10 Boosting local business Council goes for growth with new strategy

12-13 Keeping it clean Updates on Cleaner Havering and community clean-ups

16-17 Buzzing with ideas Green schemes in Havering will help the bees

18 Community champions Meet the recipients of the Mayor’s Civic Awards 2013

Young Leader elected
Teenager Princess Bright has been elected as Havering’s new Young Leader.
She was elected by her peers to represent the views of local young people at the Havering Youth Congress, as well as across London and the UK.
She will also advise Havering councillors on issues affecting young people; attend ceremonials events; develop ideas and work with organisations to improve the lives of young people living, working and studying in this borough.
Princess is pictured here (in centre) with her deputies.
Hello and welcome to the Summer 2013 issue of Living in Havering.

I start with some excellent news: the Council has passed an important milestone in its long-held ambition to provide a new swimming pool, ice rink and leisure centre in Romford.

The Romford Leisure Development has been approved by the Council’s planning committee, and so have related plans for a new Morrisons supermarket in the town.

We have negotiated a deal with Morrisons where they will fund the Romford Leisure Development and, in exchange, they have been allowed to take over the site of the current ice rink, where they will build the supermarket.

These plans will now be referred to the Greater London Authority and the Secretary of State. We will keep you all posted on their progress.

The Romford Leisure Development is a key part of our ongoing work to transform the heart of Romford. You will no doubt have seen new pavements being installed in South Street already.

The town will also look a lot greener too. We are planting 100 trees along Romford Ring Road, revamping Raphael Park and various open spaces, and putting climbing plants on the side of several large buildings. See Pages 4-9 for details.

There’s been a lot of work carried out in Hornchurch High Street too, as we want to revitalise the town, making it fit for the future.

This is especially important at a time when small local shops have to compete with the threat of internet shopping.

The Council is doing all it can to protect Romford and Hornchurch from this.

To mark the end of the Hornchurch High Street works, and to thank all the traders and residents for putting up with the inconvenience they have caused, there will be a day of live music in the town.

It’s just one of many great things happening in Havering over the summer.

Work is well underway in organising the hugely popular Havering Show on August Bank Holiday weekend. It will once again be free to attend.

That weekend we are also holding Hornchurch Live again, an event which proves very popular with music lovers, especially younger people. We are still putting the finishing touches to the line-ups for both of these events, but we can give you all a sneak preview of what to expect at them – see the centre pages of this edition.

Which just leaves me to say one thing: have a very happy summer and I hope to see you all down at our brilliant forthcoming events!

Cllr Michael White
Leader of Havering Council

Meetings in Havering

The next Havering Community Questions event will take place on Monday, June 10, 2013.

It will be held at myplace in Harold Hill from 7-9pm. The independent chair of the meeting will be Bill Williams, chief executive of CEME in Rainham.

HCQs is the Council’s new public forum, bringing together leading figures from the three main public services in the borough – the Council, police and NHS.

The panel consists of Cllr Michael White, Leader of Havering Council; new Borough Commander Jason Gwillim; and Dr Gurdev Saini from Havering’s GP commissioning group.

Members of the public who have any questions about public services in the borough are urged to come along on the night and ask the panel.

The public can also attend Cabinet and Full Council meetings in the Town Hall, Romford.

The next Cabinet meetings are on: June 19; July 10; August 14 (provisional date); September 25; October 16; November 20; December 11, all at 7.30pm.

And the next Council meetings are on: June 12; July 17; September 18; November 27; all at 7.30pm.

Residents can also talk to Cllr Michael White face to face at one of the Meet the Leader events.

The next ones are at The Liberty Shopping Centre in Romford (next to Starbucks) on June 21, July 19 and August 16, all from 1-2pm.

If you have access to the Internet, why not comment on current issues on the Leader’s blog at haveringleader.org

Webcasting feedback

Not everyone can get to a council meeting they are interested in, which is why Havering Council webcasts a number of its meetings over the internet.

The Council, Cabinet and Havering Community Questions meetings can be viewed live on the night or later after the meeting has taken place.

But we want to know if there is anything more that can be done to make the webcasts more accessible to viewers. Please tell us why you watch a particular webcast, if there are others you’d like to see online, and what local issues you are most interested in.

Send your comments to living@havering.gov.uk as they will help us improve our webcasting.
Blueprint for Romford town centre

Romford town centre is currently undergoing a large programme of works, designed to open up public spaces, revitalise disused areas, and provide the new multi-million-pound Romford Leisure Development. Here Living in Havering takes a closer look at the works underway.

The Romford Leisure Development is a key part of the Council’s long-term plans to transform the face of the town centre, creating more opportunities for residents and visitors, and revitalising the local economy.

Bringing the new swimming pool, ice rink and leisure complex to the town has been a major ambition of Havering Council for many years.

Last month the scheme won the approval of the Council’s planning committee. See Pages 6-7 for details.

The development will play a vital role in drawing in more people - both local residents and new visitors - to the town in the day and early evenings.

But it’s just one of many measures being carried out by Havering Council to revitalise Romford town centre.

Going up South Street from the station to the town centre, people will have noticed the repaving work being carried out, as well as tidying-up street furniture such as lamp-posts, benches and bins. This will be finished very shortly.

When the South Street works are complete, the Council will look at carrying out work on Arcade Place, the road that runs from South Street to the Brewery, to make it more attractive and compliment work being done by the Brewery also in Arcade Place.

The public square next to the Visitor Centre, at the junction with Western Road, has already been repaved and part of it widened to make this area brighter and more attractive to residents.

And in the past few months, workers have been busy repaving the footway between these two points, with a similar street stone, to make the entire road much brighter and consistent with the public square.

All of the South Street work has been funded by the Council and TfL as part of the Local Implementation Funding programme.

Finally, the Council plans to redesign Western Road leading from the Visitor Centre up to where the new Romford Leisure Development will be situated.

The aim is to open up this road, making it greener and more pedestrian-friendly, especially in front of the leisure development, and ensure it remains safe for children to walk to the centre and cyclists to ride there.

Police patrols increasing in town

Under new police arrangements, Romford is to get an extra seven officers.

With seven officers currently in the Romford town centre team, this addition will bring the total up to 14.

At the weekends the team will provide a reassuring presence in the town until 5am.

This is under new Metropolitan Police arrangements called the Local Policing Model – which will see an increase in police officers borough-wide.

For more details on the changes, read the next issue of Living in Havering - out on Monday, August 12 - when we will have an interview with the police’s Borough Commander, Superintendent Jason Gwillim.
Churchyard revamp will create a green space for the public

Open space by St Edwards churchyard in Romford town centre will be transformed into a community area, thanks to funding from Veolia North Thames Trusts.

Working in partnership with St. Edwards Church, the Council hopes to transform this area into a peaceful place where people can stop and relax and enjoy the natural environment.

Landscaping work is set to finish shortly, with brambles and nettles being cleared away to create a welcoming area for people of all ages to meet and enjoy throughout the year.

New seating and planting will be provided and a new gate has been installed allowing people to walk through the churchyard to North Street.

The work, being carried out by the Council, is part of the Greening the Ring Road scheme as it is one of the few green spaces in the very centre of town.

Night buses return to town

Night-time buses look set to be reintroduced in Romford town centre.

Years ago the night buses were stopped from coming down South Street due to concerns over anti-social behaviour.

However, a lot of work has taken place since then to make the town centre a safe and pleasant environment for night-time visitors.

Havering has installed more CCTV cameras and lighting, widened the pavements, and has a good working relationship with local licensees to minimise any problems caused by troublemakers.

There are night-time police patrols and taxi marshalls who help people get cabs after their night out.

Romford is now a much more pleasant place to go for a night out, so TfL has now agreed to run buses along South Street again to help people get there and back.

Night buses return to town

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Leisure scheme go-ahead

The long-awaited Romford Leisure Development is a step nearer to becoming a reality after the scheme received planning approval from Havering Council.

Related planning applications for the new swimming pool, ice rink and leisure centre in the heart of Romford were decided by the Council’s Regulatory Services Committee on April 30.

Following approval by the Committee, made up of councillors representing the whole Council, the scheme will now be referred to the Greater London Authority and Secretary of State for Local Government and Communities.

Subject to full permission being granted, it is hoped that work on the development, in Western Road, Romford, will start this winter.

The Council Committee also gave planning approval to a related scheme to build a new Morrisons supermarket on the site of the current ice rink, in Rom Valley Way, Romford.

This site had been acquired in a land swap-type deal between the Council and Morrisons.

This scheme must also now go to the GLA and Secretary of State for final approval.

The operator of the current ice rink closed its doors to the public on April 15. The whole ice rink site is now being handed back to the Council.

However, Leader of Havering Council, Cllr Michael White, said he was aware this left local ice skaters without a permanent rink.

This spring, the Council obtained

Havering Visitor Centre

On average, 250 people a week drop into Havering Visitor Centre to find out more about this borough and beyond. The Centre, in South Street, Romford, is a useful one-stop-shop for both tourists and local residents who want to visit some of Havering’s many attractions, or just find out what’s going on in the area.

It was opened in 2012 ahead of The Queen’s Diamond Jubilee and London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, and has served as a main focal point for residents to ask about other annual events like Armed Forces Day and Christmas Lights Switch-ons.

The Centre is fully staffed, open five days a week and offers a wide variety of maps, leaflets and booklets with information on travel, accommodation, places to eat and visit.

It also has copies of the Council’s free Discover Havering booklet, now in its second edition.
Ice time for the local junior ice hockey teams at the famous Alexandra Palace ice rink, allowing them to train ahead of their national finals.

And discussions continue with skating representatives to help find them alternative places to skate while the new rink is built.

The chairman of the Keep Romford Skating group, which gives a voice to all the skaters using Romford Ice Rink, has welcomed the progress made by the Romford Leisure Development.

Malcolm Burnett said: “On the one hand, local skaters are very positive about having a new rink as part of the leisure development. We are looking forward to having the new rink and really excited about it. But there will be a gap in provision, between the Ice Rink closing now and the new development opening.

