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Bryant Avenue Re-opens

Bryant Avenue, which has been closed due to the Ardleigh Green A127 Bridge works should be re-opened by the time you receive this Bulletin. TfL are working to complete footway and street lighting works on the new bridge and installing safety barriers. They are also resurfacing the new A127 carriageway and will switch the contraflow and re-open Bryant Avenue. The reopening of Bryant Avenue comes after the Residents' Association wrote to the Mayor of London about the ongoing delays to this project and complaining about the impact this has on our residents' daily lives. The re-opening will help stop the rat runs through the side roads within Harold Wood and cause less disruption to parents carrying out the school runs and to people living and working in the area. Call 020 7222 5600 for all enquiries or email enquire@tfl. gov.uk

Our petition paid off

We are pleased to inform you that the 900 signature petition that we collected from you in Station Road and from our online petition has paid off as we are going to get an extra Police Officer from the 2nd of January 2018.

Cllr BRIAN EAGLING, Cllr DARREN WISE and Martin Goode

A Big Thank You

We would like to thank Sanders solicitors in Queens Park Road and the King Harold Public House for their donations towards the Christmas Lights in Station Road.

Cllr BRIAN EAGLING, Cllr DARREN WISE and Martin Goode

Thank You All

We wish all our helpers and supporters a Happy and Healthy New Year and just to let you all know the local election will be on the 3rd May and your support and help will be much appreciated. If you can help in any way i.e. to deliver a few envelopes in your road it would be much appreciated. Please contact me on 01708 373027 or email eaglibri@talktalk.net.

Helping Harold Hill Foodbank

Local Councillors Darren Wise and Brian Eagling along with our action team member Martin Goode supported the Harold Hill Foodbank



in conjunction with the Harold Wood Funeral Services to donate some much needed food items when they undertook their Food Collection appeal at Tesco in Gallows Corner in December. Mark Reeve who runs the local foodbank with volunteer support mentioned that this event has been very successful as many donations have been received from customers and this will help give much needed food to those vulnerable members in our society who are facing hunger for various reasons.





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Police Open Meeting

The Harold Wood Safer Neighbourhood Police Team is holding their next Open Meeting on Friday 19th January 2018 19:00-20:30 at the Methodist Church on Gubbins Lane junction with The Drive, Harold Wood.

Harold Wood in Bloom

We would like to congratulate the Friends of Harold Wood Parks volunteers for all their hard work in winning Silver-Gilt for Harold Wood Park in the Britain in Bloom Awards. Harold Wood Park proudly flies the Green Flag which was raised in a well-attended ceremony. This demonstrates an internationallyrecognised benchmark standard for an excellently maintained publicly accessible park. Harold Wood has two of the best parks in Havering - Harold Wood Park and Painsbrook Park, both great spaces to use for sports, walking the dog, or just generally taking a break from the stresses of life. If you would like to help out

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the Friends, please email the Chair, Nicky Simmons at nicola. simmons04@ntlworld.com.

Remembrance Day

I was delighted to attend the Remembrance Day service held at the Harold Wood Memorial Hall in November with my colleague Cllr Alex Donald whilst Cllr Eagling was laying a wreath also at Harold Hill on behalf of the Council. As ever it was a poignant service led by Rev David Banting remembering those citizens who gave up their lives whilst fighting for the freedoms that we have today. Also in the picture are Jim Atkins and Pat Bates who are Trustees of the Memorial Hall. Lest we Forget

Cllr DARREN WISE



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Christmas Float

Thank you to all our residents that gave generously when we came around your streets with our Father Christmas float. Also, a big thank you to all our collectors and drivers as without them this would not have been possible. The amount collected for the Rainbow Trust will be announced in the next edition of the Bulletin.

