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UPMINSTER & CRANHAM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Welcome to our area

A warm welcome to all new residents in our area reading this Bulletin. We hope you will enjoy living here and sampling the goods and services offered by local businesses in the high street and the local centres.

To keep you up to date with local events and issues , the Bulletin is published by the Upminster & Cranham Residents Association every month and is delivered to all members of the Residents Association who can join for an annual subscription of just £2. Details of how to pay this on line are set out on page 21.

The area has an history of electing our own local Residents Association Candidates . We have Six Independent Residents Association Councillors on Havering Council, putting local residents first, not the wishes of a remote National Political Party.

For Cranham Ward ie north of Upminster Station - including the Dury Falls Estate, your Councillors are Gillian Ford, John Tyler and Lesley Tyler. For Upminster Ward south of Upminster Station, including the Cranham Cathedral Estate and North Ockendon, your Councillors are Oscar Ford, Michael Fisher and Chris Wilkins. Their contact details are on Page 2. Please get in touch with them if you have any problems or issues where they might be able to help. If you have anything you would like to share with the Bulletin and its readers please contact us on ***bulletinra@yahoo.co.uk.*** We also have an excellent website which covers a range of local issues, ***www.ucra.co.uk.***

Council Tax Rates

Over the years I have regularly pointed the differences that we pay in Council Tax compared to our neighbours in Redbridge and Barking & Dagenham. The 2026/27 rates are set out below and I have included Westminster's which shows a huge difference.

Area	Band		
	E	F	G
Westminster	£1,281	£1,514	£1,746
Redbridge	£2,804	£3,314	£3,824
Barking & Dagenham	£2,687	£3,176	£3,664
Havering	£2,963	£3,502	£4,041

The bands are based on 1991 property prices!

Over the years successive governments have looked at reorganising Council Tax but as this could easily be a "political hot potato " have put plans on the back burner. However, last year the Government announced from April 2028 the introduction of a "mansion tax ". Homes valued at more than £2 million but less than £2.5 million will be charged an extra £2500 a year, those worth £2.5-3.5 million will pay £3500 and those worth up to £5 million will pay £5000. Any properties above that threshold will be charged £7500 extra.

Is this also fair? The current system is a mess. The figures above clearly point out how the current Council taxes affect us in Havering! Will the Government's new administration get to grips with this grossly unfair system? I will be monitoring this and keep you up to date in The Bulletin.

RON OWER

Planning is Changing

Last month, I explained that councillors cannot simply refuse a planning application because they, or local residents, do not like it. Decisions have to be made within national and local planning policy, taking account of relevant material considerations. This has led to situations where councillors have been blamed for decisions they had very limited discretion over. Where an application complies with policy, there is very little room to manoeuvre.

From 31 October, Havering's two existing planning committees will be replaced by a single Planning Committee operating under new national rules. Many applications will be decided by planning officers. The traditional ability of ward councillors to call in an application will also end, with applications only able to come before councillors where they meet specified criteria under the new national scheme.

Whether these changes improve the planning process remains to be seen. What is clear is that the role of councillors in deciding local planning applications will diminish.

Cllr MICHAEL FISHER

Please see the Havering Council Planning article on page 5

Cranham Ward Police Panel Meeting

I attended the most recent Cranham Ward Police Panel Meeting, where local officers gave details of our crime trends. There were only 2 residential burglaries between June and September which is a reduction from the last period. As darker evenings approach, officers are asking that unoccupied homes are made to look like someone is home, by using timer switches and ensuring that all windows and doors are locked.

continued on page 2

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For motor vehicle crime, there were 15 offences between June and September (9 theft of and 6 theft from vehicles), which was an increase from the last period. Officers are asking owners to ensure that vehicles are locked when leaving. Keep keys safe, out of view and away from front doors. If you have a keyless entry vehicle turn off wireless signals on the fob or consider using a Faraday Bag and regularly check it is working. Do not leave valuables or anything that could tempt thieves on display in vehicles. When parking at night try and park in a well-lit area. The police team assured panel members that patrols have been stepped up in our area.

Cllr LESLEY TYLER

Protection for Students

Students are a common target for fraud and other online harms, so Get Safe Online has put together some useful advice on how they

can stay safe online as they return to university or college. Please see the link below and feel free to share it with any children or grandchildren who might benefit from their expert advice: Be a safe student - Get Safe Online"

Emergency closure of Brickfields level crossing

Network Rail temporarily closed the Brickfields level crossing recently, following repeated incidents of dangerous misuse involving children and teenagers. The closure came after children and teenagers were caught on camera, placing themselves at significant risk of serious injury or death by performing handstands, using their phones, racing across to beat a train, walking on the anti-trespass boards and even deliberately playing 'chicken' with oncoming trains.

