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**Planning Applications on the RAEP website**

Every week, Havering Council publishes a list of planning applications received within the previous seven days. This is known as the Weekly Planning List. When a planning application is received, the Council have a legal duty to inform people living in surrounding properties, so that they are able to submit comments. Depending on the type and size of application, the Council may be required inform people in a wider area.

Following an enquiry from Residents' Association Councillors, we have become aware that the number of households informed of a planning application is often much fewer than most people would expect. We have therefore decided to publicise each Weekly Planning List on our website soon after it is published, so that local residents can see whether any planning applications have been submitted near to where they live.

To view the applications visit [www.raep.org](http://www.raep.org) and search for 'planning applications'.

**Potholes and Pavement Defects**

Six weeks or so ago I asked residents via my Facebook page to let me know of potholes or pavement defects in their road, I was absolutely inundated with emails from across Havering. The Squirrels' HRA team sent out to relevant HRA Councillors in their wards for their action and swiftly set about notifying Council officers about the many problems in our ward, many of which are now awaiting action. If your road has been missed out please do let the team know.

The HRA team were also alerted to lower tree growth in the ward, Fairholme Ave being particularly bad, causing residents to walk out into the road to pass. This is causing many problems for wheelchair users and families with prams or pushchairs, and is simply not good enough. Please do let the team know if your road is having similar issues.

Your HRA action team is here to serve you, but we need your help to alert us to any problems you may be experiencing in the ward. Unlike the current ward Councillors, we will pull out all the stops to get your issues rectified as quickly as possible, help us to help you.



Cllr BOB PERRY

**Lower Thames Crossing – Community Impacts Consultation**

The project team want your further views on plans to build and operate the new Lower Thames Crossing, a proposed new road connecting Kent, Thurrock, Essex and Havering through a tunnel beneath the River Thames.

The Community Impacts Consultation will give people the opportunity to review and comment on the plans, proposals to reduce impact on the local community and environment. Topics include changes to traffic, air quality, noise and vibration, as well as the impact of the new crossing on the environment and landscape.

The consultation will also include some changes made to the project since the previous consultation in 2020. This includes a reduction in the area needed to build and operate the scheme, a smaller impact on local properties and woodland, and new public spaces on both sides of the River Thames. They have also summarised how the feedback provided during earlier consultations has been used in the development of the project.


Your views are sought on the plans and how it may affect you, as well as how they have used the feedback from previous consultations.

A series of public information events are planned. Upcoming local events will be held at Thames Chase Community Forest Centre, Pike Lane on Friday, 13 August between 11am to 3pm and Brandon Groves Community Club in South Ockendon on Wednesday, 1st September between 2pm to 8pm.

Find out more and have your say online from 14 July to 23:59 on 8 September 2021 at [www.highwaysengland.co.uk/tlccconsultation](http://www.highwaysengland.co.uk/tlccconsultation)

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## ASSOCIATION CONTACTS:

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## SQUIRRELS HEATH AREA



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## Beware of Scams

Anyone owning a mobile phone would have seen a steep increase in unsolicited texts. These are often professionally produced and claiming to come from companies and institutions such as Royal Mail and HM Revenue and Customs.

One regular approach from fraudsters asks recipients to click through to a website that looks genuine to make a small payment to finalise delivery of a parcel or claim a tax refund. In fact they are scams to urge you to give out bank account details which are used by criminals to transfer money into their accounts. Please do not be taken in!

we have had some very positive feedback from Squirrels Heath residents. We know many residents are disappointed with the administration in Havering and the scandals at the Town Hall. Folks have had enough and are looking to HRA to provide a Council that will deliver Honesty, Integrity and Transparency. A vote for us at next year's Council elections will give you exactly that, but we need your help and support to achieve the right outcome for the Squirrels Heath ward. Perhaps you could deliver a few leaflets in your road which would really help, or sign up to be a member and get involved in the campaign. Anything you can do however small would be much appreciated, please contact any member of the team if you want to be part of the big change Havering so badly needs, we would love to hear from you.

We cannot promise that we can solve every single problem you ask us, but we can promise that we will always work hard for you to resolve your issues.

