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UPMINSTER & CRANHAM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Major changes to national and regional planning policies

Following on from our lead article in the September edition of the Bulletin, concerning the new draft London Plan, in mid August the Government announced its new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

Unsurprisingly, the NPPF concurred with much of the draft London Plan, including encouraging development within 800m of train stations, setting minimum density levels of 45 dwellings per hectare near stations served by at least eight trains per hour (which would include Upminster), and that around well-connected stations, exceptional circumstances do not need to be demonstrated to justify altering Green Belt boundaries.

In addition to these major announcements, at the time of writing we were awaiting the publication of Havering Council's Green Belt review, which is considering whether some areas of Green Belt in the borough should be reclassified as grey belt. Havering's Local Plan, which sets out the borough's plan for the future of our area, is also due to be reviewed.

Being realistic, whatever residents, ward councillors or even Havering's current Administration feel, much of our control over the decision-making process around the building of new homes, is going to be taken away from us or, at the very least, restricted.

UCRA's councillors are aware that many people are opposed to any significant new development, but also that attitudes towards housebuilding are changing amongst particularly younger adults, who are often struggling to obtain affordable housing, and see new housing as their only hope of achieving this.

As part of our commitment to represent the views of as many of our residents as we can, we will continue to fight hard to protect our green spaces, particularly those that remain designated Green Belt. Where building is likely under the new rules being put in place, we will work just as hard to ensure that new housing meets the needs of our communities, including that infrastructure, such as health and recreational facilities are included, and that affordable housing is at suitable levels, to allow our next generation of residents to be able to afford to live in our community.

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

Can you help with Bulletins in Cranham?

We are currently seeking a volunteer to deliver around 35 Bulletins in Marlborough Close/ Blenheim Close and someone to help delivering to houses in Roseberry Gardens, at the Brunswick Avenue end. We are also seeking an Area Controller to drop-off Bulletins to seven deliverers in Ingrebourne Gardens.

If you are able to assist with any of these, please contact me via johntylerucresidents@outlook.com or on 07982 962 925.

Cllr JOHN TYLER

continued on page 2

They Shall Not Pass

Thousands of people travel every day on the C2C Rail Line to Fenchurch Street, many of whom will have got on at Upminster Station. Travelling into town when you leave Limehouse Station running parallel for around a mile is Cable Street in London's East End.

On 4th October this year is the 90th anniversary of The Battle of Cable Street where over 300,000 people famously stopped a march through their area of around 3000 Fascists often referred to as Black Shirts. A broad coalition of local residents, left wing political parties decided that the march through what was at the time an area with a large Jewish population. should be stopped. A huge chant was heard at the time " They Shall Not Pass ". Many barriers and barricades were erected and the march was stopped.

There is large mural, a powerful monument to anti- fascism painted on the Old St Georges Town Hall just visible when you pass Shadwell DLR Station. However to see this properly I would recommend changing at Limehouse to the DLR, get off at Shadwell and walk for two minutes to see the mural.

There is a huge amount of information on the internet.

RON OWER

LTC Community Liaison Group

Councillors Gillian Ford and Oscar Ford attended the first Lower Thames Crossing (LTC) Community Liaison Group at the end of July. The key points from this include-

Hole Farm 100-hectare community woodland south of Warley opens in the Autumn and

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CRANHAM WARD

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

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North Ockendon is being prepared for compound and slip road construction. Night work will be used to clear vegetation south of Ockendon Road and they will minimise traffic management at vehicle access points. There are 31 traffic management schemes booked between July and November including Ockendon Road, M25, A13 and A1089 and the permanent closure of the hard shoulder of the M25 supporting construction. In late 2026 the vehicle access will also have traffic management controls on the A13/A1089.

Variable message signs will update navigation apps, with two weeks' notice for each change. Councillor Oscar Ford challenged the safety of their proposal to divert footpath 230 which links Thames Chase and Ockendon Road to public roads they will revisit.

Geofencing will identify vehicles not following given routes and disciplinary actions taken against repeat offenders.

Communications will be via letter, door knocking, new localised mailing lists and project wide community drop in events planned for the Autumn.

