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MORE LOCAL NATURE RESERVES

'Have your say!'

After receiving an enthusiastic response from Councillors and local residents there will now be the opportunity for you to have your say about two new proposed Local Nature Reserves at Cranham Brickfields and Cranham Marsh.

The declaration of four new Local Nature Reserves forms part of Havering Borough Council's Local Area Agreement with the Government. Local Nature Reserves are essentially for both people and wildlife.

We are now seeking your views on designating council owned land at Cranham Brickfields and Cranham Marsh as Local Nature Reserves. We know these areas are already popular with local residents who use them for walking and informal recreation. The sites are also great for wildlife with important habitats such as woodlands and wildflower meadows and animals including bats, great crested newts and water voles. It is hoped the Local Nature Reserve designation will ensure that the features of special interest are protected for future generations.

To find out more about these proposed Local Nature Reserves we will be holding a public event at Cranham Brickfields from 10am until 1pm on Saturday 14th June.

It is as important for us to find out more about the history and wildlife of these sites as it is for you to come along and talk to us about how you would like to see them managed. As well as a chance to come along and have a chat with us there will be refreshments available, guided walks and children's activities so it should be an enjoyable morning for everyone.

For further information on the designation of Local Nature Reserves in Havering you can contact Benjamin Sanderson, Countryside Projects Officer, Environmental Strategy, Mercury House, Mercury Gardens, RM1 3RX, Tel: 01708 432873, e-mail: benjamin.sanderson@haverling.gov.uk

work in 1986 and spent 10 happy years with Vera. They helped out with grandchildren, joined dancing classes and clubs and travelled far and wide. Always a happy couple, Ernie and Vera made many friends on their travels and at home. He also delivered the *Bulletin* and went on to become the Area Organiser for the Cranham area. Ernie also helped out at the Cranham Community Centre where he was treasurer and became a member of the 'Thursday Gang' carrying out repairs and maintenance to the Centre.

Vera passed away in 1997 and Ernie found comfort in the spiritual support he derived from attending Cranham Baptist Church. He soon became a regular and generous parishioner and made many friends at the church, in particular Ruth, with whom he shared several years of travelling, socialising and loving companionship. Ernie went into hospital for elective surgery on an abdominal aortic aneurysm. Whilst the procedure itself went well, complications set in following surgery and he passed away a few days later. Ernie made a huge impression on all who had the privilege to know him and will be sadly missed by family, friends and the whole community.

A TRIBUTE TO ERNIE OAKLEY



As readers may be aware, Ernie Oakley passed away following elective surgery. Ernie was born in Barking on 6th March 1928 and was educated at the Barking Park Modern School. After serving his conscription with Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME) in Egypt, he started work with Briggs Motor Bodies in Dagenham as an apprentice model maker. Around the same time he also studied for his MSSCh chiropody qualification.

Ernie married Vera in 1950. They had three sons, Kevin, Peter and Mark.

Ernie helped set up the Parent Teachers Association at Abbs Cross School and served for some time as Chairman helping to raise funds for the school. Ernie retired from




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NATIONAL SCHOOLS TRAMPOLINE COMPETITION

Hall Mead School took two teams of four boys each to Birmingham in March. Before reaching the National Finals, the teams had already fought their way through two qualifying competitions to become one of the top six teams in the country for their age group. As well as competing as a team two the boys, **Karl Mansfield** and **Daniel Miles** has also qualified as 'individuals' and were down to the top nine. The under 13 boys team consisted of **Karl Mansfield, Alex Ward, Alfie Jones and George Lawrence** in years 7 & 8 in the school. They beat off two other teams to end up 4th in Great Britain. **Karl** managed to achieve 6th in

the country. Considering their age and experience this was a great achievement. The under 15 boys consisted of **Daniel Miles, Alex Jones, Neal Shore and Jonathan Dutch** in years 9 & 10 at the school. All the team members pulled off two brilliant routines, their performance was only surpassed by one other team and in the end achieved 2nd in Great Britain. **Daniel** who was also competing as an individual, acme 2nd in the country and was beaten by only 0.3 marks! This is the highest position ever achieved by a Hall Mead pupil at this level of competition. Form ore than 25 years, Hall Mead School has been synonymous with trampolining as it hosts the Borough Schools Championship every year. Within the last five years though, since Gary Lewis and Julie Hand, two teachers at the school, decided to start 'Storm

Trampoline Club' based at the school, pupils trampolining success has reached new levels. Gary and Julie ably assisted by their team of coaches, consisting of teachers, parents and senior pupils, run sessions three evenings a week for all abilities. Currently, there is a considerable waiting list for places.

THANK YOU FROM SANDRA

Following the piece that Ron Ower wrote in last month's *Bulletin* about my Dad, Roy Knell, I felt I would like to respond. When you listen to how other people remember your loved one it makes you realise how well respected they were by so many outside the family. We had a lovely funeral service with the current Mayor and four former Mayors attending. As my dad had requested no flowers, we were pleased to receive

donations for St Francis Hospice totaling £430. Dad's health had been deteriorating for the last year and although he will be missed by all the family, I really believe he is in a better place now, hopefully with my Mum. My dad worked hard to secure a community Centre for Cranham and hopefully we continue to support the centre with my husband Richard being Chairman of the Community Association and me using the centre for my Brownie meetings. It's a wonderful legacy that my Dad left for this area.

SANDRA HARRINGTON

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MEMORIAL SAFETY

Following receipt of a letter from the Council stating that her father's memorial stone at Upminster Cemetery had been found to be unsafe – Councillor Linda Hawthorn went to the cemetery and was surprised to see how many others were deemed unsafe. Following a letter to the Council's Technical Services – Linda received the following reply. "The inspection programme is required by the Health and Safety Executive. In Upminster Cemetery there are currently 992 'unsafe' memorials out of the total 10561 inspections which have been carried out. Unfortunately, the

statistics module on our database does not report how many memorials which were originally unsafe have been repaired. In Hornchurch Cemetery there are 626 unsafe memorials out of 8472 inspections. No memorials have been repaired in Hornchurch Cemetery as the stonemasons are still in the process of completing the repairs in Upminster Cemetery. We are about to start inspections in Rainham Cemetery and our pilot study suggests that a greater proportion of memorials are likely to fail the inspection than has been the case in Upminster or Hornchurch Cemeteries. The main reason why memorials are failing

the inspections is that the foundation is inadequate or the memorial is not securely dowelled between the headstone and the base or between the base and the foundation. The soil type is not an issue because there are, and always have been, techniques for fixing memorials on all soil types. Before 1999 there was no code of practice on how memorials should be fixed but stonemasons used their professional judgement. It is impossible therefore to say that these older memorials were not fixed correctly as there was no definitive standard. The maintenance of the memorial is the grave owner's responsibility and as

the inspection programme is already a significant financial pressure and commitment on the Council, we are not able to contribute to the cost of the repairs. However, we are mindful of the sensitivity of this work and we are leaving the maximum amount of time possible between making grave owners aware of the repairs needed and taking any action such as laying down a memorial so that, if necessary, they are able to save up for the repairs. So far, the only memorials we have laid down are ones which are over 100 years old apart from a handful which literally fell apart during the inspection."

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