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THE BULLETIN

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Happy New Year to you all!

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Autism Council Motion



I was delighted to be able to introduce a motion at November's Council Meeting to help the Adult Autism community within Havering. The motion agreed by the Council stated that there should be a strategy in place to support Autistic adults with the aim to increase the number of adults into employment by the end of 2016. Furthermore the motion also involves lobbying the government to recognise the economic benefits and under use of skills in the workforce and to develop programmes promoting work opportunities. I stressed that there is so much more that can be done to support adults by using job coaches, mentoring and having closer liaison with employers and the Jobcentre. I stated that people on the Autistic spectrum have many valuable skills which could be utilised and that the focus and attitude of Government agencies has to change to enable autistic adults with autism to have fulfilling and rewarding lives. I also mentioned that there were many local organisations that the Council can work in partnership with to help achieve these aims and with the opening of the Autism hub in October which has had over 400 visitors in 6 weeks, hopefully we will see some improvement.

Cllr DARREN WISE

adult social care, the cancellation of tax credits cuts, police budgets will not now be cut and councils will hang on to 100% of business rates in future. While austerity continues to bite into nearly all government departments, the insistence to maintain overseas and international aid at 0.7% of gross national income (@£12 billion) seems difficult to justify. Even if it was reduced to 0.35% it would still generate £6 billion while leaving the other £6 billion to support other departments like the Home Office, Justice and Local Communities.

Cllr CLARENCE BARRETT

Christmas Lights

We are really pleased that at last Station Road has Christmas Lights.

I have been campaigning this for some time. Thanks for your kind comments.

We are looking at other attractions as well.

Cllr BRIAN EAGLING

My Mayoral Events, 2016



I have arranged the following events for my Mayor's Charities and hope you are able support:

Meal and Cabaret Night at the Bowls Club in Harrow Lodge Park, Hornchurch. Saturday 13th February. Price £40.

Mayor and Mayoress's Variety Show, Queens Theatre, Sunday 3rd April. Price £15 per ticket.

Ball at Rougemont Manor, Brentwood. Saturday, 14th May. Price £46.00. 3 course meal plus entertainment.

If you are interested, could you please contact me to provisionally book your tickets. Tel: 01708 373 027.

Cllr BRIAN EAGLING

Autumn Budget Hits Home

Last month's Autumn Statement confirmed the government's intention to totally cease revenue grant to councils by 2020. Among the big features of the statement included a special levy to pay for

Maylands Update

We were notified after the *Bulletin* went to print that an appeal was made to the Secretary of State against the Council's decision to refuse planning permission to Gardens of Peace for a cemetery on Maylands Fields. We have supported residents and the Maylands Action Group in opposing development on this land for many years. We were advised by some local residents that they had not received a letter from the Council informing them of the appeal. On this information, we have requested the Head of Regulatory Services to investigate and are currently waiting for an update. We have submitted our response to the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of Harold Wood, Hill, Park Residents' Association strongly reiterating our objections to the application and why the decision for refusal should be upheld.

Cllrs DONALD, EAGLING and WISE

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HMO Update

Cllr Donald and I have over the last month met with some of the HMO (Houses of Multiple Occupancy) developers that are starting to develop within our ward. As you can imagine there are various companies operating and whilst some of the developers have either met or made contact with us, others have not. In particular, we were keen to know what properties do they have within our area and if they intend to purchase more though they were not specific on this. We also discussed issues around vetting of tenants and where they are coming from as most tenants were from outside the borough and we covered the controls that the lettings agency have in place when matters of anti-social behaviour arise. Havering's Community Safety Officer was in attendance and asked some questions to gain some comfort from their responses. This is an ongoing dialogue and if you do suffer from anti-social behaviour issues on an ongoing basis, we strongly urge you to contact the council and you can find details at the following link <http://www.havering.gov.uk/Pages/Services/Reporting-anti-social-behaviour.aspx>. Also you

may wish to call the Police on 101 for non emergencies and of course 999 for emergencies only. If you do make any reports to the council do please make your councillors aware if you do not get an adequate response.