Archaeological digs take place next year and they will engage with schools on the digs and finds. They believe they have found a shorter than 10 month closure of Ockendon Road. An interactive map is in place, and minutes of the meetings will be published on the website: <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/>

Planning Applications refused for Avon Road Flats

Cranham Councillors have been informed by Havering Council the result of appeals to two planning applications (P0946.25 and J0023.25), to add an extra story and two flats to Avon House, Avon Road, Cranham. The original applications were both refused in 2025 by the council, but the applicant subsequently appealed to the national Planning Inspectorate who has refused both appeals.

Cllr LESLEY TYLER

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Upminster Police Update – County Lines

At a recent Ward Panel our speaker was from National County Lines Co-ordination centre. County Lines is the name given to exploitation of vulnerable people, youngsters in particular, who are recruited to sell drugs, usually outside their home area, using phones as the contact media. It is a form of modern day slavery and can be extremely violent in controlling those who get involved. We are told there is little evidence of this occurring in our area, although we should be aware of the signs. For example, youngsters going missing without explanation, unexplained new trainers or phones and behaving in an evasive way and premises raising concerns about drug activity. Any concerns should be reported to the police for follow up.

LINDA VAN DEN HENDE

Poor Show

The Council street planters throughout Upminster and

Cranham have not been planted with seasonal bedding this year, nor with the exception of the one near the Library which, as reported in the September Bulletin, has been tidied up by volunteers from Friends of Upminster Park, do they appear to have been maintained. They are in general full of weeds or with bare gaps.

Clearly the exceptional weather we have been experiencing has had an impact, but whilst the planters haven't been planted with seasonal bedding for cost saving and sustainability reasons, we should at least expect them to add to the urban landscape rather than detract due to failed plants, gaps and weed growth.

Following my recent enquiry about the poor condition of the plants in the metal planters on the high street, the Grounds Maintenance service have confirmed that they will arrange for the planters to be tidied up and topped up with bark to improve their appearance. They will also continue to monitor the remaining plants and, where planting has failed, they will replace it as part of an autumn planting programme.

Cllr OSCAR FORD

Hornchurch Stadium Update

Following Hornchurch AFC's promotion to the National League, local Ward Councillors have been in communication with the Council, regarding the improvements needed by the Club to comply with the March 2027 deadline to meet the Football Association's ground grading requirement. The Club is working on a pre-planning application proposal to meet these requirements.

In relation to parking, the Club has advised that, given the greater travelling distances for away fans in the new league, they do not anticipate a significant increase in those supporters travelling by car, with many expected to arrive by rail or organised coach travel. Nevertheless, they recognise residents' concerns and will continue to monitor parking in the vicinity of the Stadium. In addition, applications will be submitted in due course to enable the Gaynes Parkway area to be used as an overflow car park,

if required, which should help reduce congestion and parking pressures immediately outside the Stadium.

Cllr CHRIS WILKINS

Upminster Christmas Lights

Friday 20th November Further details next month

Letters to the Editor

This month we publish letters on alternative views of development in Upminster and the 346 bus. If any readers have views on these or other matters, please send these to the Editor on bulletinra@yahoo.co.uk

An alternative view on Upminster development

Just as people moved out of London to the new houses north of Upminster Station - so our children and grandchildren need affordable homes in this area. The Green Belt is an out dated

continued on page 5

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Problems with the 346 Bus

This morning (14/8) I waited nearly an hour outside Waitrose for a bus that is supposed to run every 20 minutes. This is only the latest incident in a rapidly deteriorating performance on this wretched route. Others include breakdowns, buses cut out, buses terminating in Cranham village instead of coming up Moor Lane, buses taking short cuts along Front Lane rather than coming up Moor Lane and buses driving in convoy. This has got to stop. There are a lot of elderly people in Moor Lane dependent on these buses (e.g. for medical appointments) and the unreliability of the 346 is a constant source of problems.

Reply from the Editor

If you send your concerns to Cllr John Tyler, he will pass these on to the Council who have meetings with TfL. The status of the route

can be found on the TfL website at tfl.gov.uk/bus/status/ although this may not pick up short-term issues

Join Us for Bulb Planting

The Friends of Clockhouse Gardens will be holding a bulb planting morning on Sunday 25 October, from 10am-12pm, and we would love local residents to come along and help. We will be planting bulbs ready to provide a colourful display next spring. No gardening experience is needed — just come along, lend a hand and help us make Clockhouse Gardens even more beautiful.

