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The Voice of the Communitywww.ucra.co.uk**UPMINSTER & CRANHAM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION****MAY ELECTIONS**

In preparing for the May elections, we will be presenting details of the key members of the Residents Association in this and future editions of the Bulletin. The first parts of this are set out below.

**Councillor John Tyler - Cranham Ward**

A local resident for nearly thirty years, I have represented the Upminster and Cranham Residents' Association (UCRA) as a Cranham Ward Councillor since 2018. Having had no previous involvement in

politics, I stood for election, as I felt that our area was often neglected by the council and wanted to help change this.

As a former Police Officer, I have used my experience of partnership work with various councils across north east London, to stand up for our area, in what has become an increasingly difficult time for the borough financially.

This has included pushing for better roads, pavements and cleaning of our streets, as well as improvements to our parks and open spaces (I am a member of the Friends of Hall Lane Playing Fields).

I have also supported residents in objecting to a number of inappropriate planning applications, such as a major application for an electricity storage facility on land near Acacia Gardens, where I produced a letter, which I delivered to all homes in several streets, informing residents of the application and how they could submit comments to the Local Planning Authority (LPA). This led to the application being rejected by the LPA. In addition, I regularly assist residents with individual matters, such as issues with housing and parking, and often liaise with the council when people have struggled to obtain a suitable response.

I consider myself to be a down-to-earth Councillor, regularly walking several miles around Cranham Ward, looking at issues that have been highlighted to me by residents and almost always finding new ones on my travels. Since 2019, I have been running the UCRA

website, ucra.co.uk, regularly updating it with useful information on council business and a wide range of local community matters, often well before it has a chance to go in The Bulletin. I also co-ordinate distribution of the Bulletin across Cranham Ward and deliver several rounds myself.

I am not a member of the current HRA Administration, and my independence has allowed me to continue to highlight where I think improvements can be made to how our council is run. An example of this was putting forward a budget amendment in 2025, to improve some services, such as street cleaning, without adversely affecting council finances. I work locally, and am married with two children, the younger of whom still goes to a local secondary school

**Introducing Michael Fisher**

I have lived in Upminster for twenty years and work as a licensed London taxi driver, with previous experience in the insurance and fitness industries. My children attended Coopers and Hall

Mead schools, giving me a strong connection to local families and education.

I serve on the Executive Committee of the Upminster and Cranham Residents Association and am Chair of the Friends of Clockhouse Gardens, working with local residents to protect and improve this treasured green space. I have also previously been a school governor, Scout Leader at St Lawrence's and involved in Upminster rugby club.

I am focused on contributing to practical improvements in Upminster and Cranham while also listening to and reflecting the views of local residents.

John Parker

We noted in last month's Bulletin that our former President and Executive Secretary John Parker had sadly passed away. John and his wife originally lived in Cranham from 1963 to 1973 and then moved to their present home in Sunnyside Gardens. John and Mary were married for 63 years.

John originally worked in the Stock Exchange, then for 25 years running the charity "Wireless for the Bedridden". John's dedication to our community as our Executive Secretary for many years was rewarded when the UCRA Executive asked John to become our President and we regularly used his home for our Executive meetings. For me, my life on Havering Council started in John's front room when I was chosen to stand as a Residents' Councillor in 1977 for Cranham. John provided huge support to me following my election..

John for many years was Chairman of the Governing Body at Corbets Tey School in Harwood Hall Lane, being very keen to promote the excellent work of the school. Every home has benefited from the work John put into our area for which we give our sincere thanks. Our condolences to Mary, Claire and David, his daughter and son and to his grandchildren.

RON OWER

Where We Live - Found It, Fix It

Havering Council and Marlborough Highways are working together to improve the borough's roads and pavements. The partnership is now going one step further by launching the Found It, Fix It initiative. In addition to

continued on page 2

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Copy to be received on or before the above dates one Month prior to the publish date. Please note that submitting an article does not guarantee publication.

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the regular works, the Council and Marlborough, who are the Council's contractors for highways and street lighting, has joined forces to pick up on the extra little jobs that need doing in and around the bigger works. The Found it, Fix It initiative, will see roads maintenance teams picking up on those other jobs that come alongside or are noticed when the main improvement works are being carried out - this includes fixing broken slabs and kerbs, painting road bollards, repairing potholes, patching works, repainting road lines and fixing signs plus clearing gullies that have become blocked in between regular inspections. Officers will be in electric environmentally-friendly branded vehicles to inspect issues that have been picked up and then deploy the work to be carried out as soon as possible.

