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Dartford Crossing Classed a 'Rural' Road

For 15 years the Dartford Crossing (also known as the A282) has been wrongly classed as a rural road by the Department of Transport - meaning that it was exempt from air pollution monitoring. The crossing, which carries some 1m vehicles per week, frequently suffers grinding congestion, particularly when travelling from Kent into Essex, and is one of the country's worst air pollution hot-spots. Apparently the road has now been reclassified, but air pollution remains unchanged!

Cllr CLARENCE BARRETT

Keeping Our Ward Safe

We are continually asked by our residents how motorists can be stopped from speeding in our ward. I am pleased to announce that after meeting with the police we managed to have a speed gun operation which took place in late February. Many motorists will now receive a penalty charge for exceeding the speed limit. Speeding operations by the police will continue so please be warned that if you exceed the speed limit you could be faced with a penalty charge fine.



Keeping Our Park Clean

Our litter picking still continued over the winter months in Painesbrook Park but now the better weather is on its way perhaps you may wish to join our happy band on the 1st Sunday in each month for just an hour which and we start 11.00am.

Cllr BRIAN EAGLING

Help, please

Due to an increased volume of *Bulletins* on the Kings Park Estate we require a volunteer who could deliver 50 *Bulletins* a month. If you are interested please contact Cllr. Brian Eagling on 01708 373027 or email on eaglibri@talktalk.net

What a Shame

The new proposed development outside the Church House in Romford Market Place was agreed by the Tory led Planning Committee on Thursday, 2nd February 2017. Our Resident Councillors voted against this proposal and as a matter of interest there were 900 letters of objection by the people of Havering.

Cllr BRIAN EAGLING

Improvements on the Way

I was pleased to be advised that improvements to the pavements in Gubbins Lane have started and I must say that this work is well overdue. The finance for this project has come from T.F.L. I know that these works are causing disruption but they will be well worth it in the end.

Cllr BRIAN EAGLING

Camborne Ave Shops

We are aware of ongoing anti-social behaviour by the Camborne Ave Shops in Harold Hill and there have been some alarming and disturbing issues that have been highlighted. We have raised these concerns with the local Police Team whom are all aware of the issues and we have requested that the community safety team at Council fully supports the Police in any way they can in order to eradicate these problems. If you see any disturbing anti-social behaviour we would urge residents to phone the Police on 999.

Cllr DARREN WISE

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Harold Wood Methodist Church

Tuesday Lunch Club: We have a Tuesday Lunch Club at our Church for Senior Citizens and you do not have to be a Church Member to attend.

We serve a two-course home cooked meal followed by tea/coffee for £4.50p. If you would like to join us please phone 01268-456433 by the previous Sunday to book your place. At present, we have about 40 regular members and more are always welcome.

Halls Available: We also have 2 large Halls that are available for regular hire some mornings and afternoons which would be suitable for a club but no parties. If you would like further information please phone 01708-343295. Our Church is situated on the corner of The Drive and Gubbins Lane; it is near to the station and bus routes.

Flower Festival: This will be held over the weekend of 17/18th June - more details nearer the date.

St. Peter's Flower and Craft Festival

10.00am, Bank Holiday Monday, May 1st. St. Peter's is hosting a **Community Flower and Craft Festival** on the early May Day Bank Holiday - the theme is Festivals and we welcome anybody from the Parish to participate, either by providing or sponsoring an arrangement, demonstrating their favourite craft or simply coming along to admire God's creation and enjoy a cup of tea and homemade cake! There will also be plants and crafts for sale and model gardens made by local school children on display along with flower arrangements made by members of local organisations.

London Marathon Challenge

Sandra Long, from Harold Park, is running the 2017 London Marathon and hopes to raise

£4,000 for Alzheimer's Research UK. Dementia affects more than 850,000 people in the UK and the numbers are increasing. If you would like to make a donation please visit uk.virginmoneygiving.com/SandraLong1

and raised around £800 for Breast Cancer Now, which was amazing! Look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible and I will make sure to bake more scones this time!

