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## UPMINSTER & CRANHAM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

### Christmas Event – Friday 21 November

The Upminster & Cranham Residents Association will be holding our annual Christmas Event on Friday 21 November. (Picture from last year) We are very pleased that one of our previous sponsors, The Griffin Group, has kindly offered to provide sponsorship towards the Christmas Lights. We currently also have additional sponsorship from Brewdog, Roomes Furniture Store, Ironworks (the developers of the Travelodge). Event timings and further details will follow next month



### Green Belt development behind Benets Road

We received news of a proposal from developers planning to build 570 homes on the fields behind Benets Road off Wingletye Lane. Initially this was just to establish if an Environmental Impact Assessment would be needed or if they could just apply for planning permission for this massive over-development. Aside from the potential chaos to local traffic by using a narrow residential road for access we already have a health care system that can't cope with the existing population and schools that are unable to take children within their catchment areas.

A decision was to have been made before we went to press but this has been delayed and will not be confirmed until after printing this edition. For the latest on the outcome please see our UCRA website. The Residents Association councillors are vigorously opposed to this development and threats to the Green Belt in general and will do all they can to prevent it.

RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION COUNCILLORS

### Engayne Primary School's annual Scarecrow Trail

If you're looking for something fun to do with children over the half term, Engayne Primary School are running their annual Scarecrow Trail from Saturday 25th October to Monday 3rd November. Each year around 40 families and businesses in the local area take part and build a scarecrow, with displays becoming more and more extravagant each year!

If you live within walking distance of the school, you can sign up to enter your own scarecrow creation for £5.00 via their website. The overall winner wins a £50 Amazon voucher courtesy of Accord Sales and Lettings. Maps to walk the trail can be purchased for £3.00 via their website [www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsofengayne](http://www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsofengayne) and don't forget to vote for your favourite. It really is a lovely walk to take on an autumnal day and great fun for all ages.



### Queens Hospital trust up for 'Trust of the Year' award

The trust which includes our Queens Hospital has been shortlisted as 'Trust of the Year' in the HSJ (Health Service Journal) awards, recognising how it has gone from a 'troubled' trust in special measures, to one of the best in London at reducing waiting lists, as well as in the top five trusts in the capital for its urgent and emergency care performance.

In recent years staff have transformed patient care in numerous innovative ways to reduce waiting lists, from 'Bones Weeks' for orthopaedic surgery to smashing the target to treat 800 ophthalmology patients during PrEYEority week (actually seeing 1,153). They have developed new ways of working with partners, including reducing patient handover times between A&E teams and ambulance crews, which won a parliamentary award; and made maternity care safer.

The trust has also focused on a better staff experience, with initiatives like the Shadow Executive helping junior staff develop their careers, and with the senior intern team supporting nurses wanting to leave the profession in their first year, helping our vacancy rates decrease from 16.9% to 9.9% and turnover rates from 14.9% to 10% since 2022.

The Trust has also got a better grip on finances, making £30m in savings two years in a row and is on track to reduce agency spend to £7m in this financial year, compared to £47m two years ago.

Our congratulations to the Queens Hospital.

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### UPMINSTER WARD

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### CRANHAM WARD

<p><b>Gillian Ford</b> 01708 641317</p> <p>councilorgillian.ford@havering.gov.uk</p>	<p><b>John Tyler</b> 07982 962925</p> <p>JohnTylerUCResidents@outlook.com</p>	<p><b>Phil Ruck</b> 07778 569759</p> <p>philruckucra@yahoo.com</p>
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**Cranham Organiser & Residents' Association Website**  
John Tyler 07982 962925  
www.ucra.co.uk

## ARTICLE & ADVERTISING SUBMISSION DEADLINES

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## Leaving Summer Time

Please remember that on Sunday 26th October we turn the clocks back

## Safeguarding allotments

Havering Council have released the following statement regarding existing allotments on council land -

'We have recently been made aware of rumours circulating online that the Council is exploring options to sell off allotment sites for development. To stem the spread of disinformation, we are going on record to state that we remain firmly committed to safeguarding our network of allotment sites across the borough.

Like our village greens, these cherished green spaces provide allotment society members with outdoor activity, but also play a vital role in supporting biodiversity and community wellbeing.'

Cllr JOHN TYLER

## Mishandling of orange sack recycling

Following contact from a resident who had seen orange recycling sacks being placed in the same compartment of a bin lorry as the black sacks, I contacted the council for clarification as to whether there were any circumstances where this practice is allowed under the present contact. Havering Council have responded by saying that orange sacks should not be placed in the general waste section of the lorries under any circumstances and have asked to be informed if this occurs.

I would be happy to receive reports direct from residents, if they see this happening, which I will pass on. Please e-mail me via [councillorjohn.tyler@havering.gov.uk](mailto:councillorjohn.tyler@havering.gov.uk), giving the date, approximate time and the road name where it occurred. Please also give your name and address, although this will not be passed onto the council.