Under the Where We Live campaign, the aim is that the initiative will help towards keeping the borough safer and cleaner plus keep everyone moving. Residents will be encouraged to give feedback when they have spotted these additional works being done

where they live - this will be possible by scanning a QR code on a leaflet or reporting your views directly online at <https://marlboroughhighways.co.uk/contact-us/feedback/>

New way to report fraud

The Metropolitan Police Service have sent out the following message regarding fraud reporting. From 04 December 2025, the existing Action Fraud support will be replaced by our new Report Fraud service. If you previously received alert messaging from Action Fraud, this will change to advice on cyber-crime and fraud from Report Fraud.

You should report cyber-crime and fraud from now on via reportfraud.police.uk or on 0300 123 2040.

Cllr JOHN TYLER
Cranham Ward



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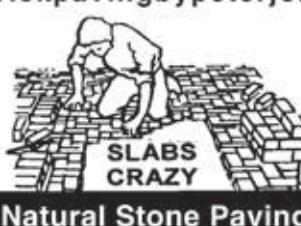


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Harvering Finance Budget Update

Just before Christmas, the Government announced its financial settlement for Havering for the next three years. The settlement includes an increase to the Council's 'core grant' of just under £38 million, which also includes funding for the requirement to collect food waste. However, it falls far short of addressing the significant financial challenges the Borough faces, following years of historic underfunding. For example, since 2010 Havering's core grant has dropped dramatically from around £100 million to £40 million. This is all whilst our population has grown and aged considerably, with Havering experiencing the fourth fastest growing children's population nationally since the 2011 census. We have made cuts across the Council to preserve essential services like adult social care and children's services. Unless there are radical changes as to how social care and children services

are funded by the Government, local councils including Havering will continue to have difficulties balancing their budgets. Council Finance Officers are working on next year's Budget, based on the Government's settlement, and a further update will be provided in future editions of the Bulletin.

Cllr CHRIS WILKINS
 Upminster Ward

Petition delivered to 10 Downing Street

In response to Government underfunding, Havering Councillors delivered a petition to 10 Downing Street on 18 December, demanding fairer funding for the Borough. The petition, which gathered thousands of signatures, is a clear demand from residents that Havering deserves a funding settlement that truly meets its needs and rapidly changing population. We hope the petition will make a difference, and we will continue to do everything we can

to ensure Havering can deliver the vital local services we all count on.

Cllr CHRIS WILKINS
 Upminster Ward

Green Belt - Grey Area?

Havering's Green Belt is one of the key features of the area, providing green aspects, open spaces and an important sense of connection with the natural world on our doorstep. The Upminster & Cranham Resident's Association has always taken a strong line in seeking to protect the Green Belt from inappropriate development, and to ensure that a sound test is applied to any proposals that are brought forward. This normally means that very special circumstances have to be demonstrated. However, due to the Government's changes to Planning Policy, many locations within the Green Belt can now be considered previously developed, the so called Grey Belt, and different, less onerous tests can be applied.

I know that local residents will be extremely disappointed in discovering that many sites in

our designated Green Belt could now be up for grabs by developers wherever the broader Grey Belt tests are met. This is in direct conflict with the established London and Local Plans, which have been rendered outdated by the Government's push to deliver Housing.

Havering is currently revising its Local Plan, and is reviewing the impact of the Grey Belt criteria, and this revision cannot come soon enough. It should provide some clarity and controls over which sites can be brought forward for housing and other development under the revised National PPF, but the re-designation of some Green Belt land to Grey Belt is inevitable. Residents Association Councillors are pushing hard for completion of a revised Local Plan to remove these uncertainties.

Cllr OSCAR FORD
 Upminster Ward

Cover Story

In December a set of traffic controls appeared in Hacton Lane, causing some congestion in the locality. Mysteriously, nothing

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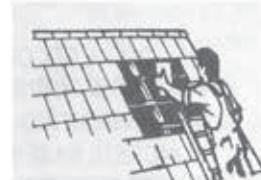
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appeared to be happening for several days. I took this up with the Highways Team and found that this related to a collapsed drain cover, down to be replaced by the Council's contractor. Following this, the cover was replaced and the controls were removed the next day.