Cream Tea and Craft Fayre

Sunday 9th April - 12-4pm at Kingsland Hall, Station Road, Harold Wood, the scout hall behind Delaney's estate agents. Cream teas - donations please, with all proceeds to the Breast Cancer Now charity. Various craft and gift stalls including - Tracy T Cakes, Glassy Chic, Yonique Beauty, Lynns Crafts, Joannes bags and Jewellery, Shonas crafts, Jills crafts and Candles and Cards. All the stallholders make donations to the charity too, so please support them, they really do have some lovely things for sale on the day. Easter colouring competition for the children and a raffle too! It was an unexpected success last year

Maylands Fields

After a seven-year attempt to save the small area of Green Belt land which protects residents of Harold Park from the noise and pollution of the M25, Secretary of State Sajid Javid has ruled that the requirement of Muslims for burial 'without compromise' outweighs other considerations and that therefore the Islamic Gardens of Peace cemetery application on Maylands Fields can go ahead. This is an extremely disappointing decision as it will change our neighbourhood for ever, with two years of development followed by an average of five funerals every day, each attended by around 70 mourners, the majority of whom will be travelling across Havering from inner London Boroughs. The cemetery will accommodate

continued on page 3

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10,000 graves.
For more than fifty years Maylands Fields was an asset greatly valued by Harold Park residents for walking and recreation. Since 2002, when it was acquired by a 'hobby farmer', many residents have been fighting to preserve this last vestige of our rural heritage and deserve our thanks for their perseverance and refusal to give up, even though the odds were stacked against them. Maylands Action Group is grateful for the support of local folk over these fourteen years. It is a privilege to be part of such a strong community.
The appeal against refusal by Havering Council of a cemetery for 20,000 plots, mainly for Muslim burials, on land adjacent to Maylands Golf Course has yet to be heard.

Maylands Action Group

Spring Into Action

St. Peter's, The Parish Church for Harold Wood
For children

- **April 1st** start of school holidays - no joke! Enjoy ...

- **Sunday April 2nd** 9.15 & 11.00am, Explorers (Primary school age) lead the morning services
 - **Good Friday, April 14th** 3.00-5.00pm, Family Service and activities with a real Easter Egg Hunt
- For adults**
- **April 7th** our Office Administrator Lynn retires after 18 years - amazing service - huge thanks
 - **HOLY WEEK** (Palm Sunday to Easter Day)
The greatest week in human history
Palm Sunday (April 9th): Jesus arrives
Maundy Thursday (April 13th): Jesus promises
Good Friday (April 14th): Jesus dies
Easter Sunday (April 16th): Jesus lives
 - **Sunday April 23rd** 6.30pm, Adult Baptisms by full immersion
 - **Tuesday April 25th** from 7.30pm, Venture of faith - telling the story of 'Vision 21' (including AGM)
More details in Cross Section or

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on our website:
www.stpetersharoldwood.org

St. Peter's Men's Lunch

TUESDAY, 11th April 2017, from 11.30am in St. Peter's Church Centre, Harold Wood. Jonnie Deja, St. Peter's Curate.

Members 'old and new' would be most welcome so we hope you can join us. Please reserve your lunch place by telephoning St. Peter's Welcome Desk on 01708 342080, or email: welcome.desk@stpetersharoldwood.org.
Chris Knowles, Julian Harris and the Men's Lunch Team.

Brentwood Road: Safety Measures

At the recent Councils Highways Committee, they agreed a number of further safety measures as part of the junction accident reduction, one in our area is at the junction of Brentwood Road and Great Gardens junction where they will

be erecting a "entry speed table". In a letter to local residents on this the Council pointed out that there had been two personal injury accidents in the vicinity over a five-year period, both were serious and involved pedestrians. They will also be erecting "a pedestrian's refuge" close by in Brentwood Road to enable pedestrians cross the road easier.
If you would like a copy of the report that went to committee, please get in touch.

Sub-Aqua Diving Club

Havering/Ilford Branch of British Sub-Aqua Club (next to Harold Hill swimming pool) welcome trainee and experienced divers to a very friendly club with varied dive programme and social calendar. Come for a try dive at £15 (to be deducted from your new membership should you join). Call Barry Wingrave on 01708 725165 or website: www.bsac49.org.uk email: enquiries@bsac49.org.uk.

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Final of First Give



Upminster Residents Councillor Deputy Mayor Councillor Linda Van den Hende presenting a cheque for £1000 to the winning team at Gaynes school who were promoting Havering Mind Organisation.

