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Season's Greetings



Cllr BRIAN EAGLING



Cllr DARREN WISE



Cllr ALEX DONALD

A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our residents, helpers and deliverers of the *Bulletin*, as without your support we would not be able to achieve all that we do.

Budget Update

Since the last round of budget savings, the government have announced further large scale reductions to our grant. This, together with a growing population, hugely increased costs associated with social care for the elderly, housing, children's services and waste management has meant that the council's projected budget shortfall over the next three years is £16.3 million.

There are plans in place to balance the books, but it does mean making some difficult decisions, however viable alternatives are few and far between. For example, if we can reduce costs associated with waste disposal (we pay £13m a year) by limiting how much we throw away, look at sources of renewable energy, economise further on back office services, improve debt collection and innovate on customer care, we can, together, get through this period of austerity. However, one chink of light on the horizon is that the Olympic Levy will largely come to an end next year!

Residents can be absolutely assured we will do our very best to minimise the impact on your services and maintain the standards of amenity you deserve. The budget proposals will be out for consultation through the usual channels and on our website, but if any readers have questions or would like to share ideas, please feel free to get in touch with me.

Cllr CLARENCE BARRETT



About Time Too!



What a waste of money when Transport for London (TfL) replaced the traffic signals in Gubbins Lane, Harold Wood adjacent to Oak Road and installed them in the wrong position over a year ago. Mums with pushchairs and small children and disabled people found it difficult and dangerous to manoeuvre through the small space left after the bad positioning of the traffic signal. I immediately reported the mistake to TfL and I have repeatedly contacted them since on many occasions to get this ridiculous situation remedied. Well as most of you know it has taken just over a year but at last these traffic signals have been positioned correctly.

Cllr BRIAN EAGLING



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Halloween Fun Display



Lesley & Dick with spooky grim reaper and three ghosts

If you passed through Church Road on Halloween, you may have received quite a scare! Local residents Lesley and Dick went all out this year with two impressive inflatable displays: A terrifying grim reaper and three scared-y ghosts greeted trick-or-treaters. Lesley and Dick are known in the local area for their extravagant house displays. As Halloween gains more popularity among the British public, the *Bulletin* will be on the look out for the best display in the area.

Cllr ALEX DONALD

Looking After Our Ward

After some complaints from residents we have had the area in Squirrels Heath Road by the mini roundabout tidied up and planters sited. Winter pansies have been planted and also red tulip bulbs which should look beautiful when they are in bloom in the spring.

Cllr BRIAN EAGLING &
Cllr DARREN WISE

Harold Wood Remembers

Residents, Councillors, veterans wearing medals and local groups were out in force at the Harold Wood Memorial Hall on Remembrance Sunday when wreaths were laid in remembrance of those service personnel who lost their lives during conflicts of the World War. Wreaths were laid by the Royal British Legion, the Metropolitan Police, the Trustees of the Memorial Hall and the Harold

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Wood Residents Association and a short service was celebrated by local Vicar David Banting of St Peter's Church. Harold Wood ward Councillors Darren Wise and Alex Donald attended the service whilst Cllr Brian Eagling was undertaking his Mayoral duties in Romford.

Maylands Fields

Planning permission for a cemetery on the Fields, south of the A12, was refused by the Council. As we go to press, we have heard that the application has been appealed to the Government's Planning Inspectorate. Your Harold Wood councillors have written to the Planning Inspectorate. Further details in next month's *Bulletin*.

Four Storey Madness

A planning application to build a 4 storey block of flats visible from Harold Wood station was supported by the Conservative Party on the planning committee

to enable the application to be passed. Residents of Wessex Lane and St Clements Avenue spoke at the meeting arguing for a more reasonable and less intrusive development which will replace the current marketing suite. While we are disappointed at this decision, we will continue to fight for residents' interests and against inappropriate developments.

Cllr ALEX DONALD.

A Big Thank You

Well done to Nick Joseph who organised the Mayor's Charity Run which took place in Harold Wood Park and Pages Wood on the 18th October, we could not have done it without him. Thanks also to my colleagues, local councillors Darren Wise and Alex Donald and all the helpers on the day and of course the runners who took part including the youngsters who ran a shorter course. I would also like to thank

continued on page 3

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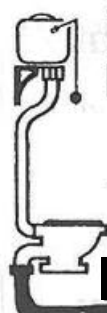
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Cllr BRIAN EAGLING,
Mayor of Havering

Tree Updates

Due to excessive fruit fall on the pavement, a tree in Geoffrey Avenue is due to be removed and will be due to be replaced between next November and March 2017. On Arundel Road, various trees have been removed due to decay and fungal disease which created a potentially hazardous situation which could have resulted in the trees falling. These are due to be replaced some time between now and March. If you are concerned about a tree in your road, you can raise it directly with Streetcare by visiting havering.gov.uk, clicking

'Report', and then selecting 'Tree issue'. Alternatively, please get in touch.