Cllr BRIAN EAGLING

Standing Down

Due to a change of career, I am sadly not able to stand in the May 2018 local election. It has been an absolute pleasure serving the residents of Harold Wood, Harold Hill, and Harold Park for the last four years, and I would like to thank you all from the bottom of my heart for electing me to represent your interests. I am so proud of our achievements in the Council where, along with Residents' Association colleagues, we have provided a truly local voice for the benefit of our area and the wider borough. While we have achieved so much, the work continues and I know Martin

will do a fantastic job, along with Darren and Brian, to stand up for the interests of local residents. I wish them all best of luck for the future and hope that you will continue to support them as your local Residents' Association team.

Cllr ALEX DONALD

A Big Thank

I would like to thank the following businesses for their generosity regarding the Christmas Float: McDonalds' restaurants, The Chippy and the Shepherd and Dog.

Cllr BRIAN EAGLING

Giving Up Your

Harold Wood School would like to thank Cllr BRIAN EAGLING for giving up his time to be our Father Christmas at the Christmas Bazaar in December. This was much appreciated by us all.

Harold Wood School PTA

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Housing Target increased by 60% by Mayor of London

Last month the Mayor of London published his 'London Local Plan' which aims to build 650,000 households by 2029, with Havering earmarked for 18,750 (1,875 per annum) over the decade - 705 more than the figure (1,170 per annum) recently included in the draft Havering Local Plan. Targets set for nearby councils are Greenwich (3,511 pa), Barking & Dagenham (2,264 pa), Redbridge (1,979 pa) Waltham Forest (1,794 pa) and Newham (3,850 pa). Our borough is over 50% green belt and these target figures are simply unsustainable and unrealistic. More homes are needed, but so is the corresponding infrastructure - such as schools, medical centres and transport to create a sustainable community which retains the character of our

borough. This new target is an increase of 60% on the previous figure, which was challenging enough to deliver. There is a consultation, which we would encourage residents to respond to, which runs until 2nd March 2018 (see London.gov.uk) and comments can be made by email to LondonPlan@londongov.uk, via the on-line tool at London. gov.uk or in writing to London Plan Team, City Hall, London, SE1 2AA. We shall keep you updated on this important matter.

Cllr CLARENCE BARRETT

Want To Try Yoga?

A new yoga community is thriving in Harold Wood! Hannah, from A Fine Balance Yoga + Wellbeing, is in awe of the number of local people interested in reaping the benefits that yoga brings. It helps you to keep fit, gain strength and flexibility - and find some

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much needed time out. You can join Hannah for weekly classes in Harold Wood: Monday 7.30 - 8.30pm; from 9th January, Tuesdays 9.30 - 10.30am; and Thursdays 6.30 - 7.30pm. New classes will be added across Gidea Park and Upminster to help others gain the benefits of yoga in the New Year. Find out more: www.afinebalance.me

We Never Gave Up

Eventually the ivy overhanging the railway bridge in Gubbins Lane was cut back by Network Rail. We first reported this back in July and their promise and emails to us were that it would be cut back in 28

days and of course this never happened. Our continued persistence in chasing Network Rail finally paid off.

Cllr BRIAN EAGLING and Cllr **DARREN WISE**

St Peter's Church

Watchnight 2017 from 10:00pm Sunday 31st December 2017. Worship led by the Bean Baker Band. A free will offering will be taken during the evening. This year again supporting the work of the Harold Hill Food Bank. www.stpetersharoldwood.org.

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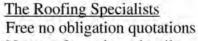
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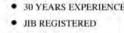
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Windmill Quiz Night

Please note that the Annual Windmill quiz night will be held on Saturday 24th February Main Church Hall St Laurence, at 7.30pm, price £6, bring your own food and drink - our hosts will be Gillian and Stephen Roome and all proceeds go to the Windmill restoration fund. This event is always popular and spaces are limited, so please book early to prevent delay Please telephone 01708 225451.