The event was organised by "First Give" which works in partnership with secondary schools to help young people give their time, tenacity to improve local communities. council services to our residents.

Charity Event

The Hollies' Ian Parker will be appearing at Grove Social Club, Chadwell Heath on Friday 12 May

at a charity evening for Veterans of War. Tickets £10 call 07940 161223.

U.C.R.A Coach Outing News

St Albans

The city of St Albans has a colourful history which can be seen in its Roman remains and beautiful medieval architecture. The Cathedral dominates the city's skyline from every approach and is well worth a visit. Whether for historical interests or shopping (or perhaps both) you'll be amazed at the wide range of shops and the bustling market which dates back to the 9th century. St Albans has an excellent range of places to eat and is also the home of CAMRA the Campaign for Real Ale with many "real ale" pubs. Tickets are priced at £15.00 each, payable within 7 days of booking please. Please see "Association Diary" for full booking details.

(please be advised non-receipt of payment within 7 days may result in the cancellation of your booking).

Thames Chase

Thames Chase Community Forest annual 10k and family fun run - Sunday 11th June 10am.

This annual event is a multi-lap and very gently undulating 10k route through picturesque park and woodland. Off road and completely traffic free on network of flat surfaced paths, with a small section of grass/meadow.

Bookings can be made via the website and all profits will once again directly go towards the work of the Thames Chase Trust and ongoing regeneration of the Thames Chase Community Forest. Information about the event, please visit <http://www.thameschase.org.uk/>

Children's Easter holiday activities - 4th, 5th, 11th and 12th April 10.30am-12.30pm enjoy being outside in spring with activities at the Forest Centre including art, weaving, planting, bird box making and building bug hotels. On Thursday 5th April join a gentle walk around Cely Wood and take part in some gentle yoga and wellbeing activities. On Thursday 13th April join a scavenger hunt in Harold Court Wood.

Fri 14th Apr 2.30-4.30pm - Cream Tea celebrating Easter. £9 per person.

Easter Sunday (16th April) - Monthly Sunday Market, 10am - 3pm, and children's treasure hunt.

Sun 23rd Apr 2.30-4.30pm - Andrew Linham, an award-winning saxophonist, and his duo will be performing at the Forest Centre. Cost £10. Tea, coffee and cake will be available.

Fri 28th Apr from 10am Guided walk to explore Cely Wood, White Post Wood (Bluebell Wood) and Warwick Wood. Meet in the Cely Wood car park off Warick Lane.

Sat 29th Apr 2.30-4.30pm The Chase Players', present an afternoon of music variety and comedy sketches at the Forest Centre. Mandy Lyes and Maire Watson will be serenading you with songs from the shows and the golden age of movies. Their alter egos, 'Gert and Daisy' will be making an appearance and will have you laughing in your seats. Special guests will also join them. Not to be missed. £10 per person (tea, coffee and cake available). More information at the Forest Centre or on www.thameschase.org.uk



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Flight Path Update

The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has conducted a review of the changes to flight paths for City Airport with a report out in May. They have the power to order changes. City Airport have however indicated they are already considering changes that can be made following significant community protest. Any changes are unlikely until the autumn. The Department of Transport have also launched a public consultation on a new Airspace Policy, which proposes that communities should be more closely involved in any flight path changes. It has argued that respite should always be an option when changes are made. Any comments on this should be sent to airspace.policy@dft.gsi.gov.uk by 25 May.

Cllr LINDA VAN DEN HENDE

Council Debt being Tackled

In my role on the Council, I have responsibility for overseeing debt collection, and in particular

Council Tax debt. This year we are on target to collect in excess of 97% of Council Tax owed, some £3.5m more than last year. We also set up a 'task force' to chase old debt, with the initial focus very much on the 'won't pay' rather than the 'can't pay' categories. This has seen 20 debtors pay in full and charging orders made on 30 properties. Furthermore, two residents received custodial sentences for non-payment of some £11,000 of Council Tax. Council Tax pays for vital services such as protecting children from abuse, supporting vulnerable adults and caring for our older people. It also pays for parks, maintaining our roads as well as rubbish collections, street lights and a host of other services. Those who refuse to pay are effectively being subsidised by those who do, and that is simply not fair and we shall continue to clamp down on it.