Cllr ALEX DONALD

Report a Trolley, Save a Tree

I've noticed quite a few trolleys left on pavements around the area. If you are not near the relevant supermarket to wheel it back, did you know you can get it removed by downloading an app on your iPhone or Android called "Trolleywise"? Simply take a picture, use your phone's location settings to find where it is, and it will be recovered within 24 hours. Every time you do this, Trolleywise will donate to Trees for Cities, an independent charity that inspires people to plant trees in cities worldwide. For more information, visit www.trolleywise.co.uk and compete to become a "top spotter" for Havering, London or even the UK!

Cllr ALEX DONALD

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Police - no cuts please!

We hear in the news that the Government is planning on reducing the number (potentially thousands) of Police Officers across the country and this will inevitably have an impact on our Safer Neighbourhood Police Teams. As your Residents' Association, we strongly oppose this and we urge our local MP to do the same and make representations on the public's behalf to Government. With the rise of the HMO (House of Multiple Occupancy) and increased anti-social behaviour, it is time to increase the numbers of Police rather than reduce them. Our Police along with our other emergency services do a very good job in what can be a very difficult role and environment and they provide a valuable service to the public. Let's not dismantle our Safer Neighbourhood Teams, we want to keep them!

Cllr DARREN WISE

New Walkway

The new path and cycle lane from The Drive to Godwin Terrace (a new road on the Old Hospital site) is now open.

Cllr ALEX DONALD

Harold Park Carols

You are warmly invited to Harold Park Baptist Church's annual carol service on Sunday 20th December at 2pm. For more information, please contact the church secretary on 07713 235611.

Harold Park Parking Delay

Following popular demand back in February, the Highways committee voted to initiate the process of introducing parking schemes for Geoffrey Avenue, Halidon Rise, Thurso Close, Elgin Avenue, Harold

continued on page 4

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Court Road and Church Road. I was given an explicit guarantee in writing back in April the first letters would be sent to residents "in the coming weeks". Fast-forward 8 months and I am extremely disappointed that the Council has undergone "unavoidable delays" in schemes across the borough, and I am told these will be delayed until the new year. I would like to apologise to residents for this unacceptable delay and the false expectations given as a result. I will continue to keep chasing the department to get the parking schemes residents have asked for.

Cllr ALEX DONALD

Temporary Water Utilities work

Many of you may have noticed the water utilities work taking place at Station Road and Avenue Road Harold Wood junction. We were notified of the traffic issues there caused by a manual traffic

stop/go sign and we contacted the council straight away and within 48 hours a temporary traffic light was installed. We would like to thank the resident who contacted us on this matter.

Cllr DARREN WISE

Thurso Close HMO

We are aware of a small House of Multiple Occupancy (HMO) being developed in Thurso Close. Due to the law as it stands, planning permission is not required. Earlier this year, your local Residents' Association councillors voted unanimously to restrict permitted development rights for HMOs in Havering. I am closely monitoring the situation and will keep you updated here and on our Facebook group of any further developments. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Cllr ALEX DONALD

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'Design a Christmas Card' Competition at Corbets Tey School



The winning card design by Neel from Cherry class.

Pinney Talfourd teamed up with local special needs school Corbets Tey School for their 'Design a Christmas Card 2015' Competition this month.

Neel of Cherry class won first prize with a colourful paint design of a penguin using his footprint. It will now be used for Pinney Talfourd's Christmas card and Neel will receive a toy of his choice. The *Bulletin* were also delighted to offer a prize to the runner up Rhys of Palm class for his Santa and sleigh collage.

Client Services Partner, Catherine Polli, said "Thank you to everyone at the school for

your time and effort. The children were an absolute delight to work with. We are also thrilled that the *Bulletin* has donated a prize again this year as there are always so many great entries it is hard to choose just one winner."

Pinney Talfourd will also give a donation to the school for their help in organising this annual event.



