

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

ELM PARK WOMBLES

Do you have some spare time on a Saturday once a month?



Come and meet your Elm Park Wombles Team

Saturday 2nd May 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 Womble Date
Saturday 6th June

Hope to see you wombling around town soon!

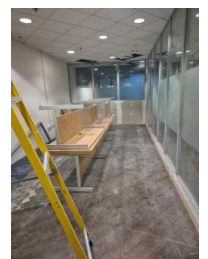
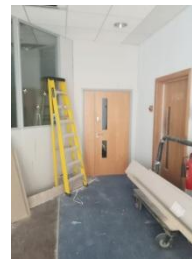


Find us on:
ELM PARK WOMBLES

MAY - JUN 2026

Having Volunteer Centre News

Finally, we have some very positive news regarding our funding... We are delighted to share that we have received formal confirmation that the grant funding we receive from LBH will continue for 2026-27 and will be renewable each April until further notice. This is a huge relief. It lifts a significant weight from HVC's shoulders and, for the first time in 10 years, gives us the stability to plan ahead with confidence. This outcome would not have been possible without the incredible support from a wide range of community members. Councillor Jane Keane put forward a motion at a full council meeting recognising the value and impact of HVC's work across the borough and we are proud to say this was unanimously supported. We truly believe this, alongside the wider backing, played a vital role in securing our continued funding. There was also an outpouring of support behind the scenes, much of which we may never fully know and for that, we extend our heartfelt thanks to every single person who helped ensure HVC's voice was heard and championed so strongly. Now, an update on our premises move...



We are currently halfway through our transition into the former Time FM radio station and it is really beginning to take shape. Following Time FM's sudden departure, the building required some much-needed care and reconfiguration to meet HVC's needs. We have installed new partitions to create smaller, functional office spaces, allowing us to continue operating as a community hub and "one-stop shop" for local services. Age UK's Advice and Information service will remain based within our premises and we are excited about the possibility of welcoming additional organisations to work alongside us in the future.

Progress has been steady, though painting has proven to be quite the task! We've been fortunate to have some fantastic volunteers step forward to help. We put out an SOS to Kimberly at LBH Housing Engagement, who truly came through for us. Thanks to her support and connections, we were introduced to the Council's contractor, Mears Group. The Mears team has generously offered three days of support through their social value programme, providing much-needed people power to help transform our new space. We cannot thank them enough, their contribution has made a real difference. We're hopeful that by the time of our next newsletter, we'll be fully moved in and happily settled into our new home.

DEMENTIA UK AND NATIONWIDE PARTNERSHIP



Dementia clinics

In partnership with Nationwide Fairer Futures

Dementia UK is offering free, confidential clinic appointments with a specialist dementia nurse, known as an Admiral Nurse – coming to your local branch soon. You don't need to be a Nationwide customer. Everyone is welcome.

Your nearest branch clinic is

HORNCHURCH & ROMFORD



To book your appointment, please visit dementiauk.org/nationwide, scan the QR code or speak to a Nationwide colleague in your branch.

For more support, contact Dementia UK's Helpline on 0800 888 6678, book a phone or video appointment at dementiauk.org/book



Dementia UK and Nationwide have partnered to offer Admiral Nurses confidential space to speak to anyone who has been affected by dementia.

HAVERING MIND – DADS SURVEY

CONNECTING DADS: COMMUNITY SURVEY

"Together, we can understand what Dads need to be the best Dads they can be."

SCAN THE QR CODE TO SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS.



LET US KNOW:

- How fatherhood affects your health/ social life and wellbeing.
- What type of activity or support could make a difference for you as a Dad?
- Are you aware of any LOCAL organisations specifically supporting Dads.

Mind
Havering, Barking
and Dagenham



WHERE DID HVC START

HVC has been incredibly fortunate to be shaped by a remarkable group of people whose dedication, compassion and commitment have defined who we are today.



Our very first staff member, following our CEO, was Mary, who joined as our inaugural Pathway Advisor (2018–2019). Mary's journey with HVC began as a volunteer, where her exceptional contribution was recognised with the Mayor of London's Volunteer of the Year Award in 2017. Her passion for helping others set the tone for everything that followed. After a year in post, Mary returned to Ireland—home to her

heart—leaving behind a legacy of care and excellence that continues to inspire.