The railway line through Brickfields is used by approximately 230 trains every day, meaning trains pass through the area regularly at all times of the day. The extremely concerning behaviour observed represents an unacceptable safety risk to those involved, railway staff and passengers.

The full Network Rail press release can be found on the UCRA website - ***https://www.ucra.co.uk/emergency-closure-of-brickfields-level-crossing-after-dangerous-behaviour-by-young-people/ .***

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Christmas Lights

UCRA is pleased to confirm that this year's Town Centre Christmas Event will be held on Friday 20th November from 4-8.pm. At the time of writing, we are working with Upminster businesses and Havering Council to finalise arrangements, but can confirm;

- Choirs and brass bands playing and singing your festive favourites
- Children's Rides at Upminster Junior School
- Santa and Santa's Grotto at Roomes Stores, and late-night opening
- Street entertainers
- Photo opportunity with Santa at Roots on Corbet's Tey Road
- Bedrock Radio and snow machine opposite Upminster Library
- Mince pies and other goodies at Pinney Talfourd, Brewdog, and Kaani Kaana
- Kids' colouring activities at Save Room, St.Marys Lane

Thanks to our amazing sponsors, which include Griffin for this year's Christmas Tree and its illuminations, Havering Council for the festive streetlights, Upminster Library for hosting our operations, and Pinney Talfourds, Roomes Furniture Store, and Travelodge building contractor Ironworks for cash donations.

Businesses and residents - there's still time to take part! Help us make a success of the evening by dressing your shopfront, making a donation, putting on a promotion, opening late or getting into the festive spirit in costume. Please contact Steve ***07887 714654***, or Viv (***vsouster@btinternet.com***), or Gillian ***01708 641317*** or Linda (***lindavendenhende@btinternet.com***) for more information.

This is a family event only possible thanks to the generosity of local business and volunteers, with support from Havering Council. Planned activities may change and some are weather-dependent.

Well done Friends of Upminster Park

Despite the rather uncertain weather, there was a good turnout on the Green to watch Upminster Cricket Club play an Essex CC XI.on Sunday 13th September. Details of what tuned out to be a match with a nail-biting finish are given elsewhere in this Bulletin but we would like to thank the Friends of Upminster Park for the great job they did of keeping the area free from rubbish. What was particularly pleasing was the number of young people taking part in the litter clearance. Well done to you all.

THE EDITOR

Ken Hay

It is with great sadness we share the passing of Kenneth "Ken" Hay MBE who was a 101 year-old British World War II veteran and Memorial Ambassador for the British Normandy Memorial. Ken was also a regular visitor to schools in east London and Essex sharing his story to educate children of the past and the reality of war. He gained the title of "Grandpa Ken".

Ken was a huge influence when our Association was set up in the 1950s. Having been elected onto Hornchurch Council. He held a wide range of positions in the Association including President and Treasurer and helped on production of The Bulletin.

Ken served as a local Independent Alderman having been first elected to the position following the 1964 Havering Council election, which was the first inaugural election that formed the modern Havering borough. He retained this position until 1970.

I had the pleasure of nominating Ken for the Freedom of the Borough award in 2025.

The Havering Aligned Residents Association's would like to send their condolences to Ken's family and friends.

CLLR GILLIAN FORD

Letters to the Editor

Development on the Green Belt

I felt I must reply to a reader suggesting that the Green Belt should be built on. I believe our Green Belt country side should be kept at all costs. As one of your Residents Councillors and the Association have fought many battles successfully to keep our Green Belt. In fact we have seen some of the largest attended

continued on page 5

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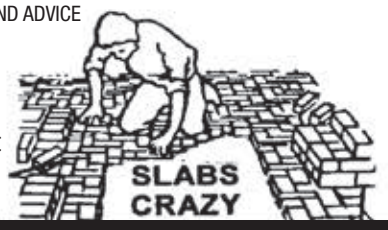

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meetings and demonstrations on this.

This area has already provided thousands of properties. I like many locals came to the Emerson Park, Upminster & Cranham areas as we have excellent schools, great transport communications and of course being so close to our wonderful local countryside.

Hospitals Doctors and Schools are already very busy. Do we really want to travel considerable distances to see a blade of grass?