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Saturday 5th December is 'Small Business Saturday', a national campaign based initiative which promotes and supports small and independent businesses in our community while encouraging consumers to 'Shop Local'. With the growth of internet shopping, giant shopping centres and multiple chain stores, it is encouraging to see that we still have a wide variety of local independent shops and retailers. They not only provide a welcome range of choice, quality and good value, but they also give our shopping centre and parades a unique identity. What better way to start off Christmas shopping than 'Shop Local' Saturday!

Cllr CLARENCE BARRETT

their patrons a very happy Christmas and peaceful New Year. We are very grateful for your ongoing support and hope to run a full program of coach trips in 2016 which will be featured in the *Bulletin* next year. UCRA Social Committee would like to express their warmest wishes to **Mrs Fiona Cook** and thank her for her valuable contribution to the team. Her dedication greatly benefited the Committee for over 25 years and we would like to wish her well for the future in her new home.

Phase 3 School Expansion Programme

Over recent months there have been a number of proposals that have come forward with regard to school expansions in the borough due to increased birth rates and a small element of movement into the borough. For Upminster and Cranham the

continued on page 7

Coach Outings

The members of the U.C.R.A Social Committee (coach outings) would like to wish all

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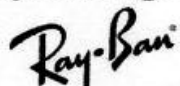
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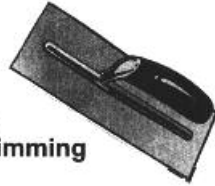
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discussions were around Engayne and James Oglethorpe. On 4th November the Cabinet agreed outline proposals to expand James Oglethorpe Primary School by half form of entry along with the expansion of Parsonage Farm, Crownfield Infants & Juniors, St. Peter's Catholic and Broadford Primary Schools. There is on-going work as there is need for further expansion and an additional form of entry in the Upminster, Cranham and Romford areas.

A long awaited Special Educational Needs strategy and new 16-25's SEN provision based at Avelon Road by September 2016, were also agreed. This will support those families who have had to seek alternative provision out side of the borough. The principle of expanding school nurseries as part of the Early Education Entitlement, and the authorisation of feasibility studies to be carried out for Phase 4 expansion of secondary schools, were both agreed.

Cllr GILLIAN FORD

News from Thames Chase

The forest in winter has a charm of its own and Thames Chase community Forest has plenty of space to walk off the Christmas excesses or those winter blues. At the Forest Centre we will be celebrating the festive season with: Sunday 13th December 10am-4pm - **Christmas Celebration** with live music from local musician and North Ockendon hand-bell ringers, Christmas treats from the Forest Centre Cafe, that last minute present from a range of craft stalls and ending with carols with Cranham, North Ockendon and Upminster Churches Together at 3.30pm. There will also be children's crafts throughout the day. Entrance-free.

Sunday 20th December 11am-1pm - **A Celebration of Christmas** in music and verse for all the family. Entrance -free. The Forest Centre will be closed on Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

Wintertime Blues

We are now well and truly into Autumn and Wintertime and we would ask you all to look out for our elderly and vulnerable neighbours and residents in our community in this cold, dark and depressing time of year. If it only takes a few minutes of your time to speak to them, it could indeed make their day!

Cllr DARREN WISE

Residents miss out on Dartford Crossing Discount

It was recently reported that Thurrock and Dartford residents have saved £1 million per year thanks to the Dartford Crossing local resident discount scheme which offers users, against a standard charge of £2.50 per crossing, unlimited crossings for £20 per year or £10 for 50 crossing with additional journeys at 20p

each. While eligibility is restricted to residents of those two councils, it appears unfair and somewhat bizarre that residents in Corringham, Thurrock (10 miles from crossing), should benefit while residents in Upminster (7 miles) do not. Similarly, residents of New Barn in Dartford are entitled to the discount at 6 miles distance, but residents in Rainham at a mere 4 miles are not! A similar argument can be made from near neighbours in Crayford, Bexley. The easiest way to remove these oddities is to remove the toll entirely, which was promised back in 2002 when the cost of the crossing was fully repaid. In the meantime, I have written to the Department of Transport asking for a review of the scheme to make it fairer. I shall keep readers updated.

Cllr CLARENCE BARRETT

Cranham Art Society

Would you like to try your hand at painting and make some new

continued on page 9

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friends?

