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UPMINSTER & CRANHAM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Welcome to our community

Upminster and Cranham is an area where people from many countries and cultures choose to live, work and volunteer, and this helps to make it flourish. Our local services draw on skills from people from across the globe and these contributions come in many forms - health and care work, teaching, running local businesses, keeping the place looking attractive, volunteering, organising events and simply looking out for neighbours. These everyday actions build the warmth and resilience of our neighbourhood and make local services more compassionate and effective.

This holiday season we wish everyone a peaceful Christmas and we hope that 2027 proves to be a good year. Let's keep the spirit of welcome alive by building friendships across the many cultures in our area so it remains a place where the community thrives and everyone belongs.

THE EDITOR

Pinney Talfourd Christmas Card Competition 2026





Pinney Talfourd is delighted to announce the winners of its annual Christmas card competition, held in partnership with Corbets Tey School in Upminster, which supports children and young people with complex learning needs.

This much-loved festive tradition gives pupils the opportunity to showcase their creativity, with the team at Pinney Talfourd voting for their favourite designs.

This year's winner is Lily from Palm Class, whose wonderful illustration of Santa Claus will feature on the front of the firm's Christmas card.

Dapo, also from Palm Class, was selected as runner-up with a colourful Grinch-inspired design, which will appear on the back.

Lily will receive a £30 voucher, Dapo a £20 voucher (courtesy of the Bulletin), and each class finalist a £10 voucher in recognition of their efforts.

A huge thank you to all the pupils and staff at Corbets Tey School for making this year's competition another festive success!

Havering Council response to Draft London Plan consultation

In late October, the London Borough of Havering (LBH) published its official response to the Draft London Plan 2026 consultation. The Plan is the Mayor of London's strategy for how the city should grow and develop over the next 25 years.

For anyone who wants to find out more about the significant changes proposed, it is well worth reading both the Plan itself, and Havering Council's response. I have shown a couple of paragraphs from the first page of the latter document, which sum up the council's views.

'...the approach to housing within Havering is overly optimistic and the proposed targets are not underpinned by a sufficiently robust evidence base on deliverability. The Draft London Plan appears to assume that significant increases can be achieved through higher densities, optimisation and large-scale Green Belt release, despite substantial constraints relating to infrastructure provision, environmental impacts, viability and build-out rates.

In the absence of robust evidence demonstrating how these constraints will be addressed, LBH considers that the proposed housing targets and growth assumptions are not justified and are unlikely to be effective. As a result, the Draft London Plan is unsound as it fails to demonstrate a credible and deliverable strategy for achieving the level of growth proposed.'

To see links to all the information highlighted, visit our website ***ucra.co.uk*** and enter 'Draft London Plan 2026' in the search box.

Cllr JOHN TYLER

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UPMINSTER WARD

Oscar Ford
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Chris Wilkins
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CouncillorChristopher.Wilkins@havering.gov.uk

Michael Fisher



m.fisherucra@gmail.com

CRANHAM WARD

Gillian Ford
01708 641317



councillorgillian.ford@havering.gov.uk

John Tyler
07982 962925



@CllrTyler

JohnTylerUCResidents@outlook.com

Lesley Tyler
07467 840399



ltylerucresidents@outlook.com

ASSOCIATION CONTACTS

Commercial Advertising
Martin Flower 07785 244212
bulletinadvertra@yahoo.com

Bulletin Editor Richard Paling
bulletinra@yahoo.co.uk

Upminster Organiser
Gio Anastasi 07908 916119
gio.anastasi@hotmail.com

Cranham Organiser & Residents' Association Website
John Tyler 07982 962925
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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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Playground improvements

New play equipment has been installed in both the Cranham Brickfields and Fleet Close. The funding for the equipment comes from the Pitch and Putt site. The original plans had s106 funding for Hall Lane Playing Fields which has been put to good use by the Friends Group. Further improvements are due to take place in the New Year.



The Pitch and Putt developers previously proposed a play area on the site, but they then wanted to back-track from that and remove the play equipment plans. The Cranham Ward Councillors insisted that any removal from the plans should see funding provided elsewhere within the ward for play equipment. What you now see is the spending of the funds Ward Councillors achieved, to upgrade two local play areas. Cranham Brickfields received a higher allocation due to the size of the play site.