Cllr MICHAEL FISHER

Queen's and King George Hospitals - Increased Parking Charges

From Monday 21 September parking charges will be increasing at Queen's and King George

Hospitals, in line with other NHS trusts. In addition, they are introducing a new 30 minute period of free parking which will help those who are picking up prescriptions, dropping off patients, or taking in items for patients. A full list of increments can be found at bhrhospitals.nhs.uk/news/changes-to-car-parking-charges-5801/.

Cllr LESLEY TYLER

Hornchurch Football Club Fixtures

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

Tuesday 6th Fulham PL2 - This is a National League Cup fixture. Kick off at 7pm.

Saturday 10th Eastleigh, Kick off at 3pm

Tuesday 27th Yeovil Town. Kick off at 7.45pm

Tuesday 3rd November - This is a National League Cup fixture. **West Ham United PL2** Kick off at 7pm

Please note different kick off

times. We suggest you keep an eye on any changes, news, ticket prices etc on the club's excellent website.

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Coopers Coborn Bonfire Night

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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.

Upminster Schools Fireworks Display

Saturday 7th November 2026

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.

Christmas Judefest

Get your tickets NOW for Christmas Judefest 2026 on 28th 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.

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.



Floral demonstration at the New Windmill Hall

The London & Overseas Area of NAFAS (National Association of Flower Arranging Societies) have chosen the New Windmill Hall, Upminster, 'My Italian Life', to present a floral demonstration with Ian Lloyd, the renowned

international florist from Cheshire on Tuesday 6 October. All Ian's designs will be raffled and the lucky winners will have stunning prizes of his wonderful designs to take home. Tea, coffee and a sandwich lunch will be served which is included in the price of the ticket, doors will open at 11.30am at the New Windmill Hall, St. Marys Lane Upminster RM14 2QH

Tickets are £25, to book please contact: treasurer@flowerarranginglondon.org.uk or call **07973 151791**

Engayne Primary School's Annual Scarecrow Trail

If you're looking for something fun to do with children over the half term, Engayne Primary School are running their annual Scarecrow Trail from Sunday 25th October to Monday 2nd November. Each

continued on page 9

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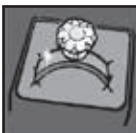
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year around 40 families and businesses in the local area take part and build a scarecrow, with displays becoming more and more extravagant each year! If you live within walking distance to the school you can sign up to enter your own scarecrow creation for £5.00 via their website, the overall winner wins a £50 Amazon voucher courtesy of Accord Sales and Lettings.

Maps to walk the trail can be purchased for £3.00 via their website www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsofengayne. Don't forget to vote for your favourite. It really is a lovely walk to take on an autumnal day and great fun for all ages.

Essex Halloween Event cancelled

Unfortunately this has now been cancelled.

Oasis of Love

On 11th October at 3pm the St

Francis Hospice choir will present a concert at Upminster Methodist Church close to the railway station, There is limited parking, but buses stop quite near and there is paid parking in nearby streets. The Saint Francis Hospice choir will sing a selection of songs, including 'Home from Home', a song written by Jason the choir's accompanist.

Tickets are £10 which includes refreshments. Email singagain98@gmail.com to make a booking or purchase at the door. Please support your local Hospice, our own "Oasis of Love".

Prodigal

A modern retelling of the parable of the two sons.

St Luke's, in partnership with regen church, are pleased to host a brand new production from Artless coming to St Lukes Church, Cranham on Thursday 8 October at 7.30 pm.

Prodigal explores Jesus' timeless story of unconditional love, and identity, and return through the life of Sonny, an inspiring musician who leaves home to chase his dream of going viral. A captivating blend of theatre, music

and live cinema will captivate and excite your senses.

Length is 2 hours with a short interval with refreshments provided. Scan QR code to book or call St. Luke's office on **01708 222562**.



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Wivenhoe to Brightlingsea for the ferry to East Mersea, lunch at a fish restaurant then back to Witham.

Sudbury north to Long Melford and Lavenham then south to Bures catching the train at Marks Tey as they are more frequent

If you are interested in joining me on a ride in the future, please message me, Philip, on **07486428998**

Upminster 41 Club's Gala Charity Evening

Upminster 41 Club's June Meeting was a Gala Charity Evening. From the Club's joint efforts with Havering Rotary back in December on the Christmas Float around the streets of Upminster and Cranham, over £14,000 was raised. Upminster 41 Club's share was presented to 4 local charities who each received £750 and they were First Step, Little Havens Hospice, Peaceful Place (Basildon) and St. Francis Hospice.

