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CAR PARK CHARGES VAT WINDFALL

An additional £20,500 of car parking income has been netted by the Council by not passing on the reduction of VAT from 17.5 per cent to 15 per cent from December 2008 to January 2010.

Having raised this question at Full Council in December, this windfall should go back to those who have paid it and, like half the councils across London, free car parking on Boxing Day would have been an ideal opportunity of using this while providing a welcome boost to our local economy.

Cllr CLARENCE BARRETT

ELECTIONS MAY 2010

Following our Selection Meeting, kindly note your Executive Committee are recommending the following as Candidates for the Upminster and Cranham Residents' Association at our Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 17th February, 7.30 pm at St. Josephs Hall, St. Mary's Lane.

UPMINSTER WARD

(This also includes Cathedral Estate & North Ockendon)

PARKING TICKET FINES



Reports in the National Press shortly before Christmas highlighted that motorists in London are paying more than £200 million a year in parking tickets. Without any doubt local Councils are using traffic wardens and CCTV cars to raise local Tax.

When the dreaded traffic wardens were introduced we were told that they would be used to keep traffic flowing and to stop dangerous parking.

Here in Havering information passed to the *Bulletin* shows that the Councils Expenditure on Parking Enforcement is far more than income.

The fact remains that dangerous parking outside, schools, railway stations, shops etc are blatantly ignored and in particular the CCTV Enforcement Car aims at soft targets like cars parked on pavements during the night. Not only did this Conservative introduce these CCTV Menace Cars, parking fees were introduced into local car parks – thus many motorists avoid them.

RON OWER



CLLR LINDA HAWTHORN



CLLR LINDA VAN DEN HENDE



BULLETIN EDITOR, RON OWER

We look forward to your support to ensure this Area continues to have Resident Councillors who will fight on your behalf.

ESSEX COAST WALK

Local Author Peter Caton will be giving a presentation on his book 'Essex Coast Walk' which is a wealth of information at our AGM on Wednesday 17th February at 7.30 pm at St. Joseph's Hall, St. Mary's Lane.

Apart from his walks along many of Essex's traditional coastal towns, his memories of getting to them are fascinating – we will hear tales of witchcraft, ghosts, smuggling, stories of battles with Vikings, of invading Romans. This promises to be a fascinating talk. We hope to see you there.

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SCREENING PROGRAMME BACK UP AND RUNNING



NHS Havering have restarted their retinal screening for diabetic patients after the programme was recently

paused to allow for improvements to be made. Upgrades to the computer system, administration processes and additional training for optometrists will mean patients will receive better service. Diabetic patients aged 12 and over who are registered with a Havering GP are eligible for a free annual screening. It is recommended that diabetic patients take up the invite for these eye tests as they detect problems, which can lead to sudden and

permanent blindness. The test can also indicate how a patient is managing their diabetes and may signal that changes to medication or lifestyle are needed. NHS Havering uses specially selected, qualified optometrists rather than technicians to assess patients, who are based in high street opticians making them as accessible as possible. The optometrists also may be able to diagnose other conditions during the appointment that would go unchecked if seen only by a technician.

Cllr LINDA HAWTHORN

THANK YOU WAITROSE

When Waitrose Supermarket in St. Mary's Lane arrived in Upminster last year they confirmed that they wished to play an active part in our local community by assisting local organizations, schools etc. Connie Hawkins who runs the Rainbow Charity Shop in Corbets Tey Road

was pleased to receive a cheque for £500 from Waitrose.

HAVERING LINK

Havering LINK wants to hear about your experiences positive or negative of health and social care. You can help to make the first steps towards better care services. Please tell us what you think about hospitals, supported housing, day care, GP services, residential care homes, nursing homes, dentistry and anything else about health and social care in your area. With your comments we can help to make a difference to health and social care services.

Be a part of Havering LINK You can help shape the future of health and social care in many ways, you do not have to sign up to anything or give up lots of your time. You decide how you want to share your experiences, your knowledge or expertise in helping us achieve improvements to local health and

social care services. Whatever contribution you can make it is important to us and we will get your voice heard to the NHS or Havering Council to find solutions, for example meeting providers or being part of a working group.

Contact details Tel No. 01708 348117 Email: haveringlink@shaw-trust.org.uk

FAIRKYTES ACCORDION BAND

On what was a dreadfully cold day before Christmas - the band played Christmas Carols outside Fishy Business, Fishmongers in Corbets Tey Road and they collected £259.48 for St. Francis Hospice. The Fairkytes Accordion Band play music for Singalongs, Concerts at OAP Clubs etc. at various fund-raising events. For further details please contact Val on 225 313. The band really sound great.

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