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# UPMINSTER LIBRARY

We reported last month that we were delighted when one of the country's busiest libraries was refurbished. However, there had been, as many of you quoted "unwanted changes and people are disgruntled". We sent the Library Service a number of questions on the changes and I set out below their reply.

"The changes have now been in place for two months. We're in response to customer feedback and this has generally been received positively by customers and staff alike. Typical comments received include:

"I think this library is excellent. The new layout and staff are all good and helpful".

Some of the improvements that were made during the recent closure include:

1. Reducing the size of the counter to make more room for books and library services on the ground floor.
2. Changes to the windows in the Children's Library to make it cooler in Summer.
3. Improvements to the toilet.
4. The creation of a downstairs confidential interview room for PASC and CAB customers.
5. The creation of a dedicated meeting room available for hire on the first floor.
6. The establishment of a small Children's Centre on the first floor.

Upminster Library is one of the borough's most popular libraries and was the first to be refurbished. It was also the first to have an indoor mural, the first to begin to use self issue book technology and to provide a CAB and an advice service. The new children's centre follows in this history of firsts for Upminster Library and is part of the Library Service vision of creating "Community Living Rooms" – libraries that have books at their core, but also a range of other local facilities and events that people value".

## AVON ROAD SHOPS EVENTS:

### Havering & London in Bloom 2008

We would like to thank the people of Cranham for their generosity and support in helping with fund raising for Havering and London in Bloom, as you will see we have now replaced the flowers in the troughs and purchased new hanging baskets as well as new baskets for the railings.

We hope you will enjoy!! Our aim is to make a difference.

### Proposed O2 Mast at the Junction of Avon Road

This has now been successfully abandoned, in view of a project that we have been planning for this area. We are hoping to make this a commemorative area for the community, having a commemorative seat with a planter and possibly hanging baskets, so we are looking for anyone who would be interested in purchasing a seat. If anyone is interested please call either **Jackie Long** or **Vivienne Miles** on **01708 224009** or **222275**.

### OUR FORTNIGHTLY TEDDY BEAR GAME IS HELD AT MILES QUALITY MEATS, IN AVON ROAD, PLEASE KEEP PLAYING

All these events are in aid of improving our community and entering Havering & London in Bloom 2008.

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**OVER 50s FORUM**

**First Lady for The Hoff**

At the AGM of the Havering Over 50s Forum, its first lady Chairperson, Doris Crouch was elected.

She has now officially taken over the role previously held by Alan Jeffries and will chair the monthly meetings held at the Town Hall every 2nd Tuesday of the month.

Doris Crouch has lived in Hornchurch for thirty years and has a great passion for the older generation in the Borough. She stated that she was, "surprised and thrilled to be elected as the first lady chairperson of the Forum. I hope to assist the over 50s in Havering to have a more effective voice within the community to keep up to date with changes taking place in and outside of the borough, and look forward to seeing the Forum grow in numbers and in strength".

With over 81,000 people aged over 50 in Havering, the non-political Forum, which works closely with the borough's only dedicated charity for older people. Age Concern Havering, strives to be representative of the feelings and opinions of this age group, with the aim of helping to influence local statutory decision making processes and acting as a champion for issues affecting the quality of life of the over 50s.

For further details, of if you wish to become a member, please call Angela at Age Concern Havering on 01708 438931.

**DR CHAKRAVARTY, UPMINSTER**

Ernie Hazlewood is pleased to report the following news from Dr Chakravarty's Patients' Participation Group.

We meet every month to consider practical administrative issues concerning the practice along with other wider matters

affecting our patients.

The latter include NHS service provision and the great variety of arrangements locally.

Our latest purchase is a hand-held foetal Doppler which provides on-the-spot, easy detection of foetal heartbeats from ten weeks' gestation. This is an excellent qualitative advance, identifying potential problems at an early stage and helping to put mothers' minds at ease. Two important events are currently under consideration. Firstly, a possible repeat of our Tai Chi, Yoga and general health afternoon in the surgery garden - this was a great success and has prompted requests for more. And secondly, a joint event with another practice at which specific complaints (eg heart, cancer, men's health), prevention and remedies would be covered.

**DIAMOND COUPLE**

Many congratulations to former

Upminster councillor Owen Ware and wife Marjorie who recently celebrated 60 years of marriage.. Quite literally, a diamond couple!

**PiPS**

Sandie Nunn, one of the co-owners of PiPs entered competition a few weeks ago to look 10 years younger. It was sponsored by Debenhams and Uppercut Hair Salon. Although over 250 women applied, she got shortlisted to the final 20 and had to go before panels of judges and finally got to the last six contestants. They all appeared without make-up and hair done one week and the next week with their hair, make-up and clothed by the personal shoppers of Debenhams. Sandie won free hair cuts at Uppercut in Romford for 6 months and vouchers for Debenhams clothes

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and a session with their personal shoppers.

Also, another winner was Lorraine Franks, one of the teachers at St Joseph's School, she voted for Sandie and was then entered into a draw and has also won a free hair do at Uppercut and Debenhams vouchers.

As a celebration of her win, Sandie has created a new smoothie called 10 years Younger which contains peaches, mango, apples and 100% fat free yoghurt. All of these ingredients are fantastic for the skin and have amazing

anti-ageing properties. It is on sale now at PiPs, Bell Corner, Upminster.

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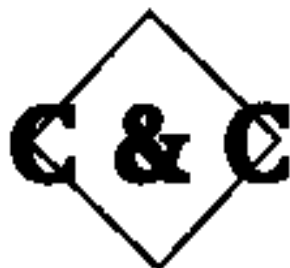
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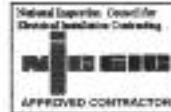
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