There can be good reasons for delays to emergency repairs, including the need to source parts and materials, but with the Gallows Corner closure, such works need to be completed as soon as possible. Your Residents Association Councillors are always happy to follow up on such matters.

Cllr OSCAR FORD
Upminster Ward

A plea re litter

One of the regular issues we have in Cranham Ward, is littering in our main shopping areas and the surrounding roads. Despite street bins being available and many emptied on a daily basis, a small number of people seem to think it is OK to do this. I recently found a small bag of rubbish hung over railings, while I was out doing ward work. It took almost no time

for me to pick it up and put it in the bin a few metres away.

I would make a plea to people who drop litter, to think about what they are causing. A phrase that I have often heard is 'Neglect breeds contempt'. As well as being selfish to everyone else, it is sending out a signal that our area is not worth bothering about. For every piece of litter that is left on the ground, others may see it, think that no-one cares, and start doing the same.

I would like to thank the surprising number of people who actively litter pick as they go around the area. Unlike many places, we live in an area where people still take pride. Let's all make sure that we play our part.

Cllr JOHN TYLER
Cranham Ward



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Brain Injury Unit Application St. Mary's Lane (P0054.25) Appeal

I recently attended the Planning Appeal hearing for this application. Refused twice previously on appeal, as it did not meet the Very Special Circumstances test, this third appeal points towards the changes to Government Planning Policy on Grey Belt development. Whilst the Local Plan designation remains Green Belt, the applicants are able to rely on recent case law to demonstrate that this should be treated as a Grey Belt development. Under that policy, they only have to demonstrate sustainability, that the Green Belt's function is not undermined, and there is an unmet need for the development.

It is for the Government appointed Planning Inspector to make the determination, but this is an early test for Havering of the implications of the revised

planning framework. I expressed my concerns to the Inspector regarding the loss of local planning controls and public representation that this change has brought about.

Cllr OSCAR FORD
Upminster Ward

Take a look at the UCRA website!

Since 2019, I have been running the Upminster and Cranham Residents' Association website, ucra.co.uk, regularly updating it with useful information on council and local community matters, often well before it has a chance to go in the Bulletin. You can find contact details for your local ward councillors, as well as links to the local police and several community websites. In addition, I upload an electronic copy of the latest Bulletin each month (you can read every copy going back to 2015).

We get a surprising amount of website views from abroad, many

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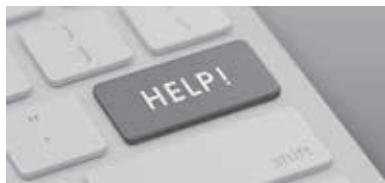
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Cllr JOHN TYLER
Cranham Ward

Planning application at former Old White Horse pub in North Ockendon

A planning application that may be of interest, was been made shortly after the January edition of the Bulletin went to print, for the site of the former Old White Horse Public House, Ockendon Road, North Ockendon (opposite the junction with Fen Lane).

The application is for 'Outline application with all matters reserved for the conversion of existing public house to two residential units and construction of seven new three-bedroom dwelling houses.' To view details of the application visit havering.gov.uk.

gov.uk, enter P1505.25 in the search box, click on the Planning Searches link and then enter P1505.25 again in the Reference box.

Cllr JOHN TYLER
Cranham Ward



Local planning

When I served on Havering Council as one of your Residents' Association councillors, I received a huge number of calls and emails on Planning Applications. Your Association view in detail the weekly lists of Planning Applications sent out by the Council to try to ensure these pose no problems for our community. We have written before that the new government are trying to fulfil their target of 1.5 million new homes by 2029 ie the lifetime of this Parliament. However, as time marches on,

it is looking that they will miss their target. With this in mind the government are pushing ahead with their "Planning and Infrastructure Bill" which they hope will remove local obstacles to building houses.

I have serious concerns as I feel that local democracy will be curbed since the bill gives the government powers to block committees of locally elected councillors from deciding most planning applications. I read in the national press that trained local planning officers will decide schemes of up to 49 homes under current proposals. Council Officers already have delegated powers. Should they be extended - no thanks... Our Residents' Association Councillors know their community and take residents' views seriously.

The Council took several years to produce a "Local Plan." As mentioned above we take an active interest in safeguarding our community. It is no secret that there have been widespread reports of a shortage of Planning Officers. Will this also scupper the government's plans?