Cllr LINDA HAWTHORN

Shroff Accountancy

Shroff Accountancy commenced trading in 1996 from serviced offices in Upminster Bridge. Now keen to be embedded more centrally within the local community, Jimmy Shroff, owner of Shroff Accountancy has decided to relocate to Corbets Tev Road, specifically on the first floor of Upminster Library. Having commenced as a sole trader, the

business now employs 7 staff and is looking to expand further. Shroff Accountancy is dedicated to supporting local businesses through an increasingly complex and legislative environment and aims to provide a professional and efficient service, tailored to client's unique requirements. Our clients range from individuals requiring tax return assistance to small and medium sized businesses including Companies requiring audits. For any accountancy or taxation matters, please contact either Jim Shroff or Derek Hancock. Tel number: 01708 515515 or email: jim@ shroff.co.uk.

All Saints Players

The All Saints Players present 'The Pied Piper' a Pantomime by Alan P Frayn by arrangement with Stage Right Creative Ltd. Thursday 11th January 2018, Friday 12th January 2018, Saturday 13th January 2018 8.00pm (doors open 7.30pm). Matinee Saturday 2.30pm (doors open 2pm) at All Saints Church Hall, Ardleigh Green Road, Hornchurch. Tickets £5.00 Box Office: 01708 607855 or

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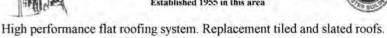
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Wednesday **Music Evenings**

Wed 17th Jan - THESE YOU **HAVE LOVED** presented by Jim Uffindell who follows the format of the popular BBC radio show. Wed 31st Jan - THESE YOU HAVE CHOSEN: YOUR MUSIC **REQUESTS** introduced by Harry Newman. At the time of writing there is not very much we can reveal about the contents of this evening's programme since organiser Harry Newman is still collecting and collating the choices.

The Music Evenings take place in the 1st Floor Meeting Room at Hornchurch Library, North Street commencing at 7.30pm and ending at 9.30pm. Admission is free of charge but we do request a nominal donation for the interval refreshments. No need to prebook - just turn up. For more information call Stephen Raindle 01708 470670 or email sraindle@ aol.com

King George A&E **Saved from Closure**

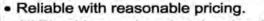
The proposal to close the Accident & Emergency Department at King George Hospital in 2019 has been shelved. A new review will now be undertaken which will seek to embed a sustainable service that is responsive to the needs of the community in terms of access and capacity. In a statement released by the East London Health & Care Partnership (ELHCP), they confirmed the existing A&E at King George will continue to operate as it does now. The announcement follows recommendations made by consulting group Price Waterhouse Coopers (PWC) after a recent strategic review. The decision also comes after a decade of campaigning by cross-party and cross-council support across Redbridge and Havering. Particular concerns were that Queen's Hospital A&E, already under great pressure, would be unable to cope with A&E provision for a much wider area should King George A&E close.

Cllr CLARENCE BARRETT

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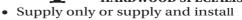




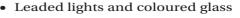
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Shirley Ward Tours

Feb, Thu, 8th: Matinee Show with" Frankie Valli" (Frankies Guys) includes Welcome Cocktail, 3 course meal, Matinee show at Planet Hollywood by coach £62. May, Tue 1st May: Royal Albert Hall Symphonic Rock, Friendship Matinee by The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra 3pm, £6, no coach.

Jul, Thu 26th: London Cabaret Club, Holborn, 3 Course Meal, welcome drink, entertainment by "ABBA" - Matinee show/lunch. £65 Adults, £50 Child By coach Aug, Wed 8th: The King and I Musical, London Palladium, Matinee Show by Coach; Child £60; Adult £62; best Stall Seats. Suitable for over 5 years. Aug, Thu 16th: Broadstairs, (Folk Week), Morris Dancers, Sandy Beach, Punch + Judy, free entertainment around town, Craft Fair. Prices to follow. Pickups from: Jobbers Rest, Plough Pub and Front Lane on all trips. Shirley Ward 01708 227884 or

email shirley@shirleytours.co.uk

Mayor's Charity Variety Show

I have organised a variety show at the Queens Theatre on Tuesday 16 January 2018 at 7pm with all proceeds going to my three nominated charities, First Step, Dementia UK and Havering Volunteer Centre. Acts will be a mixture of dance, singers, musicians and the Royal British Legion Band. This is an opportunity to showcase local talent, mainly young people and I hope you will be able to support me. Tickets are £15 and available now from the Oueens Box office. www.queens-theatre.co.uk

> Cllr LINDA VAN DEN HENDE Mayor of Havering

The Chase

Congratulations to local resident Becca who was on the winning team on The Chase hosted by Bradley Walsh on ITV. Becca helped the team to beat the Chaser. Really great. Well done.