Cllr BOB PERRY,  
DOUG RUSHWORTH AND  
CHRISTINE KERSHAW

## Help Us To Help You

You may have noticed that over the past few weeks your HRA Action team, Bob, Doug and Christine have been busy delivering the Bulletin and other leaflets through people's doors and we have to say that

## Article & Advertising Submission Deadlines

Articles - 1st Month Advertising - 3rd Month

Copy to be received on or before the above dates one Month prior to the publish date. Please note that submitting an article does not guarantee publication. Email: [bulletinra@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:bulletinra@yahoo.co.uk)

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## Temporary Experimental Traffic Scheme - Minster Way, Hornchurch

In mid-June, a temporary experimental traffic scheme in Minster Way, Hornchurch went live. This means that the following restrictions currently apply:

- You are no longer allowed to turn left from Wingletye Lane into Minster Way when you are traveling from the direction of the A127.
- You are no longer allowed to make a right turn out of Minster Way into Wingletye Lane.
- You are no longer allowed to drive across Wingletye Lane from Minster Way into Maywin Drive.

Enforcement cameras are in place and motorist who fail to observe these new restrictions will be issued with a penalty charge notice.

The experimental scheme will last for a minimum of 6 and a maximum of 18 months from the 21 June 2021. After that time the Council will either need to remove the restrictions or make them permanent. People can send in their comments for the first six months to: **Interim Assistant Director Public Realm, Town Hall, Main Road, Romford RM1 3BB.**

Cllr JOHN TYLER

## Halifax Bank Branch to Close in Upminster

In late June, Halifax, a division of Bank of Scotland plc, announced that the Upminster branch of Halifax will be one of 15 branches to be permanently closed from 26 October 2021.

This will be a sad loss for Upminster, as the Halifax is the last bank left in our town (the Nationwide being a Building Society). It is particularly unfortunate, as Hornchurch still has a significant number of banks

despite having a smaller shopping area than Upminster.

To view the statement on the closures, see Information about branch closures and the review undertaken on the Upminster branch visit [www.halifax.co.uk/branchfinder/branch-closures.html#](http://www.halifax.co.uk/branchfinder/branch-closures.html#).

Cllr JOHN TYLER

## Essex Life

It was good to see Upminster featured in the July's edition of Essex Life in their regular monthly article, entitled Doggy Days Out. The reporter visited Thames Chase, Upminster park, the Windmill field and Clockhouse Gardens and praised all highly. Essex Life is a well-established magazine, always with well written articles and is well worth reading.

Cllr LINDA HAWTHORN

## Speeding

Speeding is an ongoing issue in a number of locations. Gaynes Park Road had a speed survey undertaken by a PCSO at the end

of June and a total of 104 cars were checked, with an average speed of 28 MPH. There was, however, a number above 30 MPH, the highest being 56 MPH. In Dennises Lane a speed check with a team of police officers took place on 1 July with 148 cars in total checked. The average speed traveling from South Ockendon was almost 37 MPH where the speed limit is 40 MPH and 2 tickets were issued as their speed was 50 MPH. Speed checks at this location are difficult as there are limited places for officers to safely stand, but the police will repeat the exercise when additional officers from the traffic division are available.

Cllr LINDA VAN DEN HENDE

## We love your emails

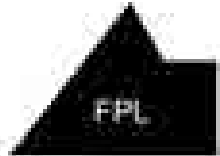
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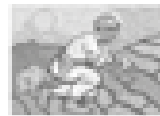
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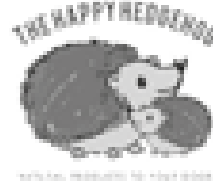
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Havering Council do issue penalty charge notices to vehicles when the restricted times are active. Please pass this onto friends or anyone visiting you.

We regularly mention this but sadly drivers are still getting caught out!

Cllr RON OWER

## Waste Collection

The Council have acknowledged there are currently issues with the waste and recycling contractor, Serco. The Council are taking these issues up firmly with Serco and aim to have the issues with

missed collections resolved by the end of August. This is mainly due to issues with vehicles not working and Serco are replacing them, but this will take some time, hence the delay until August.