As I get more details on the progress of the possible

legislation, I will report further.

RON OWER

Planning permissions

Further to my article on the Government's proposals where they are trying to speed up house building, it was interesting to see in the national press shortly before Christmas that "Planning permissions for new homes fell by almost a third to the lowest level in over 15 years." In fact, I read that up to the 14th December 203,900 homes were built across the country in 2025.

To reach the figure that the Government has pledged of 1.5 million new dwellings before the next General Election, an average of 300000 each year! I intend to keep a close eye on this and keep you in the loop.

RON OWER

Christmas Tree Festival

Upminster Methodist Church would like to thank everyone who visited the Christmas Tree

continued on page 9

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Festival this year, over 1400 votes were counted so that is a lot of visitors! We know that for many the festival starts off their Christmas festivities. For others it is a time to come into the quietness of the church and admire the beauty, hard work and originality of so many local organisations and schools who take part.

The votes have been counted and the winning tree was No 15 by the French Group - Le Petite Prince (the one with a flying aeroplane around the top!) In second place was No 9 by the students of Wynne's School of Dance - 'It's no 'small' wonder that we love a thesaurus!' (Mr Men and Little Miss theme) and in third place No 11 - 1st Upminster Guides - 'It's a bugs life!' (with the black spider on the top).

Thank you also so much for your very generous donations which this year raised over £5000. This will be split between First Step (a charity based in Hornchurch who support children and families with Special Needs) and children's hospices - Haven House and Little Havens.

Thank you again for your support. We look forward to the CTF 2026!

Thank you from Havering Rotary Club

Thank you to the good people of Upminster and Cranham for their generous support of our Christmas float. Father Christmas brought joy to the children and raised the sum of just over £11,000, which will be donated to local charities and good causes. Thank you all for your generous support.

Congratulations Hornchurch FC

As we go to press our local football club, Hornchurch, are top of the league - really great Congratulations. Please note following home fixtures in February.

Tuesday 10th Chelmsford City
Kick Off at 7.45pm.

Saturday 14th Tonbridge Angels,
Saturday 28th Worthing

Saturday 7th March Slough Town
Kick Off 3pm on the Saturdays
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Queen's once troubled maternity department now rated good

The maternity services at Queen's Hospital have hopefully put their troubled past behind them and thanks to extra midwives, doctors and an improving culture and have been rated good overall by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) - previously they required improvement.

The improvements the CQC inspectors saw during their visit in August included more midwives and medical staff in our triage area - the department is one of a very small number of units with a dedicated consultant in obstetric triage; 24-hour 'flow' coordinators to reduce delays; and innovative use of theatres amid rising demand for caesarean sections (C-sections).

The hospital has invested heavily in additional midwives and medical staff (including over 38 whole time equivalent posts) and has recruited 14 consultants since 2021. There are now no senior doctor vacancies in obstetrics and gynaecology and in two years, the midwife vacancy rate has decreased from 16% to 4%.

There has also been a 44% reduction in the number of stillbirths over the last year thanks to offering more consistency in the midwife or team looking after women from our more deprived areas; improved support for vulnerable women; and better use of interpreters.

In their report the inspectors wrote that "the service made sure there were enough qualified, skilled and experienced staff and they worked together to provide safe care that met women's individual needs."

Join the Upminster Ward Panel

If you want to help determine

continued on page 11



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how the local Safer Neighbourhood police Team police Upminster, why not consider joining the Ward Panel. This is a combination of local residents, businesses and community representatives who meet with the police every three months to share concerns, discuss crime trends and help set policing priorities for the area. It provides a real connection with our local police team and allows residents to influence their work. If you are interested, please let me know.

LINDA VAN DEN HENDE

Upgrading the Tithe Barn

The recently restored Tithe Barn in Upminster has received a Highly Commended award at the Wood Awards 2025 in the Restoration and Reuse category.

It was on a shortlist of 20 from over 200 entries and amongst other things, was praised for restoring the barn, "using traditional materials and techniques to secure its legacy for future generations." The Highly Commended award in the

Restoration and Reuse category, recognised that the '...project has brought new life to a medieval timber-framed barn while preserving its unique character and historical value.'