Rachel was our second employee, joining initially as a volunteer after the closure of HAVCO. Her warmth, professionalism and unwavering compassion quickly became evident. From 2019 to 2023, Rachel played a pivotal role in connecting thousands of residents to volunteering opportunities, changing lives in the process. Her story with HVC did not end there—she returned in 2024 as a Check In & Chat Volunteer, continuing to give back in the same generous spirit that has always defined her.

Rebecca's journey started as a volunteer in 2016, she joined the staff team in 2019 as a part-time Volunteer Coordinator. Rebecca has since progressed to Centre Operations Manager where she remains a member of HVC's team.

As HVC grew, so did the need for strong support at the heart of our centre. Jasmine, who began volunteering in 2019, stepped seamlessly into the role of Admin Receptionist later that year. Her ability to connect with people and keep everything running smoothly has made her indispensable. Today, she continues to play a vital role as our Admin and Check In & Chat Coordinator. The challenges of Covid-19 brought both uncertainty and opportunity. In 2020, Jo, Lisa and Rob joined the team at a critical time. With other employment plans paused, they brought their skills and energy to HVC when it mattered most. Alongside Shelley, Jasmine and Rebecca, they worked tirelessly under immense pressure to ensure the community continued to receive vital support. Their collective effort during this period was nothing short of extraordinary.

Between 2022 and 2024, Kerry and Despoina joined on short-term contracts, delivering Volunteer Engagement Services across HVC and St George's. Their contributions helped strengthen and expand our reach during a period of continued growth.

Most recently, in 2025, we welcomed Maria, Volunteer Coordinator for St George's and Debbie, our Volunteer Engagement Advisor. Both have quickly become valued members of the team, bringing fresh energy, expertise and a shared passion for community impact.

Today, HVC's staff team—Shelley (CEO), Rebecca (Centre Operations Manager), Jasmine (Admin and Check In & Chat Coordinator), Maria (St George's Volunteer Coordinator), and Debbie (Volunteer Engagement Advisor)—represent the culmination of years of dedication, growth, and shared purpose.



We are immensely proud of the people who have been part of HVC's journey. Their stories are woven into the fabric of our organisation, and their commitment continues to ensure that residents can access the support they need and meaningful opportunities to give back.

ROMFORD BID – FOOD FESTIVAL



Join the Romford Bid over the May Bank Holiday weekend for two flavour-packed days of foodie fun, live entertainments and family friendly activities.

THE BREWERY PRESENT THE ROMFORD RODEO



The Brewery are going full Wild West with the Romford Rodeo, delivering two action-packed days of country-themed fun for all ages!

Visit www.thebreweryromford.com under events for more information



Havering Mind - Armed Forces Community Project

Havering Mind's Armed Forces Community Project offers dedicated mental health and wellbeing support for members of the Armed Forces community, including serving personnel, veterans, reservists, cadet force adult volunteers and their partners and children.

They offer:

- **Drop-in sessions** – Friendly advice and support to help you find services that meet your social, physical, and emotional needs. It's also a great opportunity to meet and connect with other veterans and members of the Armed Forces community.
- **Six-week wellbeing course** – Learn practical ways to enhance your own wellbeing and support the wellbeing of family and friends.
- **Wellbeing activities** – Enjoy relaxed activities such as country walks, creative sessions, games, and other opportunities to connect with others in a supportive environment.
- **One-to-One support** – up to six one-to-one support sessions to support with issues including: anxiety, identity, anger; or support dealing with issues such as housing, benefits, debt etc.

Want to know more? Get in touch via email at armedforces.communityteam@haveringmind.org.uk

Volunteer Opportunities Spotlight

HAVERING LONDON

Oral History Volunteer – We are recruiting volunteers to help record oral history interviews and documents for Romford's electronic music and club culture history. Volunteers will record oral history interviews with people who significantly contributed to, worked in or took part in Romford's electronic music and club culture during 1989 – 1999. No previous experience needed as you will be provided training in oral history interviewing. If this role caught your eye then get in touch!

