

The Volunteering News

BEE THE CHANGE BEE A VOLUNTEER 2026

WE HAVE A FACEBOOK AND X PAGE



Keep up to date on all that we are doing by following us on our social media accounts:

Find us on X : @Having_VC
Find us on Facebook: @HavingVC

JOIN THE ELM PARK WOMBLES



Come and meet your Elm Park Wombles Team

Saturday 7th February 2026

Meeting at 10am at Costa Coffee for a quick catch up

Litter Picks and Bags Provided- If you have gloves please bring them



10.30am - 11.30am

Anyone can be a Womble!



Next litter picks and community tidy ups will be :

Saturday 7th March 10.30am - 11.30am

Saturday 4th April 10.30am - 11.30am

Saturday 2nd May 10.30am - 11.30am

Hope to see you wombling around town soon!



JAN-FEB 2026

Having Volunteer Centre News

ONE NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION THAT CHECKS ALL THE BOXES



Welcome to a brand new year and our first newsletter of 2026. For many a new year brings about the desire to seek new challenges and opportunities. It is no surprise to hear that volunteering is an excellent opportunity to branch out and try new experiences, meet new people and gain new skills.

If you are a New Year Resolution setter then you might be interested to know, research shows a New Year's resolution that has a positive impact is much more likely to stick.

It's the everyday skills we have, that turn out to be the volunteering gems that local organisations are desperately searching for. Maybe you're a good listener, enjoy speaking to groups or individuals or love encouraging others and sharing your knowledge and experiences. Many charities across Havering would love to have you join them as a volunteer and choosing to volunteer in 2026 could be the best New Year's resolution you ever make!

As we write this newsletter, we are still uncertain about our moving premises. We are in the stages of dotting the I's and crossing the T's in terms of the lease agreement but it's all still heading in a positive direction. It certainly will be all systems go when we get the go ahead!

Can you believe that the tiny little Volunteer Centre that opened it's doors with a CEO and a handful of volunteers back in 2016 is still fighting and serving the community 10 years later!

Throughout the coming months we will be celebrating a whole host of successes and achievements surrounding HVC, both past and present volunteers, trustees and staff members that have all played a part in getting HVC to where it is today. We will be taking a stroll down memory lane and reminiscing about days gone by and the wonderful people that we have had through our doors. Hopefully there will be a funny memory or two thrown in along the way.

We would love to hear your memories of HVC too so please feel free to share your story, memory or how you got involved with us by emailing volunteering@havingvc.org.uk

**JOIN US IN CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF
HAVERING VOLUNTEER CENTRE THOROUGHOUT
2026!!!**

REVELLERS

S.E.N.D GROUP

SUITABLE FOR 18-25 YEAR OLDS

Revellers is a youth group for young people aged 18-25 years old with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities who are living in Havering. It takes place at Rainham Royals Youth Centre every Thursday evening from 7pm – 9pm. For more information contact 01708 376004 or email youthservices@haverling.gov.uk

COMMUNITY MATERNITY AND NEONATEL LISTENING EVENT



Come along in person to share your thoughts and experiences about our maternity and neonatal care. This is a relaxed, friendly space where your voice really matters. Let's work together to make a difference in BHRUT maternity services. This is held on the 7th February at MyPlace in Harold Hill 10.30am – 1.30pm

HAROLD HILL BREAKFAST CLUB



From ME 2 U are offering a Breakfast Club at Harold Hill Library from the 9th January – 13th March 9.30am – 11.30am. For more information please contact info@frommetoyou-uk.org



Havering Service Spotlight



Citizens Advice Havering is a local charity that helps people find a way forward by providing advice and information when faced with crisis.

They support the majority of their clients via email or telephone but also offer face to face appointments. They can provide support I a range of topics such as:

- Benefits
- Consumer Rights
- Housing
- Work
- Debt and Money
- Family
- Immigration
- Law and Courts
- Health

Their simple and easy to use website is the best place to start when seeking support which can be found by typing in the following <https://citizensadvicehaverling.org.uk> in any web browser or alternatively you can call their advice line on 0808 1898273.

Citizens Advice Havering are also looking for a range of volunteers to join them, either to support with advice and information, assist with fundraising or join them as a trustee. If you would like to know more about becoming a volunteer with Citizens Advice Havering contact the Volunteer Centre who can discuss the roles in more detail.

WHERE DID HVC START



Shelley Hart

Havering Volunteer Centre started with Shelley Hart in 2015 when she was approached by the Local Authority to establish a Volunteer Centre following the defunding of the Council for Voluntary Services. At the time Shelley was the Volunteer Centre Manager within HAVCO and was devastated that HAVCO had decided to close the volunteering arm along with the CVS closure.