RON OWER

Tithe Barn

Having volunteered for many roles in the past such as The Millennium Dome, 2012 Olympics, 2012 Paralympics etc. In February of 2024 (following my early retirement) I also decided to volunteer in assisting the council move contents from the Tithe Barn to a local Council storage lock up. I felt my small means of support would make for a better outcome for the barn, the community and in keeping the museums artifacts safe for future generations to enjoy.

As someone with great interest and deepest honour and respect for our country's War memorials I wholeheartedly agree with you what a pleasure it was to see the Upminster memorial in such good condition. Unfortunately the Editors reply (Upminster Tithe Barn page-5) regarding no decision on its future prompted me to also seriously question/ query to you & Gillian Ford what of the artifacts that were moved out?

One such artifact was a memorial for all those who fell in the Great War and a plaque of Masters & Pupils from a local Romford school which I believe was housed in the barn. Such wonderful items as these should not be locked away but displayed for all to see and honoured by young and old alike, lest we forget.

Please can your editor seek further detailed information on not just the Barns future but also on the vast array of artifacts we volunteered in moving and their expected return to the barn or if not indeed to WHERE?

Reply from Cllr Gillian Ford

Councillor Gillian Ford has been following up with officers the final location of the Tithe Barn artefacts. She has a meeting planned with officers to discuss the artefacts, external funding for toilet and kitchenette facilities and the sustainability of the barn. Further updates will be provided as and when new information comes forward.

Havering Council response to Draft London Plan consultation

Just as we were going to press, the London Borough of Havering published its official response to the Draft London Plan consultation (which ended in mid October). The Draft London Plan 2026 is the Mayor of London's strategy for how the city should grow and develop over the next 25 years.

To see the full response letter visit ***ucra.co.uk/london-borough-of-havering-response-to-draft-london-plan-consultation/*** .

New Support Group for Unpaid Carers

Carer support groups run by Imago, a registered charity are now open in Havering. Drop into one of the Carers Information Hubs or join a regular Peer Support Group. Join other carers for coffee, share experiences, access support and social activities. No appointment necessary. Details can be found at ***imago.community/havering-carers .***

Cllr LESLEY TYLER

Hornchurch Football Club

Please note the following home fixtures at The Stadium, Bridge Avenue, Upminster.

Tuesday 3rd National League Cup Match against **West Ham** PL2 Kick Off at 7pm.

Saturday 14th **Tamworth** Kick Off at 3pm,

Tuesday 24th **Sutton United** Kick Off at 7.45pm

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Please keep an eye on the club's excellent website for any news. Go along and support the Urchins ...

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Cricket on the Green

The Annual Upminster CC v Essex CCC Cricket Match was played on Sunday 13th September. Despite the inclement weather with occasional showers the games were not disrupted. During the morning youth cricket matches were played involving both boys and girls. The main 20 over game took place in the afternoon resulting in a narrow victory for Upminster thanks to a match winning innings by captain Aaron Beard.

A cheque for £3500 in favour of the Essex Cricket Foundation was presented to the Essex captain Noah Thain. Upminster President David Parish outlined the very successful season enjoyed by the club at all levels and thanked Elaine Brown and other club members who had organised the day. He also thanked the Essex players and sponsors for their support. In response, Noah Thain stated that both he and the Essex players always enjoyed coming to Upminster for this special day. Once again there was a good attendance and the Club appreciated the support of the general public on the day.

Local Greenbelt

The Upminster and Cranham Residents Association Councillors were recently approached by a developer with proposals for a housing development on land to the west of The Grove, north of Park Farm Road,Upminster

The developer outlined proposal for resident consultation in the locality. If you are approached, any comments may be used by the developer to support a Planning Application.

It was made clear to the developer that the land is designated Green Belt and that any such application would be opposed.

Recent reassessment of land in Havering has been undertaken by the GLA and the Council to identify future land use including for housing.

Some land currently designated as Green Belt will be re-designated as Grey Belt in a new Local Plan, and may be subject to future development.

The land identified by the developer is not proposed for such re-designation and should be retained as Green Belt in the revised Local Plan.

Events at the New Windmill Hall

Saturday 21st November – **Grease Film & Fancy Dress Night**

An evening screening of Grease, followed by an 80s-style party atmosphere with fancy dress, dancing, bar and food available.

Saturday 28th November – **Table Top Sale**

A community table top sale with a variety of stalls selling pre-loved items, toys, books, clothes, gifts and more.

Sunday 29th November

Elvis Tribute Afternoon

An afternoon of live music and entertainment celebrating the King of Rock 'n' Roll, with an Elvis tribute performance.