The barn, in Hall Lane, was taken off the Heritage At Risk register earlier this year, following extensive restoration works, which saw full re-thatching, plus structural timber and brickwork repairs to the building. Funding for the repairs saw the Council contributing £142,645 along with a grant of £650,000 from National Highways via the Lower Thames Crossing scheme and an additional grant of £97,664 awarded by Historic England.

To see further information on the 2025 Wood Awards visit woodawards.com/archive/winners-2025/.

Congratulations once again to all those involved in this wonderful restoration project.

Cllr JOHN TYLER
Cranham Ward

UCRA AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the UCRA will take place on

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Monday 23rd March 2026 at the Roppe Hall, Trinity Church, 29 Station Road, Upminster. The meeting will start at 7.00pm and all readers of the Bulletin are very welcome to attend.

This is your opportunity to meet the local residents selected to represent the Association in the forthcoming council elections. The agenda for the meeting will be posted in the Bulletin and on the UCRA website nearer to the event.

Baptist Church Men's Shed who kindly made our nativity scene figures for us, after our previous set was damaged last year. They were proudly on display on the church lawn throughout the Advent period in December, reminding local residents of the real meaning of Christmas.



May Local Elections

The next Local Elections take place on the 7th May, 2026. If you have not registered to vote you can do so using the following link: <https://www.havering.gov.uk/elections-voting/register-vote>.

Cllr GILLIAN FORD
Cranham Ward

Trinity Church Nativity Scene

Members and friends of Trinity URC would like to thank the talented men at Upminster

The Arts Society Havering

*10th February 2026
Architecture + Photography = Art* by Brian Stater

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continued on page 13



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unfortunate but necessary stage between the two." Architecture + Photography = Art introduces photographers who crystallised the architects' vision in images that are both works of art in their own right and shape our opinion of the buildings they depict. The lecture also examines photographers who recorded rural churches, barns and cottages to create a lyrical vision of Britain.

New Windmill Hall Upminster RM14 2QH at 10:15 am. This event is open to visitors for a fee of £8.00. Please visit our website <https://tashavering.org.uk/Lectures/FutureLectures.aspx> Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/199870022175485> or contact us at info@tashavering.org.uk, or telephone 01708 221903

Havering Antiques Club

Havering Antiques Collectors Club meets on the 3rd Friday of the month at the Harold Wood Neighbourhood Centre, Gubbins Lane, Harold Wood RM3 0A from

7.45pm to 9.15pm. Buses 346, 256 and 294 stop outside

Annual membership is a mere £40. Guests are assured of a warm welcome.

Friday 20th February 2026 - Paul Atterbury from BBC Antiques Road Show will talk about **"Art of the Train - Rail, Steam & Speed"**
- Guests £8

Friends of Upminster Windmill Spring Recruitment

We are looking for people to join our friendly & enthusiastic team of volunteers to help at our open weekends and other events. The range of tasks could include working with visitors when the mill and gardens are open to the public - welcoming visitors, mill guiding, retail, garden guides and refreshments. Or assisting with school visits or uniform group visits which can also include mill guiding. Training would be provided. If you are interested,

please call in at one of our recruitment sessions at the Visitor Centre adjacent to the Mill.

Tuesday 10th February 1.30pm to 3.30pm or Saturday 28th February - 12noon to 4pm

Experienced volunteers will be on hand to provide information, answer questions and explain what is involved. Alternatively please register your interest by emailing volunteer@upminsterwindmill.org or by completing the section on the website [www.upminsterwindmill.org](http://upminsterwindmill.org)

Havering & District National Trust Association

Meetings for 2026 begin again on *Saturday February 28th* with a talk by Nick Dobson on **"The World of Flowers"**. Meetings are held in the large hall at Ardleigh House, Hornchurch. RM11 2LG. Beginning at 2.30pm. Visitors welcome, £3 per person. Please contact the Secretary on HaveringNTA@hotmail.com

Friends of the Old Chapel

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Roope Hall, Trinity Church, Station Road, Upminster

Wednesday 11th February
Famous hoaxes from 18th to 20th century. Jef Page freelance lecturer and museum guide highlights the wide variety of hoaxes of this period.

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@maryhavering.sch.uk

Trinity Church coffee morning and sale

Coffee morning and sale will be held at Trinity Church on *Saturday 14th February 2026* from 10-12 in the Roope Hall. On sale will be jewellery, puzzles, books, china and glass and craft

continued on page 15

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items. All proceeds go to S.M.I.L.E London and Essex - Trinity's chosen charity for 2026, who support those in the local area facing poverty, homelessness and hardship.