Cllr CLARENCE BARRETT

Bell Corner

We have received several concerns over the pattern for traffic travelling south down Station Road junction with St. Marys Lane across to Corbets Tey Road as the

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space for vehicles to merge into the one lane is not very long and could lead to an accident. Whilst permissible at the moment - the road signs will be altered shortly so only cars in the left hand lane can go straight ahead and the right hand lane reserved for right turns towards Hornchurch only.

Cllr LINDA HAWTHORN

Shirley Ward Tours

April, 27th, Thu: Brick Lane Music Hall + Afternoon Tea to celebrate St Georges Day: £50 incl Coach/Show/Afternoon Tea: Coach departs Midday. Easy access/converted church.
July 6th, Thu: The Mill at Sonning Theatre, Agatha Christie's The Spiders Web Thriller, £70.00 inc 2 course lunch/coach/play, Thames side setting.
July 20th, Thu: Eastbourne with ride over Downs to Beachy Head; £24 each: Child £20.
July 25th, Tue: Windsor 2-hour river cruise with Ploughman's lunch, then afternoon cream tea at Bekonscot Model Village. Adults £60; Child £52.00. Whole day out with lunch/tea Inc.

Enquiries to Shirley Ward 01708 227884 or stamped addressed envelope to Mrs Ward, 15 Worcester Ave, Cranham, Essex RM14 3LB or Email shirley@shirleytours.co.uk; Web Site: www.shirleytours.co.uk

Green Waste Collection Service - Renewal

The Green Waste Collection Service is very popular with residents and has some 26,000 subscribers annually. However, the process of renewing the annual subscription last year was beset with difficulties for some. This year the Council have completely reviewed the system to make renewal as seamless and as simple as possible.

- Renewals period will run from 6th March to 21st April
- Notifications will begin to be sent out from 6th March
- Renewal can be done on-line with upgraded website capacity
- Renewals can also be done by telephone with an increased number of operators available

However, due to ever increasing

continued on page 9

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operating and treatment costs, the net cost to the Council to service each bin is approximately £70 per year. As such, and in order to maintain the service, the current charge of £35 will be increased to £45 per annum so that the subsidy is effectively reduced from £35 to £25.

Cllr CLARENCE BARRETT

Upminster Wine and Social club

Upminster Wine and Social Club will be holding their St George's Day dance on Saturday 22nd April at Hall Mead School, Marlborough Gardens, Cranham. Music will be provided by the popular duo "Too Hot". Tickets are £15, including a fish and chip supper, and are available from Vic Bramwell on 01708 470465. Non-members welcome.

John Stainer's The Crucifixion

Sunday 9th April 6.30 pm - 7.45 pm at St Laurence Church, Upminster. A Palm Sunday performance of The Crucifixion with the choirs of St Laurence Upminster, St Andrew's,

Hornchurch, All Saints', Cranham and St Mary Magdalene, North Ockendon.

Conductor: David Pickthall MBE and Richard Brasier, Organ. Free admission with retiring collection.

Wednesday Music Evenings

12th April - A Musical Brexit Evening - presented by Stephen Raindle. Music from the six countries that were founding members of the 'Common Market' Belgium, France, Netherlands, West Germany, Italy and Luxembourg. The programme will be of typically national music from these countries and from a few later-entry countries as well.

26th April - Showboat - The Story Behind the Musical - presented by Ron Atkinson. Jerome Kern and Oscar Hammerstein's musical drama that was first heard 90 years ago. Packed with brilliant songs it marked a defining moment in the history of musical theatre. Actor, Ron Atkinson will be recalling the original stage show plus two successful film versions.

continued on page 11

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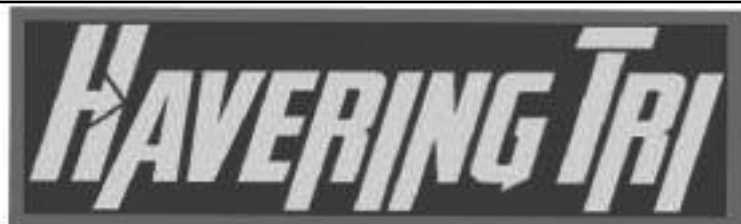
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The Wednesday Music Evenings are held in the 1st Floor Meeting Room at Hornchurch Library, North Street (buses 165, 256 & 370 pass the door) commencing at 7.30pm and finishing at 9.30pm. Admission is free of charge but we do ask for a nominal donation for interval refreshments. For further information contact Stephen Raindle 01708 470670 or email sraindle@aol.com