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Thames Chase

The forest in winter has a charm of its own for walking and enjoying the trees, flora and wildlife during our coldest months. The Thames Chase wildlife group are holding a photographic competition between 1st January and 20th March to capture the Forest at rest (or is it?). Photographs submitted from all ages will be on display in an exhibition at the Centre over the Easter weekend. www.thameschase.org.uk

Sunday Market at the Forest Centre on Sunday 14th January 10am-2pm for craft and produce stalls.

Thames Guided Walk to Hornchurch Country Park on Friday 26th January meeting in the car park off Squadrons Approach at 10am for a circular walk on surfaced paths.

Thames Chase Quiz Evening on Friday 26th January from 7.30pm at The Old Chapel, Upminster. Tables of 8. Book at the Forest Centre. £5 per person (Bring your own refreshments) Forest Centre cafe - Friday Winter Warmers 10am-3pm £4.00 for luxury hot chocolate with trimmings and slice of bake or soup and crusty bread.

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Charity Fundraising Concert

Havering Group Diabetes UK is holding a Charity Fundraising Concert by the Brentwood School Big Band on Saturday 17th March 2018 at St. Luke's Church, Front Lane, Cranham, Upminster RM14

continued on page 9

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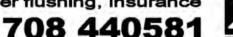






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1LD. Monies raised will be going to Diabetes UK for Research and Above Us Only Sky, a charity for the homeless. The Concert starts at 7.30 pm. and tickets priced at £12 for adults and £6 for under 16s, can be obtained from Debbie Broom on 01708 473314 debbie. broom@tesco.net or David Squibb on 07713 069309 david@ squibb.eclipse.co.uk.

Lymphoma, Myeloma and Leukaemia support group

We are a friendly support group under the umbrella of the Lymphoma association, for anyone whose lives have been affected by Blood cancers. We meet approximately monthly in the foyer of Upminster Baptist church, Springfield Gardens 13.30 - 15.00 hrs unless otherwise stated. Most months we have a speaker but there is always plenty of time to chat. For more information please see www. lyphomas,org.uk or contact Doreen on 01708 508323.

Wild Animal Carcasses

Sadly, wild animals can be killed on the roads, or be found dead in back gardens. If on the road, please just inform the council on 01708 432563 and they will come and collect but if on your own property they need to be put in a black sack and placed at the front of the property, as the Council are not allowed to enter private premises.

Cllr LINDA HAWTHORN

Havering Autism Strategy

I was delighted to hear that the Autism strategy for Havering was accepted by the Health and Wellbeing Board of the Council. This will allow the Autism Partnership Board to which I have being chair to move forward with its strategy. There are many objectives of the strategy and there is still much to do though this is a platform to develop the strategy further. There are 5 main key themes of the strategy:

1. Increasing awareness and understanding of ASC

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- 2. Developing a clear and consistent pathway for diagnosis3. Making it easier for people with ASC to get the services and support they need
- 4. Helping adults with ASC into work
- 5. Working with local partners to help them develop suitable services

The strategy is for a 5 year period though will be kept under constant review. There were many stakeholders involved in the development of the plan including local groups and I would like to thank Sycamore Trust, RIEES and SENSA for their time and commitment as well as those of Council Officers. Further details of the policy is on the Council website.

Cllr DARREN WISE

Big Band Concert

The David Pickthall Big Band will be performing two sets on Saturday 13th January at 7pm, St Laurence Church, Corbets Tey Road, Upminster. Adults £12 Under 18/Students £6 & under 5-free. Tickets 01708 220696 parish. office@upminsterparish.co.uk.