We are looking for new members to join our long established friendly group who meet on Wednesday mornings 10 - 12 at Cranham Community Centre in Marlborough Gardens. We will be starting a beginners group on January 6th and whether you are an absolute beginner or have some experience you will be made very welcome. For further details call Dot on 01708 229 715



Please note the Old Chapel has the following events this month
Wednesday 2nd December, 3.00pm - 5.30pm - Creative Craft Session: Come along and make Christmas themed treats. £3 per child, suitable for ages 4 plus no need to book.
Tuesday 8th December, 2.00pm onwards - Christmas Carol Concert
The Chamber Choir from Sacred Heart of Mary Girls' School will be

performing at this special Carol Concert for the local community. Festive refreshments will also be served. Please call Gemma Smith on 01708 222660 or email gsmith@mary.havering.sch.uk to confirm your attendance, free entry (suggested donation of £2).

Christmas Services

Special Christmas Services at St Andrew's Church, Hornchurch

Sunday 13th Dec will be our Parade/Nativity/Toy service at **10.15am** when we tell the Christmas Story and bring presents to donate to needy children.
Sunday 20th Dec is our Christingle Service at **10.15am** when we receive a Christingle orange and support the work of the Children's Society and at **6.30pm** you can come to our Nine Lessons and Carols by candlelight service.
Thursday 24th Dec will be our traditional candle-lit Christmas Eve Midnight Communion

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Friday 25th Dec there is a Christmas Day Family Communion service at **10.15am**. Please come and celebrate Jesus' birthday at any of these services!

Abigail's Column

Have a Caring Christmas



Often we hear about how Christmas is a happy time just for children but in fact that is wrong,

Christmas is not always happy for children and adults can enjoy it too!

Around this time reports of old people being alone are common but we don't hear very much about the young people who are in a similar position. Many young people have exams just before or after Christmas that they are worried about, they could be missing important people from

their lives, they might not have a happy home life, they could have worries about money, problems at school or with friends, etc. Generally we expect young people to be happy and excited so if you see someone that isn't maybe we could offer them a bit of kindness. A shoulder to cry on, some of your time, or a little present could really help make someone's Christmas a little bit better.

If you are one of those young people and need someone to talk to remember there is always the ChildLine helpline on 0800 1111. Wishing you all a happy Christmas.

Wesley Guild

The Wesley Guild's only meeting in December will take the form of an "Antiques and Memorabilia Quiz", conducted by Ann Willmore, on Thursday 10 December at Upminster Methodist Church, Minor Hall at 2pm with refreshments available from 1.30pm.

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Sending Christmas Cards

The decline in sending traditional Christmas cards may well be due to email and social media, but even the cost of a 2nd class stamp (54p) often exceeds the price of a card. Why not have a seasonal postage stamp at, say 30p, which would promise delivery in a week instead of a couple of days? That way charities would continue to benefit from card sales and the tradition of sending Christmas cards could be passed on to future generations.

CLlr CLARENCE BARRETT

Wednesday Music Evenings

Wednesday 2nd - Make Way For Music: Remembering the BBC Northern Dance Orchestra

Local musician Brian Luck fondly remembers the sheer professionalism and enthusiasm of the NDO from their of the

regular broadcasts on BBC radio between 1956 and 1974. Brian will be playing recordings of highlights from the band's repertoire and is sure you will enjoy the evening.

Wednesday 16th - A Programme of Seasonal Music & Readings

As always, this evening's yuletide programme contains a seasonal mix of items associated with Christmas from this and other countries as chosen by several of our regular presenters. Hot punch and mince pies will be served in the interval.

Meetings start at 7.30pm 1st Floor Hornchurch Library. Admission is free contribution towards interval drinks please.

These are great nights

Charity Bike Ride for Prostate Cancer

Following being found to have Prostate Cancer and a year's treatment under Queens Hospital,



Oncology dept. (Who were brilliant).

Nicci Rolfe, my lovely step daughter decided to organise a charity bike ride for family and friends for the prostate charity. Sunday 1st November the family of thirty plus ranging from 5 to 65 years took to their bikes for the 15 mile round trip ride. Nicci arranged everything with banners, balloons and flags from Prostate Cancer Charity. Refreshments and medals were given out and Paula Dunn took the fabulous photos.

The target for the day was £250 but the total has passed over a thousand and still rising. Well done to everyone that took part and a massive thanks from me.

John Dunn

Your Community Centre

Cranham Community Centre has so much to offer please feel free to come along and see what is going on in your busy Community Centre. We have bowls, keep-fit in retirement, pilates classes, art, bingo, ballet, darts, table tennis, dog training, happy tots, pre-school, rooms for hiring etc., and a great library that also has jigsaws and dvds. There is so much going on, you should give us a call, or call in.