Cllr DARREN WISE

Parking Consultations



I am pleased to report that residents of the following roads will finally be consulted on parking restrictions: part of

Church Road (from Geoffrey Avenue to Harold Court Road), Elgin Avenue, Geoffrey Avenue, Halidon Rise, Harold Court Road and Thurso Close. Please read the documents carefully and respond to the address/email given by the deadline. All views will be taken

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into consideration so please make sure you have your say.

Cllr ALEX DONALD

Harold Wood Yoga

Classes are held on Wednesdays 1pm to 2.30pm at Kingsland Scout Hall at the rear of Delaney's Estate Agents in Station Road, Harold Wood. Your first session is free and is for all ages and abilities. The new sessions start on the 23rd this month. For further details please contact Jill Cook on 01708 479 468 who is a fully qualified yoga teacher; she will be pleased to discuss the classes with you.

Ponderings...

As we are now facing a New Year and you are possibly thinking that you ought to be making some New Year Resolutions.... think about it first and be kind to yourself! For a start, don't go crazy! If you decide to start a diet, instead of beginning a strict regime that you can't stick with,

just start by cutting out the 'rubbish' we all eat (the treats and nibbles ie sweets and savouries). If you intend to join a gym to 'get fit', and you've never been a member before; maybe don't try to suddenly start going 4/5 times a week, take 'baby steps' and in your daily life, take the stairs instead of the lift, walk instead of drive and 'fast walk' instead of stroll. Once you start to feel the benefits, then you can start to increase your activity and decrease your calorie intake. If you've tried and failed to give up alcohol or cigarettes, maybe try cutting down on 'quantity' first, instead of going 'cold turkey' and just stopping completely in one go. No one wants to fail in a promise or resolution, so work your way up, instead of aiming high and failing. And maybe you could decide to leave home 5 minutes earlier than usual, so that you're not in such a rush; then when you hit that inevitable traffic jam, you won't feel so stressed and get so angry because you know you still have enough time and you won't be late. Be kind to yourself first then

continued on page 3

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you'll find it much easier to be kind to others. Happy New Year!

Terry Keens

Pirates of Penzance

I am performing in Havering Music Makers' latest stage musical Pirates of Penzance which will be performed at Kenneth More Theatre, Ilford from 25th-27th February 7.30pm nightly with a 3pm Saturday matinee. Tickets are available online at www.kmtheatre.co.uk or contact 020 8553 4466. Havering Music Makers are always looking for new singers, actors and dancers to get involved in their very inclusive group. If you are interested, please contact Charlotte on 07843 088166.

Cllr ALEX DONALD

Harold Hill Bowls Club

The Harold Hill Bowls Club were pleased to be able to offer our new extension to house our first

ever Beetle Drive. Sandra Long the daughter of our ex-Secretary Alan Trust ran the beetle drive in order to raise funds for Alzheimer's Research and we hope the £384.00 donated at the event will go some way towards reaching the £3000.00 she hopes to raise before taking part in the London Marathon in April 2016. Most of us will know someone who has been affected by these illnesses, however, compared with other conditions such as cancer, the level of public engagement by either donations or direct participation is very low. We are now inviting other clubs or groups to join us and use these great new facilities. If you are a club or group who are looking for a home, or want to donate, come along and see or visit us at www.haroldhillbowls.com or give me a call and leave a message on 01708 386819 or e-mail barrydaffern@haroldhillbowls.com

New Roof

Harlequin Gymnastics Club in Bryant Avenue suffered severe structural damage caused by the

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high winds during Storm Barney in November. The gym - used by local children - is asking for your support in helping them rebuild. Please help their crowdfunding campaign by visiting www.gofundme.com/tub355jw. Thank you.

Cllr ALEX DONALD

Station Road, Harold Wood

The community were delighted to know "Well" was taking over the Co op chemist as it would have been a disaster if we had lost our pharmacy from this small parade of shops. The public responded generously giving £215.68 to Rainbow Trust Children's Charity which they were supporting.

Pauline Obee

Volunteers Needed

Havering Learning Disability Society - S.E.Lions Swimming Club
The S.E.Lions Swimming Club is a

swimming club for learning disability adults who meet most Saturdays at The Chafford Pool, Lambs Lane, Rainham RM113 9DX between 11.45am to 1.30pm. The actual swim session is from 12 noon to 1pm. The swimming club is looking for volunteers to help out either as a life saver in the pool or as a spotter on the pool side. Volunteers need to be DBS checked and require two references. If anyone is interested in volunteering or would like information on the swimming club please contact Denise Simpkins on 01708 520 477 for a volunteer application form.

