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***Your Bulletin team
wish all our readers
a wonderful Christmas
and a happy and healthy
New Year***

Christmas card designed by Jacob, Corbets Tey School
– see Pinney Talfourd article on page 5.



**Havering Council
2024/25 Budget
Consultation update**

A Report at Havering’s November Cabinet meeting gave an update on the Council’s budget proposals for 2024/25, as well as how they intend to carry out their Budget Consultation with residents. The Report identified that the Council is still facing serious funding issues. This is covered in more detail in another article in the Bulletin. The Council launched the Budget Consultation on 8th November, and it will run until 18th December. All residents should have received a Budget Consultation leaflet, which advises how to respond to next year’s Budget proposals. The proposals in the Consultation have highlighted significant changes to how Services are being provided, and how they impact on residents. These include:

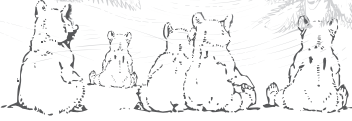
- Significant increases to parking charges, as well as charging on Sundays
- Consult on the principle of reducing the number of public libraries
- Increase garden waste fees
- Continue to review alternate weekly waste collection, in readiness for changes in Government legislation

Please note the Budget Consultation information can be found on www.havering.gov.uk/budget24 . Also, Budget questionnaire will be available at local libraries. If you have still not provided feedback please do so, as your views are important and will help the Council decide how it prioritises our Services, and where to make savings.

Cllr CHRIS WILKINS - Chairman Upminster and Cranham Residents’ Association

Cllr CHRIS WILKINS


Christmas at the Queen's
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Monday 4 December 2023
11 am - 1 pm | Queen's Theatre Hornchurch

Pinney Talfourd is delighted to host our annual Christmas Charity Concert at the Queen's Theatre. The concert will be lead by the Hornchurch Can't Sing Choir with guest appearances from the Children of Benhurst Primary School and Pinney Talfourd Singers. Tickets are free however we do recommend a minimum £2 donation. To book your tickets, please call the Queen's Theatre Box Office on 01708 443 333 or visit www.queens-theatre.co.uk

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Phil Ruck 07858 188939



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Bus Stop Build Out? No Thanks.

Upminster Councillors were recently asked to consider a plan to build out the bus stop adjacent to Gridiron Place (opposite St Joseph's Church). Whilst this would alleviate the crowding of the footpath that occurs during school home times, it was pointed out that with the bus stopped in the line of traffic, this would rapidly create a build-up back to the Bell Corner junction; a location that already experiences issues at peak times. The Highways Officers have therefore reviewed the options and will shortly be meeting with Councillors to consider further proposals to relieve the crowding problem at this location.

Cllr OSCAR FORD

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

gio.anastasi@hotmail.com or
bulletinra@yahoo.co.uk.

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 here on page 2 of the Bulletin or (2) their email address again found here on page 2. Every Councillor also has a Council e-mail address which can be found on the Council's website **havering.gov.uk** by entering Your Councillors in the search box. 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.

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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20mph speed

My recent article on looking at trying to limit our speed to 20mph certainly raised a lot of interest from residents; I apologise but far too many to respond to individually. The purpose of the article was to highlight the increase in traffic speed on our local roads and the associated higher risk to pedestrians. Having recently returned from Wales, where a compulsory 20mph speed limit has been introduced in residential areas, I have noticed that whilst I do not consider it to be a huge benefit to the environment, as a driver it made you more aware of surrounding circumstances. I am not proposing the introduction of the same in our area, if only because it is impossible to enforce correctly. However I would urge you to consider your speed, particularly in those areas around schools.

Cllr PHIL RUCK

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

Ticket offices

I was pleased to hear at the end of October the decision of the rail companies to withdraw their proposals to shut around 1,000 railway station ticket offices. I understand over 750,000 complaints were received. This has come as a huge relief to a wide range of Havering residents, especially at Upminster station where a number of elderly local residents had expressed concern over any possible closure of the

ticket offices. Many commented that they like to deal with staff direct, not a machine. The staff can also answer questions on train times etc. We often comment that the C2C service on the Fenchurch Street line to Southend has been excellent. The rail company has made vast improvements at the station, especially the side entrance at the railway approach making it a lot easier for passengers to use the station car park. This Association requested the permanent entrance many years ago.