Havering Astronomical Society

Adult group

Wednesday 18 February, 7.15 for 7.30pm.

Dr Emma Curtis-Lake, University of Hertfordshire, will give a talk about her work on the JADES Survey (JWST Advanced Deep Extragalactic Survey), concerning the detection of early galaxies.

Young Astronomers (aged 8-16)

Meetings are normally on the first Thursday of the month (7-8pm). Please note that January's meeting will be on Thursday 8 January, and February's will be on 5 February.

These events are a mix of space news, talks, activities, and observing when possible. Please contact young.astronomers@havastro.co.uk for further

details.

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@havastro.co.uk or see our website www.havastro.co.uk.

Upminster Lymphoma and Blood Cancer Support Group

We have been a blood cancer support group for about 12 years and in that time have been able to help people through the difficult times of coping with a blood cancer diagnosis. 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 and a program of interesting speakers. 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. Our next meeting will be held on 24 February.

For more details, please contact Ian.doreen@btinternet.com or Denise.hosking@gmail.com

Diabetes UK- Havering Group

Our next meeting is on Monday 16th February at 8.00pm at the Large Hall, 24 North Street, Hornchurch, RM11 1QX (corner of Westland Avenue, opposite Iceland. As usual there is a £2 entrance fee that covers the cost of hiring the hall and also entitles everyone to a nice cup of tea/coffee. For further details please phone the Group Secretary on **01708 935779**.

Volunteering at the Thames Chase Visitor Centre

Do you love meeting new people and making others feel welcome? We're looking for friendly faces to join our Visitor Centre reception team as volunteers. You'll be part of a knowledgeable, supportive, and fun team — and you'll meet some amazing staff and volunteers along the way! No prior experience is needed, just a friendly attitude and a willingness to learn.

If this sounds like something you'd enjoy, we'd love to hear from you! To find out more, get in touch: enquiries@thameschase.org.uk or call **01708 642970**.

Upminster and District Probus Club

Are you a retired or semi-retired Gentleman? Our Probus Club meets at the Square in Deyncourt

continued on page 17



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Gardens, Upminster on the second Wednesday of each month, where this month we enjoy a chat and a drink before a 3-course lunch followed by tea or coffee. Our speaker this month will be Joanne Larmer who will be talking about "1066 and all that: The life of King Harold Godwinson".

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 upminsterprobussec.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 secretary, Martin Beadle on **07966 881103** or you can email him at upminsterprobus.lunch@gmail.com.

Wednesday Afternoon Music at Hornchurch Library

Wed 4th February at 2pm Parade of the Animals - presented by Dawn Cunningham Clayton with a programme that represents a sort of musical Noah's Ark with a selection of animal tunes and songs plus a couple of comical songs by Arthur Askey and Flanders & Swann.

Wed 18th February at 2pm Laughter and Tears - presented by Mike Beaman. Songs about crying and laughing, from Don't Cry for me Argentina to Cry by Johnnie Ray via The Laughing Policeman, Laughter in the Rain by Neil Sedaka and Vesti la giubba where Pavarotti sounds pretty distraught.

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. For further details or to be added to our email list call Stephen Raindle **01708 470670** or email sraindle@aol.com

EoLFHS Havering branch

The East of London Family History Society Havering branch will meet at Trinity Church, Gaynes Road, Upminster, RM14 2SJ on Saturday 7 February. The hall opens at 1.00pm and the meeting starts at 2.00pm. Kelly Cornwell will talk on Researching Your Essex and East London Ancestors. Kelly is a Professional Genealogist with over 20 years' experience of researching family histories.

Upminster Wine & Social Club

This month we meet on 19th February at 8pm in Cranham Social Hall Front Lane Cranham RM14 1XN. We will be doing blind wine tasting to see which wine is the best. Entrance fee is £5 please feel free to come along and join us.

For further information contact Kevin **07727497367**.

OUT AND ABOUT 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

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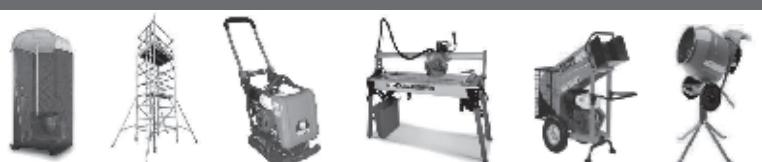
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Further information can be found at www.h90j.org.uk or email membership@h90j.org.uk

Cranham Baptist Church coffee stop

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.