Bike Locks

There has been an increase in the number of bikes being stolen by opportunistic thieves breaking or cutting the bike lock when chained to a bike post. Cycle owners should be aware that any device which can be cut through quickly can be ineffective. A

 $continued\ on\ page\ 11$

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robust device will make your cycle more likely to be there when you return. Some insurance policies often stipulate a standard of lock that must be used together with how they need to be locked to an appropriate anchor point.

Help Local Businesses with **Rates Increase**

With our local shops already dealing with a sharp increase in business rates, rents and competition from on-line retailers, the prospect of a 3.9% increase in rates from next April (based on September Retail Price Index) could tip the balance the wrong way for many of our small businesses. Although the Autumn Statement now limits the rise to Consumer Price Index (3.0%), the UK's commercial property tax is far higher than elsewhere in Europe. 'Shop Local, Hire Local' is a fine aspiration in which we can all play a role in supporting our local shops, but we need the government to play a positive role also

Cllr CLARENCE BARRETT

Old Chapel Event

Wed 10 Jan, 10.30am - Exploring The Georgian Interior Of Benjamin Franklin Gemma returns to tell us about research carried out to find out how the London home of this Founding Father might have looked. To book a place please contact the Heritage Officer on 01708 642919 or email gsmith@ mary.havering.sch.uk

Havering Shared Lives Scheme Is **Recruiting Carers**

In Shared Lives people with learning disabilities are supported within the family home of Shared Lives Carers. Shared Lives Carers are ordinary people who do extraordinary things. They offer their spare room to someone with similar likes and interests, and share their family and community with them, as well as supporting them to live independently. The scheme, based in the Volunteer Centre in Romford High St is

continued on page 13

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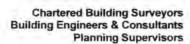
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If you are as like minded as us and would like to come along and join us, we would like to hear from you. Alternatively, if you

have any memories of the former aerodrome that you would like to share with us or if you have any RAF Hornchurch artefacts that you may wish to loan or even donate to the society. www. rafhornchurch com

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James Oglethorpe Litter Fines to School PSPO Increase

Havering Council have said that the PSPO (Public Space Protection Order) around the school was to improve safety for children, and this has now been achieved. The pilot PSPO scheme was originally consulted on in March 2016. The follow up feedback consultation conducted in May, June and July 2017 also concluded the size and hours of operation are appropriate.

The November 2017 issue of "The Bulletin" gave information on the expansion of the school recently to a two-form entry school. From September 2017, and as this continues over the next few years, the school pupil population will grow.

If you have any queries or concerns on the impact of this on the streets of the surrounding area of the PSPO project Havering Council can be contacted on 01708 434730 or by e-mail: schoolpspo@havering.gov.uk

Len Reeder

I was pleased to note a government announcement stating that the maximum fine for littering will increase from £75 to £150 from April 2018 (I would prefer £500, but at least a step in the right direction). In addition, councils will be able to impose fines on owners of vehicles from which litter is thrown, without the need to identify exactly which occupant threw the litter, bringing the rest of the country into line with London. Littering is a blight on our communities, is an environmental hazard and wastes money which could be better used fixing our pavements, looking after our vulnerable and supporting our local economies. Let's hope the increase in fines is followed by an increase in enforcement.

Cllr CLARENCE BARRETT

Hornchurch **Football Club**

Kindly note Hornchurch are away to Aveley on the 6th this

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Cllr LINDA HAWTHORN

Parking Problems

One of the most frequent complaints we receive is over parking problems.

The number of cars in our area has increased at a huge rate.

Havering, we are informed, has the highest level of vehicle owners in the London area.

If you need to contact the Council with any parking problems please note the following telephone numbers. During office hours 01708 432787. Out of Office number 07946 738495.