Charity Fundraising Concert

Havering Group Diabetes UK is holding a Charity Fundraising Concert by the Brentwood School Big Band on Saturday 27th February 2016 at St. Peter's Church, Gubbins Lane, Harold Wood, Romford RM3 0QA. Monies raised will be going to Diabetes UK for Research. The

continued on page 4

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A Big Thank You

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Harold Wood and The Chippy fish
and chip shop in Station Road,
Harold Wood.

CLlr BRIAN EAGLING

TFL Updates

I have been in touch with
Transport for London (TFL) via
Havering Council over a number
of issues in the Harold Hill area:

- 1) I have been advised that TfL
London Buses will be undertaking
a review of bus routes in the
Harold Wood/Harold Hill area at
some point in 2016 and in
particular issues around buses
being full at Peak times have been
relayed to TfL's Network
Development team;
- 2) The TfL signals team have also
been advised with regards to
concerns with the signal timings at
the Gubbins Lane/A12 junction
and we are waiting their response;
- 3) TfL has been asked to
investigate the feasibility of
splitting the cross traffic stage
(Gooshays Drive and Gubbins
Lane movements) into two
separate phases at the A12
junction. TfL have said that this
may take a bit of time given their
workload but we shall update you
once TfL provide us with the
outcome of their investigations
into this option. We are aware that
this is a dangerous junction and
vehicles are sometimes stuck in
the middle of the road waiting to
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CLlr DARREN WISE

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Update on Lower Thames Crossing



We understand the Government are planning to announce their decision on the preferred

route for the long awaited Lower Thames Crossing to improve the crossing around the Dartford Toll area. Public consultation ended during 2014 and Havering wrote stating their support for Option A which would be a new crossing close to the current Dartford crossing. This would minimise the impact on parts of North Ockendon and our precious Green Belt. Thurrock Council also supported Option A as did Brentwood. Many individuals supported Option A, particularly on the basis that with the demise

of the Toll Booths at the crossing there needed to be a study on the improvements to traffic flow once all the changes had had time to bed in. Those changes have hardly been completed so it would appear too early to fully appraise the benefits. We will keep you informed as this issue becomes clearer.

Cllr LINDA VAN DEN HENDE

Shirley Ward Receives BEM



The photograph above was taken at the Tower of London during her Investiture of the British Empire Medal on 27th November.

Mr Kenneth Olisa OBE, Lord Lieutenant of Greater London, carried out the investiture on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen.

Thames Chase-value for money

Thames Chase Community Forest is part of a wider Community Forest family that collectively represent the country's biggest environmental regeneration initiative. While we were among the first, recently celebrating our 25 years, further Community Forests followed and this year the youngest of these are celebrating 21 years. England's Community Forests have come of age. Collectively they aim to show national policy makers just how important Community Forests are in addressing critical issues such as health, economic growth, climate change in addition to environmental benefits for woodlands, wildlife and communities. Thames Chase Community Forest has been highlighted nationally as an example of value for money: Our

Forest secured £14 for every £1 invested by partners during 2011-2014. Community Forests remain as relevant now as they were back in 1990. We hope, with your support, we continue providing value for money through the next 25 yrs!

Events at the Forest Centre:
Friday 15th January - Cream tea with live music 2.30-4.30pm. Join us for a new year treat costing £8 per person. Booking essential.
Sunday 17th January - Our monthly Sunday Market 10am-3pm. including handmade craft and produce stalls. For more information visit the Visitor Centre or our web site www.thameschase.org.uk

Don't Miss Winter Fuel Payment

Residents born on or before 5th January 1953, could be entitled to between £100 and £300 to help with heating bills this winter.

continued on page 7

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Cllr CLARENCE BARRETT

Bell Corner Jewellers

After almost 50 years of trading an era comes to a close when Bell Corner Jewellers closes its doors early January.

During this time there have only been three owners, all being small family companies, it being ours for the past twenty-three years. Over the years many clients have become firm friends and we shall miss you all.

However, this year we had two

burglaries and this coupled with a massive increase in our rent has prompted us to close the shop. Meanwhile, goodbye Upminster and we wish you well.