RON OWER

Havering Council finances

You may have seen many articles/social media posts about Havering Council going bankrupt. What has actually happened is that the Council cannot meet its operating expenses with its current levels of funding. In this case the Officer responsible for the Council's financial affairs (known as the Section 151 Officer) will declare a Section 114 notice, advising all to that effect. It does not mean the Council is bankrupt, as the

Council will use its reserves to top up any shortfall. However, the Council does not have endless reserves and unless the funding/income issues are addressed, then the Council will ultimately become bankrupt. You might ask how have we got to this situation? Well, in very simplistic terms, we have an ageing population in the Borough (2nd highest in London and increasing) and this combined with a very high level of younger people, means our costs to cover these areas have increased and now represent 78% of our total costs, with this percentage increasing year on year.

The burden of such costs falls upon the Council who get little support from central Government. When you consider the above, plus the impact of inflation and higher interest rates and many other factors, it is not difficult to see how costs have risen.

The Council receives its income from Council tax, fees it can generate and Government funding, but central Government funding has reduced from £70m in 2010 to £1.5m this year. The above highlights the restraints

continued on page 5

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the Council is operating under. The Council implements savings whenever it can. Of course the Council is not perfect and there are still areas to be reviewed, but there are now no savings in areas to be made that do not dramatically impact the services we deliver. Basically the Council has no alternative but to make cuts and these cuts will not be what the current Administration of the Council want to make, but has to make. It is easy to point fingers of blame, but we are where we are to use an often quoted phrase.

However, the Government needs to address the inequality of its distribution of funding, particularly in the area of adult social care and children's services. It also needs to increase the total amount of that funding to recognise the changes in our community, locally and nationally. Havering Council is doing what it can, and records show it has (Havering Council is recognised as a low cost/high standard provider of services) but things need to change. Time will tell how we do, unfortunately we are running out of time ...

Cllr PHIL RUCK

Christmas cards at Pinney Talfourd

At Pinney Talfourd, we cherish the spirit of togetherness during Christmas. We collaborate annually with Corbets Tey School, who cater to young children with complex learning needs, to craft our Christmas card. This tradition is a source of joy for our team. We're thrilled to announce Jacob from Mulberry class as this year's winner, with his delightful polar bear design featured on page 1. Brooke from Apple class (*featured here*) is our runner-up, and their artwork will grace the front and back of our Christmas card.

Jacob receives a £30 voucher, while Brooke receives a £20 voucher (courtesy of the Bulletin). Additionally, every finalist from



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each class will be awarded a £10 voucher for their dedication. We extend our gratitude to all participants, as the children's hard work this year has been truly commendable.

Jill Jenkins

In October Jill Jenkins sadly passed away peacefully at the grand age of 90 years. An Upminster resident for more than 60 years, Jill would have been known to many. She was formerly the Head of PE at Gaynes School and a very popular teacher and member of staff. Following her retirement, she worked as a volunteer at St Francis Hospice. Jill was the daughter of a well-known Punch



Cartoon image shared by Jill's family

cartoonist, Lawrie Siggs and some of our residents may recall those cartoons being included in The Bulletin for a number of years. Jill also published a book "Promise Me You Won't Laugh" which included her favourite selection of cartoons and she held an exhibition of Lawrie's work at Upminster Library. Jill leaves behind 4 children and 7 grandchildren. Rest in peace Jill and thank you for your services to our community.