In addition, long time member of Upminster 41 Club, Bob Smith recently ran his 29th London Marathon, and with his

continued on page 11



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granddaughter Amelia, raised in excess of £4,500 for the Charity SENSE. On this Gala Charity Evening, a raffle raised £170 for SENSE.

Christmas Shopping Event

Cranham Community Centre - Marlborough Gardens on Saturday 14th November 10am - 3pm. Free entry. Please come and support our popular shopping event.

Save Room

Save Room in St. Marys Lane is a new fun space for all ages in the heart of Upminster, offering a huge range of video games (both console and handheld), board games of all shapes and sizes, card games, puzzles, art supplies, reading material and more! Everyone is welcome - you can pre-book a slot or just turn up as a walk-in and enjoy the facilities. The whole space can be booked for private hire, events, game tournaments, birthdays, animation lessons, art meet and

greet and much more.

Contact details: w: www.saveroomupminster.com t: 01708 609649 email saveroomsean@gmail.com

The Windmill in October

The Windmill and Garden is open on Saturday October 10th [10am - 4pm], and from 11am to 4pm on Sundays 11th and 24th. Come along on Sunday 24th for a Halloween themed "Spooky Sunday" experience with activities for kids. Tour the Mill, enjoy tea and cake from our kiosk in the Visitor Centre Garden and learn the story behind the kiosk's recently acquired name.

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 Windmill news please visit www.upminsterwindmill.org

Poppy Appeal

Upminster and Cranham Royal

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British Legion Poppy Appeal total for 2025/26 is £23,439. Many thanks to our volunteers and all who have supported us in either collecting or donating. We launch the 2026/27 Poppy Appeal for Upminster and Cranham with our annual Poppy Dance taking place on Saturday 17th October at 8.45pm with tickets only £5, all welcome.

Our Poppy Stall will be at Upminster and Cranham Royal British Legion on most Saturdays leading from the launch through to Remembrance Day. If you would like to volunteer to collect in Upminster in the weeks of the Poppy Appeal Collection then please email us on upminstercranhampoppyappeal@gmail.com

Dementia Memory Walk

On 3rd October the Havering Dementia Action Alliance will be holding a memory walk at the Hornchurch Football Stadium starting at 10.00am. Tickets are £10 for adults and £5 for children age 11-18 (under 11 are free). All funds raised will support the local HDAA with entertainment,

soft drinks and snacks available. Please support this worthwhile cause if you can.

'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.

Apple Day at Thames Chase

Join us at the Thames Chase Forest Centre on Sunday 18th October, 10am-3pm for a free family day celebrating our local heritage, traditions, landscape and community. Discover more about the history of the area, explore the orchard and woodland, enjoy live entertainment, and get involved with activities for all ages.

The activities include apples

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Trinity Church coffee morning

Coffee morning and sale will be held at Trinity Church on Saturday 10th October 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 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.

OUT AND ABOUT Diabetes UK-Havering Group

Our next meeting is on Monday 19th October at 8.00pm at the Large Hall, 24 North Street, Hornchurch, RM11 1QX (corner of Westland Avenue, opposite Iceland). The speaker will be Dr Ritwika Mallik, Consultant in Diabetes and Metabolism, Bart's Health N.H.S. Trust who will talk on how research is changing the treatment of Type 2 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**.

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Upminster Lymphoma and Blood Cancer Support Group

Next meeting : Tuesday 20th October 1.30 at Upminster Baptist Church, Springfield Gardens.

This year the Group will celebrate 14 years of supporting people with blood cancer. The group started when The Lymphoma Association approached Doreen Russell, noting the lack of a Support Group in the area. Doreen, who already had a blood cancer diagnosis, offered to host and coordinate a new group.

The group has grown from strength to strength under her direction. With a career in nursing, Doreen's vision was to help people learn more about their disease and how to live life to the full within the confines of their diagnosis. To this end she worked tirelessly, introducing speakers on many relevant topics, equipping and encouraging people to be more knowledgeable about all

aspects of living with a blood cancer. Her kindness and compassion reached out to so many people and formed the backbone of this warm and friendly Group which she nurtured with such love and care over 14 years.