Cllr JOHN TYLER

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## Children's Services improving

I recently presented the Children's Services Starting Well Improvement Plan for year two to Cabinet. The plan is designed to meet the requirements of the DfE improvement notice and reflects specific monitoring and feedback from both Ofsted and the DfE.

There has been substantial restructuring and recruitment across the Children's Services, and the improvements to date are impressive, with more to come. Social Team caseloads were much too high, but these have now come down, and our children in care have greater stability in who their social worker is. Communication across the service has been strengthened, supported by better training and information systems. These changes are supported by considerable but necessary additional revenue funding. This does add to the structural deficit of the Council, at the same time Havering has received less financial support

from Government than other boroughs requiring improvement in this area.

Cllr OSCAR FORD  
Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

## Parking over dropped kerbs

One of the complaints that the council regularly receives, is when vehicles are parked over or very close to dropped kerbs, preventing people accessing their driveways or making it difficult to pull out into the street. In response, Havering Council have a leaflet that explains the Dos and Don'ts regarding dropped kerb parking, which is available online via [havering.gov.uk/downloads/file/1380/rules-for-parking-by-a-driveway](http://havering.gov.uk/downloads/file/1380/rules-for-parking-by-a-driveway).

The leaflet gives a brief summary near the start - 'The Traffic Management Act 2004 states that to park across a dropped kerb is a parking contravention for which a Penalty Charge Notice can be issued. In Havering we only regard "unfriendly" parking across a dropped kerb as a parking

contravention. Put simply, if you park in a part of a road where there is a dropped kerb you are committing an offence UNLESS you have the permission of the owner of the property, or properties, using that dropped kerb.'

Cllr JOHN TYLER

## Coopers Coborn School Annual Fireworks Display

The Coopers Coborn School Annual Fireworks Display is also on Saturday 8th November 2024. Gates open at 5.00 p.m. with the display due to start at 6.30 p.m. Pop-up craft fayre in our sports hall, BBQ/Bar and live music throughout the evening. Limited free parking available on site.

Advanced ticket sales Adult £8 Children (Under 16's) £6 Family ticket £24 available all available from the School Shop or Office. Tickets on the night. £9 Adults, Children £7, Under 3's Free

## Upminster Juniors Firework Display

Upminster Fireworks Display is back! Please come along to our Fireworks Display on Saturday 8th November 2024 at Upminster Infant/Junior School Playing Field (next to the Crumpled Horn). Doors open at 4:30pm, Display at 6:30pm. The most amazing fireworks, food vans, even more glow products and toilet facilities this year! All information, including Tickets, will be on our website [www.uspfa.co.uk](http://www.uspfa.co.uk)

## Local Government Finance - The Future ?

The Government will be introducing their next budget shortly. There has been huge speculation on what measures they will be taking to fill what has

*continued on page 5*

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been publicised as £50 billion "black hole". Will they change the current inheritance tax levels or stamp duty on the purchase of properties? Will the Chancellor of the Exchequer look at the current levels of Council Tax. We pointed out last month how unfair the present system is to Havering. I understand that several years ago when they were in Government, the Tories looked at adding new higher bands to the current levels that are based on 1991 property values but no further action was taken.

One area that has had huge attention - the introduction of a capital gains tax when selling a property. The media are calling this a "mansion tax" as it has been speculated that it could be introduced on properties on sale over a million pounds! There are concerns in the media this would "destroy" the property market.

The present government gave an election pledge not to increase taxes! Without doubt the whole area is a "hot potato". We will keep you informed on what if any proposals are made to make local government finance fairer.

RON OWER

## How do we pay for the services we need

Following on from the previous article, the whole issue of taxation is tied up with how we as a community want the services we increasingly need to be provided. As an example, as the population ages, health needs increase. Do we want these to be provided by the NHS paid for by our taxes or by the private sector at substantially higher cost to ourselves, including a contribution to the profits that private sector companies require (think of the water companies!). A simple example of this might be in blood tests. These, while sometimes tricky to get, are provided free through the NHS with, in my experience, a very fast turn round to get the results. However, if provided by private sector operators, they could cost hundreds of pounds, with possibly more delay in getting the results. Another example would be care homes, with the very high

fees charged for those run by the private sector.

Similarly for education, do we want to be able to get our children educated at free state schools or have to send them to expensive private schools.

This is a debate we need to have as a society. Reducing taxes may lead to higher total costs to us all.

THE EDITOR

## Tree Wardens

We have raised a query with council officers over tree wardens and the care of our newly planted trees which need care and watering in their early stages of life. If you see a tree that looks in need of attention please let your local councillors know so we can report this to the council.

Cllr LAURANCE GARRARD

## Help needed with planting daffodils at Parklands

Help us to add an extra splash of colour to Parklands by joining

volunteers from the Friends of Parklands on Wednesday 8th October starting at 10am. Meet at the small car park. Bring your own trowel or spade if possible. We will provide the bulbs! All help will be welcome and much appreciated.

