

The Volunteering News

BEE THE CHANGE BEE A VOLUNTEER

2025

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 : @Havering_VC
Find us on Facebook: @HaveringVC

EPCA-Indoor Boot Sale 29th November

Nov - Dec 2025

Havering Volunteer Centre News

We are on to our final newsletter of the year. It only feels like a short while ago that we were welcoming you to the start of the 2025. We had hoped to finish the year off on a positive note but there are mixed feelings as the year draws to a close.

Unfortunately, HVC will be moving premises.

The rent increase the London Borough of Havering is implementing (+240%) is completely unaffordable to HVC. This means we will be shortly saying Goodbye to our High Street premises.

This is really bitter sweet and probably why we have mixed feelings. The High Street is where HVC launched and has been our home since 2016 and we would have loved to have celebrated our 10th Birthday here. However, a new premises is a great way to kick off our 10th year and launch the new location.

We are not quite ready to share our new location just yet as we are still tied up with solicitors and finalising lease agreements. We can share that you will still find us in the Romford Town Centre at an even better location.

The outcome of our talks with the local authority was really disappointing. Every option on the table was swiftly revoked, no longer available or unsuitable. We are trying to negotiate some support with the help of Councillors Jane Keane and David Taylor in regards to assisting HVC to move. As relocating is not something we ever wanted to do and not something we have budgeted for it is a real stretch to achieve financially. Whilst conversations are ongoing, much like the premises support being revoked it feels that we could be heading in the same direction and be left somehow foot the £25,000 moving bill by ourselves. We will of course keep you all updated via our social media channels and next round of newsletter in January.

Anyhow, moving on to more exciting times, HVC will be 10 years old next year!!!! This definitely calls for a celebration and to reminisce over the past 10 years. One of the things we really want to do is collect your volunteering memories, whether your journey into volunteering started with HVC finding you an opportunity or whether that has been volunteering directly with HVC, we want to hear from you!

Send in your memories to volunteering@havigvc.org.uk by the 31st January 2026 so that we can showcase your journey as we celebrate 10 years of volunteering in Havering!



CN: 1057074

INDOOR BOOT SALE

SATURDAY 29TH NOVEMBER 2025 10AM - 1PM



TREATS, TRINKETS & TREASURE

Grab Yourself a Bargain!

Elm Park Assembly Hall, Eghurst Avenue, RM12 4RA

EVENTS@EPCA.ORG.UK

HAVERING LONG COVID COMMUNITY CAFÉ



Friday 5th December 1.30pm – 3.30pm at Harrow Lodge Leisure Centre Café.

INDOOR ROWING FOR SENIORS



Every Tuesday 11am – 12pm at The Mercury Shopping Centre –for more information call 07796 475 802 or visit www.coolrowings.com

Menopause Café

Pause - Time for a Change

Menopause support group



6th November and 11th December 6.15pm-7.30pm Queens Hospital Education Room
Join our Menopause Nurse-led non-judgemental, welcoming community and connect with other people experiencing the menopause.

local area
coordination

Havering Service Spotlight

Havering Local Area Coordination

Across Havering there are Local Areas Coordinators (LACs) that can support you in your community. They operate in Romford, Rainham, Collier Row and Harold Hill.

They can support you to build your own vision for a good life, find solutions to any problems you may be facing and draw on and family and community resources.

This means that instead of assessing or signposting people into services, they can:

- Invest enough time in understanding what a good life looks like to you or your family and discuss how you could get there
- Help you to build your own capacity an connections, so that you can stay strong and independent
- Build new community connections or capacity where they don't already exist

There is no referral process or threshold. If you live in one of the areas covered by the service, give your Local Area Coordinator a call:

- **North Romford** – Leanne - 01708 432814
- **South Romford** – Trish - 01708 433458
- **Heaton and Faringdon Area** –Debbie - 07970 492128
- **Petersfield Area** - Tracey - 07971 717615
- **Briar Road, Hilldene and Noak Hill Area** –Tamarah - 01708 434328
- **Southend Road and North Rainham Area** – Maureen - 01708 434332
- **Orchard Village and Cherry Tree Area** – Tina = 01708 434315
- **Rainham Village and Wennington Area** – Tracey - 01708 434307
- **Mawneys Area** – Juliet - 01708 434852
- **Havering Park Area** – Lexi - 01708 434949

WAR TIME VOLUNTEERS

They shall grow not old,
as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them,
nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun
and in the morning
We will remember them.



Lest we forget

Just as patriotic enthusiasm led many men to join the army in August 1914 it also drove those who through age or gender were excluded from the armed forces.

Much of the effort began by fundraising but swiftly the Voluntary Aid Detachment (VADs) were established along with the Female Auxiliary Nursing Yeoman (FANY). Cohorts assisted in the canteens, agricultural work/ land army and aid to refugees.

Many volunteers lost their lives serving their country so along with remembering those that have fallen we always give them an extra thought and lay an extra poppy this time of year.