If you are interested in signing up to The Fleet Close Friends Group, The Friends of Hall Lane Playing Fields or the due to start Cranham Brickfields Friends Group please email: ***councillorgillian.ford@havering.gov.uk***

Local Speed Check

A speed check was conducted in Bridge Avenue. Upminster in September with 95 cars observed. Average speed was 21 mph but 25% were travelling over 25 mph where the speed limit is 20 mph. All those will receive police warning letters. In addition, a number of e-scooters and e-bikes were recently seized in Hornchurch and Upminster for being used illegally.



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Protect Our Greens

When the Residents Association were in the Council Administration, one of our commitments was to designate appropriate greens as Village Greens. The benefit of doing so was that they cannot be developed unless an Act of Parliament overturns the status. We felt under no circumstances must we allow the most well-known and publicly used local green spaces to be sacrificed in any rush to develop.

We are unable to ensure the protection of privately owned lands but have submitted a further six sites to the Council that could be protected with Village Green status. The new sites are:

Corbets Tey Green (Upminster) - Waycross Road Green (Cranham) - Bosworth Field (Heaton) - Paine's Brook (Gooshays) - Blake Close Open Space Play Area (South Hornchurch) - Woodhall Crescent (Emerson Park).

We will keep you posted as to where these schemes get to in the coming months.

Cllr GILLIAN FORD

While we have already reported on spiking vapes in earlier editions, we think it is worth repeating the very serious message in the article below

Spiking Vapes!

Local police recently carried out a community event in Upminster to raise awareness of a new criminal activity most will be unaware of. With the rise in popularity of Vapes, especially amongst young people, unscrupulous people have started to spike Vapes with drugs which can render the individual vulnerable. This works by the criminal offering someone a 'new' or 'attractive looking' Vape to try, saying it's better than what they may have been using. The Vape in question has had a drug added which can cause the individual to become confused, open to inappropriate suggestions of leaving with that person, or generally losing control.

This is similar to the practice of spiking drinks with a drug such as Rohypnal, commonly known as 'date rape drug'. Spiking drinks is not new, but a reminder to take care if accepting drinks from someone you don't know. Whilst there is no evidence of either Vape or drink spiking taking place locally at present, it is worth noting this new phenomenon and be aware of the possible risk when socialising.

LINDA VAN DEN HENDE

Police Update - Illegal sales of vapes

Another well attended ward panel took place recently where we had a speaker giving information regarding the unlawful sale of vapes to under 18s. There are 2 aspects to this practice. Firstly, do retailers sell to underage young people and I am pleased to say that in Upminster none were found to do so on a recent exercise. The second is that Vapes and other tobacco related products, which are illegal and containing unregulated material, could be being sold. These can be seized by the Council's Trading Standards staff, supported by the police. An Upminster business was recently found to be selling such material and is currently closed as a result of successful court action.

Police Update - Other issues

In terms of existing ward priorities, there has been a reduction in theft of vehicles from 18 to 14, 3 of which were mopeds. Theft from vehicles reduced from 18 to 2. There has been a small reduction of shoplifting reported from 32 to 28. There has been a worrying increase in burglary from 2 to 8, mainly with access from the rear of the property. Police remind us to make such doors and windows are locked securely.

New priorities for the next period now have to be very specific. We have therefore agreed to target shoplifting on 2 high street shops, vehicle crime in roads close to the station and ASB targeted on reducing violence against women and girls. This does not mean other crimes will not be covered. The work of the mobile ASB Team, which includes 3 PCs supported by PCSOs, will respond to specific incidents reported. It is important to report issues either by 101 or 999 if an emergency.

LINDA VAN DEN HENDE

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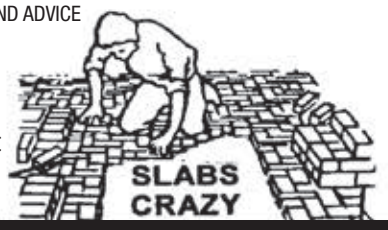

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The real meaning of the word is 'Christ's mass' or the birth of Jesus Christ. God sent His Son Jesus, into our broken, self-centred, world so we could have genuine hope and relationship with Him, that no money, good luck or effort could fix.

What about investigating Jesus Christ for yourself and your family, this Christmas, and make a start by coming to one of our carol services?

Have a great, and meaningful Christmas!

