

## **ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE MEMBER CHAMPION FOR THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR COMPACT 2019/20**

My second year as the Voluntary Champion for the Borough has been without a doubt an unforgettable and emotional year whereby people have been confronted with the enormous impact of Covid-19. Nothing could have prepared us for this pandemic and no one could have possibly envisaged the devastation, heartache and turmoil that Covid-19 would have upon our lives, health and wellbeing.

However, a caring and kind community spirit emerged with people across the Borough offering to volunteer and support the vulnerable, elderly and each other.



The Havering Volunteer Centre lead by Shelley Hart and Rebecca Mazrreku remained open for the whole duration of 'lockdown' and worked tirelessly with their team. They were inundated with calls from 600+ volunteers all wanting to help.

It was clearly evident that all the volunteers were united in their enthusiasm, kindness and compassion which was immensely reassuring.

The HVC received 14,300 crisis intervention calls from residents requesting support and reassurance.

The Centre organised a range of emergency services that included 850 food parcel deliveries along with:

- 171 click & collection shopping pick up & deliveries
- 2200 pharmacy prescriptions collections and deliveries
- 450 individuals into befriending roles,
- 35 dog walking roles,
- Provided over 90 food bank vouchers.

In total approximately 2,600 households registered for support and 9,846 volunteering hours amassed from the Volunteer Centre alone.

Faith Groups also provided food parcels that were delivered on a regular basis to the vulnerable and those self-isolating.

Tapestry provided a daily hot food service at £5 per meal to those that were unable to cook meals.

Harrow Lodge Sports Centre was used to stock food and produce which was made up into packages and delivered to residents across the Borough by our volunteers.

In support of the community effort, I liaised with thirty four Voluntary Organisations on behalf of the Havering Volunteer Centre kindly requesting they direct their members to the HVC which was our base and beating heart. Also along with Councillors across the Borough I contacted residents for chats and directed them to the Havering Volunteer Centre to gain support such as shopping, dog walking, etc.

People came together and supported each other in a variety of ways, from neighbours providing shopping services, volunteers litter picking in our local parks, online shows and activities via the Queens Theatre, Brookside Theatre and Age UK's Di's Diamonds and the VE Day front garden celebrations.

It is a tremendous testimony to the community spirit and demonstrates the resilience of people in overcoming obstacles no matter what crisis they are facing.



I attend the Havering Volunteer Managers Forum meetings hosted by Shelley Hart held during the year which are always a joy.

These bi-monthly meetings held at the Havering Volunteer Centre provide an opportunity for over 22 volunteer organisations and groups to come together to discuss volunteering matters, provide peer support and an update and overview on new initiatives/events.

I also meet regularly with Jerry Haley and Kim Smith from the London Borough of Havering Community Resilience Team at Mercury House to discuss volunteering, voluntary sector projects, initiatives and events. These meetings provide me with an understanding and awareness of issues across the Borough.

On 4<sup>th</sup> June & 10<sup>th</sup> September 2019, the Compact Forum was held at the Hornchurch Fire Station. This Forum provides the voluntary sector with an information platform to host speakers and presentations on a range of initiatives being developed by the public & voluntary sectors

Before the onset of the Coronavirus pandemic I visited many organisations throughout Havering and thoroughly enjoyed supporting their events. I feel it is extremely important to support our volunteers ongoing hard work across the Borough and embrace their achievements.



## Armed Forces Day 29<sup>th</sup> June 2019 - 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the D-Day Landings

Members of the community happily lined the streets for Armed Forces Day to celebrate our servicemen and women, past and present. This year marked the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the D-D landings. Serving troops, cadets and veterans were led by The Royal British Legion Band and Corps of Drums, Romford playing music as adults and children waved, cheered and danced along to the music.



The Mayor of Havering Cllr Michael Deon Burton, Leader of the Council, Cllr Damian White, Andrew Rosindell MP & Councillors joined the procession parading along South Street & passing the market to the Town Hall.





**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2019 – Ardleigh Green & Havering atte Bower Cricket Club –  
Sunshine vibrant Family Fun Day**

Organised by Ricky Hollands and attending the event included St John Ambulance and St Francis Hospice members of staff with stalls. Months of organising by Ricky Hollands were rewarded when £2,200 was raised with an outstanding response from the community on the day with an assortment of gift stalls, Tombola, fun bus, a live D.J. singers and dancers.



## Queen's Theatre, Hornchurch



Being an avid and enthusiastic supporter of the Queen's Theatre I thoroughly enjoyed the exciting production of "Titanic" in July 2019.

The iconic production was produced by the Havering Music Makers who are a amateur friendly Musical Theatre Society based in Havering who have been performing since 1976. They have a reputation for top quality shows. They were rewarded with a standing ovation at the end of each performance that took place from the 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2019 until the 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2019.



The cast researched the Titanic story, studied the characters and excelled in engaging with the show bringing it to life because of their enthusiasm and boundless energy.

A very good friend of mine Alex Donald, Actor who was a former Councillor of Havering starred in the show.





The Collier Row Carnival in August 2019 was as always a huge success with people and families lining the streets to wave to everyone in the procession.

This event requires many volunteers and our thanks go to Lesley Haylett, Ella Rayment from Collier Row Community Group and all the volunteers for once again organising a spectacular event.