Guvnor of Comedy

Our local comedian Jimmy Jones makes a welcome return to The Cranleigh, 84 Station Lane, Hornchurch on Friday 2nd February. The very gifted Micky Pugh will also be appearing with Jimmy. Please telephone Christine at The Cranleigh on 01708 443 229 for further details and bookings. This promises to be a fantastic evening.

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continued on page 17

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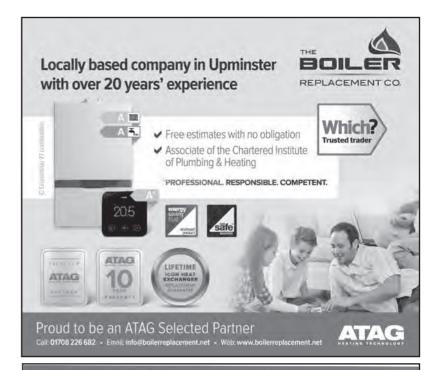
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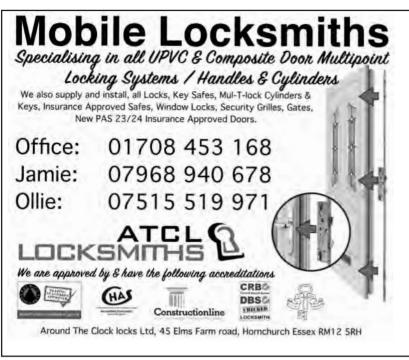
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Concert for Bosco

Come and enjoy an evening of classical music, to raise money for the SVP children's camp. Saturday 3rd February 2018 - New Windmill Hall, Upminster. 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Wine and refreshments included. Advance tickets £8; on the door £11. Bookings by phone: 07957382592. Online bookings/details: www. concertforbosco.com

The Wesley Players

Pantomime 'Arthur of Camelot' by Colin and Charlii Richardson is the next production from The Wesley Players. Join Arthur, Queen Guinevere and their friends as they journey through the Mystic Mountain to face Morgana's dragon and restore peace to Camelot once more. This is a traditional style pantomime with a medieval touch for all ages. Prices: £7 for Adults, £5.50 for Concessions and £3.50 for Children (under 16). As usual, Senior Citizens are admitted

free to the Thursday & Friday evening shows. Tickets will be available on the door or may be booked in advance via the Box Office (text or phone) 07708 214742 or email tickets@ wesley-players.co.uk. Performances: are at 8.00pm on Thursday, 25th, Friday, 26th and Saturday, 27th January 2018. Matinées on Saturday 27th at 1.30pm and 4.30pm at Wesley Hall, Upminster Methodist Church, 10, Hall Lane, Upminster, Essex. RM14 1AE.

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LOCAL FUTURE EVENTS JANUARY

- Monday Havering Branch Essex Wildlife Trust Meetings are held in the 1st floor meeting room in Hornchurch Library from 8.00 pm to 9.45 pm. Illustrated Talk: Gunners Park by EWT's Shoebury Ranger Andrew Armstrong, about the Old Ranges and the local wildlife. 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
- Tuesday Upminster and District Horticultural Society - AGM and first lecture of the New Year 'Growing for the Flower Arranger All Year Round' presented by Maike Windhorst. The meeting runs from 7.45pm until 9.45pm and is held in The New Windmill Hall, St Mary's Lane, Upminster. Admission is free to members and £2 for non-members. For more details visit www.upminsterhorticulturalsociety.co.uk
- Tuesday NADFAS (Havering) welcomes Clare Phillips with a talk on 'American Glamour - 150 years of Tiffany and Co's Jewellery. Lecture 10.45am Coffee from 10.00am. Visitors welcome at £8. Meetings are held at The New Windmill Hall, St Mary's Lane, Upminster RM14 2QH. Further details of forthcoming lectures and events can be found at www. haveringdfas.org.uk
- Tuesday Oglethorne Women's Institute We are having a Social Evening. Visitors and new members are always welcome to join us. Our meetings are held at Cranham Social Hall, 103 Front Lane, RM14 1XL on the first Tuesday of every month at 7.45 pm. Contact Secretary Mrs. E. Bell on 01708 251161.
- 10 Wednesday Nelmes Women's Institute meet on the 2nd Wednesday of every month and welcome new members of all ages. Meetings are held at Nelmes United Reformed Church