PAUL THOMPSON
Leader of King's Church (meeting in Gaynes School), and Member of 'Churches Together in Upminster, Cranham and N Ockendon'. ***www.ctucno.org.***

The Armed Forces Covenant

In early November, as part of this year's Remembrance events, Councillors John Tyler, Lesley Tyler and Oscar Ford proudly represented the Upminster and Cranham Residents' Association at the Armed Forces Covenant recognition, which took place at Romford Town Hall. The Covenant reflects the Council's ongoing commitment to ensuring that members of the Armed Forces community are treated fairly and are not disadvantaged as a result of their service.

Cllr LESLEY TYLER

Issues with cashpoints

Police attended Hornchurch Town Centre recently during the night in response to suspicious devices attached to cash points. Consequently, officers identified several suspicious items which have now been removed. Officers are conducting a live investigation and enquiries are on-going.

Users should always check a cashpoint to try to make sure it has not been tampered with. Conceal your pin when entering details. If you are unsure then don't use the cash point and find an alternative or go into the bank during working hours. If a crime is being committed, please call 999, or non-emergency 101.

Doorstep theft

After recent reports of doorstep theft occurring in our area and as we approach a busy period of home deliveries and online purchasing, the Met Police are reminding residents to remain vigilant to parcel theft. Opportunistic thieves may target parcels left on doorsteps or communal areas. The following precautions are recommend: Track your parcels and be aware of delivery times; Use a safe space or delivery locker; Ask a trusted neighbour, family member or friend to take in your parcel if you are not going to be home; Avoid parcels being left in plain sight and arrange redelivery if necessary; Install a video doorbell or CCTV if possible, to help deter offenders.

If you have seen suspicious individuals checking doorsteps, following delivery vehicles, or handling parcels that do not belong to them, please report their details to the Met Police on 101. If you see a theft and the offender is still present, then call 999.

Cllr LESLEY TYLER

Letters to the Editor

Campion School – A Victory for Sport, But at What Cost to Local Residents?

The decision to approve the proposed 3G football facility at Campion School may be welcome news to some, but the wider community should understand its lasting impact on neighbouring residents and the local environment. Our concerns have never been about preventing children from playing sport. They are about noise, floodlighting, extended operating hours, parking and, importantly, the environmental implications of artificial pitches.

Many people are unaware that

continued on page 7

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rubber crumb infill and synthetic turf can release microplastics and other pollutants, potentially finding their way into surrounding soil, surface water and local waterways. These are concerns that deserve serious consideration, not least given the proximity of Platford Pond. 590 residents supported objections to this application. Their concerns have not disappeared simply because planning permission has been granted.

We will continue to seek answers and ensure that the conditions attached to the permission are properly implemented, monitored and enforced. Residents deserve to have their homes and environment respected.

PROTECT PLATFORD POND CAMPAIGN

346 BUS ROUTE

Dear Bulletin Editor,

I read in the latest edition that you are seeking views on the 346 bus route. I have found this route very useful in getting to and from the Harold Wood Walk-in Centre and for accessing the Elizabeth Line (Eastbound) but sadly the reliability of the service lets it down.

For example, I had an appointment at the Walk-in centre on 21st September and allowed an hour to get there but the time I'd walked into Upminster and saw that the wait time was 28 minutes, I realised that would have been late. Luckily, I caught a 370 towards Romford and changed for a 256 in Hornchurch and just made it in time. On my return journey, there were no 346 services showing on the indicator board so again, I used the 256 to go the long way around.

As mentioned, it is a really useful route, if only it were made more reliable.

Hornchurch Football Club

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

Saturday 19th **Harrogate Town** Kick Off at 12.30pm.

Monday 28th **Boreham Wood** Kick Off at 3pm .

Saturday 2nd January 2027 **Hartlepool United** 3pm.

Please also note the Urchins are away to **Southend United** on *Boxing Day 26th December* with a kick off at 3pm.

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

Xmas Land

Havering Christmas Land returns to Harrow Lodge Park Hornchurch! Run by local mental health charity, Havering Mind, open across the festive period from 27 November to 2 January, it features a magical Christmas Walkway suitable for all the family, with a variety of themed scenes, thousands of sparkling lights and loads of spectacular photo opportunities. You'll also find a stunning Santas Grotto (selected dates), food and drink served nightly, and lots of Christmas cheer. Christmas Land is wheelchair and buggy friendly.

To book and further information please visit the website ***www.christmasland.co.uk***

Ceremony of Carols

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.