“We have been working with the Council to try and find a solution, and have been involved with discussions about securing ice time for skating groups. We are very grateful for the Council’s offer to pay for some ice time, they are trying to help, but we haven’t come up with a solution yet.”
The future face of Hornchurch

The Council’s ambitious plans to change the look of Hornchurch town centre - boosting local trade, encouraging more visitors and shoppers and giving it a strong competitive edge - will be completed this summer.

On-going work to create a brighter and more accessible High Street will help bolster the town against the challenges that small shops and town centres face from online retail and out-of-town shopping malls.

Earlier this year, work was carried out to open up small alleyways, install better street lighting and street furniture and create new, smooth pavements to replace the old uneven paving stones.

The second stage of the works, due to finish early summer this year, will provide smoother traffic flows with safer crossing points, new street furniture, street trees and wider pavements.

All in all, the scheme addresses the Council’s aims of opening up Hornchurch town centre even more for the benefit of local traders, residents, shoppers, motorists and visitors. It is being funded by Transport for London.

The completion of the High Street works will be marked by a free day of music and culture, called Hornchurch in Harmony.

Wherever people go in Hornchurch on Saturday, July 13, they will find top quality live musicians playing a selection of jazz, classical, pop and world music.

These musicians can be anywhere – indoors, outside, even in your favourite shops in and around the High Street – between 12noon and 4pm.

Cllr Robert Benham, Cabinet Member for Community Empowerment, said: “Hornchurch in Harmony is our way of saying a special thank you to all the residents, traders and shoppers who have endured several months of diversions, roadworks and disruptions caused by the refurbishments.

“It will be a fantastic day of live music and events in the town centre, which will bring many shoppers and visitors into town to see what is going on.

“Everyone will then be able to see the full extent of the works and how much they will benefit Hornchurch. They will create a modern, thriving environment which will give the town a competitive edge.”
Work starts on new library

Years of planning have finally come to fruition, with building work starting on the long-awaited Rainham library.

Building contractors started preparing the site earlier this month (May), and are due to begin construction work imminently.

The ambitious scheme plays a big part in the Council’s Rainham Compass project to improve the quality of life of, and opportunities for, local people.

It will see The Broadway transformed to create more than 1,200 square metres of expanded state-of-the-art library facilities.

There will also be retail space created, as well as a nursery and 16 new flats built above the new-look library.

The project had been stalled temporarily due to changes in funding arrangements, but is now back on track. The Council expects it will be open by spring 2014.

Cllr Michael Armstrong, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Rainham Compass, and Cllr Andrew Curtin, Cabinet Member for Culture, Towns and Communities, made a site visit earlier this month to meet the contractors Rooff.

Speaking afterwards, Cllr Armstrong said: “A new library and lifelong learning centre is a cornerstone of our Rainham Compass project. This will be a fantastic addition to Rainham and something that will really benefit the village for generations to come.”

Cllr Curtin added: “I’m really pleased that we have finally begun work on this exciting project.

“Now that we’ve started, I’m confident it will be up and ready before you know it for everyone to make use of.”

- More Havering Libraries news, see Pages 30 & 31.

Ali Rostami, contract manager at Rooff, Cllr Andrew Curtin, and Cllr Michael Armstrong view the site of the new Rainham Library.

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Growing the local economy

Economic growth is the Government’s top priority. Local councils are urged to come up with ways of changing local services to boost local businesses, and Havering is no exception.

Let’s put Havering on the map as the best place for people to do business.

That’s the Council’s thinking behind a new business growth programme to create jobs and enhance prosperity by helping local companies, big and small, to invest and grow within this borough.

It will focus on promoting Havering as a prime location for setting-up a new business or moving your company to.

The programme seeks to build on existing services available to help businesses to provide coordinated help for firms to grow, create jobs and to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of service delivery.

Havering is also transforming the way it works with the local business community, making it even easier for borough companies and entrepreneurs to do business with the Council, and ensure we take local companies’ views on board when making future decisions.

The business growth programme contributes towards the Council’s Living Ambition goal to create overall prosperity for local residents.

Cllr Robert Benham, Cabinet Member for Community Empowerment, said: “A vibrant business community is more important than ever in the current economic climate. This programme will transform our support for businesses in the borough and promote economic growth.

“We already work well with the business community and have worked with partners on successful campaigns across the borough. However, we really want to do more to drive business growth. We want to build on our success to future-proof our business economy, encourage entrepreneurs and provide support for all businesses in the borough.”

- See the Business Focus pages in this issue of Living in Havering for more details, or visit www.havering.gov.uk
In addition to the existing traditional market refreshments and noodles, the following freshly cooked delicacies from around the world will be introduced from Saturday 22 June, to the ‘Clock Tower’ end of the market, every market day.

- Indian
- Caribbean/Cuban
- Lithuanian
- Mexican
- Vietnamese/Singaporean
- Vegetarian

Romford Market, Market Place, Romford RM1 3ER
www.havering.gov.uk/romfordmarket Follow us on Twitter @LBofHavering
Volunteers in clean-up

Nearly 30 volunteers, young and old, gave up their time to clean up around Tweed Way Hall in Romford, as part of the Council’s Cleaner Havering campaign.

They spent four hours clearing the Hall’s garden and grounds of litter, bagging a total of 100 bags of rubbish and garden waste, and were also busy weeding, cutting back shrubbery, and sweeping the car park and surrounding area.

Lisa Gleed, chair of the Tweed Way Hall Community Association Committee, said she was extremely pleased with the results and the efforts of all the volunteers.

Cllr Barry Tebbutt, Cabinet Member for StreetCare, said: “There have been a number of community clean-ups over the last year, but one thing that was great about this one was how many youngsters got involved. “It’s really nice to see them take pride in the borough and set a good example for other youngsters in the community.”

To take part in future community clean-ups, contact Sarah Huckerby-Long at HAVCO Volunteer Centre on 742881 or email sarah.huckerby-long@havco.org.uk and to arrange your own clean-up and find out how the Council can help, visit www.havering.gov.uk/cleanup

Cleanliness wins prizes

Two lucky people were the first to be picked out as winners for their efforts to keep the borough tidy.

Lisa Hawkins, from Hornchurch, was spotted cleaning up after her dog, Todd, at Haynes Park in March, and entered into the Cleaner Havering prize draw by Council staff. She won the first prize - £50 worth of Asda vouchers.

The second prize, which was a treat-filled hamper, went to Justin Nuttall from Dagenham, who was visiting Romford when he was seen binning his rubbish in South Street.

As part of the Cleaner Havering campaign - aimed at sprucing up the borough - the Council teamed up with Asda to reward people who make an effort to bin their rubbish, clean up after their dog, or get involved in community clean-ups, in a reward scheme. Around 65 people were entered into the first draw.
Watch out for dog mess offenders

Havering has a new scheme to help residents report dog mess offenders fouling their neighbourhood.

The Council has launched the Dog Watch initiative, which is similar to the popular UK-wide Neighbourhood Watch scheme, in which residents keep an eye on each other’s homes.

People signing-up to Havering’s Dog Watch will each receive a double-sided sticker which they put in one of their front windows.

On the front of the sticker is the Council’s Cleaner Havering mascot, a dog clearing away his own mess, bagging it and putting it into a litter bin.

The back of the sticker – the part facing into your home – tells you how to quickly and easily report any dog owner you spot failing to clear-up after their pet.

It provides the web address www.havering.gov.uk/dogmess where you can fill in an online ‘report dog mess offenders’ form, and also gives you the ‘Report Dog Mess’ number to call – 432563.

The vast majority of dog owners in Havering continue to do the right thing. It takes just a few seconds to scoop that poop, but it makes all the difference to the local environment.

Dog mess should be bagged-up and tied. It can put in a doggie bin or an ordinary litter bin, or even put it in with your general household waste.

But we know there are always a few people who won’t do the right thing. Some leave the mess where it is; others go to the trouble of bagging it up then throw it in a hedgerow or even tying it to tree branches.

These offenders can get an £80 fine, rising to a maximum of £1,000 – but we have to catch them in the act first. Community-spirited residents can do their bit by joining our Dog Watch scheme and letting us know if and when they spot an offender.

To request a Dog Watch sticker or for more details, call 432563.

Further information about the Dog Watch scheme, Cleaner Havering and the Council’s work to tackle dog mess offenders, can be found at the Havering Happy Hounds Show, in Central Park, Harold Hill, on Sunday, June 9, from 12noon to 5pm. It is free to attend. For details, see centre pages.

Sweet peas to bloom

Six-year-old William Constable was delighted to help the Mayor of Havering plant some sweet peas at his school.

The Nelmes Primary School youngster, who joined in the planting with his fellow pupils, said: “It was fun, I’ve never done it before.”

The Mayor of Havering, Cllr Lynden Thorpe, helped them plant sweet pea seeds – which should flower by the summer - in support of a Council-led initiative to increase the nectar source for wildlife in the borough. The idea came from the Mayor and her consort, David Thorpe, as they are keen gardeners.

The Council offered the seeds to all primary schools in Havering to support wildlife, and make the borough a greener place to live, work and visit, as part of the Council’s Cleaner Havering campaign.

Essex Wildlife Trust also backs the project. It worked with the Council to produce an easy-to-follow guide for kids, showing them how exactly to plant the seeds.
Park revamp nears completion

The £2.2 million scheme to restore Raphael Park in Romford to its former glory will be completed this autumn.

It meets the Council’s aims of boosting visitors to the park, preserving and enhancing the natural environment and providing new facilities for the public.

Raphael Park is in the grounds of the former Gidea Hall and has an illustrious history, making it an important site for the Council to redevelop.

Work has already been done to restore the bandstand, demolish an old shelter and toilets, and carry out external work to the sports pavilions.

Repairs to the lakeside and construction of a refreshment kiosk and toilets next to the children’s play area will be completed this summer.

And by this autumn, Park Lodge will have been fully restored and renovated to include a café with a terrace, new areas for the park’s offices, and a new community meeting room.

Footpath work, gates and railings work, and landscaping will have also been carried out by the autumn, with planting then taking place, ready to come into bloom in spring 2014.