- Hall (corner of Nelmes Road and Burntwood Avenue, Hornchurch, RM11 3JA). Meetings start at 2 pm promptly. Please contact Ruth McDougall on 01708 448431 or Ruth. wellwisher@gmail.com for further details.
- Wednesday Upminster and District Probus Club meet at The Cranleigh, 84 Station Road, Hornchurch, RM12 6LX. Contact Barry on 01708 703783 and leave a message or send an email secretary@upminsterprobus.com.
- Thursday Upminster and Cranham W.I. are looking for new members. We meet in the St. Laurence Hall (next to the Library) in Upminster. 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.
- Friday RSPB Havering Local Group Indoor Meeting - Peter Holden MBE presents an illustrated talk entitled 'Born to Travel' the story of bird migration. 7:30pm - 9:45pm. All meetings take place upstairs in the Meeting Room at Hornchurch Library, Hornchurch. Entrance is £3.
- Sunday OASIS A 'disability-friendly' meeting for adults at Cranham Baptist Church, Severn Drive. A traditional Sunday Service is not for everyone! We invite you to come and start the New Year with us! Oasis meetings are accessible, friendly and informal. If you are interested in coming please contact the Oasis Team on: 01708 223551 or 07714 853545. 3.00 to 4.30 pm.
- 16 Tuesday Upminster U3A Janet Brewer 'Egyptian Queens and Court gossip'. University of the Third Age - meets at 1pm on the third Tuesday monthly in the New Windmill Hall, St Mary's Lane, Upminster, Doors open at 12.30pm. For further information about continued on page 19







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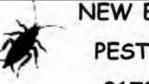
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Offices

membership and current interest groups, come along to a meeting for free or check out our website www.u3asites.org.uk/upminster.

- 16 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.
- 17 Wednesday Hornchurch Harmonies W.I., meets on the 3rd Wednesday of every month (except August) between 7.30pm - 9.45pm at Havering Indoor Bowls Club RM11 1IIJ, Visitors fee £3.50 includes tea and cake.
- 18 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 For more information contact Maureen Jasper on 01708 223956, or simply come along on the night.
- 19 Friday Havering Antique and Collectors Club meet at the Neighbourhood Centre, Gubbins Lane, Harold Wood. Starting at 7.30 pm. Charlie Haylock - History of Surnames. Guests £4. For further details please call our Chairman Mrs Chris Lovett 07947 367258.
- Tuesday Upminster Camera Club Outings Competition (Prints & PDI) Judge: Andy Brett (Our Outings Secretary). Cranham Community Association, 115a Marlborough Gardens, Upminster, RM14 1SR. 7.45pm. www. upminstercameraclub.org.uk
- 24 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
- Saturday RSPB Havering Local Group Coach Outing - RSPB Dungeness NR, Kent. The

- reserve is set amidst mile after mile of shingle. Seats cost £18.00 each, Contact Michael Hughes: Tel: 01708 250585 Mob: 07967 343861 or e-mail: mikeboyo15@gmail.com.
- Monday Breathe Easy Havering meet at St Andrews Church, Hornchurch, in aid of the British Lung Foundation on the last Monday of the month. The meetings run from 1.30 - 3pm, £3 donation is appreciated. We are a support group for people with COPD, Asthma or other Breathing Difficulties. For details please ring Joyce on 01708 226696 or Elaine on 01708 509127.