However, until the issues are resolved, Serco have promised that as a minimum any missed collections will be completed by 6pm on Friday of the same week the collection is missed. Residents are therefore asked to put their rubbish out each day until the Friday if they have missed a collection.

Cllr RON OWER

## Letter Box Theft

We have been alerted to the increase in theft of mail from private letter boxes in our area with fraud subsequently being committed.

If you have a letter box near the street, please ensure that it is emptied frequently, especially after the postman has been. The perpetrators are looking in post boxes for your personal details to set up bogus credit cards.

Cllr RON OWER

## NHS COVID Pass Information

We have been recently asked about how people can get so-called 'vaccine passports', especially if they don't have a smart phone. Below is some information, taken from the NHS COVID Pass webpage.

If you're aged 16 or over, you can get an NHS COVID Pass, which shows your COVID-19 vaccination details or test results. You may be asked to show your Pass to get into some events, where the COVID Pass is being trialled, or to travel abroad.

To get a pass you need:

- 2 doses of a COVID-19 vaccine in England (You can get a pass 2 weeks after your 2nd dose).
- A negative PCR test or rapid lateral flow test within the past 48 hours.
- Positive PCR test within the past 6 months.

If you were vaccinated as part of a trial, you will receive a letter confirming your status as "fully

vaccinated"

To get a digital version of the pass visit [www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/covid-pass/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/covid-pass/). If you have been fully vaccinated you can get an NHS COVID Pass letter sent to you in the post, by applying online, or calling 119 within four weeks of your proposed travel date.

Cllr JOHN TYLER

## When Coal was King ... Upminster History continued

Another great snippet has been shared by Derek Jiggins, taking us back to the wooden coal cabin at the south end of the railway station bridge, T A & C Abrahams' Coal and Coke ordering post, 67 Station Road, telephone Upm 102, established on these premises circa 1934. Derek recalls being taken there as a child and looking through a side window to see the trains

continued on page 7

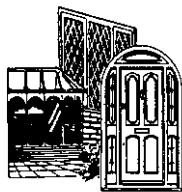
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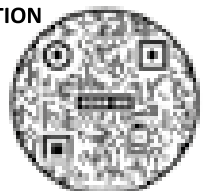
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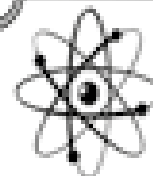


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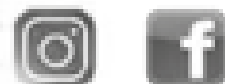
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going under the bridge. Miss Grace Abraham took down customers' coal orders, which would have been sourced from the Abraham coal depot in the goods yard at the end of Station Approach. The goods yard was closed on 7 December 1964, with its rails taken up to make way for the present car park, with the ordering post closing around 4 years later in 1968.

Derek has kindly re-created a picture to show the location of the coal cabin, which today would have adjoined Halo hair salon.

Big thanks to you Derek, I know you've shared more, but I will save for a future issue.

PAULINE MASTROIANNI



## Churches Coping with COVID

As I am writing this, the Secretary of State for Health has just announced the removal of all restrictions for churches - such brilliant news. Since April last year, most of the Christian churches and other places of worship have had their doors closed - severely restricting corporate public worship and prayer, sharing Holy Communion and enjoying close fellowship and ministry - all vital distinctives of normal Christian life. Nevertheless, we adapted quickly with technology, holding meetings online and via social media, and most groups have been able to stay together, though some vulnerable members became isolated or have been lost to the virus. So reassuring it is, that those who have sincerely believed and trusted in Jesus Christ are now safe in the presence of God.

Despite all of the pressures and disappointments, Christians have

remained committed to running foodbanks and all forms of service in the community, as well as releasing huge funds to provide food, housing and practical care in the UK and across the world.

We're delighted to be reopening our buildings, though it probably won't be quite the same as before and give you and your family a big invitation to celebrate meeting together again - details of our websites are at <https://ctucno.org>.