## Upminster Windmill

### What's on in October

The Windmill will be open on Saturday 11th/Sunday 12th October with sails turning subject to weather. As ever there will be activities for all ages, for this month including a "spooky" Halloween trail in the garden for kids. Or come and learn about the families who owned the windmill during its working life, and both see and try to imagine how some of their personal and domestic possessions from a hundred years ago measure up to what we use and expect today. Refreshments available.

Windmill tours are available both days - Adults £6, Children £2 [Minimum height 100cm]. Closed in footwear is required. Entry is

*continued on page 7*

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free to the site, the garden and the visitor centre. The Garden and the Visitor Centre will also be open for refreshments from 11am to 3pm on Wednesday 22nd October, where you can relax with tea/coffee and a cake in the award winning garden.

For full details of opening times in 2025 please visit [www.upminsterwindmill.org](http://www.upminsterwindmill.org).

## Upminster and Cranham Poppy Appeal

Upminster and Cranham Royal British Legion will launch the 2025/26 Poppy Appeal for Upminster and Cranham with our annual Poppy Dance which takes place on Saturday 18th October at 8.45pm with tickets only £5, all welcome.

Our Poppy Stall will take place at Upminster and Cranham Royal British Legion on most Saturdays, leading from the launch through to remembrance. If you would like to volunteer in the weeks of poppy appeal collection in Upminster please email us on

[upminstercranhampoppyappeal@gmail.com](mailto:upminstercranhampoppyappeal@gmail.com)

## Charity Christmas cards

On Saturday 8th November we are holding a Charity Christmas Card sale at Upminster Methodist church from 10am -12 noon. We hope this will give everyone the opportunity to buy cards etc. in good time for Christmas. Tea and coffee will also be served.

If you are involved in a charity and would like to sell your own cards and promote your charity at this event, please contact us by email [upminstertreefest@gmail.com](mailto:upminstertreefest@gmail.com) or phone 01708 228317.

## How to travel with your dog in the car

Travelling with our two Mini Schnauzers last Bank Holiday Weekend we had to consider their safety as well as our own. They travelled in the boot space with parcel shelf removed and a net secured between them and the passenger compartment to prevent them being thrown forward in case of an accident.

Alternatively, we could have used dog safety harnesses which attach to the seat belts of the back passenger seats.

What I did notice as we were travelling along the motorway was people allowing their dogs to put their heads out of the window in the hot weather. While this may be a thrill for the dog the wind rushing past them at 70 miles an hour causes the front of the eye (cornea) to dry out leading to a painful inflammation (keratitis) and dust or debris can be blown into the eye causing potentially serious ulceration. As a Veterinary Ophthalmologist Dr Lawton sees many cases each year requiring treatment and sometimes even surgery. So please keep dogs inside the car when travelling to avoid this preventable condition.

Stay safe! Lawton and Stoakes  
01708 384444

## Hornchurch Football Club

The new season has really got going for our local football team who have the following home fixtures at The Stadium, Bridge

Avenue, Upminster .

**Saturday 4th October Horsham.**

**Saturday 18th Bath City.**

**Saturday 25th Hampton & Richmond**

Kick off for all these games is 3pm.

**Tuesday 6th November Chesham United.**

Kick off at 7.45pm.

Please keep an eye on the club's excellent website <https://hornchurchfc.com/> for any news. Please go along and support your local team.

## Brookside Theatre

We are also lucky to have the Romford based Brookside Theatre at 21A Western Rd, Romford RM1 3NH in Havering. A few minutes from bus stops and Romford Station. They have a wide range of fantastic shows. Their website [www.brooksidetheatre.com/](http://www.brooksidetheatre.com/) has all the details.

Examples of shows this month at the Theatre include

**Saturday 4th October  
Tribute to Kate Bush.**

*continued on page 9*

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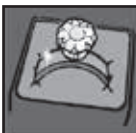
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**Friday 10th Comedy Night with Lee Hurst** "No particular order tour".

**Wednesday 29th to Sunday 2nd November A musical comedy "The Addams Family Musical".**

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## Queens Theatre

Di and Viv and Rose is ultimately a story about the kind of chosen family that shapes you, challenges you, and - if you're lucky - stays with you long after the shared kitchen walls have faded. In 1983, three young women - Di, Viv, and Rose - find themselves sharing a house at university. Despite their contrasting personalities, they form a fierce and loving friendship that shapes the course of their lives. What begins as an awkward house-share quickly transforms into a bond defined by shared routines, candid conversations, and wild nights dancing to Prince in their living room. As the years pass, the

women's connection deepens - and so do the challenges they face. Di is pulled back into a more conservative home life, Viv throws herself into work with steely focus, and Rose continues her romantic adventures with unshakable optimism.

Time and distance pull them apart, and the warmth of their shared past becomes a source of both comfort and pain. The trio struggles to bridge the gaps that grow between them, finding that love alone isn't always enough to sustain connection through grief, ambition, or the toll of life's disappointments. But even in their moments of silence and separation, the impact of their friendship lingers. When they do reunite - older, wiser, but still themselves - it's clear that what they built together at university was more than just a phase.