At the time Shelley was being approached by volunteers following the news of HAVCO's closure with panic and worry about what they were going to do with nowhere to go to find volunteering. With the Local Authority backing, the communities desire to volunteer and Shelley's passion to keep volunteering alive, steps were taken in 2015 to establish Havering Volunteer Centre.

The first steps were to develop a constitution in order to gain charitable status and formalise a Trustee Board. Our Founding Trustee Members in 2015 were Craig Blake, Elaine Greenway, Simon Power and Jan Scott, we were then joined by Simon Mackenzie, Pat Bromhall and Linda Ven Den Hende in 2016.



Craig



Simon



Jan



Simon



Pat



Linda

HVC moved in to 32-34 High Street Romford on the 16th January 2016 and officially launched during Volunteers Week in the June. Establishing HVC was not without its issues; BT dragged their heels and did not install the internet to the building until April. Thankfully we were able to run our systems from a Volunteers Mobile Phone but as soon as they went home for the day we were without internet. A couple of the tenants who were meant to be joining HVC in the building also didn't come, which meant that Shelley became responsible for running the whole building including the sitting tenant.

Nevertheless 10 years later we are still here to tell the tale and we will certainly share more of our journey with you in the coming months.

HAVERING MUSEUM MURDER MYSTERY

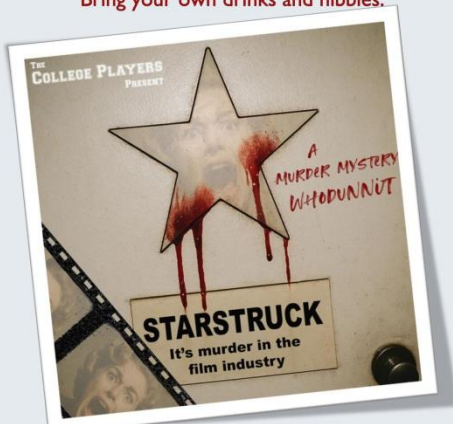
Murder Mystery

Sunday, 25 January 2026

14:30 - 17:30 - Tickets £13

A Hollywood A-lister is found dead in her dressing room. Can you work out Who the Murderer is?

Bring your own drinks and nibbles.



19-21 High Street, Romford, RMI 1JU
Tel: 01708 766571
Web: www.haveringmuseum.org.uk
Email: exhibitions@haveringmuseum.org.uk

Open Wednesday - Friday 11am - 4.30pm
Usual Admission Prices Apply
Last Admission to Galleries at 3.30pm, and Shop at 4.00pm
Registered Charity No. 1093763



DON'T FORGET WE ARE ALWAYS HERE

- We can help you find a volunteering role
- Need some extra support this month? We issue foodbank vouchers
- Feeling a little lonely or isolated? We can match you with a volunteer via our Check In & Chat service!

Give us a call and find out how we can help you – 01708 922214

Volunteer Opportunities Spotlight



Trustee – If you have skills in legal, HR, Local Authority, Data/Digital, Business Development or Commissioning then you could be exactly what we are looking for. Trusteeship is an important role in any organisation and charities rely on the structure and governance that members of boards bring to their organisations to continue their strategic development. If you want the opportunity to make a real difference from the top down, then this could be the perfect role for you!

Cub Scout Team Member – We are looking for volunteers to join our group and help provide safe and exciting programmes for children aged 8-11 years old. The role is to support individuals to gain their badges and help build their skills and confidence through a variety of activities. This role takes place on a Tuesday evening in Collier Row, if you would like to get involved please let us know!



Retail Volunteer Brentwood – We are looking for Volunteers to join our Brentwood Team to help keep our shop clean, tidy and presentable as well as supporting with serving customers and assisting with donations. There is the opportunity for you to help with shop displays as well as use the till for cash and card payments. If you love being part of a team and can volunteer a minimum of 4 hours once a week then this could be the role you have been looking for!



Co-Group Lead Volunteer – Whether it's getting involved in caring, fundraising, raising awareness or campaigning, you won't fail to be uplifted by the MND community. We are looking for a Co-Group Lead to support the planning, preparing and facilitation of group meetings and activities. The role is designed to support staff, volunteers and members during the various stages of meetings and activities and you will have the opportunity to act as a mentor and support new volunteers. We hold 12 meetings a year with around 2-3 hours of volunteering commitment.



Community Fundraising Volunteer – We have an exciting opportunity to volunteer with a national charity raising awareness and funds for thousands of people affected by dual sensory loss in the UK. If you have enthusiasm, great interpersonal skills and can volunteer independently as well as part of a team then we would love to hear from you. This role gives you the freedom to create and host some amazing fundraising events such as quiz nights, manning a stall or event running collections. If you have interests in fundraising then get in touch today!