Sunday 13th December – **West End Afternoon Tea**

An afternoon of delicious afternoon tea, live entertainment and music, creating a relaxed and enjoyable West End-inspired experience.

Wednesday 16th December
Line Dancing A fun and friendly line dancing session suitable for beginners and experienced dancers, with music, dancing and a welcoming atmosphere.

Community Café – *Every Friday*

Our weekly community café (free entry) offering hot and cold food, drinks, homemade specials and cakes in a friendly and welcoming environment.

The Little Lunch Club – *Wednesdays*

A free community café for parents, caregivers and under-fives, providing a warm, relaxed space to meet others, make connections and enjoy some time together.

All bookings made by emailing ***newwindmill@hotmail.co.uk*** or by popping into the hall.

New Nutrition Club

Want to feel better and healthier in 2026. Then look no further as a new Nutrition Club has

continued on page 9

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opened in Butts Green road Hornchurch, called Emerson Park Nutrition. They are offering free Wellness Evaluations to the local community, so contact Natalie Galvin on ***07870-134353*** to see how she can help you!

Patrick Regan OBE and the Overwhelm Tour

An evening of hope and support for anyone feeling overwhelmed by modern life on Friday 13th November 7.30pm St Luke's Cranham.

Join us for this magazine-style evening that combines inspiring conversation, practical wellbeing tools, live music from Caitlin Kelly, interviews with local charities and organisations, audience participation and stories of hope. Drawing on the themes of Patrick Regan's Sunday Times bestselling book, Small Steps for Big Change, you'll leave with practical tools you can begin using immediately to navigate overwhelm and build healthier, more resilient lives.

Tickets £5 - Available at: ***www.smallstepsforbigchange.co.uk***

Coopers Coborn Bonfire Night

Come along to the Coopers Coborn School Annual Fireworks Display on Saturday 7th November 2026. Join us for a unique fireworks experience with live music and so much more. Doors open at 5 pm for more than just a fireworks display. We offer free onsite parking, a truly wonderful craft fayre to get all those unique homemade items from local sellers, a fully licensed bar if you fancy a pint or glass of wine, with indoor toilet facilities, large selection of BBQ food catering for meat lovers and vegetarians. Refreshment stands selling tea, coffee, cold drinks, Krispy Crème doughnuts and sweets. Large selection of glow sticks for the kids. Early bird advance tickets available from school shop ***https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Uniform/Default.aspx?shopid=827*** (if buying for children and your son/daughter does not attend this school, add zero when prompted)

Adults £8, Children £6, Family (2 adults and 2 children) £24. On the night prices: Adults £9. Children over the age of 3, £7. Under 3's free. Don't miss out one of the best displays in Essex

Christmas Shopping Event

Saturday 14th November 10am–3pm at Cranham Community Centre in Marlborough Gardens. Get into the festive spirit and join us for a FREE Christmas Shopping Event! We have a fantastic selection of local stalls, offering something for everyone and plenty of opportunities to get a head start on your Christmas shopping! Stalls will include skincare & beauty, makeup, ladies' clothing, baked goods, sweets & treats, candles & wax melts, Christmas decorations, 3D crafts, dog accessories …and many more! Plus, we will be selling our popular bacon rolls, hot dogs and festive drinks!!

Whether you're looking for unique Christmas gifts, stocking fillers, something special for yourself, or simply want to enjoy a festive browse, come along and support our wonderful local stallholders. Come along, shop local and get Christmas ready!

Cosy Corner Coffee

If coffee is your thing, and you want a lovely, relaxing place to drink it in, then look no further than Cosy Corner Coffee, in Moor Lane, Cranham, Upminster. Pjeter, the owner, has transformed the shop into a comfortable, clean and modern space. The coffee is excellent and so are the milkshakes! Plenty of cakes and snacks available or why not try the coffee and toastie deal for £7.50, or coffee and croissant for £5. There is air-conditioning or an outside space to sit. Give it a try - you won't be disappointed. See you there!

Upminster Schools Fireworks Display

Saturday 7th November 2026

continued on page 11

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Gates open 5pm display starts 6.30pm. Entrance: Corbets Tey Road gate (next to Superdrug). This year all ticket sales are online. Please visit ***USPFA.co.uk*** for details on how to buy tickets. which will still be available to purchase on the night. All proceeds go directly to Upminster Infant and Junior Schools. Any questions? Contact us at ***hello@uspfa.co.uk.***

Music for Christmas

Get into the Christmas spirit with The Hill Ensemble, a professional string quartet, for a magical hour of festive film music at Trinity United Reformed Church, Upminster, on 13 December from 5.30pm–6.30pm. Enjoy much-loved music from Christmas and family favourites including The Polar Express, Frozen, Harry Potter, The Snowman, Love Actually, The Holiday and more! Perfect for all ages, this promises to be a wonderful seasonal treat filled with beautiful live music and Christmas magic. For ticket information, please follow the link ***www.tinyurl.com/hillensemblechristmas.*** Come along and celebrate Christmas with The Hill Ensemble!