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partnership with the MET Police to facilitate free football and basketball sessions for school age children every half term. The next set will be October half term. No need to book, turn up and play.

**Thursday 30th - Central Park, Harold Hill Football** - primary school age 11am - 12pm - secondary school age 12pm - 1pm. Basketball - primary school age - 12pm - 1pm - secondary school age 1pm - 2pm

There will also be a mixed tournament with West Ham United Foundation on Wednesday 29th at Brittons 4G pitch. Primary age 12pm - 3pm and secondary age 3pm - 6pm.

If you need any more information, our email is [getinvolved@havering.gov.uk](mailto:getinvolved@havering.gov.uk) and our contact number is **01708 433420**.

If you are a Council tenant or leaseholder and would like to join the resident participation panel who meet quarterly to help shape events like these and the housing service in general, please get in touch to find out more details or visit <https://www.havering.gov.uk/housing-1/housing-volunteers-panels-information-days-events>

## Free adult counselling

Are you in need of support for your emotional well-being? HBBS Counselling is a local charity which has been supporting the community for over 30 years. We offer a safe confidential space to support you with a wide range of issues including loss, bereavement, anxiety and depression.

For Havering adult residents, we provide a FREE programme of individual face to face counselling. We also provide other services including children's counselling, parent support sessions, couples counselling and an online counselling service. Please contact [enquiries@hbbscounselling.org](mailto:enquiries@hbbscounselling.org) or **01708 476912** for more details

## Springfield Playgroup

Are you looking for a preschool for your child? Is your child already three years old and

*continued on page 11*

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For further information please email: Caroline at [springfieldpg13@gmail.com](mailto:springfieldpg13@gmail.com). You can also find us on Instagram and Facebook – **Springfield Playgroup**.

## Upminster Lymphoma and Blood Cancer Support Group.

If you or anyone you know have been diagnosed with a blood cancer, then why not come and join us at one of our monthly meetings where you will find the support of people going through a similar journey as yourself. We meet monthly at 1.30 on a Tuesday afternoon at Upminster Baptist Church in Springfield Gardens. There's time for a chat over a cup of tea and a program of interesting speakers talking on various topics. We'd be happy to see you if you just turn up or email one of the team if you would like more information. Carers welcome too.

Meetings will be held on 21st October, 18th November and 9th December (at 12.30 when we have our Christmas lunch). For more details, please contact [Ian.doreen@btinternet.com](mailto:Ian.doreen@btinternet.com) or [Denise.hosking@gmail.com](mailto:Denise.hosking@gmail.com)

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## Diabetes UK-Havering Group

Diabetes UK-Havering Group are meeting on Monday 20th October, when the speaker will be Dr Graham Toms, Retired Honorary Consultant Physician and Endocrinologist, and President and Acting Chair Barking and Dagenham Diabetes UK Support Group. This meeting is from 8.00pm at the Large Hall, 24 North Street, Hornchurch, RM11 1QX.

There is a charge of £2 which covers the hire of the hall but members also receive a nice cup of tea/coffee and a biscuit. The meetings that we hold through the year are very informative and of great importance for people suffering from Diabetes. We are a friendly bunch and new members are always welcome and may also pick up more information from the members themselves. For more information, please contact Mrs Ann Prescott - **01708 935779**

## Havering Singing for the Brain 2020 Revised

Welcome to our group. We are a friendly group for those with dementia that strives to provide an environment where those living with dementia can benefit from music/ singing and enjoy themselves whilst their carers can interact with others in the same position. Members have the opportunity for a sing song whilst waiting for the professional and varied entertainment. Some of our volunteers are experienced in working with those with dementia and can provide extensive information, support and advice. We run weekly sessions at 2-4pm on a Monday at Cranham Community Centre, Marlborough Gardens Upminster RM14 1SQ. It is well known the effect music and singing has on the brain of those living with dementia and we notice the benefits for our members all the time. Carers also benefit from our clubs and

*continued on page 13*

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many friendships are formed. The cost is £6 per week (first week free) but paid carers go free.

If you are interested or require any further information please contact:

Ben Hawley on **07836 236374**

Eve Marshall on **07768 160042** or

Steve Williams on **07707 999532**

Have a look at our Facebook page to get an idea of the club or just come along. You will be made very welcome.

## Havering Local Group Essex Wildlife Trust

### Monthly talks

Monday November 10th  
2025 TALK 2.00 – 3.30pm.  
An illustrated talk by Martin Singleton on 'Birds of Ecuador' including toucans, hummingbirds, flycatchers and lots more very colourful birds. Talks are held at Fairkytes Arts Centre, Billet Lane, Hornchurch, RM11 1AX.

£5 donation includes tea, coffee

and biscuits. Advance booking NOT required.