Beauty and the Beast

The **Queen's Theatre Hornchurch** has announced it will be staging *Beauty and the Beast* as this year's pantomime from 30 November - 7 January. The Queen's Theatre is committed to ensuring everyone can enjoy the pleasure of live performance and has confirmed it will be providing two specially adapted shows for their charming production of *Beauty and the Beast*. Tickets to a **Relaxed Performance** (Tuesday 2 January) and a **Dementia-Friendly Performance** (Wednesday 3 January) are available to purchase alongside the theatre's regular **Signed** and **Audio-Described** performances. Tickets range from **£12.50** to **£29**

and are on sale now. The theatre is offering its loyal customers a **10% off 'Early Bird' discount** if they book before 15 April (T&Cs apply). For further details about dates, times, prices and to book, call the Box Office on **01708 443333** or visit queens-theatre.co.uk.

Guided Wild Flowers Walks

Wednesday 5th April and Wednesday 3rd May Belhus Woods Country Park. Local botanist Mary Smith will lead guided and interactive wild flower walks at Belhus Woods Country Park, which is south of Upminster and north of Aveley. Join us, meeting by the visitor centre at 1.30 pm, finishing at 4.30 pm; but please let someone else to look after Rover. You will learn how to identify wild flowers, and it is gentle exercise in the open air, very good for everyone's health; and stimulating for the brain, as you are expected to ask and answer lots of questions, as we all learn better that way! You will need to be able to stand and walk slowly for 3 hours, and kneel on the ground to study special

continued on page 13

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flowers; and get up again unaided. You will need to wear tough trousers and tough shoes or boots (there are brambles, nettles and mud), with a mac if it showers or a sunhat if it is very sunny. Getting to Belhus Woods Country Park is not hard; most folk drive or cycle, since there are no buses. Parking a car for 3 hours costs £3.50, so share a car if you can, and a small fee of £4 for each person is made by the Park. You might like to bring a wild flower book, or notebook and pencil, or a camera, or a hand lens (x10) if you have any of these, but only the hand lens is essential and I have some to lend out. For more information phone Mary on 01708 228921, or email her at mary@smith33gpr.fsnet.co.uk.

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Are you struggling with everyday life after your loss? Grief is an ordinary and natural part of life - sadly, an unavoidable experience for all of us. Joining a group of like-minded people, such as a HOPE Bereavement Support Course developed by West and Coe may

help you. Each course runs weekly for six weeks. The sessions last about an hour and a half and are led by trained facilitators. They are free of charge and open to people of all faiths and none. You are very welcome to join our next HOPE bereavement course starting on the evening of Monday 8th May in Upminster. To find out more contact Linda on 07500 724169 or Email heathandhaveringhope@gmail.com

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continued on page 15



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The Cranham Community Centre free library, was unbelievably set up 26 years ago. It has been incredibly successful, mainly due to the hard work and commitment of Pat Wales and husband Martin. Their dedication has ensured the library maintained the community spirit and have been supported by other able volunteers over the years. In January Pat and Martin felt it was the right time to step back from their voluntary role, handing over the reins to other loyal volunteers. The Association would like to say a big thank you to Pat and Martin for their enthusiasm and efforts over the years, and all library volunteers would like to send their best wishes and thanks to them both for their years of hard work. Janet and other members of the team, will ensure the well-stocked library remains open to all; not only with books by popular authors, but with jigsaws, audio CD's and DVD's, to borrow. The library opening hours are: Monday: 1.30-3.30, Tues. Weds. Thurs. Sat. 10.00-12.00 and Fri.

10.-1pm. They look forward to welcoming you soon.

