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Draft London Plan and consultation

On July 16 2026, the Draft London Plan was published. This is Mayor of London’s strategy for how the city should grow and develop over the next 25 years. It is a lengthy document, and includes policies on housing, jobs, transport, the environment and public spaces. A consultation has been opened on the draft plan, which runs until 15 October 2026.

For Havering, the draft plan includes a ‘Greenfield housing target’ for the borough of 12,060 homes to be built between 2027-2037 (approximately 1,200 per year). Whilst this does not specifically define this as being on Green Belt land, it would be difficult to envisage that not being a major part of what is intended. This figure of 12,060 is 21% of the greenfield target for the whole of London, while other similar boroughs, such as Bexley and Bromley have a zero target.

Locally to us, Upminster has been designated as a ‘Broad location for growth’ (BLG) for both ‘Residential-led mixed use’ and ‘Green Belt Industrial – A127 (Upminster Area)’. The rationale for this appears to be that Upminster has good transport links (particularly rail) compared to other outer London locations. The news of this proposal will bring dismay to many of our residents, as, if progressed, it could lead to the number of homes in Cranham and Upminster Wards increasing by 30-60% in the next decade.

Local UCRA councillors will be analysing the full contents of the Draft Plan, and responding to the consultation. Members of the public can also view the plan and submit comments by visiting our website ucra.co.uk/draft-london-plan-and-consultation/ and clicking on the links to the Greater London Authority (GLA) website.

Cllrs GILLIAN FORD, JOHN TYLER, LESLEY TYLER (Cranham Ward)
and Cllrs MICHAEL FISHER, OSCAR FORD, CHRIS WILKINS (Upminster Ward)

Thank You, Volunteers

One of the things I have really enjoyed since becoming a councillor is seeing the difference that local volunteers make to our community. Recently, I noticed how good the war memorial and its surrounding garden in Upminster are looking. It is wonderful to see this important place being given the care and respect it deserves, and I would like to thank everyone involved.

I was also contacted by a resident who was concerned about the condition of the large plant tubs near the library on Corbets Tey Road. They had become overgrown with weeds and were no longer looking their best. After I contacted the Friends of Upminster Park, their volunteers kindly stepped in and, within a couple of days, had transformed the area. They now have plans to replant the area.

These may seem like small improvements, but they make a real difference to the appearance of our town and the pride we all take in it. My sincere thanks go to everyone who gives their time to make Upminster a better place for us all.

Cllr MICHAEL FISHER

Havering Reform removing support to address climate change

As I write this, there are clear signs of an approaching climate breakdown with searing temperatures and widespread fires across the borough. These threaten the comfort and wellbeing of all borough residents. Despite this evidence, the Reform leadership in the Havering Council have announced that they propose to cut back expenditure on the climate emergency,

While the Council claims that there may be short-term cost savings as environmental schemes are cut back,

these need to be measured against the longer term costs of a more hostile environment. Analysis of the position for just the heatwaves in May and June has indicated that these appear to have resulted in 2700 premature deaths across the country. In addition, many institutions such as schools and hospitals have been severely disrupted because of the high temperatures. Without actions to stop or at least reduce climate change these impacts are likely to increase in the future.

It is therefore essential that greater not less attention is given to addressing the effects of the climate emergency. The future wellbeing of our community and others should not be sacrificed by the Reform Party to the ideological goals imposed by the millionaire national leadership of the party.

THE EDITOR





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LTC Update

The National Audit Office (NAO) is investigating the Lower Thames Crossing project due to concerns raised about rising costs. The project's budget has increased over time by several billions. An additional £174m was added recently, bringing the current total to £11bn.

The review is in response to concerns raised by the Transport Action Network in a letter to the NAO. NAO has confirmed that an investigation is underway, and findings will be published. The investigation could affect the project's funding and timeline, focusing on concerns about the government's infrastructure spending and transparency.

The Department for Transport defends the project on the premise that it will reduce congestion and boost economic growth.

Cllr OSCAR FORD

Benets Fields Development

As we go to press, we are still waiting the outcome from

planning officers following application P0417.26 with a proposal to develop 475 homes on the site of fields behind Wingletye Lane. A massive thank you to everyone that has objected, campaigned and supported our protest against this. Having analysed the numerous documents that the developers have submitted it is clear that they are determined to re-evaluate the fields as "grey" belt despite so much evidence that this is green belt, essential to retain the rural aspect of this part of Havering and to ensure a separation from Hornchurch and Upminster. Let us hope that the new Reform Council are able to support local residents and deliver a strong NO to planning officers and the developers to protect our countryside.