Upminster Sanctuary 25th Anniversary

The Upminster Complementary Healing and Teaching Sanctuary based in Pea Lane celebrates its 25th anniversary. Congratulations to founder, Julia Massey, master healer and pioneer in the field of complementary therapies, whose tireless vision and dedication has transformed this once abandoned farm labourers cottage into the vibrant and productive centre we see today. 50 years on, this

continued on page 7

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Visit the Sanctuary at www.UpminsterSanctuary.com or call 01708 2251124 to book.

Thames Chase

Christmas celebration: Sunday, 17th December, 10am - 3pm.

Join us at Thames Chase for a truly magical celebration. Our festive timetable of the day includes:

10.30am - Havering Music School Brass Orchestra

10.30am - Christmas Eve Box Decorating (fee payable)

11am - Hilary Barkwith - Harpist
1pm - North Ockendon Handbell Ringers

1pm - Christmas Eve Box Decorating (fee payable)

2pm - 4pm - A special visitor from the North Pole ...

2.30pm - The Capella Singers of Upminster Choir singing Christmas Carols.

There will be a selection of stalls and lots of fun arts and crafts to keep the little ones entertained. The Thames Chase Forest Centre Tea Room will also be open. We look forward to seeing you!

Libby Hearn fundraising

We were delighted to hear about the fundraising efforts of Libby Hearn, a 9 year old girl from Upminster and a pupil at St Joseph's Catholic primary school. Throughout the month of September, Libby rode a range of horses to raise money for 'Canter for a Cure', a bone cancer charity.

During the month she rode over 90 miles and raised £540. Such a fantastic achievement and her family and friends are so proud of her. Well done Libby, you really have proved that you can achieve anything you want to and we hope your efforts inspire other young people to do what they can, where they can when help is needed.



Well done Hall Mead

As Headteacher of Hall Mead School, I am delighted to announce that Hall Mead School has retained its 'outstanding' judgement by Ofsted, as received in our latest inspection conducted in September 2023.

As I am sure you can appreciate, after a long ten years' wait, there has been an incredible amount

of hard work behind the scenes invested into maintaining this 'outstanding' judgement, and we are thrilled that this has been recognised by Ofsted.

Over the course of the two-day Inspection, our students showcased themselves to be the kind, funny, charismatic, warm children I know that they are. I feel so proud of each and every one of them and I am delighted that they were able to display themselves, and their school, in such a positive and special way. This outstanding grading is a reflection of everyone here and the special community we have built together.

Matt Dronfield, our Chair of Governors, and ex Head Boy at Hall Mead School commented: "This remarkable achievement serves as a vivid testament to the dedication, unity, and exceptional standards that characterise our school community.

I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our incredible staff and talented pupils for showcasing the 'Hall Mead Way' at its very best."

MISS DUCKER, Headteacher

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Havering Rotary club Christmas sleigh

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Mon 11th: Gaynes, Sycamore, Maple, Beech, Oak, Elm, South View, Acacia, Little Gaynes, Lime, Aspen, Hornbeam, Gaynes Park

Wed 13th: Little Gaynes Lane & Gds, Grove, Parklands, Meadowside, Huntsman, Foxhall, Freshfield, Tawny, Clayton, Corbets Ave

Thurs 14th: Moor Lane, Kings, Queens, Cranham, Cobbles, Crescent, Brunswick, Rosebury, Waycross, Macon Way

Fri 15th: Eversleigh, Deyncourt, Courtenay, Ingrebourne, Grosvenor, Claremont, Marlborough, Esdaile, Holden

Sun 17th: Springfield, Argyle, Ashley, Roxburgh, Rushmere, Fairfield, Leasway, Shrubbery, Meadow, Stewart

Mon 18th: Moor Lane, Kings, Heron Way, Swan Cl & Ave,

Kingfisher, Nightingale, Limerick, Laburnum, Sunnycroft, Fairholme, Acacia

Wed 20th: Waldegrave, Engayne, Ashburnham, Spencer Cres, Masefield Dr, Ruskin Ave, River Dr, Chelmer

Thurs 21st: Litchfield, Chester, Peterborough, Winchester, St Albans, Canterbury, Worcester, Westbury Terrace, Front Lane, Rectory Gds, Meads