PAUL THOMPSON  
Leader of King's Church,  
01708 251265

## The Longest Golf Day

On the 21st June four friends from Upminster completed four rounds of golf in one day to help raise funds for MacMillan Cancer Support at Brentwood Golf Club. It was a long day with the team hitting the first ball at 4.22am, just as the sun was coming up, and putting out on the 72nd green at 6.15pm. Unfortunately it did rain for most of the day, but our spirits remained high and we got round in one piece. We have raised an

amazing £12,000 for MacMillan via donations from friends, colleagues and local businesses. If anyone in the local community would like to help support MacMillan Cancer Support please use the link below. <https://longestdaygolf.macmillan.org.uk/Team/thebogeymen>

JON CORBIN, JOE KNOWLES,  
BEN MURPHY AND NICK ALLEN

## Small Business Cyber Security Guide

The National Cyber Security Centre have produced a Small Business Guide: Cyber Security, which gives affordable, practical advice for businesses.

The guide has eight sections:

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*continued on page 9*

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Cllr JOHN TYLER

## Cycling UK Campaign

In June 2014, Cycling UK launched a Road Justice campaign, to highlight their belief that the justice system was failing cyclists and other vulnerable road users, and demand more from the police, the courts, Parliament, and Government, to tackle the epidemic of deaths and serious injuries on British roads. Their core ask is for a full review of road traffic offences, to address deep-rooted weaknesses embedded in the legal system, which they believe all too often leave dangerous and careless drivers walking (or driving) away with little more than a slap on their wrist or a few points on their licence.

Now, with the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill making its way through Parliament, Cycling UK is working with partners to pressure MPs, Lords, and ministers to take this opportunity to address some of the fundamental flaws in the road justice system.

To find out more about their campaign visit [www.cyclinguk.org/blog/police-and-crime-bill-offers-mps-chance-push-road-justice](http://www.cyclinguk.org/blog/police-and-crime-bill-offers-mps-chance-push-road-justice).

Cllr JOHN TYLER

## Watch Out - The Wesley's are Back!

The Wesley Players are thrilled to announce their next production will be on 24 and 25 September. After months of doom and gloom we aim to lift your spirits, so come along for an evening of laughter and fun. We begin with a one act farce about The Little Grimley Amateur Drama Group attempting to put on their next production and after the interval, we'll entertain you with a series of

comedy sketches guaranteed to have you rolling in the aisles.

Box Office 07708 214742 (Booking is recommended in case any restrictions are still in force) [tickets@wesley-players.co.uk](mailto:tickets@wesley-players.co.uk) Adults £7, Children £3.50 and Concessions £5.50. Senior Citizens admitted free on Friday, 24 September 2021.

The Wesley Methodist Church, Hall Lane, Upminster, RM14 1AE

## How has COVID-19 Affected School Children?

As the school year has come to an end, it doesn't feel as though I have had my full 'first year of sixth form' experience; and this feeling is felt by many young people of all year groups worldwide.

Since the pandemic, schools in England have been closed for around 7 months, not including individual closures and time out due to isolating. Whilst digital learning became the new-normal, this led to inequality over access

to and quality of education. Not all households could recreate a child's school day and the Office of National Statistics found around 700,000 children do not have a computer, laptop or tablet with which to access online learning (2019). Ofsted's report states that many children are thought to be at least 6 months behind where they should be.

Furthermore, the pandemic's creation of uncertainty and isolation has drastically impacted young people's mental health. This is exasperated where young people who were receiving some form of mental health support through schools (e.g. school counsellors) have had this support disrupted or cancelled.

However, as schools have been reopened extra support for young peoples' wellbeing has been put in place. Schools are also working to catch the students up academically and things such as the Summer Reading challenge 2021 could help children's literacy. This year's exams were again cancelled and now we can only wait to find out about next year's exams.

FRANCESCA MONTELFUSCO

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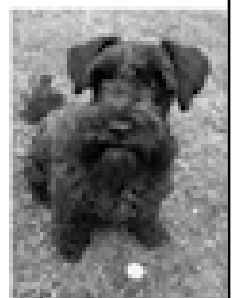
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## Breast Cancer Awareness

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We have recently received several reports warning of cash in hand tree surgeons, where the residents were ripped off and no real work took place. Whilst reputable trades use land lines as well as mobile phones, often these conmen use only mobile phone numbers on their leaflets etc.

