psychoactive effect in a person who consumes it, and is not an 'exempted substance'. Exempted substances are controlled drugs, medicinal products, alcohol, nicotine and tobacco products, caffeine and food, unless they contain a psychoactive substance or prohibited ingredient.

Under the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016, possession of a psychoactive substance is not a criminal offence, unless it takes place in a 'Custodial institution', such as a prison. However, producing, supplying or offering to supply, possession with intent to supply; and importing or exporting a psychoactive substance are criminal offences. Committing any of these offences can carry a penalty of up to 12 months' imprisonment and/or a fine, if convicted on summary. However, if convicted on indictment, the penalty can be up to 7 years imprisonment and/or a fine.

In regards to what you should do if you find any discarded canisters in the street. You should, in short, put them in the bin. This goes for all quantities and sizes of canisters, this is because once they are empty they cannot be reused and have no forensic value. In recent news, it is suggested that the Government intend to make possession of a psychoactive substance a criminal offence by the end of the year. However, if this were to happen, it is likely that it wouldn't come in to effect until summer 2024.

'Working together for a Safer London'

PC Jack Donaldson 2422EA
Upminster Safer Neighbourhood Team

Christmas Tree Festival 2023 - 2nd to 10th December

Christmas is starting earlier than usual at the Upminster Methodist Church with a Charity Christmas card sale and coffee morning on Saturday, 4th November from 10am-12noon. Four weeks later, on Saturday, 2nd December, the Christmas Tree Festival will open in the church. We have invited local schools and organisations to decorate trees on the theme

of "Curtain Up - A Celebration of Musicals." There will be a Christmas Market on Saturday, 2nd December from 10am-3pm in the church hall with stalls selling crafts and gifts. Refreshments and lunches will be available.

During the week the festival will be open in the church as follows: Saturdays 10-4pm; Sundays 12-4pm and Weekdays 2-6pm. We hope you will visit and enjoy a lovely introduction to the Christmas season. Entrance is free, and money raised through donations will be given to our chosen charity, which this year is St Francis Hospice. For more details, please email: upminstertreefest@gmail.com

Regeneration of land in Brunswick Avenue

Local residents in the Brunswick Avenue area of Cranham will know about a small patch of Council owned land at the junction with Roseberry Gardens that has been left unkempt for many years. I have been lobbying Havering Council over an extended period of time for the land to be brightened up and turned into something that the community can see as an asset. I am pleased

to announce that in September the Council agreed to do this, with the work being undertaken by Mears, as part of their Social Value Projects. Hopefully it should be complete by the time you read this. The works include clearing the weeds and stripping it back, putting down a membrane to prevent future growth and lay shingles on top, while also adding a bench and shrubs/flowers in the squares. Thank you to Mears and to the Council Officers involved in making this happen.

Cllr JOHN TYLER

Proposed School Streets Zones rejected in Cranham and Upminster

In late September, Havering Council announced that several new School Streets Zones would be implemented across Havering. However, both of the ones previously proposed for Upminster and Cranham, for Gaynes School in Brackendale Gardens, Upminster and Engayne Primary School in Severn Drive, Cranham, will not be going ahead following objections from residents. Over 90% of responses

continued on page 22

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to the Engayne consultation were against the proposal, with two-thirds of the responders to the Gaynes proposal also objecting. For full details of the consultation results, plus information on the schemes which will be implemented, see the link included in our website post.ucra.co.uk/proposed-school-streets-zones-rejected-in-cranham-and-upminster/.

Cllr JOHN TYLER

Cedar Avenue Consultation

Upminster Councillors were alerted to resident's concerns about a recent Council consultation on a proposal to implement one-way restrictions in Cedar Avenue. The road already has established School Street Zone restrictions, and it was not clear how the new proposal would improve the current arrangement. The proposal also included a pedestrian crossing in Gaynes Park Road, near to the junction with Cedar Avenue. We would

like to thank the residents who contacted us directly about the proposal, we shared your concerns and had some issues with the consultation process itself, all of which were fed through to Council Officers and the Cabinet Lead for Highways. It was agreed that the one-way element would not be progressed, with the pedestrian crossing subject to further consideration, based upon consultation feedback. Thank you to all who responded.

Cllr OSCAR FORD

Cranham ward Councillor drop-in sessions

Do you have any problems with Council services in the Cranham ward? Your Cranham ward Councillors can be contacted throughout the year, but if you want to talk to them in person you can meet them at one of their drop-in sessions. The next one will be on the 1 November, 11am-12noon, Cafe 4 You, Front Lane.




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21 Station Road, Upminster

We keep a close eye each week on Planning Applications and noted the following application at 21 Station Road, recently the Gadgets shop for mobile

phones etc. On Application J 0029.23 "Application for Prior Notification of development from Class E (ie shops, offices, cafes etc) to Class C3 (ie dwelling houses)". For further information please see Havering Council Planning Search.

UCRA website available via Q code

If you haven't visited the Upminster and Cranham Residents' Association website ucra.co.uk recently, it is well worth taking a look. The website is updated regularly with local news and information, including links to recent planning applications, plus events from various clubs and societies. For those using a phone, opposite is a QR code to take a look



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