R Anthony
Bell Corner Jewellers

Shirley Tours

Kindly note Shirley has organised:

February 10th: Kinky Boots Musical; Wednesday Matinee, Front stalls top price seats/coach reduced to £60 inclusive. Now booking. Adelphi Theatre, Strand. (Seat value £69.50.)
Saturday 18th June 2016 (For Fathers Day); **2 Hour horse drawn boat trip**, Kennet and Avon Canal followed by lunch at Warners Littlecote House, afternoon entertainment and tour, prices to follow.

September 2016: Blackpool short break. Travel on illuminated tram to see 5 miles of lights, plus canal trip, Blackpool Circus, Fleetwood Market plus much more: call for details/flyer.

Thurs 15th December Aladdin New Musical, 2.30pm show,

Dress Circle seats/Coach £65.
Enquiries to Shirley Ward 01708 227 884; Mobile: 07966 146 956.

Healthwatch

Healthwatch, an independent organisation set up to monitor all aspects of health, are keen to know your experiences of the NHS - if you have need to visit any facility - be it a hospital doctors surgery, dentist and have any special comments - good or bad, please write to me at 34, Cedar Gdns, Upminster, or email lindahawthorn@hotmail.co.uk and I will let them know.

Cllr LINDA HAWTHORN

Update on City Airport

As you know there is an appeal pending by London City Operators regarding the refusal by the London Mayor of the planning application to expand terminal capacity at City Airport. In addition there has been the lack of meaningful consultation by the

Airport operators regarding changes to technological enhancements which appear to change flight paths and frequencies which could have a negative impact for Havering residents. I have recently been alerted to apparent increases to noise and frequency of flights over this area, something that is clearly connected to changes being made by the Airport operators. Reflecting Councillors and residents concerns, the Council Leader has again written to the Planning Inspector urging rejection of the expansion application. We await the Planning Inspectors decision.

Cllr LINDA VAN DEN HENDE

Clearance Sale

The Fleur "Clearance Sale" starts on December 29th. We need to clear some space for some exciting new lines of stock we have coming in 2016 so there are lots of great bargains to be had throughout January. Come and have a look in our shop at Bell Corner or online at www.fleurgifts.com

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Windmill Quiz Night

Although our Windmill is now closed for two years, for restoration, and the building of a education centre / museum, we do not want people to forget it - so our popular quiz night will be going ahead as usual - Saturday 27th February. 7.00pm for 7.30pm, tables of 8, bring your own refreshments. Please book your table early, to avoid disappointment - if you can not make up a full table, we can pair you off on the night. Please phone 01708 225 451 for further details.

CLlr LINDA HAWTHORN

Light-hearted entertainment update

You may have seen in our last *Bulletin* the article relating to "Will & Steve" who appeared in



the Australia TV reality show "My Kitchen Rules" aka MKR. Just to remind you, the contestants cook in pairs and for the first time a Pommie pair, best mates Will Stewart & Steve Flood entered. Steve was raised in Upminster and went to Gaynes School (1994-99) before moving to Australia 8 years ago.

After 48 tv episodes the competition has finally come to an end with Will and Steve appearing in the Grand Final beating Jac and Shaz, two mums from Mount Isa in Queensland. They are the winners of My

Kitchen Rules 2015 and have walked away with the first prize of A\$250,000. Congratulations to them both.

The final took place at MKR's head quarters in Sydney and involved both teams cooking a 5 course meal for a packed restaurant of distinguished judges, friends and families serving a total of 100 plates per team.

Steve has no family in Australia and unbeknown to him his parents Diane & Eamonn were invited to attend the final at short notice (3 days) and Steve was unaware they were there until they appeared on the show resulting in a few tears within the studio.