FEBRUARY

- Saturday -The Havering Branch of the East of London Family History Society at Trinity Church, Station Road, Upminster RM14 2SJ doors open at 1pm meeting starts at 2pm. The talk is 'The de Havilland Aircraft Museum' with Alistair Hodgson. The Internet & Technology Group meet at the same venue 11am - 1pm where a Q&A session is followed by 'A Workshop' (bring your queries). Teas and coffees can be purchased. Members and visitors welcome to either or both.
- Tuesday Oglethorpe Women's Institute Talk on the 'The History of Music in Motion Pictures' with Keith Nott, Visitors and new members are always welcome to join us. Our meetings are held at Cranham Social Hall, 103 Front Lane, RM14 1XL on the first Tuesday of every month at 7.45 pm. Contact Secretary Mrs. E. Bell on 01708 251161.
- 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. Hopefield Animal Sanctuary Competition: Bring along an Animal Figurine the best wins a prize. Visitors welcome entrance is £4.50, which includes refreshments. For more details please ring Joanne on 0787



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Men's Lunch

After a full house for our recent Christmas lunch, it's full steam ahead into 2018 with our first lunch of the New Year on Tuesday 9th Jan from 11:30 at St Peter's Church, Harold Wood. Our guest is none other than - 'The Vicar' - DAVID BANTING. The event is billed as 'The Vicar's Farewell!' So do come and join us to hear David speak at Men's Lunch one last time before he retires around Easter Time. Please book your place on 01708 342080, or email: welcome. desk@stpetersharoldwood. org.w.stpetersharoldwood.org

Caring About Our Community

On one of our ward visits we noticed that a large bed mattress had been dumped on the grass verge on the A12 towards Tesco's. We also noticed a large broken metal gas cover in the middle of Gubbins Lane, which could have been potentially dangerous. We immediately contacted the appropriate Council Department and these problems were dealt

with very quickly.

Cllr BRIAN EAGLING, Cllr DARREN WISE and Martin Goode

Ardleigh House Trip

Saturday 17 March 2018 - 50th Thriplow Daffodil Weekend and Country Fair

A two day show started 50 years ago to raise money for a new church roof by the villagers of Thriplow. Last year they raised over £42,000 for local charities, it is a proper country show with the local Smithy demonstrating his skills, rides on a dray pulled by 2 Shire horses, Morris dancing, live music on the cricket pitch, (Not sure what the batsmen have to say about that!), craft stalls and demonstrations. Displays of vintage tractors, cars and working steam engines. In the fields there are dog shows, Gun Dog Scurry, and continuous shows. The church has organ recitals, Choir singing and their own version of "Songs of Praise". Villagers also open their gardens to the visitor so you can "Have a nose!" there is also a village shop & pub. Price

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In 1938, at the age of 11, my future wife's class was persuaded to reply to a request for pen friends from a school in Indianapolis, USA. Her friendship with Phyllis began with the first letter and has lasted 79 years! Some of the letters made it across the Atlantic during the war as did the odd food parcel which was much appreciated. By 1948 they were swapping details of their wedding arrangements and by the Fifties the excitement of their first homes and babies! Sheila's original letter written in 1938 had a 11/2d George VI stamp. Recently we sent her a 90th Birthday card, the postage was £2.27. We celebrate nearly 80 years of letters, audio and video tapes, phone calls, E-mails and Facebook. None of these compare with the excitement of receiving a letter written with a nib, ink and blots, despite the postage increase being 45,300%.

Dennis & Sheila Goodwin

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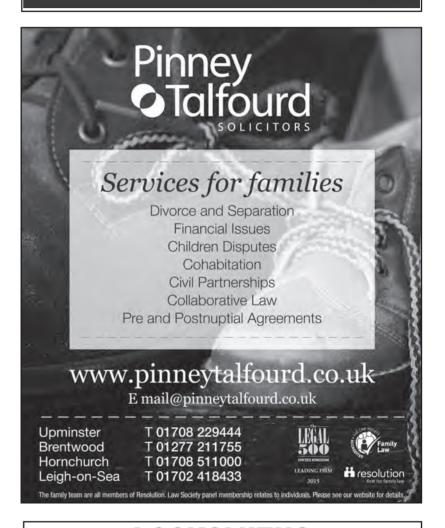
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