It is with immense sadness that we learned of Doreen's passing in August. She will be sorely missed by every member of the Group past and present and our deepest condolences go to her devoted husband Ian and her loving family.

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

Havering & District National Trust Association.

After a break in the summer and our NT Holiday in September, we start our Saturday meetings again on Saturday 24th October. at 2.30pm in the Large Hall at Ardleigh House Hornchurch RM11 2LG. There will be an

continued on page 15

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illustrated talk entitled 'Birds & Nature In Art' given by Tim Batchelor. You do not have to be a member of the NT to attend. Visitors are welcome at a charge of £3.00 per meeting. Refreshments £1.00.

For more information contact HaveringNTA@hotmail.com or Anne on 01708 446593. We look forward to welcoming you all.

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 October meeting our speaker will be Chris Truran with "A Funny Thing Happened on the way to The Old Bailey".

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

or on upminsterprobusec.wixsite.com/upminster-probus. 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 upminsterprobusec.lunch@gmail.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. 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 21 October, 7.15 for 7.30pm Steve Ringwood - Equipment Editor for 'Astronomy Now' magazine, and author on a wide range of astronomical topics - will give a talk entitled 'The

Unluckiest Astronomer'.

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 Horticultural Society

13th October Our Charity Lecture for Havering Mind. Our speakers tonight will give a talk on the history, background and work that Havering Mind, a mental health charity that supports the local community, carry out in the garden, located at Harrow Lodge Park. Begun during the covid lockdown, this was created by volunteers helping to support the wellbeing and mental health of the service users, staff and volunteers.

Doors open at 7.15pm, New Windmill Hall. 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.co.uk or email info@upminsterhorticulturalsociety.co.uk. Facebook: [Upminster Horticultural Society](https://www.facebook.com/UpminsterHorticulturalSociety)

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 16th October, Stephen Raindle will talk on "Havering in the Swinging 60's".

For more details, please contact our Chairman Mrs Chris Lovett 079 4736 7258.

East of London Family History Society

The Havering branch will meet

continued on page 17

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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 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' Saturday 7 November 2026. On Saturday 7th November the 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.

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

Wednesday Afternoon Music at Hornchurch Library

We look forward to seeing you as 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

The Arts Society, Havering

Tuesday 13th October "How to understand Contemporary Art" by Joshua White. Why is contemporary art so intimidating and baffling to many art lovers? This lecture explains the motives, techniques and ideas that create contemporary art. Joshua White is an enthusiastic and experienced art historian and lecturer who thoroughly enjoys sharing his love and knowledge of art, photography and visual culture with an audience.

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**

Friends of the Old Chapel

Tea and Talks

Wednesday 14th October at Roope Hall, Trinity Church, Station Road, Upminster. **The Puffing Billy - Tales of our Upminster to Romford branch line** An illustrated talk by Stephen Raindle about our 133-year-old local railway line that survived a wrecking attempt, two notices of

continued on page 19

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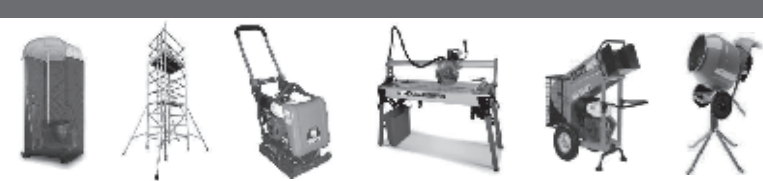
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closure and an explosive send-off for the last diesel service prior to electrification. The interesting history of the line will be traced along with a number of tales about the steam trains, gas lamps, the regular commuters, a special driver and the fondly remembered Dan the guard

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.haveringsch.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**.

Havering Joggers

Havering '90 Joggers (H90j) are a 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.

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/

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**

Upminster Wine & Social Club

Upminster Wine & Social club meets on the third Thursday of the month at Cranham Social Hall. Our next meeting is on 15th October when we will be holding a Beetle Drive. You are very welcome to join us guest fee is £5. Cheese and biscuits and a glass of wine are supplied. For more information contact Kevin **07727497367**

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 Diable 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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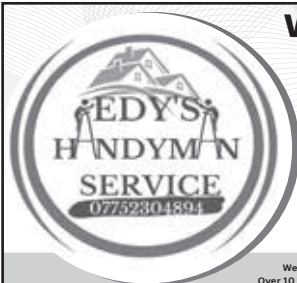
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Spiking of vapes

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.