The Council had worked with local residents and volunteers from Friends of Raphael and Lodge Farm Park on the scheme before applying for funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, receiving £1.87m. Added to that is Council funding and a grant from the Veolia Havering Riverside Trust.

Visitors still have access to most areas of the park at most times, although some will be closed for safety reasons.
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Bees are vital to British life. They pollinate our food plants and the flowers which help our gardens, parks and countryside thrive. But disease, pesticides and disappearing green spaces have all led to their recent decline. Environmental work being carried out in Havering should help turn this around.

The Council’s on-going work to protect and promote natural habitats in Havering has the added benefit of helping boost the dwindling bee population.

Developing the borough’s parks, creating new nature and conservation areas in towns and communities, and planting hundreds more trees and flowers has the immediate effect of making Havering look an even more attractive place to live, work and visit.

And the more plants, flowers and trees there are in Havering, the more bees will be attracted to the area.

Bees play a vital – but often hidden – role in pollinating our fruit and vegetables, staple food for our everyday lives.

Without bees, Friends of the Earth (FoE) reckon that much more of our food would have to be imported, severely affecting our own farmers and forcing up food prices, costing the country billions.

The FoE Havering branch is running a campaign to promote bee habitats in the borough, and has issued a list of colourful plants, flowers and herbs that people can put in their gardens to attract more bees.

“These are bee-friendly plants, that don’t need to have pesticides on them,” said the Havering FoE co-ordinator Rosina Purnell.

“Pesticides are totally destructive to bee populations, they can be like poison. This is why we are encouraging local people to cut down on them and are also petitioning the Government to cut down on them too.”

She added: “We are thrilled by the positive approach Havering Council has to the local environment, and its planting and other work being carried out, and its pesticide use as well.”

Among the Council’s many projects to help boost the natural environment, are:

- A £2.2 million scheme to restore Raphael Park in Romford to its former glory, which will be completed this autumn.
- Greening the Ring Road, a scheme which has seen 100 new hardy trees planted along Romford Ring Road to bring more greenery to the town centre and support Havering Friends of the Earth will hear from a speaker, from the Pesticide Action Network, at their meeting on June 18 at Fairkytes in Billet Lane, Hornchurch, starting at 7.30pm. Admission free.

The branch will also have a stall at the Havering Show, this August Bank Holiday weekend, with more details about their bee campaign and other work.
local wildlife.

• Planting a further 57 trees in residential areas, at the request of residents through last year’s Cleaner Havering survey. Varieties include field maple, Norway maple, mountain ash, oak and silver birch, and represent a 41 per cent increase in trees planted compared to last year.

• Transforming open space at St Edwards Churchyard, Romford, into a peaceful place where people can enjoy the natural environment. It is one of the few green spaces in the town centre.

• Creating ‘green walls’, where climbing plants will be placed on the fences surrounding Como Street Car Park, Romford, to make it more attractive to look at.

• Planting a new wildflower area by Central Library.

• More planting of trees and flowers in Hornchurch as part of the extensive High Street refurbishment work, and new saplings in South Street, Romford.

Cllr Andrew Curtin said: “Havering is home to wildlife habitats and species which are significant to nature conservation locally. Conserving and promoting the rich variety of flora and fauna which we have makes an important contribution to the enjoyment we can get from our environment.”

More details of the Council’s environmental schemes can be found on Pages 12 & 13 of this edition of Living in Havering.
Havering residents show civic pride at annual award ceremony

One of Havering’s main partners in the banking protocol crime prevention scheme has told of his pride at being officially recognised.

Kumar Ganesh, the bank manager of Santander in Romford, was one of 11 recipients of the Mayor of Havering’s Civic Awards 2013.

This is an annual event, held at the Town Hall every spring, to recognise community-spirited residents, volunteers and other local people.

Kumar said: “I thank the Council and the Mayor for this remarkable award, and also thank Santander for giving me the opportunity to serve our local residents. On behalf of my team, we look forward to building upon this successful partnership in 2013 and helping to protect more customers.”

Banking protocol is a multi-agency scheme to protect elderly and vulnerable residents from having their savings stolen by rogue traders. Bank staff are trained to spot people withdrawing large amounts of money and take appropriate action to safeguard them.

Another Civic Award recipient was Shirley Clarke, of the Havering Talking Newspaper, which prepares local papers and each edition of Living in Havering for their blind and partially sighted listeners.

Shirley joined the voluntary organisation in 1982, joining its committee and becoming secretary in 1988. For 20 years she has given many talks to clubs and groups about their work.

She said: “My mum was born with very poor sight and later went blind. We had the Talking Newspaper and she enjoyed it so much. When she said they needed volunteers, I joined. It chose me in a way. It has been such a huge part of my life. I was really pleased with the Civic Award, it came as a big surprise. It was very nice to meet the Mayor, she made a lot of the event. I really appreciate it.

“I’m giving up as secretary this year but will still be reading the news for the group. I have loved every minute of being secretary.”

The other Civic Award recipients were:
- Ian Buckmaster. Joining the Council in 1973 as committee clerk, Ian retired earlier this year as committee administration and member support manager. Ian is also heavily involved in St John Ambulance and is district president for Collier Row.
- Cliff Reynolds. He is vice chairman of Havering Link and chairman of Havering Over 50s Forum.
- Helen Mundy. A retired headteacher and Ofsted inspector, she wrote and delivered a training programme for Reading Buddies at Havering’s libraries.
- Kathy Verges, who has been instrumental in the growth of Crossroads Care Havering over 20 years.
- Paul Harris. The owner of Harefield Manor in Romford, he set-up the Visit Havering website and was host to the Chinese Olympics media delegation.
- Jeremy West. He is managing director of West & Coe funeral directors, which has served local families with compassion through difficult times.
- Brenda Mills. Joining the WW Club in Havering after being widowed, in 1993 she became its organiser, a role she continued to carry out until last year.
- Leslie Norris BEM. A member of St John Ambulance for 43 years he is president of the Harold Hill and Harold Wood divisions.
Riding high in the borough

With the summer finally here, now is the perfect time to enjoy a bike ride in Havering. It doesn’t matter whether you are a cycling fanatic, or haven’t got back in the saddle for a few years, if you are on your own or with your family - there’s plenty going on that you can take part in.

First up are the free Skyride Local led bike rides, which will be taking place all around Havering in the coming months.

The first local ones are on June 9 (going through Raphael Park and Lodge Farm Park in Romford) and June 23 (Havering Country Park and beyond).

They are ideal for single riders, groups and all the family - just sign-up at www.goskyride.com

And on August 11, the Council is holding the Bikewise - Beauty & the Bike event in Hornchurch Country Park from 11am-5pm.

This fun day suitable for all the family will have entertainment, fashion, stalls, games and lots of bikes.

For details, visit www.havering.gov.uk/events nearer the time.

And for general hints, tips, events and suggestions for the best routes to cycle along, visit www.havering.gov.uk and see our cycling pages.

Let’s Get Physical!
Summer 2013
Physical Activity for Adults

Cardio Tennis Sessions
A fun, social, group tennis-fitness program for people of all ages and abilities. It’s more about getting a great, high-energy workout than pure tennis technique.
- Tues, from 18th June, 6-7pm Raphael Park, Romford £4 pay as you go or £18 for 6 weeks
- Wed, from 26th June for 6 weeks 6-7pm, Abbs Cross School Sports Hall, £2

Tennis Lessons for Beginners
- Thurs, from 13th June, 6.30-7.30pm Raphael Park, Romford £3 pay as you go or £24 for 8 weeks

To find more places to play Tennis, people to play with, and coaches in your area visit: www.lta.org.uk/allplaytennis

Back to Hockey Sessions (Women only)
Whether it’s your first time or you’re returning to hockey, improve your skills in a fun and friendly environment.
- Mon, from 17th June for 6 weeks 7.30-8.30pm, The Brittons Academy Rainham (Astroturf Pitch), £2

Back to Netball Sessions
- Mon, from 3rd June, 8.15-9.15pm Redden Court School, Harold Wood (outdoors), £2.50
- Tues, from 4th June, 9.45-10.45am Hornchurch Sports Centre (indoors), £3

Zumba Gold!
Enjoy all the fun of Zumba at a slower pace.
- Tues, 10-11am, Rainham, £3
- Fri, from 7th June, 11.45am-12.45pm Upminster, £3.50

Women’s Beginner Football Sessions
- Wed, 8-9pm, Hornchurch (Astroturf Pitch), £3.50

Havering Adult College also offer physical activities: www.haveringadultcollege.co.uk

All activities are for adults age 16+. Bookings required for all activities.
Please contact the Physical Activity Coordinators on 01708 431 742 or email karen.hellbrunn@havering.gov.uk
First look at this year’s Havering Show

Music stars and daring stuntmen are just some of the thrilling acts lined-up for this year’s Havering Show.

A hugely popular annual event in the borough, the Havering Show is organised by the Council. Once again, entry is free for everyone.

The Show will be held on Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday (August 25 and 26) in Harrow Lodge Park, Hornchurch. It runs from 11am to 6pm.

Details of the musical line-up are still being finalised, but we can reveal that the headline act on one of the two Show days will be The Tremeloes, most famous for their UK No1 hit single ‘Silence is Golden’. Founded in Dagenham in 1958, they famously auditioned for Decca Records on New Year’s Day 1962 alongside the Beatles.

Meanwhile, the Show’s main arena will play host to displays by a bike stunt team, and there will also be a fun fair, flower marquee, arts and crafts, trade stalls and much more to entertain the crowds.

The green-themed Planet Havering, which runs alongside the Show, will be there again, offering residents eco-friendly travel tips and more.

Car parking costs £2 per vehicle. For details, visit www.havering.gov.uk/haveringshow nearer the time.

Don’t miss the Autumn edition of Living in Havering – out on Monday, August 12, 2013 – for a full run-down of the Havering Show and Hornchurch Live music event.

Hornchurch Live

A local up-and-coming band which first tasted fame on Britain’s Got Talent are the headline act at Hornchurch Live.

The Loveable Rogues will top the bill at the free one-day music festival, being held in Harrow Lodge Park on Saturday, August 24.