Pat Smith

Butts Green Bridge

Another problem area that was brought to my attention was the railway bridge on the borders of Emerson Park where local residents have complained of cyclists using the narrow pavement and making an already dangerous curb even more of a risk. Please do not cycle on the pavement and take care when approaching this area where the road narrows with pedestrians going from and to the station

Laurance Garrard

Badminton

Nelmes Badminton Club are looking for intermediate players to join our friendly club which plays from 8pm to around 10-10.30. We now meet on a Tuesday evening in the main Hall at St. Michaels Church, Main Road, Gidea Park, where we have two courts. Car parking is available and we usually have a short break for tea and coffee. Anyone interested should contact bob at ibobpannell@gmail.com.

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- 8 Saturday - **Charity Quiz Night in aid of Alzheimer's Society.** Cranham Community Centre, 7.30pm start. Tickets £9 each including fish / chicken / veggie burger and chips. Contact Janet on 01708 509434 for tickets / more information.
- 10 Monday - **Havering Branch Essex Wildlife Trust** have Guest Speaker Kieren Alexander EWT Environment Projects Manager with a talk on **River Projects in Essex.** Meetings are held in the 1st floor meeting room in Hornchurch Library from 8.00 pm to 9.45 pm. Donation of £2.50 to help cover hall hire, this includes tea, coffee and biscuits. For more information contact the Secretary Joy Emerson on 01708 440297.
- 11 Tuesday - **NADFAS Havering** welcome Mr Charles Hajdamach with a talk on 'Dale Chihuly - **The World's foremost Glass Artist**'. Coffee from 10 am, Lecture at 10.45 am. Visitors welcome at £8. Meetings held at The New Windmill Hall, St Mary's Lane, Upminster, RM14 2QH. Further details of forthcoming lectures, speakers and visits can be found at www.haveringdfas.org.uk
- 11 Tuesday - **Upminster Horticultural Society** have Guest Speaker Robin Carsberg on **Growing and using plants in Containers.** The talk will take place in the New Windmill Hall, St Mary's Lane, Upminster from 7.45 pm to 9.45 pm, doors open at 7.15 pm. Entrance is free to members, non- members very welcome
- 11 Upminster **Horticultural Society** - continued: a fee of £2.00. For further information on Upminster Horticultural Society see our website www.upminsterhorticulturalsociety.co.uk or info@upminsterhorticulturalsociety.co.uk
- 11 Tuesday - **Upminster Camera Club** - AGM. Cranham Community Association,
- 115a Marlborough Gardens, Upminster, RM14 1SR. 7.45pm.
www.upminstercameraclub.org.uk
- 12 Wednesday - **Nelmes Women's Institute** meet on the 2nd Wednesday of every month and welcome new members of all ages. Meetings are held at Nelves United Reformed Church Hall (corner of Nelves Road and Burntwood Avenue, Hornchurch, RM11 3JA). Meetings start at 2 pm promptly. After conducting our business and a cup of tea, our speaker is Richard Dodds and his talk is entitled **"Sunlight Village"**. Please contact Ruth McDougall on 01708 448431 or Ruth.wellwisher@gmail.com for further details.
- 13 Thursday - **Upminster and Cranham W.I.** are looking for new members. We meet in the St. Laurence Hall (next to the Library) in Upminster on the second Thursday in the month. Doors open at 1.30 pm for a 2 pm start till 4 pm. We have talks on a wide range of subjects. We have lunches, afternoon teas, Outings and more. Why not come along and give us a try and meet new friends. For more information please contact President Margaret Reynolds on 01708 471977.
- 18 Tuesday - **Upminster Camera Club** - Members Evening. Cranham Community Association, 115a Marlborough Gardens, Upminster, RM14 1SR. 7.45pm.
www.upminstercameraclub.org.uk
- 18 Tuesday - **Cranham Engayne W.I.** welcomes new members and visitors. Meetings held on the 3rd. Tuesday of each month at 2 pm to 4 pm at the Cranham Community Centre, Marlborough Gardens.
- 20 Thursday - **Upminster Wine and Social Club** meet on the third Thursday of the month at 8 pm in the Cranham Social Hall, Front Lane, Cranham. We hold meetings every month with a variety of speakers and wine tasting. For more information contact Maureen Jasper on

continued on page 19

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01708 223956, or simply come along on the night. You will be most welcome.