HAVERING CHRISTMAS LAND

Mind
Havering, Barking
and Dagenham

HAVERING CHRISTMAS LAND

A MAGICAL CHRISTMAS LIGHTS TRAIL

NOV 28 - JAN 2

FOOD | MUSIC | PHOTO OPS | FUN

HORNCHURCH, ESSEX, RM11 1JU

TICKETS FROM £5.00

BOOK NOW!

Charity No. 1108470

ADULT CRAFT TIME – HAROLD HILL

Craft Time!

Join us at Harold Hill
Library every
Wednesday for an adult
only craft session

11:30am-13:00pm

All welcome - Bring
your own materials

FREE

19a Farnham Road, Romford, RM3 8ED

Havering
LONDON BOROUGH

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



Musician Volunteer – Are you free on a Friday evening between 5.30-7.30pm to help with rehearsals for the planned public performances? We are looking for volunteers to play alongside participants (all instruments welcome) support rehearsals with light admin, room set up, sheet music organisation and refreshments. If you think you can help, let us know.



Warehouse Volunteer – This role is vitally important to the work of the foodbank as it helps us to process all the wonderful food donations. It helps us to ensure that all the items are in date and well packaged for those who need it most. It's quite an active role and requires lifting, shifting and sorting of a variety of items but if you like to be kept busy then this is the perfect role for you!



Prayer Support Volunteer – Do you have some time on a Friday afternoon between 12.30pm – 3pm to help support our Friday Prayer Sessions? We are looking for volunteers to help us to ensure that participants have an enjoyable but safe experience whilst attending the venue. Helping to keep track of numbers of attendees as well as setting up and tidying up after each session and ensuring the car park is safe and accessible. If you like to chat to people and are good at organising then we would love to hear from you.



Wishes Fulfillment Volunteer – This role is one that is undertaken from home and involves handling email and phone communications and helping to coordinate wishes for children with life-limiting illnesses across the UK. If you have good communication and administrative skills and are self-motivated then this is a great feel good opportunity in helping wishes come true!



Odd Job / Maintenance Volunteer – Do you have good DIY Skills? Could you spare some time to help a really worthwhile charity? The team at Sue's House are looking for an odd job/ maintenance volunteer to be a handyperson in their offices based in Ilford. From adding a lick of paint to fixing a leaky tap, we are looking for a good all-round experienced DIY person to help with our day-to-day general repairs.

MET ENGAGE

MET ENGAGE

Community crime-fighting

Welcome to
MET ENGAGE
Scan here to join us

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.

GET YOUR WOMBLE ON



Come and meet your brand new Elm Park Wombles Team

Saturday 6th December 2025

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

Wear your festive gear for our December Womble!



10.30am - 11.30am

Anyone can be a Womble!



Next litter picks and community tidy ups will be :

Saturday 10th January 2026 10.30am – 11.30am

Saturday 7th February 10.30am - 11.30am

Saturday 7th March 10.30am - 11.30am

Hope to see you wombling around town soon!



ELM PARK WOMBLES

HAVERING EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE SCHEME

The Emergency Assistance Scheme has been able to support many residents throughout the pandemic, putting food on the table, heating homes over winter and replacing broken washers, fridges and cookers thanks to the substantial investment provided by Havering Council. It will continue to support residents (pensioners, working age, households with disabilities) through the increased cost of living where there is an urgent financial need. This means that if you receive welfare benefits, have a low income or do not receive welfare benefits but have an emergency need, you may be eligible for a payment of £100. To help with the increased cost of living, the scheme has been changed to support households who are not on welfare benefits to claim a payment if their income is low. Families with children or couples with no children at home who are not on welfare benefits may also be eligible for this scheme if their income is below £673 or £442 per week respectively. For more information visit www.havering.gov.uk and search emergency assistance scheme.

WHAT ELSE ARE HVC UP TO?

Shelley and Rebecca are out and about most Fridays undertaking lots of community meetings or tasks. You can regularly find them either cleaning up Elmer Gardens or at the various Blue Boards across Havering changing the information posters.

HVC are often approached by the local authority to support various tasks on their behalf, Elmer Gardens was classed as a grot spot and HVC got involved with LBH and Elm Site Service to overhaul and maintain the space providing regular care. The location has had wonderful planters installed, shingle and lovely plants installed, although some have sprouted legs and wandered off! If you live locally to Elmer Gardens, we would love some help in looking after this area – drop us a message as we'd love the extra support volunteering@haveringvc.org.uk

The changing of posters at blue board sites across Havering is slightly more challenging, especially on windy days, you will often see Rebecca doing battle with posters flying all over the place – it's a funny sight I am sure! The boards are a great way for local businesses to share information about what they are doing or what's going on. Brookside Theatre and Queen's Theatre often advertise their shows but we have also had suicide prevention messages and information about MyPlace in Harold Hill.



HAVERING BME FORUM ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Havering BME Forum
warmly invites you to their

Annual Christmas Party

SATURDAY 13TH DECEMBER 2025
7pm till late
to be held at
ST. AGNES HALL
73 Jutsums Lane, Romford, RM7 9HJ
Entertainment with Patrick Johnson
There will also be a raffle

Tickets : £25 (Under 12 free)
For tickets please email:
forum.haveringbmeforum@gmail.com
OR CALL 07809 591 855