Eddie, Sonny and Te – who released their debut single ‘What a Night’ last month – first met each other at the Colins Performing Arts Studio in North Street, Romford several years ago. They reached the finals of the ITV talent show in 2012, ending in fourth place, and signed-up to Simon Cowell’s record label. They are currently recording material for their first album.

The rest of the line-up is still being compiled and will be announced shortly. It will include established acts, rock bands and up-and-coming local talent.
Show your support

Havering is once again making preparations for the annual Armed Forces Day Parade.

It will take place on Saturday, June 29, with a parade of serving and former members of the Armed Forces, with cadets and military band, making their way through Romford town centre.

They will start in South Street at 10.30am and make their way up into Market Place and then to Tollgate House. After the parade, the participants will be met by the Mayor of Havering and other local dignitaries.

The event is completely free to attend. Organised by the Council, it is partly funded by a grant from the MoD.

This will be a wonderful spectacle that all the family can enjoy, so everyone is urged to come along, line the streets and cheer on the parade.

For more details nearer the time, visit www.havering.gov.uk/armedforcesday

You’d be barking mad to miss this

Havering’s Happy Hounds Show 2013 offers a whole afternoon of perfect pooches and pet-related fun and prizes.

Run by the Council in association with the Dog’s Trust national charity, the show takes place in Central Park, Harold Hill, on Sunday, June 9, from 12noon to 5pm.

It is free to attend. There will be all sorts of events and activities for dog owners and residents to enjoy, including:

- A free microchipping service available to Havering dog owners
- Animal charity and trade stalls, refreshments
- Flyball, a game where dogs race each other over a line of hurdles to retrieve a tennis ball and return it to their owner
- And free dog poop bags offered by the Council as part of its Cleaner Havering campaign to encourage more dog-owners to clean-up after their pet, as well as stickers and information about the campaign.

The highlight of the day is sure to be the Happy Hounds Show itself. This year’s show has 12 categories including best puppy and the waggiest tail. Registration is from 11.30am that day, £1.50 to enter a category. For details, visit www.havering.gov.uk/happyhounds

For more summer events taking place, including the Hornchurch Festival of Arts & Heritage, see Pages 33 and Pages 36-39.
Get active this summer

Earlier this year, the Council launched its new Active Living programme, which aims to get people over 50 more involved in their local community and help older residents be safe, healthy and active. A partnership scheme with organisations such as Age Concern Havering, HAVCO and Havering Museum, it has four key strands - Social, Healthy, Supported, and Involved. Here, Living in Havering looks at what’s been going on with some of our older residents.

Going full circle

More than 200 people have now joined a new supportive group for older borough residents to improve their quality of life.

Earlier this year the Havering Circle group was launched by the Council, as part of its Active Living project to help people aged over 50 stay independent, have fun, make new friends and share interests.

Since then, it has held many activities including local walks, a talk on Havering in the War, French wine and cheese tasting, and an afternoon tea.

Membership includes access to a network of local people who can help with gardening, cleaning, and odd jobs around the house. There is also a monthly calendar, with meals, day trips, concerts and money-saving offers.

Forthcoming events include a day trip to Ascot, seeing the musical Top Hat, and a Sunday carvery.

For details, call 0800 112 3990 or email hello@haveringcircle.org.uk

Tai Chi at Museum

Fun, laughter and learning are exactly what over-50s get when they take part in Havering Museum’s Variety Clubs.

That’s the verdict of Brenda Patterson, who attends the Wednesday Club, which has recently enjoyed a demonstration of Tai Chi.

She said: “I thoroughly enjoyed myself and had such a laugh just watching some of the group. Other people should come along to our group because we always have such a good time.”

The Museum, in High Street, Romford, runs the Variety Club on behalf of the Council, which funds it. Other recent Club activities include chair exercise, African drumming, drawing, starting your family tree, how to write a book, talks on different subjects, and sessions on food.

The fortnightly sessions, on Wednesdays and Thursdays, are free but a £2 donation for tea and cake is requested. To reserve a place, call Ellen Owen on 766571 or email hmmarketing@btconnect.com

Involved

Volunteering in Havering makes new resident Mary feel more involved in the community.

She gives her spare time to the HAVCO volunteering project, which has been running for the past six months. HAVCO’s network of volunteers and calendar of community events that you can take part in provide over-50s with a great way to stay active and healthy, and get more involved in their areas.

Mary, who lives in Harold Hill, said: “Volunteering is a great way to meet people and learn more about what is happening in our local area. “I moved to Havering recently and volunteering has helped me to feel more at home here.”

HAVCO runs the Volunteer Centre at Central Library, Romford, for Havering Council. Its aim is to increase the number of volunteers and opportunities to get involved across the borough.

Centre staff have been working with the Council on the community clean-ups, as part of the Council’s Cleaner Havering campaign to keep the borough neat and tidy.

And the Havering Ambassadors project, which started in 2012 so local people could support the Olympic and Jubilee events, is still going strong.

Every Wednesday is Active Living Havering day at the Centre from 10am-4pm. Book an appointment by calling 742881 or just turn up on the day.
Walking for health

A woman who had a double heart bypass has praised Havering Council’s walking programme for helping with her recovery.

Eileen, who lives in Romford, has been taking part in local walks for years and thoroughly recommends them to other older people.

She learned more about the health benefits of this form of exercise from the British Heart Foundation while receiving rehabilitation for a heart condition at the former Oldchurch Hospital in the town.

“I had always liked walking but never with a club. I started taking part in the Council’s Walking for Health scheme in 2004, when there was only one walk and two places to go,” she said.

“Since then the group has grown and there are more walks to get involved with. I’ve enjoyed every minute and made some really good friends, it’s a perfect social group, and it’s become part of my life.”

Eileen, whose walks take her around Havering and to neighbouring boroughs, had a set-back last year and, in December, had a double heart bypass.

She said: “I started back with the group in February this year, doing the beginners walk at Harrow Lodge Park, a few more on flat ground.

“The walks have made a great difference to my life, especially in the last six months. I wouldn’t have made such a good recovery without the walking group.

“And I never knew we had so many lovely places in Havering. When we were in Central Park recently we saw a herd of deer, which was an added bonus.”

Havering Council Walking for Health

Healthy

www.havering.gov.uk/living | SUMMER 2013 | 23

Join for £14.99*

Join in**

at your leisure centre

• Wide range of activities*
• FREE activity planner online
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Central Park Leisure Centre
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Chafford Sports Complex
01708 558275

Hornchurch Sports Centre
01708 454135

everyoneactive.com

Everyone Active manages these facilities in partnership with Havering Council.

*At participating centres, facilities vary and terms apply, see website for details. DON13P98
Helping you stay safe

A Havering resident has hailed a charity’s cold weather befrienders as a vital life-line for older people.

Doreen, of Elm Park, said she normally feels “closed in” during bad weather. But last winter, despite the awful weather continuing into the spring, she felt more secure knowing her HAVCO befriender was at hand.

Doreen added: “It’s a wonderful feeling knowing there is someone nearby who cares.”

This was backed up by another older resident, Margaret from Harold Hill, who said: “I feel very grateful and lucky to have someone nearby I can call if I need them.

“It means that I don’t have to take any chances and risk my health and it gives me peace of mind.”

HAVCO’s specially-trained befriender teams help keep older and vulnerable people company and pop out for groceries and prescriptions.

The befriending scheme is set to continue this winter, and HAVCO Volunteer Centre will be recruiting and training more volunteers.

To get involved, call 742881, email Sarah.huckerby-long@havco.org.uk or visit www.havco.org.uk

Exercise classes are perfect pick-me-up for older people

Veronica Clements is just one of many local older people to gain a new lease of life after taking part in a special exercise class.

The 88-year-old from Upminster got her independence back thanks to classes which help prevent falls funded by the Council and Havering’s clinical commissioning group.

The falls prevention classes are now being extended to further venues around the borough so more people like Veronica can benefit from the therapeutic group activities.

Veronica had suffered a few falls which knocked her confidence and led to her having physiotherapy.

There, she found out about the falls prevention classes and decided to give them a go.

It only took three weeks for her to get the confidence to walk up and down her street. Since then, she hasn’t looked back, building up her confidence to go into town.

Veronica said: “It has done me the world of good. I hadn’t managed to go out for a couple of years and it has been great to get my independence back.

“I have always been active and really didn’t want to have to use a wheelchair. Now that I have been to these classes I can get on the bus and do my own shopping. It’s been marvellous, I am much more confident now.”

The free exercise programme aims to improve balance, increase confidence and prevent falls, to reduce the number of hospital admissions and help older people to live more independent lives in their own homes. The classes use gentle exercises and balance skills to improve mobility and confidence.

Classes are provided in various locations in Havering, including St. Lawrence Church Hall, Upminster and Scott’s Dance Studio, Brentwood Road, Romford, and are run by a qualified NHS physiotherapist from the Falls Clinic, Harold Wood Long Term Conditions Centre. The service is available to Havering residents aged over 65 and referral is by GP.

A new falls prevention class has just started at Beehive Court, in Gubbins Lane, Harold Wood, and a Tai-Chi class has been introduced at the YMCA in Romford.

For more information call Julie Weir, Havering Falls Co-ordinator, on 01708 431807.
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CHILDREN £5 (under 5 Years FREE)
FAMILY TICKET £25 (2 Adults + 2 Children)

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DAMYNS HALL AERODROME, AVELEY ROAD, UPMINSTER, ESSEX RM14 2TN
Local health - putting the public first

Havering Council has a new duty to improve the health of local people, after key functions were transferred from the NHS to the Council on April 1, 2013, under the Health and Social Care Act. Dr Mary E Black has joined the Council as the new Director of Public Health, and talks to Living in Havering about her role and local health priorities.

Speaking-up for Havering residents on a London-wide and national scale – that’s how the borough’s Director of Public Health sees part of her new role.

Dr Mary E Black will work closely with the new Havering Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) of doctors, set-up to shape local healthcare.

Dr Black, who is a medical doctor, public health specialist, writer and technology entrepreneur, said: “Public health is about prevention and health protection, looking after the health of the entire local population and not just looking at individual cases.