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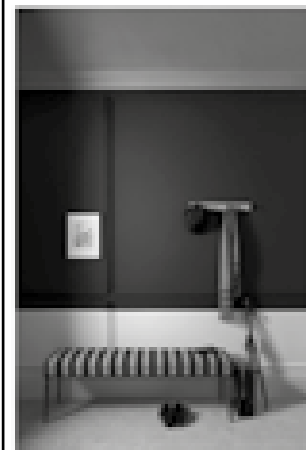
## Film Review: Yesterday

The number of Beatles' singles to reach Number 1 on the "Billboard Hot 100" is 21, the most of any band... but what if you woke up one day and all of those incredible songs had just completely disappeared?

'Yesterday' is a film starring Himesh Patel (EastEnders) and Lily James (The Dig; The Pursuit of Love) that is set in an alternate universe where the Beatles never existed. The main character sets off on a mission to introduce The Beatles' unique sounds to a naive audience.

The film is bursting with Beatles references and songs which will have you singing and/or dancing

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along! It also has a funny and romantic storyline that will keep you fully engaged. 'Yesterday' is available to watch on BBC iPlayer until 3rd August or on Netflix. I highly recommend that you watch this film if you have any interest in romcoms... or The Beatles' music!

ROSIE MEADWAY

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## Love Letters, Queen's Theatre

Don't miss out on the chance to see Love Letters at the Queen's theatre which runs from 30 July to 21 August. Lucy Benjamin, best known for playing Lisa Fowler in EastEnders and Maggie in the BAFTA award-winning BBC Four series Detectorists, has been cast in Love Letters, which sees the former EastEnders actress return to her local Theatre after performing in In Basildon in

2019 and Deadly Murder at the Queen's Theatre Hornchurch in 2015.

Tickets are still available, see their website for more details and to see their full programme of events <https://www.queens-theatre.co.uk/whats-on/>

## Peabody Free Support Service

The Peabody Group, who are a large social housing provider in London and the south east of England, are offering a free service for residents in Havering who would like advice on the following subjects - benefits, budgeting (including managing debt), housing, food bank vouchers and applying for a blue badge.

You do not need to be a Peabody tenant or currently receive help from any of their other support services to take part. For further information and to book a consultation see the article on the UCRA website [www.ucra.co.uk/peabody-offering-free-support-service/](http://www.ucra.co.uk/peabody-offering-free-support-service/) or ring them on **01708 776 770**.

CLlr JOHN TYLER

## Council Emergency Number

Kindly note the Council out of hours emergency number is **01708 433 999**. Please try and give the post code for where the problem is or as much information as possible. The office hours number is **01708 434 343**.

## Litter picking

Havering Rotary club have been helping to clean up in the community now that COVID restrictions have been relaxed. Litter picking is taking place in Upminster and Cranham and will continue on a regular basis. If you are interested in joining, there is always room for more

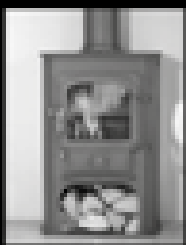


volunteers. Please message us on [haveringrotaryclub@gmail.com](mailto:haveringrotaryclub@gmail.com) or call Liz Bedford on **01708 224607**.

## Opportunity at Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Trust

The Trust is committed to ensuring the patient's voice is involved in all divisions and as such, we are pleased to confirm we are now recruiting new patient partners for the Trust. The role of patient partner is voluntary and is to identify what really matters most to our patients in their health care experience and help the organisation challenge itself and make improvements. Could you share your experiences and tell us what was good, where we can make improvements and contribute to the conversation? Then we would love to hear from you. Further information about the role and the process for recruitment, please email [bhrut.patientexperience@nhs.net](mailto:bhrut.patientexperience@nhs.net).

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## Urban Meadows in Upminster and Cranham

Havering Council have announced that they are to create urban meadows in various grass verges and parts of some open spaces across the borough. This is as a result of many councils, including Havering, stopping grass cutting for much of last summer due to the pandemic, and it being found that this encouraged wild plants and insects to thrive.

The Council have identified seventeen areas, including Hall Lane (north of the junction with Avon Road) and the grassed verges in Litchfield Terrace and Westbury Terrace in Upminster. These areas will now have reduced grass cutting, to allow them to grow naturally.