Fri 22nd: Park Dr, Cranston Park Ave, Melstock, Brackendale Gdns, Coniston Ave

Sun 24th: Severn Drive, Fleet, Isis, Stour, Clyde, Humber, Forth Rd, Mersey, Avon Rd, Trent Ave

Bobby & Morph

Ross Fisher, a local children's author has published a series of 10 individual stories for ages 4 to 7. Each story is individual, following best friends Bobby & Morph as they learn morals such as thinking of others, being polite, being comfortable in your own skin and even the importance of being clean and tidy. For December Ross has written a short festive story for parents to read to their children.

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It was a snowy Christmas Eve in the town of Roseberry, and Bobby was feeling a bit chilly. He had been out all day playing with his friends, and now he was needing to warm himself up in the only way he knew: a lovely cup of tea. Bobby decided to go to Button's house to see if she had any tea to drink. He knocked on the door, and Button answered. "Oh hello, Bobby," said Button. "What brings you here on Christmas Eve?" "I'm looking for a cup of tea," said Bobby. "I've brought biscuits if that helps." "I'm afraid I don't drink tea," said Button. "I don't drink hot drinks at all." Bobby was very disappointed. He didn't know what to do. He was so chilly, and he didn't have any tea to drink. Just then, Bobby heard a noise behind him. He turned around and saw Morph standing there. "Hello, Bobby," said Morph. "What's wrong?" "I'm chilly," said Bobby. "And I don't have any tea." "I have lots of tea back at my house," said Morph. "But I don't have any biscuits." Bobby was so happy and wagged his tail. Together Bobby & Morph went to Morph's house, and they drank hot tea and ate biscuits by a lovely fire. "That was the best cup of tea I've ever had," said Bobby. "Thank you,

Morph." "You're welcome, Bobby," said Morph. "Merry Christmas."

Is it an emergency? Know the right number to call the police

The Metropolitan Police have publicised a reminder of what number to call if you need them, depending on what the circumstances.

RED - Emergency! Is someone in immediate danger? Is the suspect there? Do you need support right now? - **Call 999 immediately!**

AMBER - Non Emergency
Do you need to report non-emergency crime or anti-social Behaviour (ASB)? - Call 101 or report online www.met.police.uk

GREEN - Anti-Social Behaviour
Do you need to report anti-social behaviour (ASB) where no person or property is in danger? **Call 101** or report online www.met.police.uk Report anonymously to CrimeStoppers on **0800 555 111** or online www.crimestoppers-uk.org.



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Congratulations Kushoom Bugh

We were really pleased to see that the oldest Indian restaurant in St Mary's Lane, Kushoom Bugh, has won a top restaurant award from the Recorder newspaper. The restaurant recently confirmed they will only be shut on Christmas Day over the Christmas and New Year period which is a great time to meet up with family and friends. They have advertised with The Bulletin for many years and their contact details for bookings are on page 12.

The future of the Reading Room, North Ockendon

Romford County Court scheduled a Hearing for 4th August 2023 to review this matter. However, due to a lack of available Judges this was adjourned at the last minute and did not occur. As part of the adjournment, the Court ordered for the matter to be transferred to

Central London County Court and for it to be dealt with by a Circuit Judge. On 1st September 2023 the matter was passed to a Judge at Central London County Court to carry out a preliminary review. However, the Court has advised that it can take up to 20 weeks for a Judge to carry out a review. This matter is being expedited as much as possible, but unfortunately the Court has a substantial backlog of work. A further update will be provided in due course.

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Living Memory?

In days of yore, well up until the last printed edition of February 2020, the Council's Living in Havering magazine used to drop through our letterboxes on a quarterly basis. From that point on, and as a cost saving measure,

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an 'e' version in the form of a weekly newsletter has been available to anyone who signs up for it to be sent out to them by email. There are currently some 60,000 subscribers, and if you are not currently signed up you can join them via the Council website at: <https://www.havering.gov.uk/info/20117/>

The newsletter provides useful information on such matters as events and activities, Council service developments, and the activities of partner organisations such as health, the Police and the voluntary sector.