Cranham Community Association, Marlborough Gardens, Cranham. Telephone 01708 220 941.

Shirley's Tours

Shirley, who organises a wide range of trips, has the following on offer: **February 10th: Kinky Boots**

continued on page 13

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Also in June proposed trip to **Legoland**. If you are interested contact Shirley. Also possible 2016 Theatre trips to see: **Funny Girl** (Sheridan Smith), Disney Musical Aladdin. Please contact Shirley Ward 01708 227 884, or e mail [shirley@shirleytours.co.uk]shirley@shirleytours.co.uk or drop a stamped addressed envelope to 15 Worcester Avenue, Cranham Upminster Essex RM14 3LB to get current list of trips.

Hornchurch Football Club

Please note the following home fixtures at the Stadium, Bridge Avenue. Saturday 5th v Bury Town; Tuesday 8th v Tilbury (Kick

Off 7.45pm). Saturday 19th v Waltham Abbey and on Saturday 2nd January v Witham Town. Saturday kick off all at 3pm. Go along and support your local team.

Christmas Treasure

The Christmas Store is now open at the S & A Wedding and Party Shop rear of High House Garden Centre, Corbets Tey Road Village. As their Advert reads on page 10 it's like an Aladdins Cave-the shop is full of wonderful Christmas goodies.

Be safe and secure

We have been asked by the local Police Teams to remind residents to be safe and secure in these dark winter months. At night please:
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CLlr DARREN WISE

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continued on page 15

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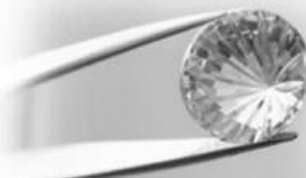
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But it's not only about raising money, it's also to remind people what we are celebrating on 25th December. I find it so sad that Christmas is now all about Santa Claus and commercialism, instead of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem, but, we in the Parish of Hornchurch like to be 'old school' and we love to sing proper Christmas Carols to remind people about the 'reason for the season'! So if you also love to sing carols please join us on Saturday 19th December between 12 and 1pm in the grounds of the Fatling and Firkin pub as we sing all the classics! You don't need a great voice, just lots of enthusiasm!
www.parishofhornchurch.co.uk

Capella Singers Concert

The Cappella Singers of Upminster are presenting their Christmas Concert on Friday 11th December 2015, at 8.00 p.m., at Trinity United Reformed Church, Station Road, Upminster. The programme includes Carols for the congregation.

Tickets at £10 inclusive of light refreshments may be purchased on the door or in advance from Mr. Ian Pirie (01708 641718).

Brugge Christmas Markets

Ardleigh House Community Association, Hornchurch, have planned the following visit on **Sunday 13th December:**

In the heart of winter, the entire city of Brugge sparkles and glows with the festive spirit. Christmas stalls, Ice skating rink, Ferris wheel and Christmas atmosphere a plenty, that's Brugge at Christmas and all the shops will

be open. Christmas carols fill the air as the skaters glide around the ice rink at the centre of the Brugge Christmas Market. We are offering, as an optional extra, a visit to 'The Choco Story.' We have booked a guide to explain and guide us through the chocolate making process and explain some of the history behind Belgium chocolate over the centuries. At the end of our visit you will be given a free 500gms sample to take home. After 'The Choco Story' tour you will have approx. 2.5 hrs of free time.

For further details please contact Charlotte Murphy on 01708 440 660.

One Christmas Past

Upminster resident and prolific Indie author Peter Larner published his tenth novel in November. One Christmas Past is set in East Seaxe and Haeferingas – or Essex and Havering as they are now known – in 999AD. The work of fiction is based on

historical facts and contains references to several local landmarks

The book contains a riddle for its readers to solve. Once you have solved the puzzle, you are invited to contact the author direct on Twitter. The prize is to become a character in Larner's next book, which will be published next year. Peter Larner's novels are renowned for containing local people's names in anagrammatic form. Indeed, a parishioner of St. Joseph's church in Upminster is included in One Christmas Past, as one was in his earlier work Covenant of Retribution. One Christmas Past is an adventure story for all age groups and makes a great gift for Christmas. It is available at Swan Books in Upminster.

Christmas Wishes

Christmas 2012 was a desperate time as our youngest daughter had been diagnosed with Ewing's

continued on page 17

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sarcoma, a bone cancer affecting children and young people aged 10 - 24.