Volunteer Catering Assistant – We are looking for volunteers who have catering experience in the last 3 years to join our Orange Café team in Havering-atte-Bower. Volunteers will take part in serving food, ensuring high standards of food hygiene and health and safety as well as prepare food and serve customers at the till point. Due to our remote location you will need to be able to get to us by car and have availability between Monday – Friday 10am – 4pm. If you have a passion for catering then we would love to hear from you!

Hair & Make-up Support Volunteer – Would you like to be part of the magic behind the Shrek the Musical on Ice? This is an exciting opportunity to support the production team backstage, helping performers look performance ready and feel confident before stepping onto the ice. This is a fantastic opportunity for anyone who is creative, reliable and detail orientated who has strong skills in make-up and hair. Shows take place 3rd – 5th July and there will be rehearsals to attend in between. If you have the skills for this role then get in touch!

Marketing & Promotions Volunteer – Do you have an interest and passion in Marketing and Promotions? We are in need of a volunteer to help us develop and implement a marketing strategy to promote our charity. This is a fantastic opportunity for someone with a creative passion to volunteer in a varied role co-ordination campaigns, developing social media channels and designing promotional material.



HAVERING LONDON

Do you have a Community Space or Place in Havering?

Havering London wants to know about you!



We want Havering residents to be able to discover community arts and culture places and spaces across the borough.

If you have a venue that holds arts, crafts or culture events, fetes, workshops or any activity or event that brings the community together through arts, community and culture, then get in touch and find out how we can help you!

Email: hello@haveringlondon.com

HAVERINGLONDON

haveringlondon.com



EPCA INDOOR BOOT SALE

CN: 1057074



INDOOR BOOT SALE

SATURDAY 27TH JUNE
10AM - 1PM



TREATS, TRINKETS & TREASURE

Grab Yourself a Bargain!

Elm Park Assembly Hall, Eynhorst Avenue, RM12 4RA

CONTACT: EVENTS@EPCA.ORG.UK

Havering London

Havering London is a new cultural placemaking organisation, bringing together a public, private and voluntary sector partnership of strategic organisations and community representatives. It is leading the delivery of a 3 year borough-wide cultural strategy focused on supporting and promoting arts and culture.

This website platform helps to showcase activities, venues, events and organisations across Havering.

Havering London want to help Havering residents to discover arts and culture in spaces and places across the borough. If you Volunteer, know of or work with an organisation or venue that hosts arts, crafts or culture events, workshops or any activity that brings people together through arts, community and culture, then get in touch by emailing hello@haveringlondon.com

Youth Unity - New Youth Club



The Battis Youth Hub in Romford represents a powerful example of what can be achieved through partnership, persistence, and a clear vision for young people. What began as a simple idea to create a safe, welcoming space for young people has evolved into a youth hub that will work to support engagement, mentoring and positive activities during the most critical hours after school.

On Friday 10 April, Youth Unity proudly marked the soft launch of The Battis Youth Hub welcoming key stakeholders, partners, and local leaders to see first-hand the transformation of a once-neglected space into a vibrant, safe environment for young people.

With support from Havering Council, Transport for London (Elizabeth Line/GTSR), and the Metropolitan Police, the space now offers:

- A **fully equipped outdoor area** including basketball, table tennis, and boxing facilities
- A **multi-use indoor hub** featuring gaming, podcasting, music production, and creative spaces
- Access to **trusted youth workers and mentors** providing guidance, support, and positive engagement

The project has also benefited from significant in-kind contributions, including construction support, reclaimed materials, and ongoing community involvement through initiatives such as the Community Payback team.

The Battis directly responds to a consistent message from young people across Havering: the need for a safe, welcoming space where they can spend time, feel supported, and access positive opportunities. By focusing on the "lost hours" after school, the hub aims to:

- Reduce vulnerability to exploitation and anti-social behaviour
- Provide structured and informal activities
- Offer food provision and a safe environment
- Build trusted relationships between young people and adults

Sessions will start on the 24th April from 3pm to 7pm each Friday and Wednesday from 3pm to 6.30pm