Upminster Art Society Art Exhibition

There will be an exhibition of members paintings at the Queen's Theatre Restaurant Gallery from Tuesday 3rd to Tuesday 17th November. There will be a varied display of art work including landscapes and wildlife in different media. All paintings will be for sale. Please come along and take a look. The Gallery is open during normal theatre opening times. Enquiries to Terry ***07880 770324***

Havering Singers Christmas Concert

Havering Singers are currently rehearsing music for their concert at St Peter's Church, Harold Wood, RM3 0QA on 14th November at 19:30. The main body of the concert is a Franz Schubert work the Choir haven't performed for many years; Mass in A flat major. The choir are also performing shorter pieces composed by Hubert Parry including 'Blest Pair of Sirens' which was sung at the wedding of the Prince William and Catherine Middleton in 2011 and 'I was glad' sung at the Coronation of King Charles III in 2023. The choir will be joined by professional soloists. A great evening of music is anticipated.

Tickets are £15, children under 16 admitted free, and can be purchased via the choir website ***https://haveringsingers.org.uk/buy-tickets/***

'Dance Music and Carols'

On Sunday 6th December 2026The Havering Concert Orchestra (HCO) Christmas Concert will bring a touch of Christmas sparkle to Upminster on Sunday afternoon, 6th December, with a programme of 'Dance Music and Carols,' featuring some of the best-loved dance music ever written alongside familiar Christmas favourites. The programme includes Tchaikovsky's The Nutcracker Suite, taking the audience into the magical world of the Christmas ballet, and Borodin's colourful and energetic Polovtsian Dances, with its powerful rhythms and memorable melodies. There will also be two of Johann Strauss II's most famous works, The Blue Danube and the Emperor Waltz, bringing the grand waltzes of Vienna to Upminster.

There will also be a selection of carols and other Christmas favourites, with the opportunity for the audience to join in. This promises to be a concert for both regular concertgoers and families looking to begin their Christmas celebrations.

New Windmill Hall, St Mary's Lane, Upminster, RM14 2QH. Door time 2:30pm with a start at 3pm. Tickets £17 (£14 if purchased in advance), children & students £5. Refreshments will be available during the 20-minute interval. More details can be found at ***www.hcoweb.co.uk.***

Christmas Judefest

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continued on page 13

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November 2026 . This is the 10th year we have been doing this. Its always a sell out so fingers crossed we can do it again. All proceeds to The Judy D'cruz Fund for finding cures for Brain Tumours. The fund currently stands at £170,622. Because of our wonderful long time sponsors (MAA eyecare, Excel Physiotherapy, Touch of Glass, Wagstaff Plumbing and Elmhurst Landscapes) every penny raised goes to the cause.

You can buy your tickets by scanning the QR code below or by going to ***www.judydcruz.com*** and selecting Xmas Judefest. Tickets are just £12 (discounts available for tables of 8 or 10). Alternatively contact me by phone ***07896724768*** or email ***judyandwin@ntlworld.com*** and I will help you get your tickets. Children U16 get in free if accompanied by an adult. Please bring your own drink

It's also my 65th birthday so I will be providing a buffet but please no presents.
You can make a donation to a range of brain tumour charities on the night if you wish.

Christmas Market at Hornchurch Football Club

Hornchurch Football Club's Christmas Market is on Sunday 22nd at The Club House, The Stadium, Bridge Avenue, Upminster. Open from 10 am to 2pm with free entrance. There will be a variety of stalls.

Upminster Methodist Church Christmas Tree Festival

Saturday 28 November - Sunday 12 December

We will again be holding our very popular tree festival. Our theme this year will be 'Look up' and we will be raising funds for Saint Francis Hospice. If you would like to sponsor a tree or you are part of a local community group that would like to decorate a tree on this theme, then please get in touch ASAP at ***upminstertreefest@gmail.com***

If you would like to visit the Festival, our opening hours will be Monday to Friday 2- 6pm (first week only), Saturdays 10am - 4pm and Sundays 12noon - 4pm. Refreshments will be served all day on Saturday 28th November only. The festival will close with our Christmas Carol Service on Sunday 12 December at 6pm.We look forward to welcoming you.