Sophie, a bright 18 year old, suffered pains in her foot, especially at night. Weeks passed with intermittent pain but when a lump appeared, we sought medical advice. Months later came the devastating diagnosis. The cancer had already spread from her bones to her lungs and dark days followed - survival rates for bone cancer have seen little improvement in 20 years.

Gruelling treatment including a below knee amputation ensued and she has thankfully recovered. Earlier diagnosis would have eased her journey but ignorance (ours included) prevented that. We desperately need to raise awareness among young people, parents and GP's who are unlikely to see such cases in their career and improve outcomes for those with bone cancer.

That's what I will be wishing for this Christmas.

For more information -
 Visit: bonecancerresearch.org.uk
 Email: info@bcrt.org.uk Tel: 0113 258 5934

Facebook: Bone Cancer Research Trust
 Twitter: @BCRT

Charity Fight Night



Local Physio Gary Carr of Excel physiotherapy. (physio) in

Cranham. has put himself into a boxing night to raise money for a charity close to his heart. The event is on 10th December with more details at: www.justgiving.com/boxingforoscar

Havering Singers

Christmas Concert- 19 December 7.30pm. A concert of traditional and contemporary music to celebrate Christmas. St Michael's Church, Main Road, Gidea Park, RM2 5EL. Seasonal refreshments available in the hall afterwards
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Christmas at the Queen's

Pinney Talfourd has once again teamed up with the Queen's Theatre, Hornchurch, to host "Christmas at the Queen's" on Friday 11 December (11am-1pm).

We are delighted that the Dawn Chorus will be singing a range of upbeat Christmas songs including "Let it Snow" and "Jingle Bells". The Mayor of Havering, Cllr Brian Eagling, will attend to join in the fun.

Whilst free, there will be a raffle in aid of the Queen's Theatre Charitable Trust and Pinney Talfourd's own charity of the year "Bertie's Battle". Local businesses have rallied to support the event by donating some fabulous prizes for the raffle.

After all the excitement, you are welcome to stay for a coffee and cupcakes courtesy of Pinney Talfourd.

Booking is now open so call the Queen's Theatre Box Office on 01708 443333 to reserve your space or visit www.pinneytalfourd.co.uk for more details.

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LOCAL FUTURE EVENTS DECEMBER

5 Saturday - **The Upminster Infant & Junior School Christmas Bazaar** from 11 am - 2 pm. We will have games for the children, face painting and nail painting as well as stalls for the adults. There will also be a BBQ and mince pies and mulled wine available.

5 Saturday - Come and meet **Santa and Frozen Characters.** St Josephs Primary School Christmas Bazaar, 12 to 2 pm. Great selection of stalls. Big draw with lots of prizes.

5 Saturday - **Christmas Market** at Trinity Church, Station Road, Upminster from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm. Morning coffee and cakes from 10.00 am to 12 noon and ploughman's lunches from 12 noon to 2 pm. All the usual stalls and beautiful hand-made gifts. Entry is free and for only £1 children can visit Santa in his magical grotto and receive a present. All proceeds from the Christmas Market will be divided equally between the church and St. Francis Hospice.

5 Saturday - **The Havering Branch of the East of London Family History Society** hold meetings first Saturday of every month at Trinity Church, Station Road, Upminster RM14 2SJ doors open at 1pm meeting starts at 2pm. This month the talk is 'History of Stained Glass Windows' with Chris Parkinson. The Computer Group meets at the same venue 11am - 1pm. Teas and coffees can be purchased. Members and visitors welcome to either or both.

5 Saturday- **Ravenscourt Nursing Home Christmas Bazaar.** 2pm to 4pm at the Home in Ravenscourt Grove, Hornchurch. Stalls. Lots of entertainment.

- 6 Sunday - The Children's Society **Christingle Service**, 3.00 pm at St Laurence Church, Upminster. A candle-lit service suitable for all ages. All welcome.
- 8 Tuesday **NADFAS Havering** welcome Mrs Frances Hughes with a talk on "The Old Vic: The Story of a Great Theatre". Coffee and mince pies from 10.00 am. Lecture at 10.45 am. Visitors welcome at £6. 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
- 8 Tuesday - **Upminster Horticultural Society** have a Guest Lecture "on 60 years in Horticulture" by Jim Buttress. Jim is a very popular speaker in Havering. He holds the highest award in the gardening world. 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 for a fee of £2.00. For further information on Upminster Horticultural Society see our website www.upminsterhorticulturalsociety.co.uk or info@upminsterhorticulturalsociety.co.uk
- 9 Wednesday - **Upminster Townswomen's Guild** have guest speaker John Whitehead talking on "Laughter on the Air". Come along and join us with Mince Pies and Sherry, at 1.45 pm in St Laurence Church, Derham Hall, Upminster. For more details phone Shirley on 01708 224219 or Bertha on 01708 222410.
- 11 Friday - **Coffee & Conversation** are having **Coffee & Mince pies with Festive**

continued on page 24

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Count-Down to Christmas

with St Peter's, Harold Wood
(www.stpetersharoldwood.org)

