

The Volunteering News

BEE THE CHANGE BEE A VOLUNTEER 2026

WE HAVE A FACEBOOK PAGE



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

Find us on Facebook: @HaveringVC

HAVERING MUSEUM – COME FLY WITH ME

Looking for some Summer Holiday fun?
Join Havering Museum on 5th August –
booking essential via their website



Havering Museum
Come Fly with Me
Wednesday, 5 August
11:30 - 12:30
Learn how things fly, do crazy experiments and make your own flying machines
(suitable for 4–10 year olds)
Tickets £5 per child
Online booking available

Havering Museum
19-21 High Street, Romford, Essex RM1 1JU
Telephone 01708 766571
Email info@haveringmuseum.org.uk
www.haveringmuseum.org.uk
Registered charity no. 1093763

ACCREDITED MUSEUM

JUL - AUG 2026

Havering Volunteer Centre News

As I sit here writing the July–August edition of our newsletter on 23rd June, I can honestly say, hand on heart, I truly believed we would be comfortably settled into our new offices by now. Yet here we are... still waiting!

I hate to mention the *C-word* this early but we are definitely on the downhill slope towards Christmas and at this point I'm genuinely not sure which will arrive first: our moving date or Santa Claus himself.

Can somebody, anybody, please explain why we never seem to find the easy route or even the route with the least resistance? At the moment, it feels as though we're travelling through a tunnel with a faulty lightbulb: the light at the end keeps flickering on, giving us hope, only to switch off again just as we get close.

The move has been plagued by issue after issue after issue. The electrics were an absolute nightmare, with faulty fuse boards and exposed live cables that certainly gave us a shock, quite literally. However, connectivity has proved to be the biggest headache of all. How, in 2026, can a building have no internet supply?

Well, it turns out the move from copper lines to fibre is the culprit. Copper lines are now a thing of the past, which means we need a brand-new fibre installation. That, in turn, requires something called a *wayleave* which is a formal legal agreement that allows utility companies and network providers to access private land to install and maintain infrastructure. Simple enough, you might think.....not quite.

Like all good things, it comes at a cost. Not a few hundred pounds but several thousand. Alongside the installation itself, we need surveys, specialist contractors and certified fire sealing carried out by FIRAS-accredited professionals. By this point, all we're really asking for is someone to come and change the bulb at the end of that tunnel!

Thankfully, it's not all doom and gloom. We are still making progress, albeit in small steps rather than giant leaps. Our telecoms provider has identified a temporary workaround which may finally allow us to get our feet under our new desks hopefully before anyone starts singing *The Twelve Days of Christmas*.

There is also a minor hurdle with our new signage. It's been designed, manufactured and is ready to be installed; however, obtaining the necessary landlord approval is taking rather longer than anyone anticipated.

The good news is that our desks are already in place in the main office,

ESSEX SUMMER FEST 2026



Visit www.essexsummerfest.com to be part of the fun!

EMPLOYER SUPPORTED VOLUNTEERING



EMPLOYER SUPPORTED VOLUNTEERING

Employer-supported volunteering (ESV), also known as corporate volunteering allows employees to take paid time off to volunteer during work hours, supporting charities or community groups of their choice.

GET INVOLVED

BY VOLUNTEERING YOUR TIME:

- AT A FOODBANK
- AT A SOUP KITCHEN
- BY SHARING YOUR SKILLS
- AT A COMMUNITY SPACE
- FUNDRAISING
- HELPING WITH POLICIES
- UNDERTAKING DIY
- AT A COMMUNITY LITTER PICK

VISIT

<https://www.haveringvc.org.uk/esv-form/>

TO REGISTER YOURSELF OR YOUR TEAM!



TO EMPLOYEES & EMPLOYERS:

- GREAT TEAM BUILDING
- MORALE BOOSTING
- CIVIC PRIDE ENABLING
- SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FULFILMENT
- COMMUNITY RECOGNITION
- SENSE OF ACHIEVEMENT
- REFOCUSSES EMPLOYEES
- IT'S FUN!



Empower your teams to do good with different types of volunteering

MET ENGAGE



Keep up to date on crime in your area!

waiting patiently for the PCs to arrive, we've scrubbed from top to bottom, repaired the kitchen sink and the packing up of our current premises is well underway. In fact, some days there seem to be more boxes than people.

Our original plan was to relaunch during Volunteers' Week, mirroring our very first launch back in 2016. Unfortunately, as we all know, even the best-laid plans have a habit of developing plans of their own. One thing is certain: when we finally have a confirmed moving date, everyone will know about it.