Stewart Avenue Allotments - Christmas Fair

Stewart Avenue Allotments will hold their Christmas Fair on Saturday 28th November 2026, 10am-1pm, raising funds for Little Havens Hospice, St. Francis and site maintenance/ improvements Homemade jams, chutneys and bakes plus crafts, plants, Christmas foliage and seasonal produce as available.

Indulge in a hot drink, slice of cake, mince pie or sausage roll in our log cabin or marquee.

Have a go at winning a prize in the Festive Tombola or a Christmas Hamper in the raffle and bring the children to see Father Christmas. For more details and info/booking please contact ***jackiewhitehead@sky.com***

Christmas Land

This wonderful annual event at Harrow Lodge Park, Hornchurch takes place from 27th November until 2nd January. The attraction is open most days and there are 10 minute slots. Tickets are £5.50 babies under 2 are free. For further details please contact ***01708 457 040.*** The event is organised by Havering, Barking & Dagenham MIND

Thames Chase Forest Centre

Our festive Christmas Fayre Weekend is coming up on 28th-29th November.

Visit us at Thames Chase Forest Centre, Broadfields Farm, Pike Lane, Upminster, RM14 3NS.

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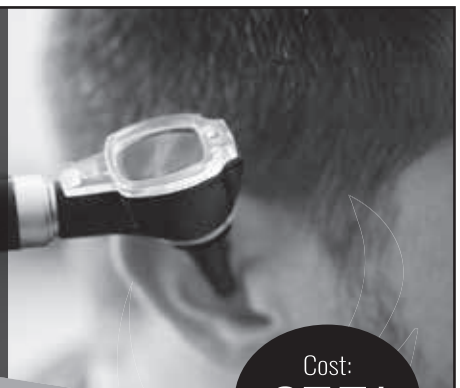

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'Grief Shared'

Cranham Baptist Church is starting 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

Trinity Church are holding their annual Festive Fayre on Saturday 21st November from 10am-2pm in the Commemoration Hall. This is a Christmas extravaganza with Christmas gifts and cards, Christmas decorations, jewellery, toys and books for sale, along with a homemade cake stall, raffle, plus coffee and cakes being served in the Roope Hall. Please come along and join us to help raise funds for 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. Please note that the Festive Fayre will be on the 3rd Saturday in November (21st) and there will not be a sale on the 14th Nov.

The church will be open during the Festive Fayre for anyone wanting to look round from 10.30-11.30am with a short time of prayer at 11am.

OUT AND ABOUT

Upminster Lymphoma and Blood Cancer Support Group

Next meeting : Tuesday 17th November 1.30 at Upminster Baptist Church, Springfield Gardens.

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 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.

If you would like information about the Group please contact ***Denise.Hosking@gmail.com***

Diabetes UK-Havering Group

Our next meeting is on Monday 16th November at 8.00pm at the Large Hall, 24 North Street, Hornchurch, RM11 1QX (corner of Westland Avenue, opposite Iceland). The speaker will be Ms Sharon Adkins ANutr AMRSPH Registered Nutritionist, Health Trainer and Menopause Advocate who will give a talk on 'Advice on Healthy Eating and Life Style'

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.***

Havering & District National Trust Association.

Our meetings are held in the large hall at Ardleigh House, Hornchurch, RM11 2LG. You do not need to be a member of the National Trust to attend. Visitors are very welcome at a charge of £3 per meeting.

The next meeting will be on SATURDAY NOVEMBER 28th. Starting at 2.30 pm. Our talk on this occasion will be given by Nick Wickenden and is entitled 'Tiptree Jam, their farms, factory and family'. Should you need any

continued on page 17

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further information please contact ***HaveringNTA@hotmail.com*** or Anne on ***01708 446593.*** We look forward to seeing you there.

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.*** 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 18 November, 7.15 for 7.30pm. **Martin Lewis,** keen astrophotographer and occasional contributor to 'Sky at Night' magazine, will give a talk entitled 'Imaging the night-side of Venus'.

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.

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 November meeting our speaker will be Andy Stewart talking about Armistice Day: Where The Guns Didn't Stop.