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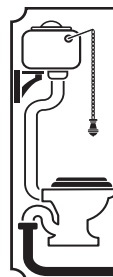
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Planning Decisions

I am regularly asked about planning. One of the biggest misconceptions is that councillors can simply vote against a planning application because they, or local residents, do not like it. In reality, that is not how the planning system works.

Every application must be considered against national and local planning policies. Members of the Planning Committee are required to make their decisions within this legal framework, not on personal opinion. This does not mean residents' views are ignored. Comments about issues such as traffic, parking, overlooking, noise, or the impact on neighbouring properties can all be important planning considerations. However, objections must relate to planning policy rather than whether a development is popular or unpopular.

If a committee refuses an application without sound planning reasons, the applicant can appeal. Should the appeal succeed, the council may not only have to grant permission but could

also face significant legal costs.

Planning can sometimes be frustrating, but councillors have a duty to make decisions that are fair, lawful, and supported by planning policy.

Cllr MICHAEL FISHER

Upminster Police Update

We had a well-attended Ward Panel recently with some interesting results reported.

Reported Burglary has shown a big reduction in this quarter, reducing from 8 residential to 0, with non-residential, including sheds/garages, reducing from 5 to 4. Motor vehicle crime has reduced. Theft of vehicles has reduced from 15 to 7 although theft from vehicles has increased from 7 to 16 with many from unlocked vehicles. A number have occurred in the station car park. Mopeds from fast food establishments have also been targeted, although a number of perpetrators have been identified and are being targeted.

Anti-social behaviour which was a priority has seen 8 incidents with 7 neighbour disputes.

Following the significant success in reducing shoplifting last quarter, this quarter has increased from 14 to 28. The police are working hard with retailers to encourage reporting and have a number of persons of interest they are pursuing. The police have agreed to hold an Upminster Retailers meeting in August to listen to their specific concerns. Priorities for the next quarter remain as ASB, Vehicle crime and shoplifting. As ever we are reminded to call 999 if a crime is taking place and 101 to report in slower time.

LINDA VAN DEN HENDE

Community in Action

I was delighted to see around 50 volunteers turn out on one of the hottest days of the year to help with the first project funded by a recent £6,250 donation from Upminster and Cranham Residents Association (UCRA) to the Friends of Upminster Park (FOUP). The task was simple but made a real difference. Volunteers of all ages came together to paint the fence around the children's play area, with the younger helpers

especially enjoying the chance to play their part. By the end of the session, almost half of the fence had been transformed, and the improvement was there for everyone to see.

Days like this show what can be achieved when the community works together. They are not just about improving the park, but also about bringing people together, meeting neighbours and taking pride in our local area. There is still plenty of the fence left to paint, so another volunteer day will be taking place soon. If you would like to get involved, please keep an eye on the Friends of Upminster Park Facebook page for details. Every helping hand is welcome.

Cllr MICHAEL FISHER

Letters to the editor

Parking near Hornchurch Stadium

First of all, I want to echo the sentiments relating to the success enjoyed by Hornchurch FC gaining promotion to the National League. However, I'd like to raise the issue of parking for home and away

continued on page 5

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fans that continues to affect residents in the surrounding local area. On match days, and this season it seemed to start to take effect earlier on in the day/ evening, inconsiderate parking e.g., partial obstruction of drives, parking on double yellow lines, parking on grass verges obstructing pavements etc has been a constant problem. I appreciate you're likely to point to the existing process to report such parking behaviour however my personal experience is that this process lacks the expedient response required to make a difference.

What would I like to see? Well focused parking enforcement on match days is a good start and, to drive the message home, a concerted communication strategy by the football club to highlight in football programs, social media etc, the issues caused by such inconsiderate parking and the consequences i.e., rigorous enforcement via PCNs.

We genuinely appreciate the challenges of controlling parking and we have seen some efforts to address this with parking marshalls at the gates etc but as this issue has got worse season

upon season it would be remiss of me not to raise it.

Reply from Editor

The football club have been contacted but so far there has been no response on this.

Upminster Tithe Barn

The beautifully restored historic Upminster Tithe Barn sadly remains closed to visitors over a year since the upgrade which was to bring new life to the building. The volunteers from the popular free to enter museum which had been housed in the barn since 1976 (and who were hoping to mark its 50th anniversary this year) were previously told that no decision on its future would be taken until after the local elections in May.