Upminster and Cranham Residents' Association Councillors broadly welcome the idea in principle but will monitor the individual areas and listen to residents' comments, to see whether they should be retained

in the long-term. In particular, it is important to ensure that the extra growth will not adversely affect road and/or pedestrian safety in the areas concerned.

CLlr JOHN TYLER

## Gaelic Football Players Wanted

Thomas McCurtains Gaelic Football Club are looking for new players to take part in a fun new sport out of the rugby and football seasons. Girls and boys from ages 5 to 17 are welcome. The training is on Wednesdays from 7-8pm, at Champion School, Wingletye Lane, Hornchurch.

Contact Johnny O'Donnell on 07500 988 257 or Martin McGovern on 07807 830 556 for more information or please just turn up at training and we will be sure to make you welcome. You can also find out more information about the club on their Facebook page - facebook.com/ThomasMcCurtainsGAA/ Thomas McCurtains is a club with a history in the community spanning over 100 years. An ethos of fun and community

make it a sports club suitable for those of all abilities, background and ages. The club has enjoyed much success in recent years at both youth and senior level and we hope to build on these foundations.

## Thames Chase Trust Welcomes its new Director

After almost a decade without a Director, the Trust is delighted to welcome David Bigden into his new role as Thames Chase Community Forest Director. With more than 25 years working in and around the Community Forest, Dave will be well known to many who have been involved with the development of the Forest over its 30-year history and will now take the lead in steering Community Forest developments into the next decade. He takes on this pivotal role at a challenging time as Thames Chase joins other community forests across England to help meet the challenges that are being faced by national government, as well as local

communities and organisations, in creating a healthy, accessible natural environment for future generations. Our aim is to achieve another 30 years of 'transforming landscapes, transforming lives'

The Trust is also pleased to welcome Sally James as the new Community Woodland Manager for Forestry England, our main partner in developing the Community Forest.

## Upcoming Events at Thames Chase

**Thames Chase 5th Annual Art & Culture Exhibition, 2nd - 12th September**

On 2 September 2021, Thames Chase will launch their 5th annual art and culture exhibition with the theme 'Wild & Free' celebrating the work of Thames Chase Community Artists. The show will feature a wide range of artworks inspired by the Thames Chase Community Forest, and visitors will be treated to a schedule of live performances from local musicians and performers.

**Jazz in the Barn, Friday, 13th August 8pm**

*continued on page 17*



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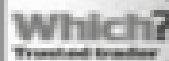
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## Havering Astronomical Society

Havering Astronomical Society takes a summer break in August and resumes with the Autumn schedule in September. Online talks are interesting and varied.

**Wednesday, 1 September,** 7.15 for 7.30pm:

**Paul Fellows** - Chairman of the Cambridge Astronomical Association - will present *‘Quark Stars and Strange Matter.’*

**Wednesday, 15 September,** 7.15 for 7.30pm:

**Paul Money** - regular and popular speaker to the Havering Astronomical Society; well known for his extensive talks, and reviews editor of the BBC ‘Sky at Night’ magazine - will present *‘Why are there no Green Stars?’*

If you are interested in joining the society or would like details of how to join these meetings please visit our website [www.havastro.co.uk](http://www.havastro.co.uk) and email [secretary@havastro.co.uk](mailto:secretary@havastro.co.uk) or [enquiries@havastro.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@havastro.co.uk) or call Liz on **07706885948**.

**Young Astronomers** will also be taking a break in August but will be back in September. The website [www.havastro.co.uk](http://www.havastro.co.uk) has a junior section with great information, activities and links to other resources. If you or

someone you know is aged 8-16 and would like to join please email [young.astronomers@havastro.co.uk](mailto:young.astronomers@havastro.co.uk)

## Adventure Island

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## Stand By Me - A legacy of thousands of restored lives

David Spurdle, an unsung hero is retiring having dedicated 50+ years of his life to the community. Starting as a technology teacher at Dury Falls school in 1969, David became the Headteacher for many years. He also ran Havering Youth Football for 21 years, whilst others may remember him for running FOCUS, a Christian group.