“We know Havering has a large aging population and we have the job of planning ahead to take account of their changing health needs. But we work on behalf of everyone, of all ages.

“My main job is to work with groups across the borough including the new Havering CCG. I have responsibility to be a local voice across London and nationally, on the side of local people.”

Havering’s new Public Health Team is tasked with identifying local public health needs across the borough and then buying the relevant health services (known as ‘commissioning’) from hospitals and clinicians.

These needs include: the early detection of cancer, reducing obesity, helping people quit smoking, problem drinking, encouraging exercise, immunisation against childhood diseases, and helping reduce inequalities in health.

Havering has also teamed-up with Barking & Dagenham, Redbridge and Waltham Forest councils to each look after one of the main areas of public health.

Thus, Havering will lead on sexual health services, including sexual health clinics, family planning, chlamydia screening and treatment, and HIV prevention.

Dr Black recently supported the transition of sexual health services to other local authorities, and feels this will help inform her role in Havering.

She added: “We are very lucky here because most of my team are Havering residents who have worked here for many years, with very good local knowledge and understanding, and are all determined to make this a success. So we’re ahead of the game.”

Dr Black is a third generation doctor, and her grandfather was one of the first GPs in the NHS.

“He worked with the poor in Glasgow and he instilled a public service ethos in my family.

“After having done a lot of hospital-based clinical work, I got interested in why people got ill in the first place and not just fixing them afterwards,” she explained.

Dr Atul Aggarwal, who chairs Havering’s new CCG, welcomed Dr Mary E Black’s appointment.

A Rainham GP, he said: “We will be working closely with her and the team on a wide range of health initiatives designed to make a real difference to the health and to the lives of our residents.”

Primary care trusts and strategic health authorities were abolished in March 2013 and replaced with new organisations.

Although doctors have always had a say on developing local health needs, they now have much greater responsibility in planning, buying and monitoring NHS services.

None of the changes will affect how Havering residents use the NHS. For details, visit www.haveringccg.nhs.uk

Havering Council has set-up a Health and Wellbeing Board, comprising people from the new CCG, social care, public health and Healthwatch, the new local health service watchdog. The board will meet in public and strengthen working relationships between these groups and encourage joint commissioning of health and social care services.

Dr Black, who is married with two teenage children, has experience of working on the 2012 London Olympics, and with UNICEF and the World Health Organisation in the Balkan countries.
Don’t take measles back to school

Havering parents should ensure their children are fully protected against measles ahead of the new school and nursery year.

That’s the key message from Dr Atul Aggarwal, a Rainham GP and chair of the borough’s new GP Clinical Commissioning Group.

He said: “It’s really important that children – from toddlers right up to and including teens – have both doses of the MMR vaccine.

“We understand that parents can feel quite anxious when their children need vaccinations, especially those with pre-school children.

“Our practice nurses are very experienced and mindful that this is an anxious time. They will do their best to support you and your child, and make it as easy as possible.”

He added: “Measles is a nasty illness which spreads easily in nurseries, schools and colleges and, in rare cases, can be fatal.

“Our advice to parents is to make sure their children have received the full two doses of MMR vaccine, which provides the best protection against the risks associated with measles, mumps and rubella. It will help prevent future outbreaks in the community.

“The first immunisations alone, as babies, do not provide long term immunity for our children.

“The pre-school boosters are critical to ensuring children develop immunity and maintain immunity well into adulthood.”

If you are unsure if your child or teenager has had two doses of MMR, speak to your GP or practice nurse who will have a record of which vaccinations they have received.
Cemetery expansion given go-ahead

The extension to the borough’s main cemetery, Upminster Cemetery next to South Essex Crematorium, will ensure the Council can continue to provide burial space for local people for years to come.

Work has started on a £1.4million project to create space for more than 6,000 new graves in the borough

The extension to the borough’s main cemetery, Upminster Cemetery next to South Essex Crematorium, will ensure the Council can continue to provide burial space for local people for years to come.

Creating space for affordable homes

Providing affordable homes and regenerating run-down areas - those are two key aims of a new local housing scheme from the Council.

Local families have praised the benefits of the scheme, in which the Council knocks down disused blocks of garages in the borough to build new two, three and four-bedroom houses there.

Mother-of-two Lisa moved into one of the first of these houses in Harold Hill, and said she loves it.

She explained: “The new houses have really made a difference to the area, there is no doubt about that. I lived here as a kid and know the area like the back of my hand. It’s improving everywhere.”

One family with three children had been living in a two-bed flat, opposite a pub. They have now been able to move into a new four-bed house in Harold Hill and say they ‘love it’.

And a woman who lives opposite a former garage site in Harold Hill said the garages had looked ‘awful’ because of people dumping rubbish there. But the new houses have now ‘transformed the area’.

Nearly 100 new houses have been built by the Council so far on garage sites which had become empty and neglected, attracting fly-tippers and generally looking an eyesore.

The majority of these sites – 40 of them – are in Harold Hill, and will provide a total of 101 new homes when completed.

There are also nine sites, with a total of 22 houses on them, in Collier Row. All but one of these houses is now completed.

There are some smaller sites dotted around Rainham too.

Currently, there are still 20 sites under construction in Havering, which will provide a total of 44 new homes.

The Council owns these garage sites, which had either become run-down or suffered from a lack of demand.

Building on them achieves many of the Council’s chief aims, including building more affordable housing for Havering residents on the housing waiting list, regenerating local areas, and improving the environment.

Borough people needing garage sites have also taken up empty garages nearby, thus keeping them in use.

The scheme also saves local taxpayers’ money, as it kept costing the Council to clean these sites up.

The scheme got planning permission from the Council earlier this year. The extension will take place on a 5.5 hectare stretch of Council-owned land. It is due to be completed later this year.

Any noise and disruption will be kept to a minimum and contractors will be sensitive to the nature of the site. A temporary access road will be built to reduce the need for site vehicles to use cemetery roads.

Cllr Lesley Kelly, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Cemeteries & Crematoriums, said: “We want to ensure we can provide burial space close to home for all residents who want it. This will ensure we can do that now and for years to come.”

Reaching a huge audience...

Hornchurch Live music festival and the Havering Show attract crowds of up to 50,000 visitors.

If you would like to find out how you can support these and other events and promote your business, call Joanne Yeomans, Havering Council’s Commercial Projects Manager, on 432232 or email joanne.yeomans@havering.gov.uk
Saturday 6th July 2013

THE STAR WALK

10km ladies walk under the stars

The Liberty Centre. Entry fee £15 per person.

Giggles, fun and entertainment included!
Goody bags and medals for all!

Call 01708 771427 or email fundraising@sfh.org.uk
www.sfh.org.uk

Walk in memory of your loved one or just join in the fun

Dress up as your favourite celebrity star!

The Star Walk booking form Saturday 6th July 2013

To book your place, complete and return this form with the entry fee to the Fundraising Team, Saint Francis Hospice, The Hall, Havering-at-Bower, Romford RM4 1QH by 3rd July. Entry fee is £15 per person. Minimum age for entry is 13 years. Under 16s must be accompanied by an adult and must be accompanied by an adult.

Once received, we will send you an information pack with sponsor forms. Set your initial fundraising target to raise as much as you can for patient care, Aim high and reach for the stars!

Title:
First name:
Surname:
Date of birth:
Daytime phone:
Mobile:
Email:
Address:
Postcode:

Are you walking in memory of a loved one? If so, let us know their name:

Are you participating in the same event?

Children’s name(s):

Children's age(s):

Signature of parent/guardian:

Emergency contact:
Name:
Number:

T-shirt size (measurement from underarm to underarm):

Small: 34"—36"
Medium: 38"—40"
Large: 42"—44"
XX Large: 46"—48"

Dress to order—please list all sizes from your team:

To book:
Entry fee is £15 per person
Enclose my entry fee of £

[All cheques payable to Saint Francis Hospice]

Debit/credit card details:

Amount:

Major Card/Visa/Others:

Name on card:

Card number:

Three digit security code:

Valid date:

Issue number:

Conditions of entry:

I understand that, unless otherwise stated, I will be responsible for any injury, accident, loss, damage or public liability. I understand that I am fully responsible for my children taking part.

Signed:

Dated:

Data Protection Act:

Your support is valuable to us and we store your contact details on our database so we can keep you informed of any matters that we believe would be of interest to you. For further details, please contact us at the above address. It is our policy not to sell, exchange, or distribute any information we collect.

Participation in this event is at your own risk. Please ensure you are covered for the timings and coverage.

The sponsorship that you raise will go towards patient care and allow us to continue supporting people with life-limiting illnesses in your community.

Do you know anyone who would like to volunteer at the event?

Name:
Number:

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with a rollover up to £25,000!

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st francis hospice
living with dignity

www.havering.gov.uk/living | SUMMER 2013 | 29
 Libraries sit at the heart of their community. Havering has 10 branch libraries across the borough, in each of the main towns and communities. They collectively provide a wealth of information, help and advice for residents, run countless community events for people of all ages, and play a key part in the local cultural life.

In fact, the Council considers its libraries so important to the community that it has vowed to keep them open (unlike some other local authorities), even at a time when it has to find £40m in savings.

Havering’s libraries are open to everyone. Keen readers can enjoy browsing for that perfect title, while anyone in a rush can just pop in, grab a book and check it out with the free, easy-to-use self-service system.

Students and job-seekers especially find the public network computers and internet very useful for their endeavours. Local history buffs can use the extensive research facilities on offer.

And whatever your interests and hobbies, local libraries will be running events you and your children can enjoy, such as fascinating talks, local history, arts and crafts, older people’s groups, film screenings, holiday clubs for kids, Zumba classes, pamper events and much more.

Havering is also a member of the London Libraries Consortium, a partnership between half of the capital’s libraries which give borough residents access to library stock and facilities in all the other participating boroughs. Using just their Havering library card, borough residents can go into any of the 170-plus LLC libraries to borrow books, DVDs and other items, and use facilities such as computers and research archives.

All of Havering’s libraries have been refurbished over the past few years, the latest being Central Library in Romford, Elm Park and Hornchurch.