Therefore, are any of the Association Councillors now able to provide an update please?

Reply from Editor

Councillor Gillian Ford has contacted the Council and reports that there is no news on this.

Bert Bonnett

I attended the funeral of Bert Bonnett in July following his death

at age 91. Bert, as many will know was born and lived at Central Farm until 2 years ago when he moved to be closer to family in Maldon. Many will have shopped at Bloom and Veg, the farm shop at Central Farm along Aveley Road, run for many years by Bert.

Bert was a great supporter of Upminster and Cranham Residents Association and me in particular, when I was a councillor, and who he always referred to as 'Girl'. He attended many meetings especially on Damyns Hall issues, the proposed Travelling Showman's site in Park Farm Road and anything that would detract from the area he loved. His love for the area is demonstrated most lastingly by the piece of land he sold, which is known as Bonnetts Wood. He was involved with many from UCRA in planting shrubs there, which now provide a mature habitat for wildlife.

His funeral was held at St. Mary Magdalene, North Ockendon where his last journey was made with Shire Horses carrying his coffin. This was especially fitting as his love for shire horses was legendary and he would remind

me that he (and the horses) had starred with Russell Crowe in Gladiator!!!

He is survived by his wife Pam who he married at St. Mary Magdalene some 69 years ago, and Bert is buried in that churchyard. He was an amazing man who I am proud to have called a friend.

LINDA VAN DEN HENDE

Red blood cell unit opens at Queen's Hospital

Patients with sickle cell disease and other rare blood disorders are receiving care in a new purpose-built Haematology Red Cell Unit at Queen's Hospital, designed to improve comfort and patient experience during treatments. The dedicated unit provides a specialist space for around 360 local people who come into hospital for regular blood transfusions and red cell exchange procedures, which take several hours. During a period

continued on page 7

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of hospital redevelopment the Infusion Suite where transfusions used to take place was repurposed for our new MRI unit, and patients were treated in different areas of the hospital while services were reconfigured.

Hornchurch Football Club

As the football season started last month, we are pleased to inform you of some future fixtures for Hornchurch Football Club who have been promoted to the Enterprise National League. This month at The Stadium, Bridge Avenue, Upminster.

Saturday 5th home to **Forest Green Rovers**, kick off at 3pm.

Saturday 19th home to **Scunthorpe** kick off at 5.30pm.

Tuesday 29th home to **Aldershot** kick off at 7.45pm

Next month **Saturday 10th** home to **Eastleigh** kick off at 3pm

Please note kick off times. Keep an eye on any changes ,news, ticket prices etc on the clubs excellent website

Cricket on the green

Upminster Cricket Club are pleased to confirm that the Annual Benefit Match between Upminster CC v Essex CCC will be held in Upminster Park on Sunday 13th September. The beneficiary will again be the Essex Cricket Foundation which supports cricket at all levels within the County. The club will be staging some youth cricket matches during the morning followed by the main match in the afternoon. The various elevens have enjoyed successful seasons and the Club looks forward to an enjoyable and well attended day.

St Joseph's New Parish Centre

As reported in the April Bulletin, St Joseph's Catholic Church are planning to replace the existing Social Centre on St Mary's Lane with a new Parish Centre that will provide a more suitable base for parish and community activities.

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We are now nearly ready to submit a planning application, and would like to invite members of the local community to look at the plans and ask any questions whilst enjoying some refreshments. We are holding a drop-in evening in the existing Social Centre, 117 St Mary's Lane (between St Joseph's School and Aldi), on Monday 14th September, between 6pm and 8pm. All are welcome.

For further information contact Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi, Parish Priest Tel: **01708 222432** or Email: upminster@brcdt.org

The Refill Cabin

'The Refill Cabin' is on a mission to reduce single-use plastic in our shopping. We have all seen the mountains of waste produced daily in the UK, most of which ends up on landfill or incinerators. From their mobile shop at various locations in Havering and Essex they make it easy to refill your own containers with a wide range of high quality household essentials including soaps, cleaners, nuts, pasta, spices etc.

Current locations in Havering

include Wellgate Community Farm in Collier Row, St John's Church in Rainham, Wyllie's Vets and Upminster Baptist Church. You can visit www.refillcabin.co.uk to view the calendar for locations for your refills. They will also take orders online and deliver in reusable containers.

The aim is to help you keep waste out of landfill but maintain excellent quality products.