The contest was very close with the boys winning by two points and they are the first all male team to take the MKR title and the fact they are pommies created greater interest in the show. Winning MKR has given the boys the opportunity to chase their dream of launching a career in

the food/media industry under their own branding "The Gourmet Pommies" You can follow them on Facebook, Instagram and at www.thegourmetpommies.com

Havering Police Cadets

Havering Volunteer Police Cadets have been successful for the second year running in winning the annual competition between teams of cadets from across London at the Thriftwood Scout Campsite in Brentwood. Their skills, knowledge and fitness was tested in a number of scenarios against 15 other London Boroughs. Havering Volunteer Cadets are boys and girls up to the age of 18 who meet regularly to participate in a number of police activities. If you are interested in finding out more please contact matt.ingram@met.police.uk

CLlr LINDA VAN DEN HENDE

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A127 Ardleigh Green Bridge Update

We have had an update from officers that the Bryant Avenue exit onto the A127 will be shut from April 2016 whilst the bridge replacement works continue and this will continue until Jan 2017.

Cllr DARREN WISE

3H Club

The Club, a social club for adults with disabilities, meet once a week at HOPWA House, Inskip Drive, Hornchurch on a Tuesday evening between 7-10 pm. Except on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. The club is looking for volunteers, including volunteer drivers for occasional day trips, to interact and socialise with club members. Volunteers need to be DBS checked and require two references. Please contact Janice Grigg on 0776 118 6322 for further information etc.

Ali Baba

All Saints Players present a production of "Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" a pantomime written by Alan Frayn. Business isn't good in Old Baghdad, everyone is scared of being robbed by the forty thieves including the comedy Dame, Fatima Fandango a former belly dancer and Mustafa Screwloose her dopey house boy. Events take a turn for the worse when on her way to marry the Prince, the Princess Jasmine is robbed by thieves and the Vizier offers a reward to anyone who can find the thieves and their secret hideaway. So begins Ali Baba's adventures as he discovers the thieves' secret cave and, with the help of his servant and friends, attempts to defeat the King of Thieves' plan to raid the Sultan's palace. "Ali Baba" will be staged at All Saints Church Hall, Ardleigh Green Road, Hornchurch, RM11 2LG (next to Havering College). Performances on Thursday, Friday

and Saturday 21/22/23 January 2016 at 8.00pm (Doors open 7.30pm) and a matinee on the Saturday at 2.30pm (Doors open 2.00pm)
Tickets are priced at £ 5.00 and are available from 01708 725 077 or to reserve a ticket e-mail boxoffice@allsaintsplayers.org.uk

Love Mud? Rugby is for you!

Upminster Rugby Club is searching for girls ages 10 - 14 (Year 6 - 10) to join us, there will be fun, there will be fitness, there will be friendship, and of course mud!
We are a family club with around 400 mini and youth members, Scott, head coach of the girls section, is keen to bring into the club girls who have an appetite for giving rugby a TRY!
We train on a Sunday morning from 10.15 at Hall Lane playing

fields; come over, you won't regret it!
Contact Scott 07787 533 004 or email us urfcwomenngirls@gmail.com for more details.

Beginner Adult Yoga Course

Adult yoga course for beginners or those returning to yoga/exercise on Tuesdays at 6.30pm at the Old Chapel. This 10 week course teaching hatha yoga commences January 2016. Hatha yoga is a very gentle and traditional form of yoga that incorporates the breath as well as guided relaxation at the end of the one hour class. The course will cost £50. Spaces are limited so booking is essential. There are also spaces available for hatha yoga (90 minute class) on Wednesday evenings at 8pm and Children's yoga on Tuesdays at 5pm. Please call Vikki on 07976

continued on page 13

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Wesley Guild

The Wesley Guild is part of the Wesleyan tradition of Methodism. The first Guilds were set up in 1896 and at one time there were well over 1,000 in the UK. The Upminster Guild began life in 1916, so that it is older than the Methodist Church buildings in Hall Lane, and will celebrate its centenary next year. Sadly, only around 120 Guilds have survived into the 21st century but we continue to be one of the most active of the survivors. Interestingly enough the Guild movement thrives in Ghana, Nigeria and South Africa as does the Methodist Church. The main aim of the Guild is to provide "a meeting place for honest encounter" and we do this by organising an afternoon programme of meetings featuring a range of visiting speakers covering topics such as local and national history, travel, fine art, the work of different charities and

popular culture. Being good Methodists we always sing a hymn to open our meetings but we do not include any other devotional items. Our meetings are open to all. Those who support us are all senior citizens, which helps to explain why we moved our meetings from evenings to afternoons. So we meet at 2pm on alternate Thursday afternoons between September and May. There is no membership fee but we do ask those who attend our meetings to pay a £2 fee at each meeting to cover speakers' fees and utility costs. Please contact Ian Leadley, the Guild secretary, for further information (tel: 229 550)".