Cllr OSCAR FORD

Hornchurch Football Club

Please note the following upcoming home fixtures: Saturday, 23rd December, Canvey; Saturday, 30th December, Lewes; and Saturday, 6th January, Horsham. All kick off at 3pm. Go along and support your local football team at The Stadium, Bridge Avenue. Please keep an eye on the club's excellent website for any changes to the above.

Queen's Theatre

We are always delighted to publicise our local Queen's Theatre. A reminder that the panto "Dick Whittington" closes on the 31st December. The annual pantos are great - a huge treat for the family. Next year there is a wide range of shows planned and a variety of one off shows. Keep your eye on the Queen's Theatre website.

Osteoporosis, bar- humbug

Hi, I'm an osteoporosis and osteoarthritis sufferer, possibly made worse by spending too many years seated at a city office desk or more likely due to family DNA. I thought with the passing of years my symptoms would become worse and I would be on the downward slope relying on ever stronger pain relief. Instead much to my delight, I discovered a Pilates class, taught by an osteoporosis qualified teacher. Over almost 5 years I've found relief from some of my symptoms, gained strength, flexibility and the

continued on page 13

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easing of some discomfort with regular Pilates exercise courses with Acclaim Pilates at Fairkytes. It hasn't been an easy journey, in fact I'm still progressing, but, in my opinion it's worth it. If you think Pilates may help you too, why not speak to my tutor Virginia on **07766 528216**.

Parking in white lined bays

Around 38 years ago following requests from residents the Council introduced "white lined bays" in a number of roads locally where you could park partly off the road. Over the years this has increased, thus enabling traffic to move through a number of roads more easily. We have mentioned a number of times before that some of these bays are in roads where there are parking restrictions ie 8am to 9.30am or 8am to 6.30pm etc. Some drivers believe they can park in the bays when restrictions apply, but this is not the case and you could receive a penalty notice. Drivers beware.

RON OWER

Thank you from Filati

Filati menswear in Station Road, Upminster closed as the November Bulletins were being delivered. Filati were a regular advertiser in The Bulletin and wish to thank the community for their support over the past years.

Darker nights are here – Police crime prevention advice

Darker nights are here and British Summer Time has ended, meaning darker afternoons as well and increasing opportunities for criminals. During the autumn and winter months burglaries tend to increase. Homes left unlit during dark afternoons signal to burglars a property is empty. For advice on how to keep your home secure visit the Metropolitan Police crime prevention webpages via met.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/.

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UCRA coach outing news

Kingston Upon Thames, Christmas market: We have a few places remaining on our Kingston Christmas Market trip on Saturday, 9th December so if you are still looking for that special gift or just fancy a nice Christmassy day out and maybe a leisurely lunch on the banks of the River Thames then why not join us. £18.50pp

We will be running a full programme of coach trips next year starting in March with The Thriplow Daffodil Festival followed by some of our favourite destinations such as Faversham, Whitstable and Broadstairs and some exciting new destinations. We had a huge response to our trips this year and it's great to see so many familiar and new faces on our very popular outings. We are very grateful for your ongoing support and wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. For information and availability on our trips why not join our emailing list or give us a call.

Gina Savill-Turner & Joan Carroll
gina.savill-turner@email.com

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joancarroll66@gmail.com -
07789 956399

Coopers Old Boys Lodge

The "Coopers Old Boys Lodge" is now meeting at Upminster Masonic Hall and is looking to recruit new members. The Lodge was founded in 1930 for "Old Boys" of The Coopers Company School in Bow and is now open to "Old Boys" of Coopers Coborn School, male relatives of students, and present or former staff of the School. Our members span several generations with ages ranging from 20s to 90s and our meetings are always very social occasions with the ethos of the School motto "love as brethren" to the fore. Meetings are held in November, March, May and September. If you would like to find out more about Coopers Old Boys Lodge or Freemasonry please email the Secretary, Chris Nicholls, secretary5211@freemasons.london and take a look at our website <https://coopersoldboys.freemasons.london>.