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South Essex Townswomen's Guild Leisure Day 2026

Our annual leisure day will be held at the New Windmill Hall, St. Mary's Lane Upminster on Tuesday 22nd September 2026. The doors will be open from 9.30 am. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be served, followed by three informative and entertaining speakers. There will be a break for lunch from 12.15 pm until 1.55 pm when ladies can enjoy local lunch

continued on page 9

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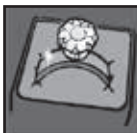
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venues. The event will finish at 3.30 pm.

Tickets are priced at £9 (incl. of tea, biscuits and coffee) with payment at the door. Please contact Brenda Smith on **01708 457403**

Support Carol's fundraising with Strictly Saint Francis

One of our long-term volunteers, Carol Driscoll, is raising money for Saint Francis Hospice by taking part in a fab-u-lous night of dance, glitz and glamour at the Strictly Saint Francis event at the Brentwood Centre on 23 October!

Carol says "I am aiming to raise funds for the wonderful St Francis Hospice by taking part as a ballroom dance competitor in Strictly St Francis. In my life I have never asked for sponsorship and never had the courage and self-confidence to do anything like this, let alone compete in front of a live audience. However, I'm pushing my fears aside as life is for

living while I'm still fit and healthy enough and I am passionate about dancing, so what better way could there be to raise funds for Saint Francis Hospice?"

To help Carol raise money, visit her JustGiving page - [justgiving.com/page/carol-driscoll-1](https://www.justgiving.com/page/carol-driscoll-1). You can also book tickets to the event itself by visiting [eventim.co.uk/whats-on/saint-francis/](https://www.eventim.co.uk/whats-on/saint-francis/). If you buy tickets to the event, it would be appreciated if you can email Carol at caroldriscoll298@gmail.com with your name and how many tickets purchased, as she will get some points credit towards her dance score for ticket sales.

Havering AC Club Championships

Sunday 20th September 2026 at the Hornchurch Stadium, Bridge Avenue, Upminster. An open event where young athletes from many clubs come together to compete in races, high jumps, triple jumps, javelins etc. Go along and support whoever is taking part. For further information please contact Havering Athletic Clubs website.

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Halloween

Halloween Land organised by Havering Mind is a Halloween themed walkway at the blind garden in Harrow Lodge Park, adjacent to the leisure centre. This will be held in evenings between 24th October and 1st November 2026. The aim is to spook and scare but not frighten. Further details next month.

Thames Chase - September 2026

Join us at the Thames Chase Forest Centre to celebrate the 10th year of the Art & Sculpture Exhibition. The annual Thames Chase Art and Sculpture Exhibition 2026 launches on 31st August.

We are thrilled to be showcasing and supporting the work of local artists. All works are available for purchase. Entry is free and works will be available to view daily from 10am-4pm until September 10th at the Thames Chase Forest Centre, Pike Lane, Upminster RM14 6NS

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

Cranham Community Centre quiz night

Saturday 3rd October at the Centre in Marlborough Gardens, Cranham. Tickets £8 with up to 10 on a table. Start 7.30pm. For tickets please call the office on **01708 220941** or pop into the office. Come along and support your local centre

The Windmill in September

The Windmill is open on 12th [10am - 4pm], 13th and 27th September [both 11am to 4pm] during "Heritage Month". There will be features and displays focused around the Mill People, how and where they lived & dressed, and how the local Community supported The Windmill during its long life. Tour the Mill, or simply come and enjoy tea and cake from our kiosk

continued on page 11



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in the Visitor Centre Garden. We have games and activities for kids too!

Entry to the Garden, Visitor Centre and Grounds is free. Windmill tours are available at £6 Adults, Under 18s £2 [Minimum height 1 Metre]. Closed in, flat soled footwear is required in the Mill. For full details of opening times and activities in 2026, please visit www.upminsterwindmill.org

All Saints Players present:

All Saints' Players are pleased to announce their forthcoming production of 'The Haunted Through Lounge and Recessed Dining Nook at Farndale Castle. The ladies of the Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society make another spectacle of themselves and their harassed producer. Vigorous sound effects enhance their spine-chilling mystery production, a tale of murder and mayhem that is guaranteed to bring down the house or at least a substantial part of the set.

Performances at All Saints' Church Hall, Ardleigh Green

Road, Hornchurch, Essex RM11 2LG from 17th - 19th September 2026. Performances start at 8pm. Doors open half an hour before curtain up. Tickets cost £8.50 pp for Adults including interval tea/coffee. Tickets can be obtained from the Box Office on **07570 642010** or Email: boxoffice@allsaintsplayers.org.uk. You can also follow us on Facebook and visit our website.