'Dance Music and Carols'

On Sunday afternoon **6th December 2026** the Havering Concert Orchestra (HCO) Christmas Concert will bring a touch of Christmas sparkle to Upminster, 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

continued on page 9

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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.***

Liberty Singers Christmas Concert

On Friday **11th December** at 7.30pm the Liberty Singers present their annual Christmas Concert at Trinity Church, next to Roomes Stores, Tickets cost £8 per adult and £4 per child and can be purchased on the door. The ticket price includes seasonal refreshments. There will be a raffle on the night in aid of charity.

Havering Singers Christmas Concert

Havering Singers warmly invite you to their annual Christmas Concert on Saturday 19th December at 7:30pm. The concert is being held in St Peter's Church, Gubbins Lane, Harold Wood. RM3 0QA. Tickets cost £15 for adults if bought in advance and half price for children under 16 and can be purchased via our website www.haveringsingers.org.uk/buy-tickets/ or £18 at the door on the night of the concert. We'll be singing a variety of Christmas favourites and some carols will be for everyone to join in.

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.***

Upminster Library Art Exhibition

Upminster Art Society will hold their Christmas Exhibition at the library from Monday 30th November to Saturday 12th December. A wide variety of members' work will be on display and all paintings will be for sale. Please come along and take a look. The exhibition is open during normal library hours.

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 visit the Festival, our opening hours will be Monday to Friday 2- 6pm (firstweek 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.

Enquiries to Terry on ***07880 770324.***

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Windmill Winter Artisan Market and Open Day

All are welcome at the Windmill Winter Market and Open Day, this year on Saturday 19th December from 10am to 3pm. There will be Christmas gifts available from our artisan stalls, sweet treats, live Christmas Music, plus activities for kids and refreshments from our kiosk. All under the sails of the iconic windmill - sails turning [weather allowing] with Mill Tours available.

Please take a look at our website ***www.upminsterwindmill.org*** for full details of upcoming events and Windmill news - not least news of our garden which has been announced as 2026 Havering in Bloom Best Community Garden, and at the RHS, London in Bloom awards, as winner of Outstanding Judged Garden, with a Gold Award for Environmental Challenge and Silver Gilts for Gardening with Young People and for Diversity.

Christmas At Stubbers

A Festive Family Adventure! *on Saturday 12th December from 9am - 5pm*

Step into the world of Christmas at Stubbers Adventure Park! Embrace the spirit of the season as we present a day packed with family-friendly adventure activities. Included in your general admission from 10am-4pm

- Christmas Market for unique holiday finds
- Silent Disco- Dance to your favourite holiday tunes.
- Family Marshmallow Toasting
- Christmas Discovery Trail Challenge
- Christmas performances
- Say Hello to Santa!
- Christmas Crafts

Ticket Activities (£2.50 per ticket) from 9am-5pm

- Cave Experience taster: 2 tickets pp
- Indoor Climbing taster: 2 tickets pp
- Targets shooting gallery: 1 ticket pp (prizes to be won)
- Santa's 4x4 Off-Road Rides: 1 ticket pp
- Pedalos: 2 tickets per boat (up to 4 adults – 15 minutes)
- Bracelet Making: 1 ticket per bracelet

Bundle up and bring torches for the Discovery Trail

Pre-book your entry now and get ready to create cherished memories with your loved ones.

Come and experience the magic of Christmas at Stubbers, where adventure meets the warmth of the holiday season!

Events at the New Windmill Hall

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.

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Christmas at Thames Chase

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continued on page 13

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Booking and full details of all the events below can be found at: ***Tickettailor.com/events/thameschase.*** You can also contact us at: ***enquirires@thameschase.org.uk / 01708 642970***

- Party Monsters Christmas Party
- Christmas Light Catchers
- Adult Festive Paint and Sip
- Christmas Door Decor
- Wreath Making Workshop
- Christmas Charm Cards
- Family Festive Painting Session
- Festive Clay Workshop
- Go Slime Christmas Workshop

Paradise Found

This is the brand new music of Meat Loaf theatre show that everyone is talking about. Making its live debut at The Queens Theatre Hornchurch on Friday 22 January 2027 - 7:30pm. 'Get Ready For One Hell Of A Night' as we celebrate 50 years of Bat Out Of Hell the album. Paradise Found delivers a two hour high octane performance featuring an electrifying all-star headline band. The lineup comprises of incredible musicians who tour and perform with Rock Royalty: Brian May [Queen] Jimmy Page [Led Zeppelin] Tony Iommi [Black Sabbath - Ozzy Osbourne] Patti Russo [Meat Loaf] Sam Fender, Stereophonics and more!