Ardleigh House Tours

**Wednesday 18 November -
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 -
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

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Wills and Lasting Power of Attorney

Planning for the future is one of the most important steps you can take to protect yourself and your loved ones. That's why we're pleased to announce a free seminar in Upminster on Wills and Lasting Powers of Attorney this autumn.

This session, on Saturday 3 October 2026 - 9.45am to 11.30am at Pinney Talfourd, 54 Station Road, Upminster, Essex RM14 2TU, will explain the importance of having a valid Will and Lasting Powers of Attorney in place, helping you make informed decisions about your future with confidence. Following the presentation, there will be an opportunity to ask questions and speak with our team over tea and coffee.

Why you need a Will

A Will ensures your wishes are carried out after your death. Without a valid Will, the law determines how your estate is distributed, which may not reflect your intentions.

Why you should consider a Lasting Power of Attorney

A Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) allows you to appoint someone

you trust to make decisions on your behalf if you are no longer able to do so.

Attendance is free, but places are limited. To reserve your place, please email marketing@pinneytalfourd.co.uk, your name and the names of any additional attendees. If you have any questions, please call us on **01708 229 444**. We look forward to welcoming you.

The Friends of Fleet Close Village Green (FFCVG)

The FFCVG held its first AGM back in July and I'm pleased to announce that we have formed an Executive Committee of:

Chair - Philip Madeley

Treasurer - Andy Fairbairn

Secretary - Ann Madeley

Other Executive Committee members - Cllr Gillian Ford, Victoria Holton, Marc Herbert & Nicholas Parojcic.

Following the donation of a small, but significant, grant from the Council, we have been able to purchase some additional play equipment for the park. This includes a slide, basket swing and

continued on page 22

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tipi carousel. We look forward to their installation in the Autumn. The Friends Group will be looking for additional ideas and income sources to spend on enhancing the park. If anyone has any suggestions or comments, please contact ann.madeley@icloud.com and we will gladly consider these.

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:

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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

Thames Chase Volunteers

The Thames Chase Conservation Volunteers have been hard at work, reconnecting two areas of beautiful greenspace in Havering. Footpath 216 leads from Berwick Pond Road, through Berwick Glades and heading north, then turning sharply west and entering Hornchurch Country Park, acting as a connector between these two greenspaces and Suttons Lane which lies beyond. Most people who travel along it will be aware of the two footbridges, constructed to help walkers travel over ditches and wet ground. With a hard day's graft in the hot summer weather, our amazing volunteers have replaced all the treads, strengthened many of the supports and reinforced handrails where needed. This re-opens the circular walk around Hornchurch Country Park and Berwick Glades, a lovely stroll over around 3km (or 1.8 miles). If you've got some time over the next few weeks, we highly recommend visiting and using Footpath 216, as Autumn approaches and trees become

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brilliant reds, yellows and golds. These wonderful greenspaces are managed by Havering Council and Forestry England.

Lost Necklace

On Saturday 29th August a necklace consisting of a silver chain with a pendant with a green stone in was lost in or near Roomes Store. This has considerable sentimental value to the owner. If found the contact mobile is **07880 976817**. Thank you.

East Havering Data Centre

The consultation for the East Havering Data Centre, the major development to the east of the borough, has now concluded. The next steps are for a further Consultation document to be published in the Autumn. This will include a tracked changed copy of the changes and amendments as a result of the first consultation. This will be followed by the 'Planning Committee' meeting.

Planning Legislation for Local Planning Authorities has changed with the introduction of the 'Gateway' system. As from the 1st November, there will no longer be

separate Planning and Strategic Planning Committees. They will be combined to become one 'Planning Committee'. Havering Council will be voting on what format they will be adopting on the 2nd September at Full Council.

Cllr GILLIAN FORD

Charity Shops

We hear in the national press that charity shops are under pressure with Oxfam reported to be considering closing 100 locations. Charity shops however play a number of important roles, supporting their charities, providing an outlet for used clothes and household goods supporting their sustainability, generating footfall in our shopping centres and possibly providing locations where people can meet.

Please therefore support your local charity shops by both bringing in your no-longer needed items and by using the items in the shops to restock your wardrobe or your home.

THE EDITOR

**Clocks go back on
25th October**

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