The Wesley Players present:

The Ghost Train - a 1920's comedy-thriller by Arnold Ridley.

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Saturday 19th September at 8pm. Matinee 4pm Saturday 19th September at Upminster Methodist Church, 10 Hall Lane, Upminster RM14 1AE.

Tickets: Online: £9 adults (16+) £7 Concessions and £5 children. At the door: £10 adults (16+) £8 Concessions and £6 children. Free senior tickets available. (Donations welcome). Tickets in advance at www.wesley-players.com or card/cash on the door. Need to speak to the Box Office? Text **07708 214742**

Book early to avoid disappointment.

Free fitness morning

Upjoggers turns 18 this year and to celebrate we are holding a free fitness morning in Upminster Park on Friday 25th September starting at 9am. There will be lots of activities to suit all levels and trained professionals to answer your fitness questions. No pressure to join just a fun morning to mark our big day and there may even be birthday cake.

To reserve a place please message Karen on **07531 959511**.

'Grief Shared'

Cranham Baptist Church has a monthly bereavement support group called 'Grief Shared' on the first Friday of each month, from 1:30 to 3pm. Here people who are grieving can come and share stories and support one another through the difficult grieving process. Refreshments are provided and there is no need to book. For any questions, please contact Helen on **07436 720911** or email cbcminister1@gmail.com.

Trinity Church coffee morning

Coffee morning and sale will be held at Trinity Church on Saturday 12th September from 10-12 on the front lawn, weather permitting. On sale will be plants, jewellery, puzzles, books, cards and craft items. All proceeds go to S.M.I.L.E London and Essex - Trinity's chosen charity for 2026, which supports those in the local area facing poverty, homelessness and hardship.

The church will also be open during the sale for anyone

continued on page 13

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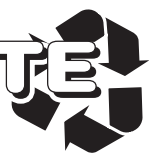
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wanting to come and look round from 10.30-11.30am, with a short time of prayer at 11am. All are welcome to join us to light a candle and offer prayers for anyone or any situation close to your heart.

Purse found in Front Lane

OPurse found on zebra crossing in Front Lane on Sunday 2nd August. To arrange the return of this, please contact the finder via the Bulletin Email with a description of the purse.

OUT AND ABOUT 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, Upminster RM14 3EH. 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.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday 15th September

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

We celebrated our last meeting before the summer break on a sunny Tuesday in July at the Boathouse in Stubbers Adventure Centre. This modern, light and airy room with a private patio overlooking the boating lake in the shade of a beautiful weeping willow tree was the perfect

setting for members to catch up and enjoy a buffet lunch. How fortunate we are to have all the facilities Stubbers offer on our doorstep.

September is Blood Cancer Awareness month; an ideal time to come together to support each other. If you or someone you know has a blood cancer diagnosis then why not come and join us.

Diabetes UK-Havering Group

Our next meeting is on Monday 21st September at 8.00pm at the Large Hall, 24 North Street, Hornchurch, RM11 1QX (corner of Westland Avenue, opposite Iceland). The speaker will be Professor Tim Tree, a leading immunologist and professor at Kings College London who will be talking about "Finding Ways to halt the autoimmune attack and prevent Type 1 diabetes".

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**.

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. For our September meeting our speaker will be Tony Earle with "The Story of the Silver Screen".

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 upminsterprobussc.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 upminsterprobuss.lunch@gmail.com

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Wednesday Afternoon Music at Hornchurch Library

We look forward to seeing you when our Autumn programme commences.

Wed 7th October As Autumn Approaches - presented by our regular team who will offer some seasonal music and quite likely an indication of the music they will be playing in their programmes during the coming 3 months.

Wed 21st October Tall Tales To Fairy Tales - presented by Stephen Raindle. A great deal of classical music has been influenced by folk legends and fairy tales so expect music from Swan Lake, Peer Gynt, Scheherazade plus a terrifying musical tale from Dvorak.

All programmes are of recorded music played on high quality audio equipment and take place in the 1st floor main meeting room (lift available), 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

Havering Astronomical Society

Our events are held at Thames Chase Forest Centre, Pike Lane, Upminster. For further information, please see our website, www.havastro.co.uk, or e-mail enquiries@havastro.co.uk.

co.uk. NB: Please note our concessionary rate of £30 for those aged 30 and under at time of joining; this and other details can be seen on our website.