Contact telephone number **01708 473927 / 07957264240**. Contact email address [Lynda.nicholls@btinternet.com](mailto:Lynda.nicholls@btinternet.com)

## New Windmill Hall Upminster

### Regular Events

**Stay & Play** - every Wednesday 12 till 2 Soft play - ball pit - mini slide - reading area. The Colouring Cafe is open 12 till 2 serving hot and cold food and drinks. Booking is recommended - you can turn up on the day but no guaranteed spaces.

**Community Café** - every Friday 11 till 3

A warm welcoming space serving hot and cold food and drinks. A place to meet friends or come alone for a cuppa and a chat. Different activities each week include bingo, small quizzes, hand massages, singers and dancers. Come along and meet the team. Free entry.

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### Other events

**Craft Fair** Sunday 9th November  
10am till 3pm - Free entry - cafe open

**Monthly Quiz Night** 30th  
September, 28th October and 25th  
November 7pm till 10pm - £5pp  
teams of 6-8

**Sunday Lunch & Dancing** -  
Sunday 19th October 12pm till  
3:30pm - 2 course meal £25pp -  
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**Party Night** - Saturday 25th  
October 7:30pm till 11pm - £12pp  
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## Friends of the Old Chapel

### Tea & Talks

Wednesday 8th October 2025  
at Roope Hall, Trinity Church,  
Station Road, Upminster.

From Cat's Whiskers to Caroline. Stephen Raindle, a music and radio enthusiast, will present a brief history of popular radio from Marconi's first broadcasts to pirate radio in the Swinging 60s and finally legalised commercial radio.

Doors open at 10am - talk starts at 10.30am. £2 supplement for members, £4 admission for non-members. Tea and coffee served at the end of the meeting. Email: [friendsoldchapel@mary.havering.sch.uk](mailto:friendsoldchapel@mary.havering.sch.uk)

## Havering Antiques Collectors Club

Havering Antiques Collectors  
Club meets on the 3rd Friday

continued on page 15

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of each month. Guest speakers cover a wide range of topics - art, pottery, jewellery, fashion etc. On Friday 17th October our speaker Mark Scott from College of Arms will give a talk on Royal Heraldry. In December Mark Smith, renowned expert in medals etc will value any militaria and Paul Atterbury is our January speaker - both from the BBC Antiques Roadshow.

Our annual membership is only £40. Guests are assured of a warm welcome - only £6 ( £8 in December). We meet at Harold Wood Neighbourhood Centre, Gubbins Lane, RM3 0QA from 7.45 - 9.15 pm. Bus stop outside for 346, 256 and 294.

## Thames Chase - October 2025

The annual Thames Chase Apple Day takes place on Sunday October 19th at the Thames Chase Forest Centre, Pike Lane, Upminster RM14 3NS. Join us from 10am-3pm for this very special autumnal event highlighting the history of Broadfields Farm and celebrating

Apple Day. This is a free event with stalls and activities for the whole family to enjoy along with live music and entertainment. The Forest Centre Tea Room will be providing food and refreshments. You can also take part in an Orchard Walk and explore the play areas, woodland and pathways. Our site is wheelchair accessible and dogs are welcome.

If you require further information, please call **01708 642970**

## The Arts Society, Havering

Tuesday 14th October 2025 New Windmill Hall Upminster RM14 2QH at 10:15 am

Francis Bacon - Nihilism and Hope by Colin Pink Francis Bacon is one of the most celebrated artists of the twentieth century. Perhaps more than any other artist he captured the darkness at the heart of human experience. His work reflects the anxiety of a world reeling from the impact of the Second World War, the holocaust and the atomic threat

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of the cold war. This talk examines Bacon's work in the context of his personal, artistic and intellectual experiences and utilises concepts from existentialist philosophy and psychoanalysis to unpack the meaning of his work, treading a tightrope between nihilism and hope.

Colin Pink has a BA in Philosophy and Politics from the University of Southampton and a MA in the History of Art from Birkbeck, University of London. He has also curated exhibitions of contemporary art and has published four books of poetry.

This event is open to visitors for a fee of £8:00. Please visit our web site: <https://tashavering.org.uk/Lectures/FutureLectures.aspx> or Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/199870022175485>. Contact us at [info@tashavering.org.uk](mailto:info@tashavering.org.uk), or telephone **01708 221903**

## Coffee morning at Trinity Church

Coffee morning and sale will

be held at Trinity Church on Saturday 11th October from 10-12 on the front lawn (weather permitting). On sale will be plants, jewellery, puzzles, china, books and craft items. All proceeds for church funds towards refurbishment of the Roope Hall.

## Havering & District National Trust Association

We are meeting again after the summer break and the group holiday. Our meetings are held in the large hall at Ardleigh House, Hornchurch, RM11 2LG. You do not need to be a member of the National Trust to attend. Visitors are welcome at a charge of £3.00 per meeting. Refreshments £1.00. The afternoon begins at 2.30pm.