Blazing through Meat Loaf's greatest hits & legendary singalong anthems, Bat Out Of Hell, Took The Words, Modern Girl, Out Of The Frying Pan, Dead Ringer, For Love and much more.

Expect high-impact visuals, formidable musicians and an immersive live music experience like no other dedicated to the legend of Meat Loaf. So come on, hold tight and get ready to sing, dance and be part of the wildest night of your life in Hornchurch.

There are only 8 UK theatre tour dates in 2027. Do not miss it! Secure your seats to the hottest ticket around. ***https://queens-theatre.co.uk/shows-items/paradise-found-a-dedication-to-the-legend-of-meat-loaf/*** ***www.paradisefoundlive.com*** or ***www.facebook.com/legacyconcertcompany***

William Batt turns 100

This December, local resident William Batt (fondly known as Bill), celebrates a remarkable milestone as he turns 100 years old.

Bill has been part of the Upminster community since the 1970s, living in Argyle Gardens before moving to Freshfields Residential Care Home in 2020. Bill (and his late wife Iris) were our neighbours when my husband and I moved to Argyle Gardens in June 2000.

Bill was a Tool Maker by trade, working for Tyzack & Sons Ltd. until their closure in January 1988. In his retirement, he very much enjoyed gardening and would grow geraniums from seed every year, sharing them out amongst his friends to enjoy. Bill shared 67 years of marriage to his beloved wife Iris, before her passing in 2018. Their many years together remain an important part of Bill's story.

Bill is a longstanding and proud member of The Royal British Legion in St. Mary's Lane, and it is here where Bill met many of his friends.

Happy 100th birthday Bill! May your centenary be filled with love, happiness and the knowledge that you are warmly remembered and celebrated by those around you.

Trinity Church coffee morning

Trinity Church is holding a coffee morning on Saturday 12th December, but there won't be a monthly sale this month. All are welcome to join us between 10-12 for coffee and mince pies. All proceeds go to S.M.I.L.E London and Essex - Trinity's chosen charity for 2026, who support those in the local area facing poverty, homelessness and hardship.

Fresh Turkeys for Christmas

Once again Fishy Business in Corbets Tey Road Upminster are selling FRESH turkeys from a local

continued on page 15

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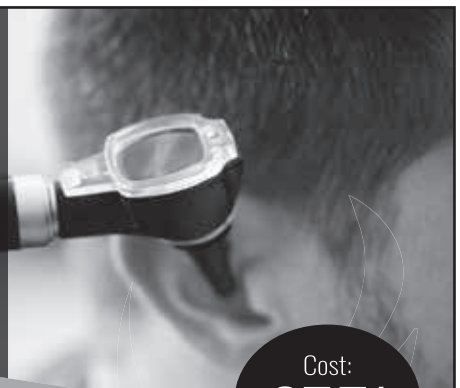

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Ahoy There

The Wesley Players invite audiences aboard for Treasure Island, an original family pantomime.to be performed on 28th , 29th & 30th January. Booking/Details at ***www.wesley-players.com*** or see next month's Bulletin.

'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.***

Couples Counselling

HBBS Counselling, a local mental health charity supporting local residents of all ages for over 35 years, is proud to announce the launch of a new service Couples Counselling. This offers a safe, respectful and confidential space for partners to explore challenges, reconnect, improve communication and build healthier relationship dynamics. Whether you're navigating ongoing difficulties, or looking to strengthen your relationship, we're here to help you build understanding and resilience and healthier ways of relating.

Sessions are tailored to each couple's unique circumstances and can support a wide range of relationship concerns including communication difficulties, conflict, trust, parenting challenges, life transitions and loss. Weekly appointments are available in person or online, for a duration of 50 mins and charged at £70.

For further information or to explore if this is appropriate for you and your partner, please phone ***01708 476912*** or email ***enquiries@hbbscounselling.org.***

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 with our next meeting on 15th December. 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 7th December at 8.00pm at the Large Hall, 24 North Street, Hornchurch, RM11 1QX (corner of Westland Avenue, opposite

continued on page 17

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Iceland), when we will be having our Christmas gathering.