Meanwhile, plans have recently been approved to replace the library in Harold Hill by the end of 2014. The Council is also rebuilding the existing library in Rainham in 2014, creating more than 1,200 square metres of expanded and state-of-the-art facilities, as well as retail space, a café, a nursery and 16 new flats built above the new-look library.

Both these new buildings will have extra meeting room space for community events, with increased books on offer and more public network computers.

The two schemes respectively complement the Council’s Harold Hill Ambitions and Rainham Compass programmes to revitalise those areas and increase opportunities for local residents.

They also tie-in with the Council’s over-arching Library Strategy, which aims to transform the lives of borough residents and visitors by helping them to participate in, and enjoy, both reading and a wide range of library services.

Cllr Andrew Curtin, Cabinet member for Culture, Towns & Communities, said: “Our libraries provide a focal point for every community. They allow people to access lots of important information and advice, and are hubs for creativity and engaging events.

“The two new buildings being provided in Harold Hill and Rainham will continue, and build upon, our important work.”

For more about Havering’s Libraries, visit www.havering.gov.uk/libraries

The value of Havering’s libraries was made clear in the 2011 Your Council, Your Say survey, in which 82% of people said they were either ‘very satisfied’ or ‘satisfied’ with the service.

A separate Council survey the year before found the majority of people were happy with their local library, the building itself, choice of books and computers provided. Three quarters of those respondents also agreed that libraries are an ‘important part of the community’.
Havering’s ambitious plan to build a new library in Rainham has been given the official go-ahead.

The current library site in The Broadway will be transformed to create more than 1,200 square metres of expanded and state-of-the-art library facilities, along with retail space, a café, a nursery and 16 new flats built above the new-look library.

Cllr Michael Armstrong, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Rainham Compass, said: “A new library and lifelong learning centre is a cornerstone of our Rainham Compass project. This will be a fantastic addition to Rainham and something that will really benefit the village community for generations to come.”

See Page 9 for the latest on Rainham Library.

When it is rebuilt, Harold Hill Library aims to draw in more teenagers with a new membership scheme.

Figures show that 15 to 19-year-olds make up only five per cent of people using the present building. So the Council is considering having a joint membership scheme with myplace in Harold Hill, to encourage more teenagers through its doors. Social media can also be used to promote the library to younger people.

The new library will be built in the eastern arcade of the Hilldene shopping centre, off Farnham Road. It will be significantly bigger than the existing 1950s building and offer improved facilities.

Its new location will also help to increase the number of people visiting the shopping centre and boost local business. It is one of the improvements to be funded from the sale of land at Gooshays, subject to planning procedures.

## MAY & AUGUST BANK HOLIDAYS

Refuse & Recycling Collection Dates 2013

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<td>Friday 31 May</td>
<td>Saturday 1 June</td>
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<td>Collections return to normal w/c Monday 3 June</td>
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| Aug                     |                         |
| Monday 26 August        | Tuesday 27 August       |
| Tuesday 27 August       | Wednesday 28 August     |
| Wednesday 28 August     | Thursday 29 August      |
| Thursday 29 August      | Friday 30 August        |
| Friday 30 August        | Saturday 31 August      |
|                        | Collections return to normal w/c Monday 2 September |

Please note that all revised collection arrangements also apply to the clinical, cardboard, trade and garden waste services.

For further Information:

www.havering.gov.uk/recycling

e: waste-team@havering.gov.uk
t: 01708 432563
Italian Market

Sun 7 Jul ’13

The authentic Italian Food Market returns to Romford Town Centre from 10am until 4pm

• The market will be located along South Street
• Italian street entertainment performers
• Italian quiz delivered by the Adult College
• Children’s Italian themed craft workshops

Romford, South Street

Sun 2nd June
11:00 to 5:00 p.m

Mon 3rd June
9:00 to 5:00 p.m

Blooming marvellous borough

Residents and local businesses should get their entries in now for the Havering in Bloom 2013 contest.

Everyone taking part will be helping make the borough an even more attractive environment in which to live and work.

The theme for this year is the natural environment. The categories are:

• Best Front Garden, clearly visible to the passing public
• Best Community Garden, for a garden, patio or front of a building where the displays have been created for others. This includes community centres
• Best Bio-Diversity, for an area which supports wildlife and creates habitats to attract species using planting, nesting sites, refuges and natural food sources
• Best Hanging Basket, can be an individual or a group display
• Best Allotment
• Best School Grounds, for examples of vegetable gardens, wildlife areas and attractive well-maintained grounds containing trees, shrubs and flowers.

To enter and for more details, visit the Council’s website www.havering.gov.uk nearer the time or follow the Council on Twitter @LBofHavering

Closing date for entries is August 2, 2013, and the awards will be presented to the winners in October.

Blossoming homes

Council tenants and leaseholders have a chance to show off their gardening skills in the Homes and Housing in Bloom competition.

Categories are: Best back garden; Best front garden; Best communal garden; Best hanging basket, and Tallest sunflower.

To enter, firstly take a picture of your garden, flowers or display. If you haven’t got a camera, Homes and Housing can take one for you.

Email entries to: lee.osborne@havering.gov.uk or post them to: Lee Osborne, Resident Development Officer, Homes and Housing, Chippenham Road, Harold Hill, Romford RM3 8YQ. For help, call 433201 or 434668.

Closing date is August 30, 2013. First, second and third place prizes will be presented later this year.
A feast of art and culture

Hornchurch will come alive with music and theatre this summer.

The Hornchurch Festival of Arts & Heritage 2013 is a month-long programme of cultural events being held in the town.

It incorporates the popular Langtons Summer Concert and ends with Hornchurch in Harmony, an event which fills the town centre with live music for a day. Events in the Festival include:

- June 2 at 7.30pm, ukelele music with D’Ukes in foyer of the Queen’s Theatre, tickets £10.50, call box office, 443333.
- June 4-14, Shakespeare’s As You Like It, acted by the Queen’s resident theatre company cut to the chase in Langtons Gardens. Tickets £19, under 26s/students £10.
- June 4, 8pm, East meets West blending Indian music with western folk and classical, in Queen’s foyer. Tickets £10.
- June 9 at 3pm, Langtons Summer Concert in the grounds of Langtons House, with the Westminster Philharmonic Orchestra. Free entry, bring own picnic and chairs.
- June 15, 10am-4pm, Fairkytes Art Centre has Open Day and Craft Fair to mark its 40th anniversary. Free entry.
- June 21 from 3-5pm, tea dance in the foyer of the Queen’s. Tickets £5, includes donation to St Francis Hospice.
- June 23 from 11am-5pm, the Havering Mela on the Queen’s Green. Run by the Asian Women’s Association of Havering, it brings together community with music, dancing, children’s rides, food and fun. Free entry.
- June 27 at 7pm, free guided walk around Langtons Gardens. Call 433740.
- June 30 at 7.30pm, the Liam Grundy Band at the Queen’s. Tickets £10.50.
- July 2 at 7.30pm, The Mikado, Gilbert and Sullivan’s comic opera, in the gardens of Fairkytes, Billet Lane. Tickets £8.50, £4.50 conc, from Fairkytes on 456308.
- July 4-5 at 7.30pm, July 6 at 1pm, La Ronde by Arthur Schitzler. Not suitable for children, contains strong language and adult scenes. Tickets £10, from Ken on 754116.
- July 13 from 12noon to 4pm, Hornchurch in Harmony, live music at High Street venues. Details on Page 8, free to attend.

The Festival has been organised by the Council. For details, visit www.havering.gov.uk/hornchurchfestival

Once again the Westminster Philharmonic Orchestra will be playing at Langtons Summer Concert.
Nominations now open for Havering Business Awards

Winning a coveted prize in the Havering Business Awards is an honour – just ask last year’s winners.

Des Thomas, construction director of Thomas Sinden Ltd which won the top prize in 2012, praised the annual awards, run by the Council.

He said: “Havering Business of the Year is such a coveted award. It meant everything to us to receive this crowning glory.”

John Bishop, director of Commulite Ltd, which took home the Green Award and Innovation Award, said: “It’s such a privilege and honour to be involved with these prestigious awards. Our double win left us on a high.”

This year marks the ninth year of Havering Business Awards, which recognise the great and the good of our borough’s thriving business community.

Finalists will get feedback from the judges every step of the way and have the chance to network with other finalists, as well as the borough’s key businesses and decision-makers.

And all winners will be invited on the awards’ Ambassador Programme for 2014.

Local businesspeople, big or small, thinking about entering but who are unsure of which category to enter, or need any help completing their submission, can receive free expert advice at a series of workshops at Havering Town Hall.

These will be held on June 6 and June 7, both from 10am-1pm; June 13 from 2-4.30pm; and June 13 from 5-7.30pm.

To book your place on one of these, ask about sponsoring an award category or for any details, call 560056 or email info@haveringbusinessawards.co.uk

The deadline for nominations is July 1. Finalists will be announced on July 12, with the winners revealed at a glittering ceremony in October.

To download an entry pack, visit www.haveringbusinessawards.co.uk

The categories are:

- Apprentice of the Year
- Best in the Community
- Best Hospitality in Havering
- Best Small Business
- Business Person of the Year
- Business to Business
- Customer Care Award
- Excellence in Marketing
- Green Award
- Growing Business of the Year
- Innovation Award
- New Business of the Year
- Staff Training & Development
- Streets Ahead (new award)
- Young Entrepreneur of the Year
- Havering Business of the Year

Note these are subject to change.

Liberty’s Olympic award

The Liberty Shopping Centre in Romford has scooped an award for an Olympics-themed community event.

It won an award of merit for its Romford to Rio with The Liberty event, beating 19 other shopping centres from around the UK in the Community Relations category of the BCSC Purple Apple Marketing Awards, held in Central London earlier this month (May).

With the London 2012 Olympic Games being held just up the road in Stratford, the Liberty ran the event to engage with the public, encourage cultural understanding and get people fit and active by taking part in different cultural dances and activities. The Liberty worked with community groups and schools to hold ‘Big Dance’ events, using a state-of-the-art live feed between schools in Havering and a school in Brazil, and also arranged an exchange programme between the schools to promote culture, dance, art and fashion.