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***

Upminster Horticultural Society

On 10th November 2026, our talk will be on the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park by Ruth Lin Wong Holmes. The talk starts with a brief history about the making of Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park and how it translates into a once in a lifetime opportunity to showcase horticulture at a major sporting event. It finishes with the story of the legacy of innovation, sustainability, biodiversity, and welcoming planting in a publicly run and accessible park

Doors open at 7.15pm, New Windmill Hall. The talk begins at 7.45pm with a tea/coffee and biscuits interval at 8.30pm and will conclude at 9.15pm. Entrance fee £3. For more details please see,***www.upminsterhorticulturalsociety*** or email ***info@upminsterhorticulturalsociety.co.uk.*** Facebook: ***Upminster Horticultural Society***

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 7th November the

continued on page 19

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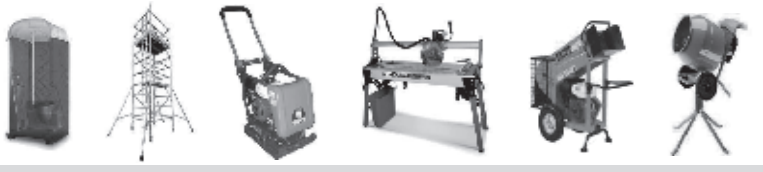

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talk is by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) and is entitled Research and Records using the CWGC Archives. Tony Matthews a CWGC Volunteer Speaker will give the talk. He is local and looks after the war graves in Romford and Hornchurch cemeteries as well as those in St Andrew's Hornchurch churchyard. On Saturday 5 December 2026, Tony Tuckwell, former Head of King Edward VI Grammar School Chelmsford (KEGS), will give a talk entitled London's 19th century suburban and manufacturing explosion and the impact of new immigration. (Orignally booked for our September meeting)

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

Wednesday Afternoon Music at Hornchurch Library

Our Autumn programmes of good music continue.

Wed 4th November at 2pm **Heroes & Villains** - presented by Dawn Clayton Cunningham who will be offering music spanning the spectrum from fictional and local heroes to killers and pirates. A Beach Boys track will be included along with classical, film, TV music and some other pop tracks.

Wed 18th November at 2pm **Lets Go Classical, Well Maybe** - presented by Graham Fenegan who takes a step back from his usual jazz flavours to explore his classical and orchestral side but there will be a different slant on some selections.

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.***

The Arts Society, Havering

Tuesday 10th November 2026 **'Lest we Forget':** the Moving Story of Britain's War Memorials by Andrew Davies. Britain has over 60,000 war memorials, each with their own sad and emotional story to tell. They also represent our largest collection of public art - more than 1,300 are listed. We will explore the story of our war memorials, including such masterpieces as Sir Edwin Lutyens' Cenotaph and monumental Thiepval Gate and CS Jaggers' Royal Artillery memorial at Hyde Park Corner. Especially memorable is the work of the Commonwealth (Imperial) War Graves Commission and the new National Arboretum in Staffordshire. We will look too at the Scottish War Memorial in Edinburgh.

Our meetings are held at the 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://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***

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!

The Cappella Singers

The Cappella Singers of Upminster present 'A Ceremony of Carols', a programme of seasonal choral works by Britten and Rutter and featuring Oakfields Prep School at Trinity United Reformed Church, Station Road Upminster RM14 2UD on Thursday 3rd December 2026 at 7.30pm. Entrance free, donations welcomed.

Friends of the Old Chapel Tea and Talks

November 11th – **Mudlarking the River Thames. No boots needed, no mud required!** Licensed London mudlark Bolly May will guide you through London's buried history, sharing the river's remarkable finds and the tales behind them.

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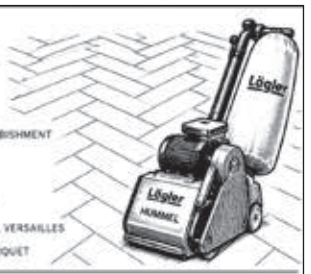

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Avon Road Display Board - Update

The council have finally made safe the notice board in Avon Road which was badly damaged in June. Unfortunately the council are still trying to decide which department has responsibility for the board but I continue to chase for an answer. I am looking to secure the long term future of the board, which I know is well used in our community. I will keep residents updated.

Cllr LESLEY TYLER

Spiking of vapes

A recent Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) event conducted by the local Metropolitan police at the BrewDog in Upminster aimed to raise awareness of spiking offences, with a particular focus on the emerging issue of vape spiking. Officers were equipped with a testing device capable of screening vapes for illegal substances, which generated significant interest and helped facilitate conversations with members of the public.

A key finding from the engagement was that there was little awareness that vapes could be used as a means of spiking. This could arise from accepting a vape from an unknown person in a smoking area at a pub or nightclub, People should be aware of the possibility of spiked vapes and ideally never accept a vape from a person they do not know and trust. The same message also clearly applies to drinks.