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 December meeting our speaker will be Mark Lewis talking about Cribs, Cards and Christingles.

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***

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. At our meeting on 18th December Gary Lewis will be talking about Hitchcock's Leytonstone.

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

Upminster Horticultural Society

8th December 2026 **Herbal Medicine – Who Cares?** by Professor Michael Heinrich. Michael joins us from the UCL School of Pharmacy. With many years' experience, Michael will explore the historical and evolving modern roles of herbal medicines and will discuss examples of medicinal plants. A lecture with a difference for gardeners but with interest in how our plants have, and can in the future, benefit us. What can the garden marigold tell us about medicines, for example?

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*** or email ***info@upminsterhorticulturalsociety.co.uk.*** Facebook: ***Upminster Horticultural Society***

Wednesday Afternoon Music at Hornchurch Library

The good music continues.

Wed 2nd December at 2pm - **A Taste Of Spain** presented by Mike Beaman. There will be ABBA songs in Spanish plus Matt Monroe, The Gypsy Kings, some Flamenco and an excerpt from Carmen and of course Julio Iglesias.

Wed 16th December at 2pm **Christmas Music and Readings.** Our annual festive get together with regular presenters delving into their Christmas archives and emerging with music for Yuletide and maybe a piece of prose or poetry. There will be drinks and some seasonal bites to eat during the interval.

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.*** 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 9 December, 7.15 for 7.30pm. Peter Morris and Magda Wheatley will present our Christmas Quiz.

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 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. (This was orignally booked for our September meeting). On Saturday 2 January 2027, Nick Dobson, a former librarian will give a talk on Swinging London. He will discuss how London became the bright, swinging centre of style and culture.

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

The Arts Society, Havering

Tuesday 8th December 2026 **The Christmas Story through Italian Art** by Antonia Gatward Cevisli. This lecture travels through the Christmas story from the Annunciation to the Flight

continued on page 19

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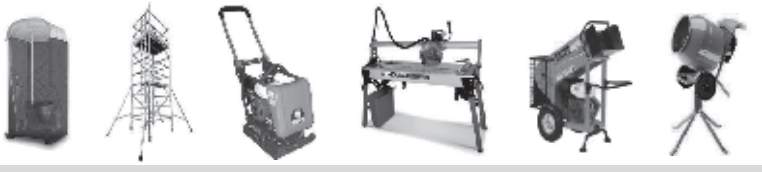

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into Egypt through the eyes of Italian artists.There will be some well-known favourites alongside other works that are less familiar enabling us to take a fresh look at the artist's approach to the narrative. The chosen works also open up other subjects such as the Medici family's devotion to the Magi, the making of the spectacular floor of Siena Cathedral, a stolen Caravaggio and a rather unconventional breastfeeding position!

Talks 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!

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. 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.

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

Cranham Art Society

We are a very friendly group who meet on Wednesday mornings at Cranham Social Centre in the main hall at Marlborough Gardens from 10 - 12. All abilities welcome. Just pop in to have a look around and see what we do or phone Kathy on 07749 868538 for more details

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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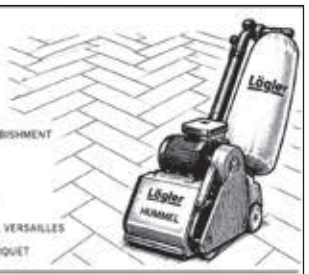

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UCRA councillors support UPR planning appeal

We have been informed that an appeal against the refusal of planning permission, has been submitted to the national Planning Inspectorate regarding a planning application (P0995.23) at Baldwins Farm, Bramble Road, Upminster. This relates to an application by the landowners to create a facility of 16 various sized football pitches, together with ancillary facilities and car parking, for use by Upminster Park Rovers (UPR) junior football club.

Upminster and Cranham Residents' Association councillors in both Upminster and Cranham Wards, supported the original planning application, as UPR are currently unable to expand the number of teams (particularly girls teams) that they run, and have to stage their matches at various locations across the borough. Our original letter of support will be included in the appeal documentation.

Details of the planning application can be found on Havering Council's website development. havering.gov.uk/OcellaWeb/planningSearch and entering 'P0995.23' in the Reference search box. The time frame for making comments ended in early November. We will publish the result of the appeal on our website and in the Bulletin, when it is published.