EPCA QUIZ NIGHT FUNDRAISER

CN: 1057074

Saturday 28th February



RAFFLE TICKETS
AVAILABLE

Tickets £7.00pp

Teams of 8 - Booking Only

Bring your own food and drink

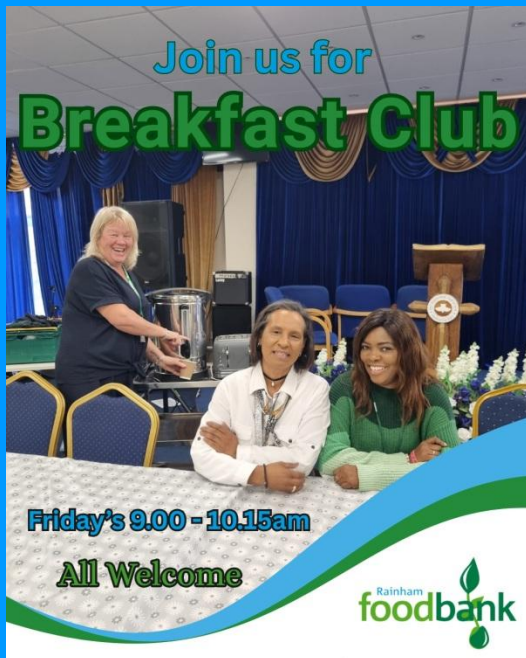
Contact: Events@epca.org.uk

Booking Tickets Essential | Payment in Advance

Venue: Elm Park Assembly Hall
108 Eyhurst Avenue, Elm Park,
RM12 4RA

7pm for a prompt
7.30pm start

RAINHAM FOODBANK FRIDAY BREAKFAST CLUB



Every Friday at 9am Rainham Foodbank open their doors not just to offer tea and toast, but to create a space where people can breathe, rest, warm up and feel part of a community that genuinely cares. First Floor, Mick Fury House, Lowen Road, RM13 8HT

SYCAMORE TRUST

sycamoretrust.uk
rooted in the community

Havering All-Age Autism Service

Family information & advice

One-to-one appointments
We are offering scheduled appointments for families living in Havering for whom autism is part of everyday life.

Appointment dates as follows:
 Royals Youth Centre,
 Viking Way Rainham RM13 9YG
 (10am to 12pm)
 July 27th, 18th & 30th
 Aug 27th
 Sept 10th & 24th
 Oct 8th & 22nd

My Place Community Centre
 243 Dagham Park Drive
 Harold Hill RM3 9EN
 (10am to 12pm)
 July 9th & 23rd
 Aug 20th
 Sep 3rd & 17th
 Oct 1st, 15th & 29th

To book an appointment, please contact
haveringfamilyservices@sycamoretrust.org.uk

This service is funded by

Family Services

www.sycamoretrust.org.uk
haveringfamilyservices@sycamoretrust.org.uk
 020 8517 9317

To support Sycamore Trust UK, scan the QR code

MET ENGAGE



Met Engage is a platform from the Metropolitan Police that allows London residents to connect with their local police teams, receive local updates, and provide feedback on local issues. Through the platform, users can get to know their local officers, share their concerns, receive crime prevention advice, and stay informed about local community meetings and events.

RICHARD HOUSE CHILDREN'S HOSPICE

Richard House
London's first children's hospice

We were shocked and saddened to hear about the closure of Richard House Children's Hospice. The hospice celebrated its 25th Birthday in 2025 and was originally set up by Anthea Hare to filling a gap for specialist palliative care. This included offering a home-from-home environment for joy, creating memories, and supporting families through complex journeys, including bereavement.

A statement on Richard House Hospice's website says that the charity's directors had worked to try to secure the charity's future, "exploring numerous options to improve its financial position" including a potential merger. Unfortunately these options were not viable and they announced they would be closing in December 2025.

This was really shocking for us to hear at HVC as we have worked with the team from Richard House for 9 years and had provided them with wonderful volunteers.

HVC will be here for any of the volunteers from Richard House who may wish to explore alternative volunteering but from everyone here at HVC we wish Trish and her team all the very best. We will miss working with you!

HAVERING LOCAL LOTTERY

PLAY OUR LOCAL LOTTERY

WWW.HAVERINGLOCALLOTTERY.CO.UK

GOOD LUCK!

If you haven't heard yet, we have had some amazing wins on the Havering Local Lottery. We've had a £25k jackpot winner as well as, £250, £25 and plenty of free ticket winners!

This has to be the best lottery! Not only do players get the chance of winning fantastic prizes, you also get to support a local good cause at the same time!

Head to www.haveringlocallottery.co.uk