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Haivering Association for People with Disabilities (H.A.D)

We will be holding a "Carols in the Garden" event on Wednesday, 13th December featuring the Hornchurch Can't Sing Choir who will be treating us to a festive performance of everyone's favourite Christmas Carols in our beautiful festively decorated garden. Entry is free and refreshments including hot drinks and mulled wine will be available to purchase on the day. Our doors will be open from 4.30pm with carols being sung

from approximately 5.30pm. Everyone is welcome.

If you or any friends and family are over 18 and have a physical or sensory disability and would like to join any of our groups, please do get in touch or drop in to see us.

Our address is: Whittaker Hall, 1a Woodhall Crescent, Hornchurch RM11 3NN, call us on **01708 476554** or e mail **admin@hadhaivering.co.uk**

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Wood Methodist Church, 1 The Drive, Harold Wood RM3 0DU

Sunday, 3rd December: 80 Ardleigh Green Road, Hornchurch RM11 2LU

Saturday, 9th December: Haivering Road Methodist Church Hall, Moray Way Romford RM1 4YD

Doors Open - 7pm for 7.30pm start. Tickets available on the door. £7.50 (cash only) includes refreshments. Under 16s free.

Liberty Singers Christmas concert

Friday, 15th December at Trinity Church, Station Road, Upminster. 7.30pm in the church. Tickets £7.50 including seasonal refreshments. There will be a

raffle, the proceeds of which will be donated to a local charity.

Painting exhibition

Janet and Terry Doyle are holding an exhibition of their paintings at Upminster Library from Monday 4th to Saturday 15th December.

All paintings will be for sale.

Enquiries to Terry on **07880 770324**.

The Wesley Players present UPMONSTRA

A family pantomime by Ken and Jon Holland. Long ago, many

continued on page 17

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Tickets: Online: £9 Adults (16+), £7 Conc and £5 Children / On door: £10 Adults (16+), £8 Conc and £6 Children / Senior Citizens FREE on Thursday and Friday.

Upminster Methodist Church, 10 Hall Lane, Upminster, RM14 1AE
Book In Advance at www.wesley-players.co.uk or card/cash on the door. Box office please text: **07708 214742.**

Havering Singers Concert

Thursday, 21st December at 7.30pm. **Christmas Music** at St Peter's Church, Gubbins Lane, Harold Wood. A combination of audience singing familiar and well-loved carols and the choir singing other Christmas music. We'll be joined by voices from St Edwards Junior School. Tickets £15 from Choir website, children £6. www.haveringsingers.org.uk / ticket hotline **07342 883211** or on the door.

Havering Singers welcome new voices - we don't have auditions, being able to read music isn't essential (although useful) and the first term of singing with the

choir is free. We rehearse at St Edward's Junior School (Havering Drive, Romford) on a Wednesday evening between 8 and 10pm. Research has shown that singing helps with wellbeing. The choir is very friendly and any newcomers would be made to feel at home very quickly.

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 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 or figurines. Membership fees are £80 for a 13 week term and offer two classes either 10am - 12noon or 1pm - 3pm. If you'd like to know more contact Jeanne on **07853988203.**

Upminster Art Society

Interested in painting? We are a small, friendly group and are currently seeking new members. Our programme covers all aspects of painting and drawing using a range of topics and subject matter. We have demonstrations by visiting professional artists, social evenings and hold exhibitions of members work. Beginners or experienced, all are welcome. We meet on Wednesday evenings, 7pm, at Cranham Community Centre, Marlborough Gardens, Cranham. If you are interested in

continued on page 19

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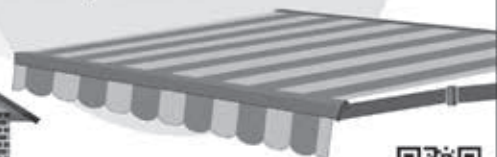