Cllrs OSCAR FORD, MICHAEL FISHER, CHRIS WILKINS – Upminster Ward

Cllrs GILLIAN FORD, JOHN TYLER, LESLEY TYLER – Cranham Ward

Rotary Christmas Float Schedule 2026

Havering Phoenix Rotary Club, with the help of Upminster 41 Club, will once again be bringing joy to young and old in Upminster and Cranham. Monies raised during this period will be donated to local charities such as First Step, St Francis Hospice, Ravensbourne School and many others. Last year this event raised over £10,000 for charity.

A static float will be in Station Rd Upminster on 16th, 17th & 19th Dec. (10-4pm) and outside Sainsbury's Hornchurch on 18th & 21st Dec. (10-4pm)

The programme for the mobile float is:-

Sun 13th Dec: Elm Ave, Beech, Oak, Maple, Southview area *

Mon 14th Dec: Little Gaynes, The Grove, Parklands, Huntsman area

Wed 16th Dec: Moor Lane, Queens, Roseberry Gdns area

Thu 17th Dec: Deyncourt, Courtenay, Grosvenor, Marlborough area

Fri 18th Dec: Springfield Gdns, Roxburgh, Rushmere area

Sun 20th Dec: Moor Lane, Heron Way, Swan, Limerick Gdns area *

Mon 21st Dec: Sunnyside Gdns, Cedar Gdns, New Place Gdns area

Tue 22nd Dec: Chester, Peterborough, Winchester, Rectory area

Wed 23rd Dec: Park Drive, Cranston Park, Melstock area

Thu 24th Dec: Severn Drive, Fleet, Isis, Stour, Humber area *

* Float starts at 4.00 pm on Sundays & Xmas Eve, otherwise 5.30 pm. We finish around 7pm on Sundays & 8.30 pm on Weekdays.

NB. All of the above is subject to appropriate Police licence & weather conditions permitting.

More info is available on Facebook or our website:

Merry Christmas from Ardleigh House

We would like to take this opportunity of thanking everyone

continued on page 22

Chemist Opening Hours over the Christmas Period for Govani Chemist

Date	87 Front Lane Cranham RM14 1XN	64 Station Road, Upminster
Thursday 24th Dec	9am to 6.15pm	9am to 6.15pm
Friday 25th Dec	10am to 12pm	Closed
Saturday 26th Dec	9am to 5.15pm	9am to 5.15pm
Sunday 27th Dec	10am to 12pm	Closed
Monday 28th Dec	10am to 12pm	Closed
Tues, Wed, & Thursday	Normal Times	Normal Times
Friday 1st January 2027	10am to 12pm	Closed

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who has supported Ardleigh House, in 2026, by attending our classes, clubs, events, day trips or coming on our holiday. You are all so important because, without your support AH would not be able to continue offering facilities to our community. Our wings are now spreading ever wider as more & more people are wanting to come to Ardleigh House or go on our trips. So, a big thank you to all of you who have supported Ardleigh House in 2026, you are very much appreciated.

Another year draws to a close, so from everyone at Ardleigh House we wish you a very Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!

You can find out about classes, clubs and other events, happening at Ardleigh House, by going to the "Whats On" page of our website.

https://www.ardleighhouse.org/clubs

Warm Coats Initiative

As the colder months approach, the Havering Libraries Warm Coats Initiative is helping those who need a coat to pick one up, free of charge, from local libraries. Residents can support this initiative by donating any unwanted coats that are warm, clean and undamaged. By donating, it not only helps someone stay warm but supports a more sustainable approach by reducing waste. Coats can be dropped off at any library during opening hours.

Cllr LESLEY TYLER

Observation period for parking enforcement in Havering

We have been told that a Reform UK Councillor gave incorrect and misleading information at a recent public meeting in the borough, regarding whether council wardens had to wait before issuing a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) for parking on a double yellow line.

I therefore thought that it would be useful to highlight the following information on the Havering Council website, where they have published a notice showing the 'Observation periods for parking enforcement' that apply in Havering. To view the document, visit the council website havering.gov.uk and enter 'Observation period for parking enforcement' in the search box.

Cllr JOHN TYLER

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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Account no: 50058653

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

We have started this in 2026 and many thanks to those who have paid. We are still collecting door to door and dropping off envelopes as well. If you have paid our thanks again and please ignore the envelopes.

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



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