Adult group

Wednesday 16 September, 7.15 for 7.30pm To be presented (at Thames Chase) via Zoom. Paul Money, regular speaker to HAS, author and former

Reviews Editor of the BBC 'Sky at Night' magazine, will present 'Atmospheres of the Solar System'.

Young Astronomers (aged 8-16)

Meetings are on the first Thursday of the month (7-8pm). These events are a mix of space news, talks, activities, and observing when possible. Please contact young.astronomers@havastro.co.uk for further details.

East of London Family History Society

The Havering branch will meet at Trinity Church, Gaynes Road, Upminster, RM14 2SJ on the first Saturday of the month. The hall opens at 1.00pm and the meeting starts at 2.00pm.

On Saturday 5 September Tony Tuckwell will give a talk on London's 19th century suburban and manufacturing explosion and the impact of new immigration. On Saturday 3rd October Roy Larkin will tell us about the work of the London omnibuses that were taken to France in 1914. His talk is based on his book

'Destination Western Front'

For further details, please contact Janet Seward at Janetseward51@gmail.com or **07762 514238**

Havering Antiques

We are a friendly club, meeting on the 3rd Friday of every month at 7.30 for 7.45 start at Harold Wood Neighbourhood Centre, Gubbins Lane, Harold Wood, RM3 0QA. 256, 294 and 346 buses stop outside and there is ample parking. Annual Membership £40 - Guests £6. For our meeting on 18th September, Paul Hounsell will talk about vintage toys. For more details, please contact our Chairman Mrs Chris Lovett **079 4736 7258**.

The Arts Society, Havering

Tuesday 08 September 2026 Hokusai's Influence by Sarah Jaffrey. This lecture provides a short introduction to art and life of Katsushika Hokusai, looking at his diverse career and artistic

continued on page 17

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impact. In the first part, we will introduce his fascinating life as an artist, from storyteller to teacher, from performance painter to the landscape artist we know him to be - coming to his Great Wave and its historical context. Then, we look at Hokusai's unprecedented influence on Western art by examining some of the artists inspired by him. The hope is to give a full picture of Hokusai, his Great Wave and beyond.

New Windmill Hall Upminster RM14 2QH at 10:15 am. This event is open to visitors for a fee of £8. Please visit our web site <https://tashaver.org.uk/Lectures/FutureLectures.aspx> Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/199870022175485> or contact us at info@tashaver.org.uk, or telephone 01708 221903

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Tea and Talks

Wednesday 9th September Roope Hall, Trinity Church, Station Road, Upminster. Tony Benton will describe how the period between the end of the Great War and the start of the Second World War saw major changes in Upminster as historic buildings gave way to new developments, and the village became a suburban town.

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

Upminster Art Society

Upminster Art Society is a small but dedicated and friendly group, meeting on Wednesday evenings from 7pm onwards. We hold regular exhibitions at venues including Queen's Theatre and

Upminster Library. Although we no longer have a resident tutor, professional artist demonstrations and a varied programme continue to inspire members to develop their skills and enjoy painting together. New members of all abilities are always welcome. For more information, please contact Terry on 07880 770324.

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 Wine & Social Club

We meet in the Cranham Social Hall at 8 pm on the 3rd Thursday of every month. Our next meeting date Thursday 17th September, when we will have details of our next dance in November. Guest fee is £5. Please come along for a great evening out and as always cheese and biscuits followed by a glass of wine will be available. For further information please contact Kevin on 07727 497367.

Havering Joggers

Havering '90 Joggers (H90j) are a
continued on page 19

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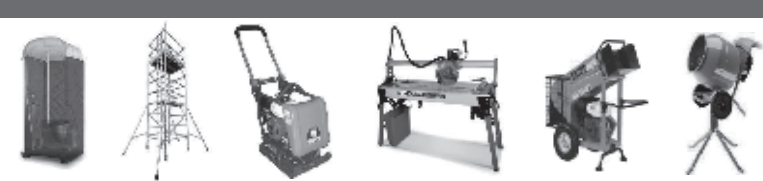
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local running club for adults from age 18 upwards meeting at 7:30pm every Tuesday and Thursday at Two Gables (Upminster Rugby Club) on Hall Lane playing fields, RM14 1AU. Membership is about 200 runners and is approximately 50%/50% male and female from teens to OAP's including serious runners, fun runners or just meeting others socially. We also hold social events, including Fine Dining evenings, BBQ, and a Christmas party.