If budget allowed, there would be a fanfare, a marching band and a Mardi Gras style parade through the marketplace. There would be ribbon twirlers, stilt walkers, confetti cannons, cheering crowds and possibly even a brass section. Realistically, with the budget we have, it will more likely be me standing on tiptoes with a slightly temperamental PA system, enthusiastically twirling a piece of string I've found in a cupboard, while dragging office furniture behind me and wondering where I left the kettle.

Either way, we'll be celebrating and we can't wait to welcome you through the doors when we finally get there.

WHERE DID HVC START

Volunteers' Week is one of the biggest events in our calendar and over the years, we have proudly celebrated ten of them. As a national campaign, Volunteers' Week gives organisations across the country the opportunity to recognise and reward the incredible contributions volunteers make within their communities. For us, it has always been a chance to say a heartfelt thank you to the people who give their time, energy and skills to make a difference. Over the last decade, we have hosted some truly fantastic celebrations. Some have been large-scale events, while others have been a little more intimate but each one has shared the same purpose: recognising the remarkable impact of volunteers.

Our very first Volunteers' Week celebration took place in 2016 at Raphael Park in Romford. It was certainly memorable! Following several days of heavy rain, we found ourselves gathered around the bandstand carefully navigating muddy patches and hoping for a break in the weather.



We were delighted to be joined by the then Mayor of Havering, Councillor Philippa Crowder, and volunteers were treated to a lively Bhangra dance workshop led by Veena Jain. Volunteers nominated by local charities were presented with certificates of achievement and thanked for their contribution to the voluntary sector. Looking back, it was a modest beginning, but one that laid the foundations for many celebrations to come. If 2016 was memorable, then 2017 was unforgettable.

The theme that year was *The Big Celebration* and it certainly lived up to its name. Charities were invited to apply for funding to host Volunteers' Week activities, while HVC organised what would become our largest-ever recognition event. We hired the grounds of the Queen's Theatre, erected two giant marquees and hosted afternoon tea for more than 200 nominated volunteers. In true Volunteers' Week fashion, the heavens opened once again but the rain did little to dampen the spirits of the day.

Our own HVC volunteers were absolutely incredible. While everyone else

SPRING COMMUNITY CAFÉ – ST GEORGE'S

FROM MONDAY 29TH JUNE @ 7PM



HORNCHURCH, STAYING SOBER,
AGNOSTICS, ATHEISTS AND
FREETHINKERS AA MEETING.

A WELCOMING, NON-RELIGIOUS AA MEETING
FOR EVERYONE – FAITH, NO FAITH, OR UNSURE.



**EVERY
MONDAY**



7PM
(ONE HOUR)



THE CAFE
St. George's Health and
Wellbeing Hub,
113 Suttons Lane,
Hornchurch,
Essex, RM12 6RR



**DO YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW
HAVE A DRINK PROBLEM?**
NO FORM FILLING, NO SIGN UP, NO FEES –
JUST COME ALONG!

COMBATTING LONELINESS AND ISOLATION ONE CALL AT A TIME



CHECK IN & CHAT

WE CALL BECAUSE WE CARE!

Do you sometimes wish you had someone to call you and check you are ok?
Are you finding that you are often not speaking to anyone?
Would you like to connect and chat with people on a weekly basis?

Our Check In & Chat service is a volunteer led telephone service designed to
break up feelings of loneliness and isolation.
Our volunteers call because they genuinely care!

If you would like to find out more give our befriending team a call on
01708 922 214

Could you be our next Check In & Chat Volunteer?

We are looking for more volunteers to place calls to residents of Havering.

If you have an hour a week to spare then please email
volunteering@haveringvc.org.uk

We would love to hear from you!

enjoyed the celebrations, they worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure every guest felt welcomed, valued and recognised. The event cost more than £10,000 and remains one of the largest and most complex events we have ever coordinated.



One particularly memorable moment was recognising the Metropolitan Police Specials. To our surprise, many of them told us they had never previously been formally recognised as volunteers for their service. Being able to acknowledge their contribution made the day even more special.

Alongside a few minor complaints, which perhaps proves you can't please everyone, we received some wonderful feedback:

"What a fabulous event, so many happy faces and so much enjoyment."

"Thank you for an amazing day, we all had a lovely time and great fun!"

"This was a really wonderful day for my charity and is a big encouragement."

"Thank you for a wonderful and enjoyable day."

In 2018, we held our final large-scale recognition event for volunteers from organisations across the borough. Hosted at Emerson Park Hall, more than 150 volunteers received certificates and enjoyed afternoon tea, all free of charge. The Mayor and Deputy Lieutenant personally thanked volunteers for their dedication and commitment to helping others.