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 28 January when we will have a Soapbox session to put the world to rights.

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- Jan 14th - Stephen King, organ (Brentwood Cathedral)
- Jan 21st - Daniel Nisbet, piano
- Jan 28th - Doug Tang, organ (Hailebury College)
- Feb 4th - Tom Wraith and Freddie Brown (Cello and Piano)
- Feb 11th - Richard Brasier, organ (St Laurence)
- Feb 18th - Centre for Young Musicians Showcase Concert
- Feb 25th - Ourania Gassiou, organ (Megaron Concert Hall, Athens)

Please do get back to me if there are any questions.

Robert Brabner

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Charity Half Marathon

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The Havering and Brentwood Bereavement Service (HBBS) in a Hornchurch based charity which supports local people of all ages in making adjustments in their lives following bereavement or loss. This year our Children's Service, through grants, donations and fundraising will support over 120 locally bereaved children through individual counselling and social events. Come and join our team! Please contact Louise or Jan on 01708 716870 or louise@hbbscounselling.org

Wednesday Music Evenings

Our 2016 programme at Hornchurch Library begins on

continued on page 15

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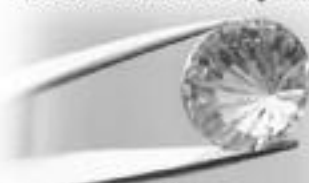
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Wednesday 20th January with a "New Year Gala Evening", A bright and cheerful start to the Winter-Spring programme featuring a variety of a music of a seasonal nature. All are welcome. Free admission. 7.30pm start. Details for February programmes to follow in the next edition of *The Bulletin*.

Calling Former Students

Did you go to The Coopers' School, Coborn School or The Coopers' Company and Coborn School? If you're a former student who would like to support current students, the school would love to hear from you!

The school in St Mary's Lane is one of nearly 400 state schools and colleges across Britain which have registered with the charity **Future First** to set up networks of former students or alumni.

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or e-mentors, work experience providers, governors, donors or fundraisers.

It doesn't matter when you left school, whether you're in further education or employment, whether you still live nearby or have moved further away, there are still ways you can help!

To sign up to **Future First's** alumni scheme, click on the "Former Students" link on the website www.futurefirst.org.uk. If you would like any further information on this, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Liz Evans

Development Manager

01708 251847

lev@cooperscoborn.co.uk

The Wesley Players Present

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By Natasha Blaauw & Jonathan Holland

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8.00pm on Thursday 28th. Friday 29th and Saturday, 30th January 2016.

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Thank You Connie

Over the years local resident Connie Hawkins has met and served thousands of people firstly as manager of the St Francis Hospice Charity Shop in St. Mary's Lane and for the last six years as the manager of the Rainbow Trust Children's Charity Shop in Corbets Tey Road. With her large band of volunteers over the years she has raised thousands of pounds for the above local worthwhile charities. Connie has decided to step down from the manager's job and we are pleased to inform you that Anne Mchugh who was previously at the St Francis Hospice Shop will be the Rainbows new manager. The other good news is that Connie is staying on working several days a week. Connie would like to thank everyone who has supported her. Go along to the Rainbow shop

and say hello to Anne, Connie and the volunteers. They do a great job.

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Time for Coffee?

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Calling all bakers...

Happy New Year. Do you love to bake? Please join us. Our bake

club is next meeting on Monday 8th February at The Old Chapel, St Mary's Lane, Upminster, from 18.30 to 20.30. We are a group of keen but amateur bakers who meet every 6/8 weeks to swap support, stories and baked goods. We all bake something to bring along to share. February's theme is Valentine (following the theme is not compulsory). £5 fee to cover hall, tea, coffee etc. For more information contact [Sharon@vanillabakeclub.com] Sharon@vanillabakeclub.com or check out our website www.vanillabakeclub.com or find us on Facebook or Twitter.