Our latest 10 week "Learn to Run" training course starts on 6th October. This is ideal for new runners and for those returning to running, aiming to achieve a 5k parkrun distance at the end of the course. The course comprises two instructor led sessions each week. Anyone can sign up by using the form on our webpage or email headcoach@h90j.org.uk

In addition, local training runs are held 7:30pm every Tuesday and Thursday evenings from the clubhouse and a social run is held every Sunday morning starting at 9am prompt from a variety of venues across the borough.

Our annual membership costs just £49 with a month free trial. For full details including the venues of our Sunday runs please see our website www.h90j.org.uk/

The New Horizons Club

We are a friendly social dancing

club who meet every Monday (excluding Bank Holidays) at the New Windmill Hall, St Mary's Lane, Upminster, RM14 2QH. We provide social evenings including Ballroom, Latin and Sequence dancing with regular "Themed" evenings. The club is open to all adults - no upper age limit. Come along and make new friends and brush up on your dancing.

Doors open 7.00 pm with dancing 7.30pm - 10.00pm. Contact: Peter Kirtland: **01708 227757** for further information.

Harwood Ladies Probus Club

Harwood Ladies Probus 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 and 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? We meet on the second Wednesday of every month at Top Meadow Golf Club, Fen Lane, Upminster. Get in touch with Wendy for more details on **07860 262588**.

Gadabouts Social Club

We are a friendship club for active single people between 40 and 70. The club meets on the first Tuesday of the month at Hornchurch Bowls Club. We have an interesting programme of monthly events arranged by our members. Included in the June programme will be live music events, quizzes and meals. Come along and make new friends. For more information contact Maureen on **07817 232156**.

Other Clubs

Set out below are brief details of a number of other clubs and groups. This includes when and where these meet and contact details. I am sure they will all give you a friendly welcome.

Oglethorpe Women's Institute meet at Cranham Social Centre on the 4th Wednesday of every month from 1.45pm to 4pm. More details from Pat Bridge on **01708 225616**.

Carousel Women's Club meet on Monday evenings 7.30 - 10 pm at the Cranham Community Centre, Marlborough Gardens, Upminster. More details from Eve on **07768 160042** or Marion on **07976 692010** or come along to a meeting.

Deyncourt Ladies Probus Club meet every 3rd Wednesday of

the month in the Masonic Hall, Deyncourt Gardens, Upminster. For more information, please contact our secretary Pauline Diabie on **01708 524 897**.

Cranham Engayne WI meet on the third Tuesday of every month at the Cranham Community Centre (Avon Road end of Marlborough Gardens) 1.45-3.45pm. For more details phone Una Henderson on **01708 225088**, or simply come along to one of our meetings.

Upminster Park Townswomen's Guild 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.

Friday Coffee & Conversation Club meet at Cranham Social Hall, Front Lane, on the second and fourth Friday of the month from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm. Cost is £2 for as many teas, coffees and biscuits as you want. Please come along and join our friendly club.

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.





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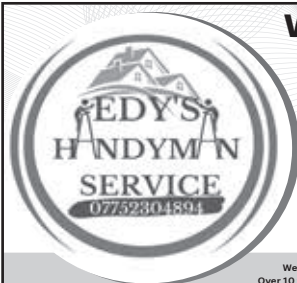
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A bright spot in the heatwave

As this article is being written, the news is full of the numbers dying because of the May and June heatwaves, reflecting the effects of climate change. However, to some extent offsetting these adverse impacts are the benefits of ULEZ on reducing air pollution. This is estimated to have reduced Nitrogen Dioxide levels, which exacerbate asthma, impede lung development, and raise the risk of lung cancer, by 41 per cent and fine particulate pollution that can result in serious health impacts, especially for the young, elderly, and those with respiratory problems, by 28 per cent. In combination, it is estimated that ULEZ has reduced deaths associated with air pollution in London by up to almost 3,000 per year. The improvements in air quality were linked to a 9.3 per cent reduction in heart-related emergency admissions, and a 5.1 per cent drop in hospital admissions for all health conditions in the scheme area and given the pressure on hospitals this is very welcome news. In addition, recent evidence continues to show associations between reductions in air pollution and reductions in dementia, type 2 diabetes, and

childhood asthma.

While it is recognised that some people have been inconvenienced by ULEZ, the benefits to the wider community and especially vulnerable groups that have resulted, have proved to be very substantial. Thanks to those who have contributed to this.

Do our readers have any comments on this? If so please let us have them.