For details visit www.theliberty.co.uk
Winning start-ups

More dates for a business start-up programme have been announced. ‘A Winning Start to Business’ is part of Havering Council’s wide-reaching initiative to promote growth in the local economy and get more people starting their own company and becoming entrepreneurs.

Accountancy firm Kingston Smith LLP, which was selected to run the programme, runs seminars and workshops full of valuable help and advice about planning, taxation, cash flow, employing people and much more. The next events are on:
- June 11 from 8-10.30am at Orbital House, 20 Eastern Road, Romford – subject is Employee/Recruitment and HR Matters
- July 9 from 3-5.30pm at Havering Skills Academy, 32-34 High Street, Romford – subject is Accounting Records/Bookkeeping
- August 13 from 11am-1.30pm at Orbital House. Details TBA.

To book your free place or discuss any aspects of business start-ups, visit www.havering.gov.uk

Business support

The Centre for Engineering and Manufacturing Excellence (CEME) Innovation Centre in Rainham has several business support events coming up. On June 3, a session for innovative technology companies will look at creativity tools. And a seminar covering aspects of funding and investment has been confirmed for June 26, with further details to be confirmed online later. For details, visit www.ceme-ic.co.uk

Networking events

The next Leader’s Business Networking event is at Harefield Manor, Main Road, Romford, on June 6, at 6pm. The next Women in Business events are on April 24 and June 26, both at Havering College in Ardleigh Green Road, Hornchurch, at 6pm. To book a place, call 433602.

Rooms with a view

Honeymooners, tourists and business people will all find something for them at a family-run hotel in Hornchurch.

The Devonshire Hotel, run by Donald and Michelle Camilleri, currently has 12 rooms although a new extension will give them another four.

Donald and Michelle bought the hotel, in Station Lane, in 2008 and, after extensively converting the Edwardian building, opened for business in March 2011.

He has been in the hotel trade for most of his life, growing up in a hotel in the West End of London. His great-grandfather had opened the first hotel in Malta, where the Camilleri family come from.

The Devonshire Hotel currently has 12 en-suite rooms, ranging from standard to superior/executive rooms, and even has a honeymoon suite, handy for anyone who gets married at nearby Langtons Hall.

Donald said: “This is an old building with a lot of character. Guests say it has a lovely family feel to it, and we get a lot of repeat business.

“We have visitors from as far afield as Australia and Canada, as well as business people, tourists, and local people and visitors dropping in for afternoon tea. We are just a four minute walk to Hornchurch town centre and four minutes to the Tube.

“We grow a lot of our own vegetables in our allotment, like the tomatoes you can have with your cooked breakfast. And we cater for all health needs too, like gluten intolerant people.”

The Camilleris have just been granted planning permission for an extension to the hotel which will provide five rooms, although they will lose one interior room to create a lounge and bar area.

Contact the Devonshire Hotel at 440088 or email info@devonshirehotelhornchurch.co.uk

Havering’s Business Expo a huge success

Businesspeople have hailed an event which gave them the chance to make new contacts and gain valuable help and advice.

Legal firm Pinney Talfourd LLP, which has offices in Hornchurch, Upminster and Brentwood, was one of more than 40 local companies taking part in Havering’s Business Expo, held at myplace in Harold Hill.

Victoria Bunn, marketing manager of Pinney Talfourd, said: “We found that the Expo was an excellent opportunity to meet new clients as well as meeting other like-minded local businesses. As a member of the Chamber of Commerce, we always try to get involved in local events.”

Other exhibitors included Kingston Smith LLP, Nexus Networking, Go30, Natwest and Barclays banks, Havering College, Deaf Agency, CEME and the Queen’s Theatre.

Topics covered included catering, finance, insurance, care, education, cleaning, and recruitment.

For more business information, visit www.havering.gov.uk
Queen’s Diamond Jubilee - but not the one you think!

Volunteers have helped create a roving exhibition to mark the 60th anniversary of the Queen’s Theatre in Hornchurch.

The Now and Then exhibition, launched earlier this year, is being taken to venues all across Havering to celebrate the theatre’s Diamond Jubilee, a year after The Queen marked her own 60 years on the throne.

The display takes people back to the start of the Queen’s Theatre during the early 1950s. It provides a fascinating insight into the life of the theatre, looking at the building in Billet Lane, its repertory companies, the pantomimes, its numerous productions, the famous faces who have trod the boards there, and more.

Julia Sharman is one of many local volunteers who worked hard to develop the visual exhibition, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and supported by Havering Museum. She said: “The Queen’s Theatre has a rich and fascinating history. It has been great fun to be involved in the research project and the travelling exhibition allows us to share some of that magic with as many people as possible.”

The Now and Then Diamond Jubilee Anniversary Touring Exhibition can be seen at these venues:

- May 29–June 13 at Harold Wood Library, Arundel Road, Harold Wood.
- June 15 & 16 and July 6 & 7 at The Old Chapel, Sacred Heart of Mary Girls’ School, St Mary’s Lane, Upminster.
- June 17–July 5 at myplace in Gooshays Drive, Harold Hill.
- July 15–29 at Upminster Library, Corbets Tey Road, Upminster.
- August 5–11 at The Mercury Mall, Mercury Gardens, Romford.
- August 12–22 at Collier Row Library, Collier Row Road, Collier Row.
- August 23–September 1 at Gidea Park Library, Balgores Lane, Gidea Park.
- September 2–18 at Hornchurch Library, North Street, Hornchurch.
- September 21–October 13 at the Queen’s Theatre.

This exhibition is accompanied with events, talks, workshops and concerts, including a talk, entitled Focus on Oral Histories, at Old Chapel, Upminster, on June 15 from 2-5pm; and a Lighting Up the Lane Concert at the Queen’s Theatre on August 23. Everyone welcome to all events. For details, visit www.queens-theatre.co.uk

Free Entry

Havering Happy Hounds Show

9 June 2013 • 12 noon – 5pm • Central Park, Harold Hill

- 12 categories including: Waggiest tail and best puppy (Registration from 11.30am) £1.50 to enter a category
- Free dog chipping service for Havering Residents
- Free poop bags
- Trade and animal charity stalls
- Flyball
- Refreshments

For more information visit www.havering.gov.uk/happyhounds

**June 4, 6-7.30pm**
Age Concern giving a free talk to raise awareness of dementia and explaining its impact and effects. For adults, free to attend.

**June 12, 10am-2pm**
Free open day to raise awareness of healthy living and groups such as Alameda Therapy Animals, Quit Smoking, the RNIB and more. All ages, free to attend.

**June 26, 2-3pm**
MIND is giving a free talk on mental health issues.

**July 30, 5-6pm**
Spooky Dooky event, include a Spot the Spooks Library Hunt, crafts and stories about witches. For ages 3-6, cost £2.50, £3 non-members.

**Harold Hill**

**June 25, 11am-12noon**
Young at Heart Club hosts armchair exercises with the YMCA. And on July 30, from 11am-12noon, the Club has a talk by Havering College. Cost of both events is £1, inc. refreshments.

**August 5, 10am**

**August 8, 5pm**

**Harold Wood**

**June 12, 11am**
Young at Heart Club talk by Trading Standards. Cost £1 inc refreshments. Club for over-55s meets on second Wednesday of the month, with speakers, quizzes and lively conversation.

**July 29, 10am**

**Hornchurch**

**June 16, 7-8pm**
Author Kimberley Chambers talks about her new book The Victim. Cost £3.50, £4 non-members.

**June 19, 9.15am**
Escorted walk and talk at the Manor with Don Tait. Meet at Manor car park, Settle Road. £2, £2.50 Talk by Hornchurch History Society.

**Upminster**

**June 3, 6.30pm**
Postal people - Find out how employment records held by the British Postal Museum & Archives can help you trace your family history. £3/£3.50 non-members.

**June 7, 6-9.30pm**
Pamper Evening - come along for an evening of pure indulgence and pampering. Treatments from £6.

**June 11, 10am**
Sporting Ancestors - A look at the records available for tracing your family tree. £3, £3.50 non-members.

**July 1, 6.30pm**
Operation Pied Piper - A talk by the Evacuees Reunion Association, hear stories of how it affected over three million people. Cost £3, £3.50 non-members.

**August 5, 5pm**
Spooky Dooky bedtime stories, for ages 3-6. Cost £2.50, £3 non-members.

**August 12, 2pm**
Legomania - A Spooky Spectacular of Lego fun. Call library for details.

Havering Libraries hold many regular and one-off events, of interest to all ages. For details call them on

- Collier Row – 434936
- Elm Park – 434919
- Gidea Park – 434978
- Harold Wood – 434975
- Hornchurch – 434903
- Rainham Library – 434970
- Romford – 432387/89
- South Hornchurch – 434921
- Upminster – 434933

### Library

#### Collier Row

**June 24, 7pm**
In 1888, Jack the Ripper made headlines with a series of horrific murders that remain unsolved to this day. Sue Parry, from the Whitechapel Society, talks about London’s most famous murderer, his crimes and the suspects. Tickets £5, £6.50 non-members. Book early.

**July 29, 2pm**
Create your very own model monster, robot or character from junk. For ages 4-plus. Cost £3, £3.50 non-members, book first.

**August 13, 2pm**
Buzzy Bee Craft - buzz your way through this card craft session. For ages 4-plus. Cost £3, £3.50 non-members, booking essential.

**August 17, 12noon**
It’s a dog’s life. Meet local police dogs and handlers and hear about their training and day-to-day ‘tails’ of crime-fighting. Suitable for all ages. Cost £1.50, £2 non-members. Booking essential.

**August 29, 2pm**
Pirate Craft. Transform yourself into a seafaring pirate and create your own treasure map. For ages 5-plus. Cost £3, £3.50 non-members, book first.