On Saturday 25th October we have an illustrated talk entitled "WARTIME HAVERING" given by Peter Owen. Should you need any further information please

*continued on page 17*



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## OUT AND ABOUT

## Upminster and District Horticultural Society

Tuesday 14th October  
Charity Lecture

Our speaker Mick Hedges is an Essex Wildlife Trust Volunteer Warden at Warley Place, known for the wonderful Spring display of daffodils and outstanding trees. Mike will tell us of Ellen Willmott who developed the garden from the late Victorian era. Mike will describe future developments of this nature reserve and of the Essex Wildlife Trust.

Doors open at 7.15pm New Windmill Hall. Talk begins at 7.45pm with a Tea/coffee break interval at 8.30pm and will conclude at 9.15pm. Entrance fee £3.00 for both members and visitors. <https://www.upminsterhorticulturalsociety.co.uk>

email: [info@upminsterhorticulturalsociety.co.uk](mailto:info@upminsterhorticulturalsociety.co.uk) Facebook: [Upminster Horticultural Society](https://www.facebook.com/upminsterhorticulturalsociety)

## Havering Astronomical Society

### Adult group

Wednesday 15 October, 7.15 for 7.30pm. Vladimir Brljak, Associate Professor at the University of Durham, will present 'From a Bright to a Dark Universe in the Western Cosmological Imagination'.

### Young Astronomers (aged 8-16)

This group meets on the first Thursday of the month, 7 to 8pm. This is a mix of space news, talks, activities and observing when

possible. Please contact young. [astronomers@havaastro.co.uk](mailto:astronomers@havaastro.co.uk) for further details.

Please note that all our meetings are held at Thames Chase Forest Centre, Pike Lane, Upminster. If you are interested in joining the society, or have any queries, please email [enquiries@havaastro.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@havaastro.co.uk) or see our website [www.havaastro.co.uk](http://www.havaastro.co.uk).

## Romford Scrabble

The club meets every Wednesday night at the Gidea Park Methodist Church on Brentwood Road. We play three games of competitive Scrabble between 6.30 and 9.30 pm. Everyone is offered refreshments. There is no age barrier, our youngest player is 11 our oldest player is 78 years old. We would be delighted if anyone would like to join us to play Scrabble competitively. My contact details are: [Fazilez@hotmail.com](mailto:Fazilez@hotmail.com) and **07553 509 550**.

## New at Cranham Baptist Church

Cranham Baptist Church is opening for a weekly 'coffee stop' on Thursdays, 2-4pm. Please pop in and see us for a drink and a chat if you're free! Donations welcome.

## Wednesday Afternoon Music at Hornchurch Library

Wed 1st October at 2pm **Into the Autumn** - Our presenters Dawn, Mike, Graham and Stephen welcome you to the new season of wonderful music with a preview of programmes you can expect to hear over the coming 3 months.

*continued on page 19*



## First Step Quiz Night



**Saturday 18th October 2025**

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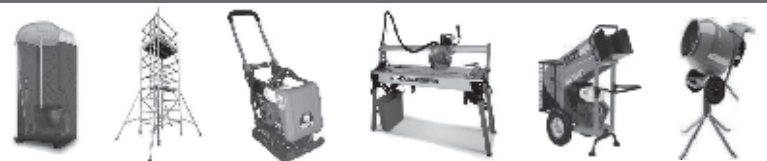
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**Wed 5th November at 2pm Musical Fireworks** - presented by Stephen Raindle. It's the date that decided this one so there will be plenty of lively music, mostly classical and culminating in a superb recording of Tchaikovsky's explosive 1812 Overture.

All programmes are of recorded music played on high quality audio equipment and take place in the 1st floor main meeting room, Hornchurch Library, North Street, RM11 1TB commencing at 2pm and finishing by 4pm. Admission £2 per person with interval refreshments available at nominal cost. Buses 165, 256 & 370 pass the library. For further details or to be added to our email list call Stephen Raindle **01708 470670** or email [sraindle@aol.com](mailto:sraindle@aol.com)

## Havering Joggers

Havering 90 Joggers is a running club for adults aged 18+. We meet Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 7.30pm at Upminster Rugby Club, Two Gables, Hall

Lane, Upminster. We also have a Sunday group that runs from a different park in Havering every week at 9am. We periodically arrange a Learn-to-run (Couch to 5k) coached 10 week course. Please get in touch if you are interested in joining future courses.

Runners of all abilities are welcome, from beginners learning to run, to those that wish to jog, chat and get a bit healthier, to those that want to improve their race times or train for specific distances. Come and try it for free.

Further information can be found at [www.h90j.org.uk](http://www.h90j.org.uk) or email [membership@h90j.org.uk](mailto:membership@h90j.org.uk)

## Upminster and District Probus Club

Are you a retired or semi-retired Gentleman? Our Probus Club meet at the Square in Deyncourt Gardens, Upminster on the second Wednesday of each month, where we enjoy a chat and a drink before a 3-course lunch followed by tea or coffee. Our speaker will be Steve Bird who will be talking about Industrial Relations at Fords in the 70s and 80s.