Overall, the event was well received and successfully increased public awareness around both traditional drink spiking and the lesser-known risk of vape spiking, while also providing reassurance and strengthening community engagement.

Cllr JOHN TYLER

Ardleigh House Tours

We regret that Ardleigh House has no more trips to offer for this year. We are really humbled by the support and response our trips receive from our customers, and we are really grateful to everyone for the support Ardleigh House receives.

In the December issue of the Bulletin, we will launch the first of our trips for 2027 but in the meantime, you can find out about classes and other events, happening at Ardleigh House, by going to the "Whats On" page of our website ***www.ardleighhouse.org/clubs***

Hornchurch Photographic Society

We are looking for new members to join our friendly club at Ardleigh House Community Association, Havering College, Hornchurch RM11 2LG. We meet every Monday at 8pm to 10pm in the Main Hall. If you have an interest in photography and would like to improve your skills, come and visit our friendly group. Our more experienced photographers are always on hand to help with camera skills and know how.

Contact: Chairman Jean McGowan ***01708 727694*** or General Secretary Sean Callis: ***seancallis@outlook.com*** or Email: ***steve_hps@yahoo.com*** (Publicity Secretary).

For more information please Email ***hps@hornchurchphoto.com*** or look at our Website ***www.hornchurchphoto.com***, Instagram ***hornchurchphoto*** or Facebook ***Hornchurch Photographic Society***

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 and please ignore the envelopes:

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

Whilst we aim to pay for the Bulletin through advertising, we need funds to work in the community on your behalf.

Fireworks and Pets

Elsewhere in The Bulletin we have given details of firework displays at Coopers & Coborn and Upminster Schools on Saturday 7th November. Remember, remember, your pets this November. As we approach

continued on page 22

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fireworks season, please spare a thought for the animals both in your care and in the wild. If having fireworks in your garden, please check bonfires before lighting for any creatures that may have chosen your pile of sticks as an excellent place to hibernate. Consider using low noise fireworks giving the same overhead visual display but with less disruption to animals and neighbours. Or why not visit a professional display instead.

For fearful pets keep them indoors and offer a hiding place such as a crate or cardboard box and cover it with heavy blankets to deaden the noise. A TV or radio will help to disguise the bangs. Sedatives rarely work unless given in advance of the noisy celebration and the effects on the pet are difficult to predict. Try pet safe herbal remedies or exposure therapy tapes which gradually accustom the pet to the noise. Last year we tried the above for our Mini Schnauzer and she coped well.

Above all else stay safe this November and if you have concerns regarding your pets this Guy Fawkes night you can contact Lawton and Stoakes on ***01708 384444.***

Nitrous oxide cannisters

The dumping of large nitrous oxide cannisters has become an issue in Cranham Ward. Cannisters are regularly being found in Front Lane and Hall Lane, both near to the A127, and it appears that gatherings are being held in the tithe barn car park on a weekly basis.

As well as the cannisters creating unsightly litter (thank you to the resident who regularly clears them up and puts them in a nearby council bin), possession of nitrous oxide is illegal, if it is, or is likely to be, wrongfully inhaled (classified as a Class C drug under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971).

There are also health risks. According to the renowned ***talktofrank.com*** website, which gives honest advice about drugs and their use, 'It is very dangerous to inhale nitrous oxide directly from the canister, and doing it in an enclosed space is also very dangerous…If you take too much nitrous oxide, you risk falling unconscious and/or suffocating from the lack of oxygen. Heavy regular use of nitrous oxide can lead to a deficiency of vitamin B12 and to a form of anaemia…Regular use can stop you forming white blood cells properly.'

Our local police team are aware of the locations where cannisters are regularly being found and will be looking to identify those engaging in this illegal activity.

Cllr JOHN TYLER

Brookside Theatre

We are also lucky to have the Romford based Brookside Theatre at 21A Western Rd, Romford RM1 3NH in Havering. Located a few minutes from Bus Stops and Romford Station, they have a wide range of fantastic shows - especially tribute acts.

Their website has all the details. As examples this month.

- *Friday 6th* **Forever Diamond the Concert.** Celebrating the songs of Neil Diamond
- *Saturday 14th* **The Sinatra Songbook.**
- *Friday 20th* **Kenneth Williams - A Centenary Celebration.** This will be an unforgettable journey through Kenneth's extraordinary life.
- *From Friday 11th December to Wednesday 23rd* **Disney's Frozen Musical.**

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