### Gidea Park

**May 29, 2-3pm**
Come and meet Daisy the Guide Dog and her owner.

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**Theatre & Music**

**QUEEN’S THEATRE**
May 31/June 1, 7.30pm
**Motown’s Greatest Hits**
The ultimate celebration of Motown is back by popular demand. Includes songs from legends Lionel Richie, The Temptations, Stevie Wonder, Marvin Gaye and more.

June 1, June 7, both 10am
**Story Play**
Fun storytelling workshops for kids aged 5-7, based on popular children's stories, lasting 45 minutes each. £5 per session. June is 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt', July is 'The Gruffalo'.

July 11-13, 7.30pm (and Saturday matinee at 2.30pm)
**Oliver The Musical**
Havering Music Makers are back at the Queen's with Lionel Bart's famous musical, which tells the story of the runaway orphan caught up with a gang of thieves in the East End. Tickets £16 adults, £14 conc. Call box office on 443333 or visit www.queens-theatre.co.uk

**BROOKSIDE THEATRE, ROMFORD**
June 15, 8pm
**The Beatles – Back in Romford**

June 16, 3pm and 7.30pm
**Gertcha!**
An audience with Chas Hodges, one half of the popular cockney duo 'Chas and Dave'. Hear his showbiz stories, ask him questions and sing-along to his greatest hits. Tickets £15.

June 22, 8pm
**Simply Sinatra**
The swinging, sultry sounds of the legendary Frank Sinatra are back - for one night only - in this tribute to Old Blue Eyes. Tickets £12.

July 10-13, 16-17 and 19-20 (also Saturday matinees, 2pm)
**Grease**
One of the greatest musicals of all time explodes onto the stage, with more than a little Summer Lovin! Danny and the girl next door’ Sandy fall in love all over again. Tickets £12, £9 conc. Bookings available for groups of 10+.

August 15-17, 22-24, 8pm
**Sweeney Todd**
Stage One Theatre Company, in association with Brookside Theatre, presents this blood-curdling tale of murderous London barber Sweeney Todd, whose customers ended up in his accomplice Mrs Lovett’s meat pies! Not suitable for younger audiences. Tickets £12, £9 conc.

For all bookings and details, contact Brookside Theatre, in Eastern Road, Romford, on 755775 or email info@brookside theatre.com

**OTHER THEATRE**
June 12-15
**Entertaining Angels**
The Guildonian Players present this comedy about a vicar’s wife at The Little Theatre, Harold Wood Methodist Church Hall, Harold Wood. Tickets £7, call box office on 341442.

**Special Events**
June 1, 12noon-4pm
**Havering-aye-Bower May Fayre**
The 3rd Havering (St James) Scout Group are holding the Village’s annual May Fayre, with refreshments, children’s rides, train ride, clowns, a balloon race, beer tent, coconut stall, raffle, teddy tombola, face-painting, bouncy castle and more on The Green. Entry free, call 01375 857041.

June 1-2
**Flower Festival and Fayre**
Stalls and refreshments, held at All Saints Church, Ardleigh Green Road, Hornchurch, on June 1 (10am-4pm) and June 2 (12noon-4pm). Free entry, email carolwickington@ btinternet.com (event details) or thecowiefamily@hotmail.com (stalls).

June 1, 1.30-3.30pm
**British Sugarcraft Guild (Hornchurch & Upminster branch)**
Demonstration on ‘Dragons’ by Jackie Kelly in meeting room at Hornchurch Library. Entry £6, inc. tea and cake.

June 8, 11am-5pm
**Star Wars fan convention**
Guest actors from the famous film series will meet fans, sign autographs and pose for pictures at the War Memorial Hall in Gubbins Lane, Harold Wood. Funds raised for Connaught Stroke Victims. Entry £5 adults, £2 children, under-fives free. Call 342348 or email nick@ nicndeel.plus.com

June 12, 6.30pm start
**Pamper/psychic evening**
Held at Marshalls Park School. Beauty and holistic treatments, one-to-one mediums, stalls and more. £1 entry, under 16s 50p. Call Angela on 731163.

June 15, 12noon-3pm
**School Fun Day**
Held at Suttons Primary School, Suttons Lane, Hornchurch.

**Activities**

**Weekdays**
**Dance classes in Harold Hill**
Modern and sequence dancing classes at Harold Hill and District Community Centre, Gooshays Drive, from 7-10.30pm on Monday and Thursday evenings, and belly dancing classes on Wednesdays from 8-10pm.

**Various days & times**
**Language Classes for Adults & Young Learners**
French, Spanish, Italian, German and British Sign Language classes at the Europa Centre, Hornchurch. Call 445694 or visit: www.europacentre.co.uk

**Wednesday, 7-8pm**
**Hindu Cultural Society of Havering**
Bollywood dance classes held at Emerson Park Community Hall, Swellings Lane, Hornchurch. Yoga classes held at same venue, same day 8-9pm. Call Mr Aggarwal on 441373. Everyone welcome.

**Fridays, 11.5am-1.15pm**
**Flower arranging for beginners**
At Hornchurch Community Hall, Nelson Road, Rainham. Social side to sessions, cost £5 each, with refreshments. Call Sandra on 554385.

**Satudays, times vary**
**Dance classes for children**
Ballet, tap and modern dance classes, and Disco Duck for very young, held at South Hornchurch Community Hall, Nelson Road, Rainham. Call 559275 or 07765 836796.

**Groups & Societies**

**Mondays, 7-10pm**
**Four Seasons Knitting & Craft Club**
Meets weekly at Rush Green Community Association, in
Rush Green Road, Romford. Costs £3 a session, social side to event. New members welcome, call Rose Wilson on 768045.

First Monday of month, 7.30pm

Greenfingers Gardening Club
Meets Cranham Community Centre, Marlborough Gardens, every month except January and August. Friendly group, speakers on horticultural topics, outings to National Trust gardens, etc. Evenings include raffle and free refreshments. Call Sheila on 228752.

Second Monday of the month, 8pm

Essex Wildlife Trust
Meetings at Hornchurch Library with illustrated talk. Also, wildlife walks on the first Saturday of the month. Call Joy Emerson on 440297.

Mondays, 7.15-9.30pm

Hornchurch Buddhist Group
Meets Room 12 at Fairkytes Arts Centre, Billet Lane, Hornchurch. No need to book. No classes on bank holidays or when Fairkytes is closed. Suggested donation of £5 a class. Visit www.hornchurchbuddhistgroup.org.uk or email David on contact@hornchurchbuddhistgroup.org.uk.

First Tuesday of month, 8pm

Gadabout Social Club
Club for single people aged 40+ meets Havering Indoor Bowls Club, Harrow Lodge Park, Hornchurch. Full monthly programme of events, call 0752 8370643.

Wednesdays, 1-4pm

Make and Take Card Making Club
Meets at Worthington Scout Hall, Collier Row. All ages welcome. Call Maureen on 0773 0762 794.

Third Thursday of the month

Upminster Wine & Social Club
Meets Social Centre, Front Lane, Cranham. Call Jim Johnson on 224214 for details of events, discussions, speakers, social events and regular wine tastings. Club’s Summer BBQ is July 6 at 7.30pm at New Windmill Hall, Upminster. Tickets £12.50. Music, dancing, bangers and chicken BBQ. Bring own drinks, call Vic on 470465 for tickets.

First Saturday of the month

Havering Branch of the East Of London Family History Society
Various talks at Trinity Church, Gaynes Road, Upminster, on June 1, July 6, August 3, and September 7, all at 2pm. Computer Group meets same venue 11am–1pm, with Q&As and workshops. New members welcome, admission free.

Monthly

Ladies ‘Guild in Romford
Meets in the Salvation Army Citadel, Romford, at 8pm on May 23, July 25, September 26 and October 24. Summer outing is on June 29, annual dinner on November 28 and Christmas outing on December 5. New members welcome, call 749864.

Sport

Every other Tuesday, 8-10pm

Tweed Way (50+)
Sports Club
Darts, short mat bowls, snooker, table tennis, (board game) rummikub, Scrabble and cards played at Havering Road Church Hall, in Moray Way, Rise Park. Sessions £3 each, inc. tea and biscuits. New members welcome, both men and women. Call Pete on 728448 or email pete.mcevoy@gmail.com.

Tuesdays, 7-8pm

Tigers Kempo Jutsu Karate
Jutsu-Karate classes for ages 5-15 at Mawney Road School, Mawney Road, Romford. Call 07816 208197.

Fridays, evenings

Zumba and Bokwa
Classes at Fairkytes Art Centre, Hornchurch – Zumba 7-8pm; Bokwa (a new fitness class) 8.15pm-9pm, cost £3.50 per class (both for £5). With licenced Instructor Jason Kashoumeri, call 075989 45862.

Saturdays, from noon

Havering Sailing Club
Based at Stubbers Outdoor Pursuit Centre, Ockendon Road, Corbets Tey. Newcomers welcome to try taster sessions. Bring change of clothes and waterproofs. Lifejackets and helmets provided. Call June Hutson on 01375 846153 or John Slocombe on 222658.

www.havering.gov.uk/giveandtake

Give & Take Days
Swap useful things - for FREE

Romford Central Library
Last Wednesday of every month
10:30am - 1:30pm

Popular items include clothing, kitchenware, books, CDs, DVDs, bric-a-brac, toys and games. No bulky or electrical items please and all in safe and working order.
Join a free led-bike ride in Havering now

The rides run throughout the summer, suitable for the whole family.

9 June  Easy – Romford ride through Raphael and Lodge Farm Parks
23 June  Steady – Havering Country Park and Beyond
  7 July  Easy – Follow the Leader at Thames Chase Visitor Centre
21 July  Steady – The Essex Way from Rainham
  4 August Easy – Romford ride through Raphael and Lodge Farm Parks

Register at goskyride.com and book your place.

Beauty and the Bike BikeWise III

Sunday 11 August
Hornchurch Country Park 11am – 5pm
Make sure you put this date in your diary for a fun filled event for all the family, featuring entertainment, fashion, stalls, attractions and bicycles.
www.havering.gov.uk/events

ARMED FORCES DAY PARADE

Saturday 29 June 2013
10.30am
Start
South Street, Romford
Finish
Tollgate House, Romford
SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

www.havering.gov.uk/armedforcesday