Wonder if you'll fit in? Why not come along? You'll be sure of a warm welcome. Lunch costs just £25, payable at the meeting.

You can find us on Facebook or on [upminsterprobusec.wixsite.com/upminster-probus](http://upminsterprobusec.wixsite.com/upminster-probus). Should you wish to attend one of our meetings, you will need to book your lunch in advance by telephoning our Lunch Secretary, Richard Saville on **01708 221903** or **07858693027** or you can email him at [upminsterprobusec.lunch@gmail.com](mailto:upminsterprobusec.lunch@gmail.com)

## Havering Ladies Probus Club

Ladies are you retired or about to be do you like meeting new people and enjoy a nice lunch in beautiful surroundings? If so, why not join our meetings at Top Meadow Golf Club, North Ockendon. We are a friendly group and have interesting speakers and quizzes and it is a great opportunity to socialise. For more information, please phone our secretary on **01708 701 545**

## Upminster Wine and Social Club

We are a very friendly and welcoming club who meet 8pm on the third Thursday of every month at Cranham Social Hall in Front Lane. Here we enjoy each other's company, listen to a speaker and finish with a glass of wine. This month will be a speaker talking about fortified wines along with some tasters. Entry is £5. For more information, please contact Kevin on **07727 497367**

## Trinity Leisure Club

Trinity Leisure Club (affectionately known as TLC) meets every Thursday from 1pm until 3pm in the Roope Hall, Trinity Church (next to Roomes Store) and everyone is welcome. Just ring the bell for access. We play board and card games and enjoy a chat over a hot drink and biscuits or sometimes even cake! Some people bring their knitting but, whatever your preference, it's a fun afternoon in pleasant company. At only £1 per session (proceeds to the church and charity) it's an inexpensive afternoon out. Why not give us a try or bring some friends and get some TLC!

## Upminster Park Townswomen's Guild

We are a friendly group of ladies enjoying a chat over

tea and biscuits, listening to a good speaker or entertainers, going on outings/theatre trips and promoting friendships and wellbeing. We meet at St Laurence Church Main Hall, Upminster on the third Monday of each month from 1.45pm until 4pm. For further information contact Anne Monk **01708 226305** or simply come along

## Cranham Engayne WI

Would you like to belong to the friendliest WI around? We meet on the third Tuesday of every month at the Cranham Community Centre (Avon Road end of Marlborough Gardens) 2-4pm. We have interesting speakers as well as a full social calendar, with trips to theatres, RHS gardens etc, and also our "Ladies Who Lunch" afternoons. For more details phone Una Henderson on **01708 225088**, or simply come along to one of our meetings.

## Deyncourt Ladies Probus Club

We are a friendly group of retired or semi-retired ladies who meet every 3rd Wednesday of the month in the Masonic Hall, Deyncourt Gardens, Upminster. We enjoy a chat and a drink before a three course lunch with coffee/tea and a speaker to follow. Outings are also organised during the year. For more information, please contact our secretary Pauline Diable on **01708 524 897**.

## Carousel Women's Club

Are you looking for a friendly woman's club to join? We are currently enrolling new members and you would be made very welcome. We meet on Monday evenings 7.30 - 10 pm at the Cranham Community Centre, Marlborough Gardens, Upminster. We have a wide range of events and activities including interesting and varied speakers, karaoke and other music evenings, quizzes, craft evenings, fish and chip suppers, cheese and wine, and pizza evenings. We also arrange theatre outings and coach trips.

If you are interested, please call Eve on **07768160042** or Marion on **07976692010**, or simply come along to a meeting.





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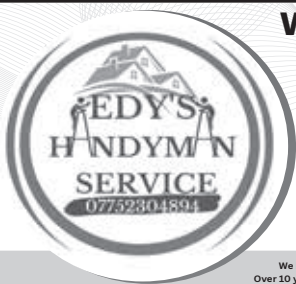
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## Ardleigh House Trips

**Monday 15 December - Cruise into Christmas on the Thames**  
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 Christmas party on the Thames. Price £78. To book go to our website [www.ardleighhouse.org/trips](http://www.ardleighhouse.org/trips) or telephone **01708 440660**

Ardleigh House also offers many Leisure activities and we list a few below:-

Yoga and Chair Yoga - Crafts - Spanish lessons - Keep Fit - Short Mat Bowls - Ju Jitsu - Pottery - Social Club - Pilates - Table Tennis and much more. Check out our "What's On" page on our website for full list of what is happening at Ardleigh House.

## Diwali 2025

Hindus and Jains will be celebrating Diwali, the festival of lights, joy, prosperity and happiness starting on Monday 20th October. This coincides with the Sikhs who will be celebrating during this time Bandi Chhor

Divas which symbolises the spiritual "victory of light over darkness, good over evil and knowledge over ignorance".

Many will be meeting up with friends and relatives. We hope you have some wonderful times.

## Fireworks

Elsewhere in the Bulletin we give details of the Fireworks Displays at Upminster Junior School Coopers & Coborn School both on the 8th November. May we remind you please to keep an eye on your pets around the 5th November with so many fireworks being let off.