He worked tirelessly overseas during the school holidays with children who were in need. One of those children becoming CEO of the multi-million pound charity, Stand By Me, which is David's legacy.

25 years ago David initiated Stand By Me to provide education by building schools, some 1,000 strong, and even homes for some of the most disadvantaged children in the world. David remains in contact with many of the children, now grown up with their own children, in professional work with a good education behind them.

Originally operating at the back of the Chapel in Butts Green Road, they now have their own property in Gidea Park, an office in Northern Ireland and plans underway for the US.

David has a wealth of stories of painful street beginnings for some children in countries crippled by corruption and poverty, whose lives were restored by the right support, care and love. Their work crosses many countries and boundaries of religion and culture, unifying people with

*continued on page 19*

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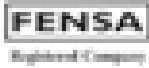


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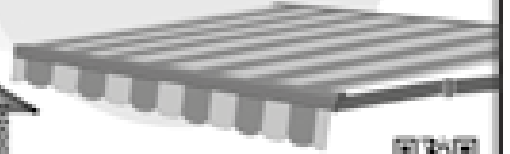
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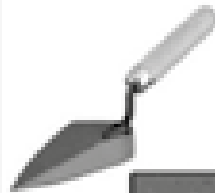
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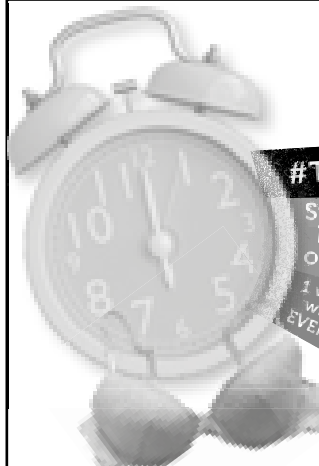
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restoration. Many children from early projects, now in their 40s, still refer to themselves as Stand By Me children.

David has a pronounced Christian faith and describes his life as a journey where God has led and where he has been able to show and provide unconditional love where it has been needed most. A legacy indeed.

You can find out more about this locally based, global charity here:  
<https://www.standby.me/>

GREG NASH

## Exchange House

Further to articles in The Bulletin regarding the old Telephone Exchange building at 180-182 St Mary's Lane, Upminster, Havering Council have refused permission for the below application, upheld following an appeal to the Planning Inspectorate. Planning application P1044.20 for "Conversion of B1 Office to Residential involving demolition of existing rear extension and garage structure, rear infill extension and alterations to the building and elevations to create 7 two bedroom and 1 one bedroom flats with associated basement storage parking and amenity space."

Cllr RON OWER

## Council Weed Control Schedule

Havering Council's road and footway weed control schedule for 2021 ensures all areas are treated four times a year, but exact dates are dependent on weather conditions. The weeds normally die off around three weeks after treatment and should then be cleared away by the regular street cleaning teams. The next treatments are due in August and November.

## Lock Your Vehicles

May we remind you to lock your vehicles when you have parked, especially at night. We have had reports of opportunists trying car doors. Please do not leave any valuables or shopping bags on show. Prevention is better than being a victim of crime.

## Charity Golf Day



First Step

First Step is holding a Golf Day on the 17th September and we are looking for local businesses to support our work with families and their children by sponsorship of our golf holes. In addition, we would be grateful for donations for our auction or raffle on the day. For further information please call **01708 556355** or email [fundraising@firststep.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@firststep.org.uk)

JANET HUTCHINSON

## Upminster u3a is still here

Upminster u3a has continued to operate during the past 12 months, with many of our interest groups using social media, email or Zoom to maintain their activities. Our regular meetings with a speaker, on the third Tuesday each month, were transferred onto Zoom. Our membership is still open, it only costs £16 per year to join, and we have over 50 interest groups which are flourishing. For further details and membership application forms, please check out our website at [u3asites.org.uk/Upminster](http://u3asites.org.uk/Upminster)

COURTNEY MOITA DE DEUS,  
CHAIR, UPMINSTER U3




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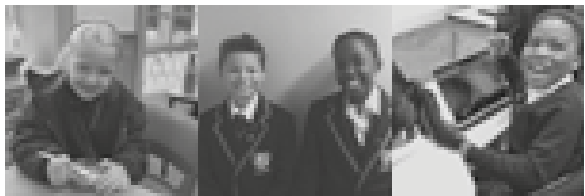
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## Coffee On The Corner (now In The Garden) Re-Opens

The smell of those wonderful home-made cakes, freshly ground coffee and the sound of community chatter will soon be drifting through the air again as Coffee In The Garden opens its gate in Brooklands Gardens once more.