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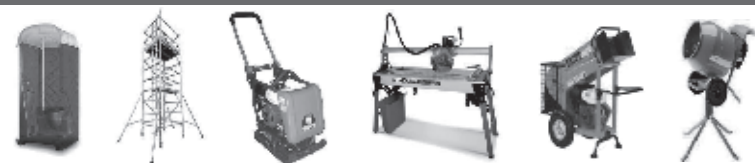
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Christmas Fayre and coffee morning – Trinity Church

Festive goods for sale with a cake
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The Arts Society, Havering

**A Tudor Christmas by Siobhan
Clarke:** We might assume our
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to the Victorians. In fact, many of
our favourite Christmas traditions
date back much further. Carol-
singing, present-giving, mulled
wine and mince pies were all just
as popular in Tudor times, and
even Father Christmas and roast
turkey dinners have their origins
in this period. Siobhan Clarke
BA has worked for Historic Royal
Palaces for 20 years delivering
tours and lectures on Hampton
Court, Kensington, the Tower
of London and the Banqueting
House, Whitehall Palace.

Tuesday, 12th December at 10.30
am at the New Windmill Hall,
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Valentines Mansion and Gardens

Join us to hear how a grant of
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February 2009. Georgina Green,
a local historian who has been
researching the house for over
20 years, will start the lecture.
Followed by Diana Smith, Chair of
the Friends of Valentines Mansion
who will speak about the gardens
and wider estate.

The lecture is on Tuesday, 12th
December 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
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upminsterhorticulturalsociety.
co.uk](http://www.upminsterhorticulturalsociety.co.uk) or the Upminster
Horticultural Society Facebook

Havering Astronomical Society

Wednesday, 13th December, 7.15
for 7.30pm. Peter Morris and
Magda Wheatley will present our
Christmas quiz.

Young Astronomers (aged 8-16)
Thursday, 28th December, 7 to
8pm. A mix of space news, talks
and observing when possible.
Contact [young.astronomers@
havastro.co.uk](mailto:young.astronomers@havastro.co.uk) for more details.

Meetings held at Thames
Chase Forest Centre, Pike Lane,
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Friends of the Old Chapel – Tea and Talks

Wednesday, 13th December –
Havering Amazing Eccentrics.
Havering seems to have attracted
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Stephen Raindle will talk about
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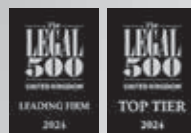
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Stewart Avenue Allotments

Christmas Fair - Saturday, 2nd December, 11am-2pm, raising funds for Little Havens Hospice. Homemade jams, chutneys, pickles and bakes will be available plus crafts, plants and produce. Enjoy a hot drink, slice of cake, mince pie or sausage roll in our log cabin or marquee. Have a go at winning a prize in the festive tombola and bring the children to see Father Christmas*. There will be a children's crafting activity and the 6th Upminster Brownies will be singing Christmas songs from 11.30. *For more details and info or to book to see Father Christmas please email jackiewhitehead@sky.com

Bus Stop Build Out? No Thanks.

Upminster Councillors were recently asked to consider a plan to build out the bus stop adjacent to Gridiron Place (opposite St Joseph's Church). Whilst this would alleviate the crowding of the footpath that occurs during school home times, it was pointed out that with the bus stopped in the line of traffic, this would rapidly create a build-up back to the Bell Corner junction; a location that already experiences

issues at peak times. The Highways Officers have therefore reviewed the options and will shortly be meeting with Councillors to consider further proposals to relieve the crowding problem at this location.

Cllr OSCAR FORD

Christmas concert

Join Sound Company at their annual Christmas Concert on Saturday, 9th December at All Saints' Church, The Chase, Upminster. You can expect a wonderful evening of festive music and frivolity, packed with old classics, as well as some new festive tunes. Mulled wine and mince pies included. Tickets can be bought on the door. Adults £7, Children £4.