Start the **Count-down to Christmas** with St Peter's and friends on **Friday, December 4th** at St Peter's on Gubbins Lane. What used to be 'Carols in the Community' at the entrance to Kings Park has had to move to the frontage at the church since Countryside could not guarantee the availability of 'the green' because of potential building works. So the event has moved, morphed and mushroomed! Meet **outside St Peter's at 6pm** for the usual mix of music and carols (with a live band, we hope), hot food and drink, displays, and decorations, with contributions from our two local Primary Schools and a special lighting up of the great Christmas Tree. The 'fun and games' will climax with a lantern-lit (bring your own) procession up to Station Road where we hope there will be further Christmas lights, and food and music. The whole thing will have an Advent Calendar feel to it as we launch the **Count-down to Christmas 2015**. Look out for further fliers, and come and swell

the party. We hope to have the Mayor, a local celebrity and the press all joining in, and maybe The Camels will put in an appearance and be more on time?! And Christmas at St Peter's keeps on coming:
Tuesday, December 8, 7.30pm: Pantomime - a Christmas 'Beauty & the Beast'
Sunday, December 13, 6.30pm: Alternative Carol Service - Questions & Answers
Sat Dec 19 & Sun Dec 20, 6.30pm: CAROLS by CANDLELIGHT
Christmas Eve: Christingle Services, 3.30 & 5.30pm, and Midnight Communion, 11pm
CHRISTMAS DAY: Family Celebration, 10.30am, and Great Christmas Day Lunch, 12 noon
The Twelve Days of Christmas - holidays, holy days! New Year's Eve: Watchnight Service, from 10.30pm
The big theme is '**God: on earth?**' How on earth? Can that be real? Is it really for me?
All details will be in **Cross Section** (coming round homes in the parish from Nov 22) or from St Peter's (Tel: 01708-342080, E: welcome.desk@stpetersharoldwood.org)

Friends' Correction

Last month we published an article promoting the litter-picking events that take place at Painsbrook Park every first Sunday of the month at 11am. We would like to make it clear that the official group name is 'Friends of Harold Wood Parks'. We would like to thank everyone in the group for championing our parks and maintaining them as a clean, green and safe place for everyone to visit and enjoy.



'O Come All Ye Faithful!'

Yes, Christmas time is definitely almost upon us once again, and that means a special St. Peter's Church 'Men's Lunch' in Harold Wood is planned.
The date for your diary is:
TUESDAY, 1ST DECEMBER FROM 11.30AM.
Please note this is the FIRST

Tuesday in Dec.

All being well, our very good friends - **Harold Court School Choir** will once again entertain us with carols and Christmas songs. So, after our Christmas lunch we can look forward to some festive music.
Our Christmas lunch is always popular, so please book your place a.s.a.p. by phoning St. Peter's Welcome Desk on 01708 342080, or email: welcome.desk@stpetersharoldwood.org, or visit the website: www.stpetersharoldwood.org (just key in the search box 'Men's Lunch').
On behalf of all the 'Men's Lunch' Team, we send you Every Blessing for this Christmas time; the birthday of the 'KING of kings' Julian Harris, Chris Knowles and all the Men's Lunch Team.

Hamilton Drive Fly Tip

We recently received a report of a fly tip at the end of Hamilton Road by the flats and we were very pleased by the quick response of the Council to get this removed after we had reported this. We thank the residents concerned for bringing this to our attention. Fly-

continued on page 22



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Volunteers

Our staff is made up of volunteers from across Havering and the neighbouring boroughs. We have got opportunities for new volunteers to come on board. We do offer free training to our volunteers and we have been funded by the Big Lottery Fund to offer Radio Production Training for the community all through 2016.