All welcome 'come one come all'; bring a friend and a cake if you like, but most importantly, yourself to our lovely COVID friendly space and a chat friendly community.

Details from  
[prayer@chapel.email](mailto:prayer@chapel.email)  
- we'd love to hear from you.

## Your Residents' Association

As ever we extend a big welcome to any new residents. Some may be familiar with the role of a Residents' Association, but not all will know the great work that comes from living in an area with such an established and committed association as we are fortunate to have here in Squirrels Heath. From opposing unwelcome planning applications, tackling environmental issues, ensuring local recreational areas

are safe and well maintained to sharing with all residents a variety of information on the local area and promoting local businesses via the Bulletin ... and so much more. Squirrels Heath really is a great place to live, and with the support of the Residents' Association we will ensure it stays that way.

YOUR RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION TEAM

## Please keep our area tidy

Whilst we appreciate the hard work put in by street care to keep our streets litter free, at this time of year there seems to be more and more litter discarded on our streets. Some people seem to think that it is someone else's job to clear up after them, we all need to be more socially aware - please keep Squirrels Heath tidy.

## Foodbank

The Foodbank is under severe strain with increased requests for assistance. If you can donate via one of the supermarkets, that's great, but not everything clients need is donated in sufficient quantity so it is helpful for them to have monetary donations as well so they can stock up on items donated less often. They have to meet the costs associated with running a warehouse: it all adds up. You could send a cheque, payable to Kingdom Storehouse



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Ltd, to the Harold Hill Food Bank, Unit 1, Guardian Business Centre, Faringdon Avenue, Romford, RM3 8FD, or you could go online to <https://haroldhill.foodbank.org.uk/>  
Please consider donating - it could make a big difference to a family in need.

PAT CLARK

## Long House Plants

Please note the following dates for open days at Long House Plants in Church Road, Noak Hill:

11 am - 4pm on Saturday 14th August, and 18th September  
11 am - 4pm on Wednesday, 4th August and 8th September  
Wednesdays are for the National Garden Scheme when all the proceeds go to their charities (which include Marie Curie, Macmillan, Hospice UK) and on the Saturdays, the local Salvation Army provide the refreshments and use the money to help local people. It really is worth visiting Jean and Tim, they have a wealth of information



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## Church Doors Open

With the ever reducing COVID restrictions, our wonderful churches are once more peeking out from their cover. The regular activities that normally go on are issuing their calendars and things are gearing up for usual community life.

Nelmes URC in Nelmes Road are open for regular services each Sunday at 11.15am and on Monday evenings 7pm for silent prayer (all faiths welcome) plus other activities reawakening, for example the Community Choir on the Corner will be re-launching and looking for new members in September.

Romford Evangelical are open on Sunday mornings at 10.30am, as are St Andrews at 10.15, All Saints at 10.30 and so on.

Perhaps it's time to get involved in your local community church as they open up to participate with the community.

GREG NASH

## Ardleigh House

A reminder of the upcoming trips we have scheduled:

- Wednesday, 25 August 2021  
"A Day Trip to Brighton" - £25.00 per person.
- Thursday, 23 September 2021  
"A Cruise on the Thames" - £75.00 per person.
- Monday, 11 October 2021  
"A Day trip to Winchester" - £25.00 per person.

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Full details of our trips are available on our website [www.ardleighhouse.org/trips](http://www.ardleighhouse.org/trips) At present because Ardleigh House is closed, trips can be booked via our website or by email to [office@ardleighhouse.org](mailto:office@ardleighhouse.org). You can telephone on **01708 440660** but it will go to answerphone and there may be a day or two delay in getting back to you.

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