Freedom Pass Renewal

Older people across London whose Freedom Passes will expire on March 31 2016 will receive a letter explaining how to renew their pass. The Freedom Pass allows older adults to travel on public transport for free across the capital - as well as on local

continued on page 19

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Cllr DARREN WISE

Planting Pansies

Councillor Gillian Ford founded a programme of seasonal planting schemes in Cranham 13 years ago, by installing troughs on the railings. Over the years more planters have been added, with groups coming and going. During the year, Councillor Ford has established a programme of working with different youth groups, including the Girls and Boy's Brigade.



Photograph courtesy of John Robinson

On Saturday 5th December, **2nd Cranham Beavers, Cubs and Scouts** braved the windy conditions and planted pansies in Front Lane and Moor Lane. They were all in good spirits and arrived ready with their hand trowels. Councillor Ford said "It is a great opportunity for children and young people to get their hands dirty and to see nature at work. They can see the plants grow, knowing that they had planted them, whilst improving the look of the area. While we were working, a local resident thanked us for our efforts stating, it makes the area look better, which was great for the children to hear. I would like to thank the

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children and their leaders for their contribution to the community; it was a pleasure to work with them."

Cllr GILLIAN FORD

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LOCAL FUTURE EVENTS JANUARY

- 5 Tuesday - **Oglethorpe Women's 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.
- 9 Saturday - **Saturday Talks Club.** History of Crystal Palace, Speaker Ian Bevan. At Roope Hall, United Reformed Church, Upminster. 2.15pm (doors open 1.45pm). Cost £4, including tea and biscuits. Contact Mrs Bland 01689 858 701 or Mrs Blake 01708 227 512.
- 12 Tuesday - **NADFAS Havering** welcome Miss Anne Clements with a talk entitled "In the Bleak Midwinter: Artists response to Snow". Lecture 10.45 am. Coffee from 10.00 am. Visitors welcome at £8. The meetings are held at The New Windmill Hall, St. Mary's Lane, Upminster, RM14 2QH. Further information on the Society, future lectures and visits can be found at www.haveringdfas.org.uk
- 12 Tuesday - **Upminster Horticultural Society** have their Annual General Meeting and Speaking up for **Wild Plants** by Mary Smith. Mary will tell us about how our wild plants are faring and the strategies that are helping to save them. 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

continued on page 24

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2016 From 11.30am
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To kick start the new season, we
warmly welcome as our 'after
lunch' guest:
David Gibbs
**Minister, Grace Church
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Grace Church Wanstead began in
2006 by a partnership between
two Church of England churches;
Christ Church, Leyton and St
Helen's Bishopsgate, London. We
look forward to hearing about
David's life and faith, and

something of how Grace Church
started.

As always, to reserve your lunch
place, please telephone St. Peter's
Welcome Desk on 01708 342080,
or email:

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od.org or visit the website:
www.stpetersharoldwood.org
(just key in the search box 'Men's
Lunch').

We look forward to seeing you.
Julian Harris, Chris Knowles and
the Men's Lunch Team.

PS: Watch out for details of our
2016 'Outing'; available at the
January lunch!

Short Mat Bowls

Why not come and join us Friday
afternoons, 2 - 4pm?

We meet at the Harold Wood War
Memorial Hall in Gubbins Lane.
New Bowlers welcome.

Ring Alec for more details on
01708 223 606.

Borough Wide Parking Survey

We have been advised that the
Council is due to commence a 10
week borough wide survey that

will establish the 'as is' parking
issues that we face and this will of
course cover the Harold Wood
and Emerson Park Wards.

Cllr DARREN WISE

Thank you

Kindly note the following we
received from Bob and Barbara:
We had very good service when
using the firm Gardencast in St.
Mary's Lane, Upminster, for our
garden patio slabs. The young man
Scott who works there and
delivers for them was so helpful
and nothing was too much
trouble for him. We try to use
local trades people and are glad
we used this firm.