## Havering Budget 2026

Although the Budget does not become effective until next year, the Residents Association councillors are currently involved in preparatory work analysing the potential options available to us. The bulk of the Councils income, amounting to 80% of the total, is spent on Children's and Adults' services, most of which must be provided by law so we are unable to cut back in these areas. During recent discussions with officers, we made it clear that one of our top priorities is making sure that our environment is clean, tidy and safe. We are hoping for some

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additional funding at the end of the year which may help improve the budget.

Cllr LAURANCE GARRARD

If you are able to help, please contact me via my details on page 2. Thank you

Cllr JOHN TYLER

## Spare allotment plots in Ashvale Gardens, Cranham

There are a few spare plots available in Ashvale Gardens Allotments next to Oglethorpe School, Cranham. If anyone is interested in growing their own fruit and veg whilst keeping fit, gardening is a really good exercise and you get the additional benefit, satisfaction and value of doing it yourself. Advice is always available if required. Please contact Mike Willcocks on **01708 501505** or [mike@willcocks.me.uk](mailto:mike@willcocks.me.uk)

## Volunteer Area Controller needed in Cranham

We currently need a volunteer to assist us as an Area Controller in central Cranham. This would involve receiving around 200 Bulletins once a month, and then forwarding 30-60 copies each to five deliverers.

## First Step

We have supported First Step from when they started thirty six years ago. They provide support to families of children with special needs and/or disabilities. Their headquarters are in Tangmere Crescent, Hornchurch. They have an excellent web site [firststep.org.uk](http://firststep.org.uk) for further information.

## Upminster, the place to be

Reports in the national press point out that eight pubs a week are closing. Well Upminster has certainly bucked the trend the Brew Dog in Station Road will be having its second Christmas in Upminster, joining The Junction also in Station Road and the Crumpled Horn in Corbets Tey Road. (Many locals will remember the Bulletin held a competition for its name prior to opening).

In St. Marys Lane we have the established Jobbers Rest and the Thatched House, in Corbets Tey village the Huntsman & Hounds, in Hacton Lane the Optimist, and in Cranham the Golden Crane

*continued on page 22*

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and the Plough. Upminster centre also has a number of restaurants and bars, with several more opening shortly .

Please keep your eye out on the various activities taking place - live music, quiz nights etc at these establishments.

## Congratulations

As the September Bulletins were being printed, we heard numerous details of A level, GCSE, BTec and NVQ results and of a number of degrees etc. There were many fantastic results. Very well done.

As you read this, a number of children will have started school, moved on to a new school, college or university. A number would also have started their careers .

Our best wishes to you all.

## Keeping Lee Gardens Avenue tidy

Havering Council have recently been encouraging people to adopt neglected areas around where they live and I would like to join fellow residents in an informal group to look after the grass

verges in Lee Gardens Avenue. The idea is not to replace what the council already do, but instead to undertake edging of the grass verges, remove weeds and grass that may have been missed from around the pavements and other occasional minor jobs. If you would be happy to join me in this, please let me know on **07709 130 323**.

DENNIS MILLS (Resident)

## Autumn drama workshop

**'The Addams Family' with OD Theatre School**

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Monday 28th & Tuesday 29th October - 10 till 4 pm. Upminster Methodist Church, Hall Lane, Upminster, RM14 1AE Limited places. Book online: [www.occasionaldance.co.uk/kids-events/](http://www.occasionaldance.co.uk/kids-events/) Email: [info@occasionaldance.co.uk](mailto:info@occasionaldance.co.uk) **07985 555966**

## Road gutter cleaning

Despite the weed control efforts of FCC our gutters seem to still be a problem, we have asked them to not only apply more weed killer but also to sweep the gutters on a more regular basis.

Cllr LAURANCE GARRARD

## Capella Singers

The Capella Singers will be performing the Haydn Little Organ Mass with a selection of choral favourites on Thursday 16th October 2025 at Trinity United Reformed Church, Upminster RM14 2UD starting at 7.30pm. Entrance free, donations welcomed.

## Postal Voting

Whilst the next local elections

are not until next May, we must remind postal voters that they need to re-apply for their postal vote by 31st January 2026 in order to remain a postal voter. Whilst a reminder will be issued before that date, please remember to re-apply to ensure you can still vote by the postal system.

Cllr LAURANCE GARRARD

## Gadabouts

We are a social club for single people and have a varied programme each month. Our age range is for those between 40-70 years. If you would like to know more, please email [elizabethwooding@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:elizabethwooding@hotmail.co.uk).

## Parcel Thefts

More and more residents are having parcels delivered. With this in mind we repeat the following warning. "Today I was out and had an Amazon parcel delivered. They left it behind my green bin, looking on my blink camera I can see an individual pick it up and run off with it an hour later. We are all having parcels left on our doorsteps by delivery firms. I thought it might be useful to make local residents aware there are thieves around our area."



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