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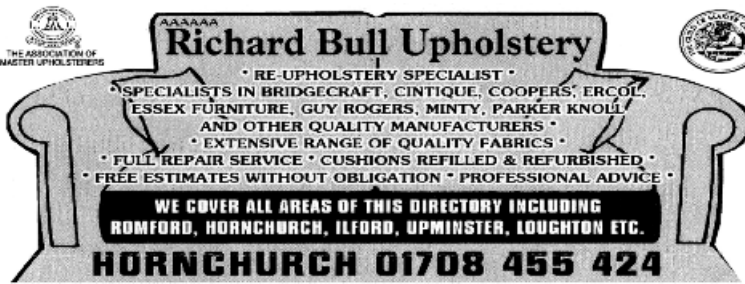
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- 11 Friday - **RSPB Havering Local Group** will hold a **Christmas Social** in Hornchurch Library at 7.45 pm. Buffet and Quiz. For further information ring Janet Silver on 01708 452171.
- 12 Saturday - **RSPB Havering Local Group** are holding a **Christmas Ramble** at Rainham Marsh Reserve. Meet there at 10.00 am. For further information ring Janet Silver on 01708 452171.
- 12 Saturday - **Saturday Talks Club** 2.15 pm at Roope Hall, United Reformed Church, Upminster have Guest Speaker Adrian Wright on Scenery and Railways in New Zealand. Cost £4 including tea and biscuits. Contact Mrs Bland on 01689 858701 or Mrs Blake on 01708 227512.
- 14 Monday - **Essex Wildlife Trust Havering Group** will present a talk "Behind the Garden Wall" by Lois Amos. This is about the walled garden in Bedfords Park. To be held in Hornchurch Library at 7.45 pm. Requested donation £2. Light refreshments and a raffle. More information from Joy Emerson on 01708 440297.
- 17 Thursday - **Upminster Wine & Social Club**. We are a fun group with an interest in wine appreciation and enjoying many social events. We hold meetings every third Thursday of the month with a variety of speakers and a wine tasting. Meetings are held in the Cranham Social Hall, Front Lane, Cranham; start 8 pm. For more information contact Maureen Jasper on 01708 223956, or simply come along on the night. You will be most welcome.
- 18 Friday - **Havering Antique and Collectors Club** meet at the Neighbourhood Centre, Gubbins Lane, Harold Wood, 7.30 pm for 8 pm start are holding their **Christmas Party** - with Peter King Singer / Comedian. (Members and Guest Only). For further details please call our Chairman Mrs Jan Halsey on 01708 373574.
- 18 Friday - **Kingsley Choral Group's Christmas Concert** held at Trinity Church Upminster at 7.30 pm. Tickets are still only £7.50 including seasonal refreshments. Proceeds from Ticket sales and Raffle will be divided between the church and a children's charity. The newly expanded choir will be presenting beautiful Christmas music, both

- traditional and new, So make this the start of your Christmas Celebrations.
- 19 Saturday - **Stewart Avenue Allotments** off Corbets Tey Road will be selling jams, chutneys, home-made cakes etc. Get your last little gifts for Xmas. 11.00 am - 2.00 pm.
- 20 Tuesday- Grace Community Church invites you to our **Christmas Carol Service** and Christmas Morning Service, both at 10am The Old Chapel, opposite Upminster Windmill, St Marys' Lane. Visit us at www.gracecommunityc.co.uk.

- Institute** are holding a Social Time with entertainment. Our meetings are held at Cranham Social Hall, 103 Front Lane, RM14 1XL at 7.45 pm. Visitors are welcome.
- 8 Friday - **Coffee & Conversation** morning re-opens at 10.30 - 12.30 pm at Cranham Social Hall, 103 Front Lane, RM14 1XL. Entrance £2, this includes refreshment.

JANUARY HAPPY NEW YEAR!

- 2 Saturday - **The Havering Branch of the East of London Family History Society** hold meetings at Trinity Church, Station Road, Upminster RM14 2SJ doors open at 1pm; meeting starts at 2pm. This month the talk is 'What's in a Will' with Matt Pridham. The Internet & Technology Group meet at the same venue 11am - 1pm. Teas and coffees can be purchased. Members and visitors welcome to either or both.
- 5 Tuesday - **Oglethorpe Women's**

ASSOCIATION DIARY

DECEMBER

- 2 Wednesday **Upminster Ward Meeting** at St Joseph's Social Centre at 8 pm
- 10 Thursday **Cranham Ward Meeting** at Cranham Community Centre, Marlborough Gardens at 7.15 pm
- All welcome.
- There are no Ward Meetings in January.**

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