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Emmanuel - God with us

So many problems in 2023 - warfare, finance, relationships, employment, health, politics - many of us will have been challenged, just to keep on going. Wouldn't it be great if someone could come up with a solution to some of our issues? Well, the God of the Bible did just that - Jesus Christ - God Himself, came to earth in the form of a baby, to point us to a far better way of life, and to take upon Himself every nasty thought, word and action of mankind, through His undeserved death, so that you and I could know and trust in Him personally. Someone once said 'The heart of the problem is the problem of the human heart'. There is a way out! This Christmas, I invite you and

your family to explore what this message is all about - please come to a Carol Service at one of our churches where you know you will discover the truth about Jesus, for yourselves.

Paul Thompson (Leader of King's Church, Upminster - www.kcu.org) To contact a local church : www.ctucno.org

Upminster Christmas Tree Festival

2nd- 10th December 2023

The festival will soon be upon us and organisations are making their final preparation to decorate the trees. We are very grateful for all the sponsorship we have obtained from the Upminster community and members of the congregation. As in previous years, some of the local primary schools are coming to sing for a short while in the weekday mornings. It is very pleasing that they wish to be involved each year.

The festival opens on Saturday 2nd December at 10am until 4pm. There will be a Christmas Market on that day in the church halls. During the week the festival will be open from 2pm - 6pm and weekends from 10am till 4pm. On Sunday 10th December there

continued on page 22

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will be a closing informal service in the last hour of the festival, "Sing-a-long Carols" at 4pm. Entrance to the event is free but we hope visitors will be generous in supporting our chosen charity, which this year is St Francis Hospice.

The saga of broken utility covers

Havering Council is sometimes criticised for being slow to repair damaged roads and pavements but a recent example highlights that it is not always their fault. In August I reported to the Council that two adjacent concrete utility covers in Nightingale Avenue, Cranham were broken and sticking up, causing a severe trip hazard. They informed me that they were the responsibility of Virgin Media, who had already been told about the issue four months previously. At my request, the Council contacted Virgin

Media again twice but still nothing was done.

By co-incidence, the road was due pavement resurfacing in September and October. As this was ending, and with still no sign of the covers being repaired, it became clear that the resurfacing could not be completed around them, leaving not only a trip hazard but an eyesore as well. With both the Council and individual residents now contacting Virgin Media, in desperation I took to 'X' (formerly Twitter) to try to shame them into action. Whether it was my action or not, within a couple of days they had not only responded but repaired the broken covers as well.

Havering Council workers quickly returned to finish the resurfacing and the residents of Nightingale Avenue finally have footways that are looking good. If anyone wants to follow the information I post on 'X'/Twitter, I can be found *via @CllrTyler*.

Cllr JOHN TYLER

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Recent Planning decisions

Over the last couple of months Havering Council's Planning and Building Control department have issued decisions on several planning applications that attracted interest from residents in Cranham and Upminster when they were originally submitted.

J0016.23 (APPROVED) - 24 to 46 Falkirk Court, Falkirk Close, Hornchurch. Application for prior notification of development of upward extension of an additional single-storey on a block of flats.

J0017.23 (REFUSED) - 24 to 46 Falkirk Court, Falkirk Close, Hornchurch. Application for prior notification of development of upward extension of an additional two-storeys on a block of flats.

P1076.23 (REFUSED) - Chapmans

Farm Riding Stables, Hall Lane Upminster. Outline planning permission for change of use of Building 2 to 9 from commercial livery yard to a mixture of Use Class E and B8.

P1087.23 (REFUSED) Decision Issued 02-10-23) - 1A Howard Road Upminster. Demolition of existing commercial unit and construction of a flatted block. Resubmission following refusal of P0540.23.

Planning laws meant that Cranham Ward councillors were unable to call in either of the Falkirk Close applications, for them to go before a Planning Committee for a decision, as they were for Prior Approval, rather than normal planning applications. This meant that the decisions were made directly by Havering's Planning Officers.

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