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exhibitions to his credit and has
extensive teaching experience.
Bill can be contacted by email at
williamnewton1@aol.com

Jam Today

Norfolk has The Broads Southend
has a pier. Dagenham had Ford's
and Romford once had beer.
But what of Harold Wood, what
attraction has it got? It must have
something special,
Here's a cunning plot.
Unremarkably, I was stuck in
Gubbins Lane traffic and passed
the time knocking out the above
doggerel

With the forthcoming temporary
closure of the A127 in connection
with the road works on the main
line rail bridge, the commuter
traffic will be swarming through
crowded Harold Wood to avoid
the congestion.
I'm guessing, with a population of
12,000, made up of about 10,000
families and 2,000 singles and
pensioners, assuming 50%
mobile, that's around 2,000 cars. If
everybody parked outside their
property one Monday morning,
choking access, it would deter
most commuters. Once the pushy
ones were trapped in the grid
lock, I could contact the Guinness
Book of Records, claiming:

continued on page 22



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David Godwin email
davidsue19@aol.com

HAROLD WOOD- THE LARGEST CAR PARK IN ENGLAND. With 2,000 parked cars on the 3 miles of roads and nothing moving, soon Harold Wood would be pollution free, the middle of the road a cycle path for me, children walking to school in fresh air, birds singing in the trees instead of coughing and with people unable to get to supermarkets, it would boost local shops. HAROLD PARK would have some meaning. I've just had a thought. With gridlock, the Guinness Book of Records verifiers wouldn't be able to get here to check my claim! Forget my fantasy, I think the traffic's finally moving. Dennis Goodwin

Your help please?

If you are able to deliver around 40 *Bulletins* each month in the Harold Wood, Harold Park or Harold Hill areas please get in touch it would really be appreciated.

Please telephone Brian on 01708 373 027.

If you are able to help in the Emerson Park area, telephone Laurance on 07973 856195. Many thanks.

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- 15 Friday - **Havering Antique and Collectors Club** meet at the Neighbourhood Centre, Gubbins Lane, Harold Wood have Guest Speaker Richard Dodd on "A History of Sunlight Soap, Lord Lever, Portsunlight and other model Factory Villages." 7.30 pm for 8 pm start. For further details please call our Chairman Mrs Chris Lovett 01708 221851.
- 21 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.
- 25 Monday - **Breathe Easy - Havering** is a support group for people suffering from breathing difficulties, COPD, Asthma. etc.

We meet on the last Monday of the month at St. Andrews Church Hall, Hornchurch at 1.30 - 3.30pm. Light refreshments are served and we have guest speakers talking on a wide range of subjects such as - coping with COPD, gentle exercising, home safety, etc. New members, family and carers are always welcome; a voluntary donation of £2 is appreciated.

Please contact Joyce 01708 226696 or Elaine 01708 509127 for more details.

27 Wednesday - **Upminster Townswomen's Guild** holding **Harold Hill Food Bank.** Come along and join us at 1.45 pm in St Laurence Church, Derham Hall, Upminster. For more details phone Shirley on 01708 224219 or Bertha on 01708 222410.

29 Friday - **Coffee & Conversation Group** have Ark Theatre Company present a re-enactment on **Financial Scamming.** Visitors welcome. £2 including refreshments served from 10.30 to 12 noon at Front Lane Social, Hall, Cranham.

FEBRUARY

- 2 Tuesday - **Ogthorpe Women's Institute** have Sharon Gould talking

- about "East End to Essex". Our meetings are held at Cranham Social Hall, 103 Front Lane, RM14 1XL at 7.45 pm. Visitors are welcome.
- 6 Saturday - **The Havering Branch of the East of London Family History Society** hold meetings on the 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 'Feeding the Family in the First World War' with Mike Brown. The Internet & Technology Group meets at the same venue 11am - 1pm where a Q&A session is followed by workshop. Teas and coffees can be purchased. Members and visitors welcome to either or both.
- 9 Tuesday - **NADFAS (Havering)** welcome Mr Ian Swankie with a talk entitled "Thomas Heatherwick: The Modern Leonardo". Lecture 10.45 am. Coffee from 10.00 am. Visitors welcome at £8. The meetings are held at The New Windmill Hall, St. Mary's Lane, Upminster, RM14 2QH. Further information on the Society, future lectures and visits can be found at www.haveringdfas.org.uk

ASSOCIATION DIARY

PLEASE NOTE THERE ARE NO WARD MEETINGS FOR JANUARY

FEBRUARY

- 3 Wednesday **Upminster Ward Meeting** at St Joseph's Social Centre at 8 pm
- 11 Thursday **Cranham Ward Meeting** at Cranham Community Centre, Marlborough Gardens at 7.15 pm
- 23 Tuesday - **AGM** at St Joseph's Social Club Hall at 7.30 pm.

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