Harwood Ladies Probus Lunch Club

Are you looking for a friendly place to enjoy a meal and make new friends? Are you new to the area or simply looking to expand your social circle? Our Probus

Club is the perfect spot for you! We welcome new members of all backgrounds who are interested in sharing good conversation, laughter. We offer a delicious lunch, engaging talks to enjoy afterwards and a welcoming and sociable atmosphere where everyone feels at home.

Interested in becoming a member? Bring a friend - the more the merrier. We meet on the second Wednesday of every month at Top Meadow Golf Club, Fen Lane, Upminster. Get in touch with Lesley for more details on **07931 974794**.

Havering Ladies Probus Club

Looking for new friends, fun and great food? Join us on the first Wednesday of every month for a three course meal at Top Meadow Golf Course, offering some of the best views in Essex. Enjoy afternoons filled with friendly company, guest speakers, raffles and quizzes - all in a welcoming and relaxed atmosphere. You are invited to come along to a couple of meetings to see if our club is right for you - no obligation to join afterwards.

For more information or to book your place, contact our friendly club secretary on **01708 701545**. She'll be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Wingletye Ladies Probus Luncheon Club

We are a friendly group of ladies, aged 50+, who meet at The Square, Deyncourt Gardens on the 1st Wednesday of each month. We have a 3 course lunch and after lunch we have a speaker. At present we have a few vacancies and you are assured of a warm welcome if you wish to join us. For further details please contact Sheila on **01708 469235**

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.

Oglethorpe Women's Institute

We meet at Cranham Social Centre on the 4th Wednesday of every month from 1.45pm to 4pm. We are a very friendly, welcoming group who enjoy speakers, activities and a chat with a cup of tea. If you would like to find out more, please contact our Secretary, Pat Bridge on **01708 225616**.

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.

We meet in Cranham Community Centre, room 12 on Fridays at 1.15 pm until approximately 3.45 pm and would welcome new members. Only £2 per session with refreshment available. We do follow the Official Scrabble rules but are friendly and helpful. For more details, please contact Barbara Parker **01708 640176** or **07498573546** or just turn up.



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Doors open at 1.00pm. Show starts at 1.30pm and finishes at 3.30pm. Tickets £18. (All drinks to be purchased from the bar but you are welcome to bring your own nibbles)

Monday 20th April - Day Trip to Coventry. A new place to visit.

Our coach will drop us off right by the New Cathedral in the centre of Coventry. Coventry is a large town with plenty of shops, restaurants & pubs and there is the Blitz Museum. This tells the story of the night of 14 November 1940 when Coventry was heavily bombed because it was then the centre of the British motor industry. Then there is the story of Lady Godiva who rode on horseback through Coventry naked! Why? you will have to come on the trip to find out! Price £33.

To book go to our website www.ardleighhouse.org/trips or email:

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

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The Havering Concert Orchestra

The Havering Concert Orchestra (HCO) is the amateur orchestra which has been serving the London Borough of Havering in London and surrounding areas for over 50 years. The HCO prides itself as a community orchestra and exists to provide opportunities for local instrumentalists to practise and develop their musical skills, and to provide entertainment for members of the public. We have adult members of all ages, and endeavour to make our rehearsals and concerts friendly and welcoming occasions.

Whenever possible, the orchestra works with local soloists; we have a particular commitment to offer local young musicians' solo performance opportunities and have worked with several past winners of the Havering Young Musician of the Year competition. We continue to welcome new players, particularly in the string sections. Rehearsals take place on Wednesday evenings in North Street Hall (opposite Iceland), North Street, Hornchurch, RM111QX at 7.30 - 9.30 pm on most Wednesdays during school term time.

The Orchestra is giving another of its successful Family Concerts at Upminster's New Windmill Hall on Sunday afternoon at 3:00 pm on 22 March 2026. More details will be provided in the March Bulletin.