- 21 Friday - **Haverling Antique and Collectors Club** meet at the Neighbourhood Centre, Gubbins Lane, Harold Wood. Guest Speaker David Burnell on 'Art of the Underground'. This talk will start at 7.30 pm. Guests £4. For further details please call our Chairman Mrs Chris Lovett 07947 367258.
- 23 Sunday - **Wanderers Haven Animal Sanctuary Open Day**. 10.30am - 4.30pm. Visit the animals looking for new homes. Refreshments, tombola, bric a brac, books, trade stalls, etc. Admission free. Brookmans Park Drive, Front Lane, Cranham. Tel 01708 220168/ 07788 530036.
- 24 Monday - **Breathe Easy - Haverling** meet at St Andrews Church, Hornchurch, in aid of the British Lung Foundation on the last Monday of the month. We are a support group for people with COPD, Asthma of other Breathing Difficulties. For details please ring Joyce on 01708 226696 or Elaine on 01708 509127.
- 24 Monday - **Romford and Historical Society** have Guest Speaker Victor Gladden (retired Jewel House Warder at the Tower of London), meetings are held at myplace, 343 Dagnam Park Drive, Harold Hill, Romford, RM3 9EN. Access is from 7.30 pm and the meeting commences at 8 pm. Admission is free to members and £2.50 to for visitors.
- 25 Tuesday - **Upminster Camera Club** - "Divine Light" Print Lecture by Clive Tanner FRPS MPAGB. Cranham Community Association, 115a Marlborough Gardens, Upminster, RM14 1SR. 7.45pm. www.upminstercameraclub.org.uk
- 26 Wednesday - **Upminster Park Towns Womens Guild** meet on the fourth Wednesday of every month at 2 pm to 4 pm in Derham Hall (behind Upminster Library), Upminster. Afternoon tea, talks

and outings amongst a friendly group of ladies, all most welcome. For more information contact Deborah Pryor on 01708 226127 or Ann Monk on 01708 226305 or simply come along.

- 26 Wednesday - **Upminster and District Probus Club** meet at The Cranleigh, 84 Station Road, Hornchurch RM12 6LX, generally on the last Wednesday of each month. We also have outings, which are run jointly with Deyncourt (Upminster) Ladies' Probus. If you think you would be interested in joining our club please contact our Secretary, Barry on 01708 703783 and leave a message or send an email to: secretary@upminsterprobus.com.
- 26 Wednesday - **Keep Fit 50+**. 2pm. St Laurence Church Hall RM14 2AJ. Friendly Group, Tea/Social break. First Class Free. (Qualified tutor) Come along and give it a try Chris: 01277 211050
- 29 Saturday - **Quiz Night at St Mary Magdalene Church Hall**, Church Lane, North Ockendon. RM14 3QH. All welcome to a quiz on Saturday 29th April. 7.15pm for prompt 7.30pm start. Tables of six, £6 per person. Bring your own food and drink. Free Parking. Please phone 01708 225845 to book a place.

MAY

- 2 Tuesday - **Oglethorpe Women's Institute** have their Annual meeting and discussion about the W.I. Resolutions. Our meetings are held at Cranham Social Hall, 103 Front Lane, RM14 1XL at 7.45 pm. Visitors are always welcome.
- 3 Wednesday - **Harold Wood Evening W.I.** meet on the 1st Wednesday on the month at the War Memorial Hall in Gubbins Lane 7.30 pm for 7.45 pm start. Visitors welcome entrance is £2.50, which includes refreshments. For more details please ring Marion on 01708 349038.

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Bubble Rush at Olympic Park

Haven House Children's Hospice has teamed up with three other hospices for the first ever East London Bubble Rush at the iconic Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park on Sunday 21 May.

The Bubble Rush is a brand new challenge event of 5k runs that have been created for participants to enjoy a fun-filled soak with friends, families, groups and colleagues.

There will be four colour bubble stations along the way with entertainment, merchandise stalls and bubble-themed refreshments on sale.

All funds raised from the event will be divided equally between Haven House Children's Hospice, Saint Francis Hospice, Richard House Children's Hospice and St Joseph's Hospice.

To register for the Bubble Rush please visit www.havenhouse.org.uk/bubble-rush.