However, following feedback from previous events, we took the opportunity to reflect on how best to use our resources. We realised that while our own HVC volunteers worked incredibly hard to make these celebrations possible, they rarely had the chance to enjoy them themselves. They were too busy welcoming guests, serving refreshments, setting up, clearing away and ensuring everything ran smoothly. As a result, we made the decision to focus future Volunteers' Week celebrations on recognising HVC's own volunteers. With the exception of our Covid-era celebration, every Volunteers' Week since has been dedicated to thanking the volunteers who make our work possible. They are the people who help ensure volunteering remains accessible across Havering and who support countless residents, organisations and community projects throughout the year. Every one of them is remarkable. While we are proud of the large-scale events we hosted in our early years, there is something particularly special about being able to offer a more personal and meaningful thank you to the volunteers who give so much to HVC. Celebrating them is not only our privilege, it is one of the highlights of our year.



EPCA INDOOR BOOT SALE

CN: 1857074

MEGA EPCA INDOOR BOOT SALE

ELM PARK
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

SATURDAY 25TH JULY 2026 10AM - 1PM



TREATS, TRINKETS & TREASURE
Grab Yourself a Bargain!

Elm Park Assembly Hall, Eyhurst Avenue, RM12 4RA

INFO@EPCA.ORG.UK

NO TABLES AVAILABLE

NEW WINDMILL HALL COMMUNITY CAFE

New Windmill Hall
Community Café
A welcoming space for everyone



Pop in for a warm drink, tasty lunch and friendly company.
Join in with activities, meet new people and help shape what we do.
Everyone is welcome - come as you are!

Let's build something great, together!

Fridays
10:30am - 3:30pm
Free Entry

- Delicious food & drinks**
Freshly made lunches, snacks and hot and cold drinks
- Friendly faces**
Relax, chat and make new friends
- Activities & wellbeing**
Fun and friendly activities to support your health & happiness
- Share your ideas**
Help us create a café that works for everyone

newwindmill@hotmail.co.uk
01708 220242
newwindmillhall
https://nwhall.org.uk/

Scan & follow us on Facebook

New Windmill Hall
St Mary's Lane
Upminster RM14 2QH
Charity Number: 1150748

Fridays 10.30am – 3.30pm join the New Windmill Hall's Community Café, free entry, join in with activities and meet new people.

Volunteer Opportunities Spotlight



Unit Helper Volunteer – We are a busy youth organisation, looking for volunteers that can spare a few hours a week to support our other volunteers in the day to day operations of the unit and vital fundraising. This may include helping at events, such as table tops, fetes and bucket collections with the occasional volunteer DIY task party on a weekend. This role would suit someone who enjoys flexibility in what they undertake, who doesn't mind fundraising one week or fixing something the next!



Meet & Greet Volunteer – Our busy foodbank is looking for a meet and greet volunteer to support our front of house across 4 days a week. Our teams can get very busy and we desperately need volunteers who are friendly, reliable and have the ability to put people at ease whilst we arrange parcels and provide additional support. There may be some telephone enquires but plenty of face to face interaction Mon – Thursday between 10am – 3pm.



Volunteer Massage Therapist – Do you have a minimum level 3 diploma in massage, have 2 years post qualification experience and experience in supporting a broad range of individuals? Then we would love to hear from you! We are looking for an empathetic, experienced volunteer massage therapist to provide therapy to individuals and carers referred to the service. This will be alongside other palliative care complementary services within the hospice. The hospice is in a remote location with no public transport.



House to Home Volunteer – This role provides practical help and kindness to residents to improve their living spaces so that they feel safer and more comfortable and truly at home in their property. Volunteers may support with painting and decorating, basic DIY and small repairs, moving or assembling furniture and cleaning and preparing spaces before and after work.

Suburban Legends: Come and Share Your Romford Story



Do you know a Suburban Legend from Romford?

What are the myths, legends and folklore surrounding our historic town and its market?

As part of Market Town, we're inviting local groups and individuals to help bring Suburban Legends to life – uncovering, reimagining and animating the myths, memories and half-told stories that shape Romford.

Romford Market has stood at the heart of Havering for centuries; a place of trade, spectacle, community and characters. We're gathering narratives and stories, tales, yarns and memories that the market has inspired across the generations. These can be recent and historical; magical and mythological. Take part in a free creative workshop exploring Romford's heritage and hidden histories throughout June and July. Open to schools, colleges, performing arts and community groups and individuals who want to shape the stories at the heart of the event.

Email Jane Herbert at info@haveringlondon.com to find out more.