THE EDITOR

Avon Road resurfacing

It is good to see that Avon Road has finally been resurfaced. As mentioned previously in past articles in the Bulletin, the work was due to be carried out last year but owing to the Gallows Corner works it was postponed. Since the partial reopening of the flyover, it was decided that the resurfacing could be done, and the Cranham Councillors have had many comments from residents complementing the new road surface.

Cllr LESLEY TYLER

Neighbourhood Watch

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I have established a Neighbourhood watch for my road and would encourage other residents to sign up as local coordinators. This helps discourage crime and brings local communities closer together. If this is of interest to you or your road please google www.ourwatch.org.uk where further details as to joining and supporting are available. Let's make it harder for criminals in our area by looking after each other with a local neighbourhood watch scheme in your road.

Former Councillor
LAURANCE GARRARD

Ardleigh House trips

Please note - bookings for the following events will not open until Tuesday 1st. September. No bookings will be accepted before this date.

Wednesday 18 November 2026- Blenheim Palace at Christmas. Price £90 Explore the beautifully decorated State Rooms, themed for 2026 on Cinderella, filled with festive displays and seasonal splendour and as you leave the Palace, explore the Christmas market in the grounds. As darkness falls enjoy the spectacular, world-class Blenheim Palace lights trail. The price

includes entry into the house, entry into the Christmas lights trail and return coach.

Wednesday 16 December 2026- Bridgewood Manor Hotel, Christmas party. £73. For 2026 we are ringing the changes and holding our last event for 2026 at the Bridgewood Manor Hotel in Chatham, Kent. Join us for a Yuletide to remember! A glass of Prosecco, a 3-course Christmas lunch followed by dancing to an Elvis tribute act, all designed to get you into the Christmas spirit! All our current trips can be viewed on our website www.ardleighhouse.org/trips

Longhouse Plants - Noak Hill

For many years we have had an advert from Longhouse Plants in Church Road, Noak Hill (the advert on page 18 gives the contact details etc.). Longhouse is set in beautiful gardens and has been growing plants for more than ten years .It really is worth a visit .

On Saturday 12th they have a Plants Open Day in aid of The Salvation Army, on Wednesday 2nd they are supporting the National Gardens Scheme and on

continued on page 22

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Paying subscriptions online

The UCRA are pleased to announce that residents can now pay their £2.00 annual subscription direct to us via an online bank payment. For those that don't have access to online banking, the option of paying your £2.00 subscription through one of our collectors will still be available. Should you wish to pay online please make your payment to the following account:

Bank: Barclays Bank

Sort Code: 20-72-89

Account Name: Upminster & Cranham Residents Association

Account no: 50058653

Please use your Post Code and House No: as a reference

If you have any queries on this please contact: philip.madeley@icloud.com

North Ockendon Reading Room - Update

On 30 April 2026, the North Ockendon Reading Room was sold as authorised by the Court Order dated 20 September 2024. In accordance with the Court Order, the net proceeds of sale are to be distributed in equal shares to persons who as of 20 September 2024 pay Council Tax or are entitled to a valid exemption from paying Council Tax for a residential property having one of the following postcodes: RM14 3PL, RM14 2XH, RM14 2XB, RM14 2TZ, RM14 3PP, RM14 3QJ, RM14 3QH, RM14 3PT, RM14 3PS, RM14 3QA, RM14 3PR, RM14 3PX, RM14 3QB, RM14 3QL, RM14 3QP, RM14 3QR, RM14 3PG, RM14 3RD, RM14 3RB, and RM14 3RH.

Anyone who meets the above criteria is invited to write to Pinney Talfourd Solicitors, Crown House, 40 North Street, Hornchurch, RM11 1EW or email readingroom@pinneytalfourd.co.uk and provide the following pieces of information: (1) a Council Tax Bill or evidence of Council Tax exemption covering

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the date of 20 September 2024 for one of the listed postcodes and (2) UK bank account details for the listed persons who pay or are exempt from paying Council Tax. The deadline for providing both pieces of information is up to and including Monday 5 October 2026. Correspondence after this date will not be considered. It is the intention that the net proceeds of sale will be distributed in equal shares by the end of the year.

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manage their condition and repeated samples at intervals allows the progression of the condition to be monitored. Routine laboratory testing in older pets enables your pet to live to its full potential lifespan. If you would like more information about helping your pet in its senior years, please call Lawton and Stoakes **01708 384444** and ask for an appointment with one of our veterinary surgeons.

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

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