The Proper Blokes Club

Would you or 'your man' like to get some exercise after Christmas, or meet some new guys for a regular, year-round 'walk and talk'? It's good for all adult men. Team Upminster meets every Wednesday, 6.30 at the side entrance of Upminster Station, for a local one hour walk. It's welcoming, supportive, friendship-building, and there's

the opportunity to join other London groups for extended walks, have a local group bi-monthly evening meal, family games night, or also join Team Hornchurch (Sundays 9am), or Team Romford (Mondays 7pm). www.theproperblokesclub.co.uk or 07397 501110, or 01708 251265.

Oglethorpe Players Murder Mystery

The Oglethorpe Players are delighted to confirm that first performances of their new and now famous (or infamous) Murder Mystery Quiz evenings will be presented at St Matthews Church Hall, Chelmsford Drive, RM14 2PH on Friday 6th March at 8pm & Saturday 7th March at 2:30 and 7:30 pm. The evening will consist of a intriguing drama/whodunnit, entitled 'THE AIR RAID SHELTER INCIDENT', an exciting East End wartime murder written and directed by Gerry Sweeney followed by a quiz for your tables to compete in.

Tickets prices are being held back to a very reasonable £8 pp and profits will go to the church to assist their worthy causes. Bring own refreshments. Tables of eight

continued on page 22

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or part of. For more details and how to book tickets contact Gerry Sweeney at gerrysweeney@sky.com

Developments at Bell Corner - Upminster

As last month's Bulletins were being delivered, we heard from Havering Council that a Planning Application for the former betting office at 4 Bell Corner had been received - reference P 1507.25. This applies for a "change of use of former betting office to a hot food take away with proposed alterations including the installation of a new mechanical ventilation system etc."

Please note the weekly lists of Planning Applications from Havering Council can be viewed on our website.

Priority for pedestrians

Following the article in the January Bulletin, the details of the updated priorities for pedestrians crossing roads are set out primarily in Rule 8 of the Highway Code. This states:- At a

junction. When you are crossing or waiting to cross the road, other traffic should give way. Look out for traffic turning into the road, especially from behind you, and cross at a place where drivers can see you. If you have started crossing and traffic wants to turn into the road, you have priority and they should give way (see Rules H2 and 170).

Fuller details of the rules for pedestrians are set out in the Highway Code website <https://www.highwaycodeuk.co.uk/>

Cllr CHRIS WILKINS
Upminster Ward

Damage to City of London in WWII

The London Picture Archive has published a series of over 350 photographs taken of damage to buildings in the City of London during the Second World War. The photos were all taken by two City of London Police Officers, Arthur Cross and Fred Tibbs, who were assigned to record the destruction caused by Luftwaffe bombing from the start of the Blitz until the war ended.

Images include ones of Tower

Bridge and St. Paul's Cathedral, as well as a remarkable picture taken on 11 May 1941, of the upper storeys of a building at 23 Queen Victoria Street succumbing to fire and collapsing forward into the street.

The collection can be viewed for free online via londonpicturearchive.org.uk/ and entering 'cross and tibbs' in the search box.

Cllr JOHN TYLER
Cranham Ward

White line bays

We have mentioned this regularly. Around 40 years ago following requests from residents the Council introduced white line bays, where vehicle owners are able to park partly off the road thus making it easier for other vehicles to pass in the road.

Over the years the number of these has increased. However please note a number of the bays are in "Controlled Parking Zones" where there are yellow lines banning parking as an example 8am to 9.30 am or 8am to 6.30pm etc. In these cases, the parking restrictions also cover the bays in those times. A number of drivers

believe it is safe to park during those times. It is NOT and the Council do issue Penalty Notices. Please pass this message on

Electric Scooters on Havering Roads

We have heard from the local police regarding the issue of anti-social behaviour involving the use of E-scooters on pavements and public roads. As it is illegal to ride an E-scooter on the highway, many have been seized by police officers in the Havering area. For those that are unaware, it is not currently possible to get insurance for privately owned E-scooters. This means it is illegal to use them on the road or in public spaces, such as parks, street pavements, and shopping centres. You can read more information around the use of E-Scooters on <https://www.met.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/rs-road-safety/advice-escooters/>

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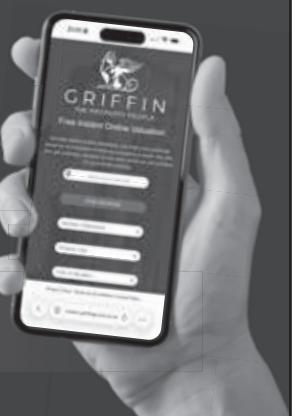
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