Adventure Island Wristbands

Hornchurch District Scouts (charity no.303699) are selling Adventure Island wristbands at discounted prices. Big Adventure bands (over 1.2m tall) are £15 each and Junior/Mini Adventure

bands (under 1.2m tall) are £12 each. Also available, Southend Sea-life Adventure tickets Adult/Child £3 each, Adventure Island Golf tickets Adult/Child £3 each, for 18 holes.

Wristbands expire November 2017 and are available to purchase now, for any day the park is open. To purchase, just call/ text Debbie on 07805612706 or Louisa on 07498575296. Please allow up to 24 hours from ordering to collection.

Queen's Theatre Car Park



Following my article last year with regards to the pay and display machines in the Queens Theatre car park and the former

NALGO car park that is adjacent to it where the tickets displayed different descriptor names and that Penalty Charge Notices (PCN) were being issued to drivers if they used a ticket from one machine and parked in the other car park. I have followed up on this and discovered that

despite the council telling me they had been fixed, the ticket description names had not been updated on the tickets that have been issued since then. The council has now reassured me that the changes will now be made but during that period no PCNs would have been issued.

Cllr DARREN WISE

Romford/Upminster Push and Pull

We have received several enquiries regarding the footbridge from the Push and Pull platform 1 at Romford Station - please see below news from Transport for London. "Assessments have been carried out on a number of structures within TfL Rail stations, including the footbridge to the London Overground platforms at Romford Station. These assessments identified that repairs to the bridge do need to be made, and therefore weight restrictions will be in place in the interim. I do apologise for any inconvenience that this is causing to customers but would like to assure you that we are liaising with Network Rail to make these repairs and expect them to complete these in the summer."

Ardleigh House Trip

Thu 18 May 2017 "Lunch on a steam train" Price £50.00 (incl. morning coffee, return train ticket & lunch & coach). The day starts with a visit to Bocketts Farm for morning coffee before we head on to the Mid-Hants Railway, better known as "The Watercress Line", where our steam train will be waiting to give us a return ride through the picturesque Hampshire countryside, whilst we enjoy a 2-course lunch. Upon our return, there will be time to soak up the nostalgia or visit the local town of Alresford before we start our journey home. (The lunch menu is on the website).

Thu 15 Jun 2017 "Day Trip to Oxford" Price £18.50. Oxford, the City of Dreaming Spires, is famous the world over for its university and place in history. For over 800 years it has been the home for Royalty and scholars. With its mix of ancient and modern, there is plenty for the tourist to do.

Wed 30 Aug 2017 "Day Trip to Brighton with option to ride the British Airways i360" Price £18.50. Our annual trip to the seaside returns to Brighton for 2017, traditionally the favourite venue for a Day Trip. This year we are offering the option to join a group ride on the all new "British Airways i360" on the seafront. (The additional i360 price - adults £14.40 seniors £12.15.) For full details see the website: www.ardleighhouse.org or telephone 01708 440660.



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Cockabourne Court crossing

In February, I visited Cockabourne Court residents as part of the Council's sheltered housing consultations. An issue that residents raised was the lack of a safe and convenient crossing to reach the bus stop opposite. I raised this with the Highways Committee and argued the case citing a) the increase in traffic on Squirrels Heath Road in recent years, and b) the importance to balance the needs of pedestrians and bus users with road users. I am pleased the committee voted 10-0 in favour of recommending widening the road for a refuge and I will keep residents updated of when this will happen.

Cllr ALEX DONALD

Coach Outing

Saturday 20th May 2017
Upminster & Cranham Social Committee Coach trip to ST ALBANS leaving Bell School Upminster at 9am after usual pick-ups.
The Cathedral is well worth a visit as is the bustling market. Tickets each £15.00 can be booked with Gina Savill-Turner, 01708 228270 from Monday 10th April between 6 - 8pm please.

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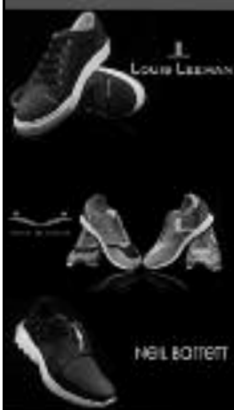
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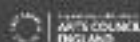
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