## TAKE A KNIFE SAVE A LIFE – TEAM TAKSAL

Team TAKSAL have now been awarded Official Charity status and continue to work across Havering in their bid to remove knives and weapons from our streets to keep people safe in our community.

Stephen Gowers formed Team TAKSAL in March 2019 after a unprovoked vicious knife attack took place in Harold Hill which was fatal for beautiful Jodie Chesney.

The team are all enthusiastic, caring and hardworking and looking to recruit volunteers to go out in the TAKSAL teams across the Borough with them.



### 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2019 – Andrew Rosindell MP, Cllr Ray Best with Team TAKSAL

Team TASKAL and volunteers held a stall at the Collier Row Carnival and were introducing themselves and encouraging people to become involved in the group.



## Essex Wildlife Trust celebrated 60 years at Bedfords Park last August 2019









**29<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2019 – HAVERING MIND AGM**



## **Citizens Advice Havering – 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration**

On the 4<sup>th</sup> September 2019 I had the pleasure of attending the 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebrations for the Citizens Advice Havering which was held at Romford Market. The Citizen Advice service first opened their doors on 4<sup>th</sup> September 1939 (the day after WW2 started). The team deal with around 10,000 issues a year through face-to-face interviews. This service is needed just as much now as it was in 1939.



I am currently supporting Citizens Advice and Havering Volunteer Centre to ascertain if a three-year grant contract with the London Borough of Havering can be secured. This will help the Trustee Boards to plan for the future of their charities and aid with their sustainability. Both these organisations continually apply for external grants to ensure that their services can be provided to Havering residents and the voluntary sector. Unfortunately, infrastructure external grants for these types of organisations are very scarce.



In October The Havering BME Forum held an annual 'Community Cultural Celebration' at the Baptist Church Romford in Main Road. This annual event is always filled with a diverse range of food, music, dance and speakers from the differing cultures that represent a diverse and culturally changing Havering.



### **APPLE DAY AT THE WALLED GARDEN, BEDFORDS PARK - OCTOBER 2019**

We are very fortunate to have so many Friends of Parks Groups in the Borough who look after our green spaces. Mrs Lois Amos, Secretary of the Friends of Bedfords Park and her team of volunteers take pride in caring for the Walled Garden.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> October I attended Apple Day which was a celebration of all things Apple with an apple press and bottling. People in the community were invited to take their own apples to press. There was a Giant Pumpkin on display at our amazing "Walled Garden" and Apple Juice made from English apples.









### **SIGHT ACTION - (HAVERING) – AGM 2019**

One of the matters that I hope to pursue in the forthcoming year is support for visually impaired residents at the Queens Hospital. To this end, I attended the Sight

Action Havering AGM last October 2019 at the Town Hall.

I felt immensely concerned about the lack of aftercare provided for people after their hospital consultations so I brought this matter up for discussion at the Health Meeting the following evening with Ian Buckmaster and the committee. We were all in agreement there was a void regarding aftercare which needed to be remedied.

I requested an investigation be carried out and then brought back to the Health Committee. I am in contact with sight Action Chairman Mike Brace and his wife Maureen and with Council Officers from the Overview and Health Scrutiny Sub Committee.

I will be attending the next AGM which is being held early October, 2020.

## Citizens Advice Havering



Citizens Advice Havering were delighted to welcome guests, including the Mayor of Havering, to their Annual Public Meeting on Wednesday 30 October.

I spoke about the personal 'feel good' factor that volunteering brings, and Colonel Mark Bryant, Deputy Lieutenant for Havering spoke about the value to society that organisations and volunteers bring.

It was a further opportunity to celebrate again the 80 years that the local charity has been in existence, and to thank the volunteers and look forward to the challenges of continuing to provide advice that changes lives.





**JAMES BOND CHARITY BALL IN AID OF ST FRANCIS HOSPICE – NOVEMBER 2019 – Fun time dinner supporting St Francis Hospice ☺**



**FOOD BANK - KHALID SALEEM FOUNDATION UK**

I went along to the Food Bank at the North Romford Community Centre just before Christmas 2019 to meet Khalid Saleem and his team of volunteers are supporting local residents.

It was a pleasure to meet Khalid and friends and I took a donation and also from Lesley Haylett and Ella Rayment who run the Collier Row Community Group. The Food Bank runs every other Sunday.



## **Havering Christmas Land December 2019**





Ciaran White, Events and Community Fundraiser for Havering Mind Local presented a magical Christmas wonderland attraction for all the family at Harrow Lodge. Ciaran was inundated with offers of help from volunteers across the Borough to prepare for the Christmas event and then again once the venue opened.

The historic Harrow Lodge House building and secret garden next door were both transformed into a sparkling winter wonderland with a Christmas lights walk through.

An assortment of decorations were kindly made by students at Havering College of Further & Higher Education.





Proudly present....

# HAYERING CHRISTMAS LAND


'A MAGICAL CHRISTMAS LIGHTS TRAIL  
FOR ALL THE FAMILY!'

**OPEN**  
5pm — 9pm


6th, 8th, 10th,  
11th, 13th, 14th,  
15th, 16th, 17th,  
19th, 20th, 21st,  
22nd, 23rd and  
24th December

**Santa's Grotto**  
Food/drink  
Entertainment  
(selected nights)

**£2**  
entry pp  
into the  
walk

**All money**  
raised goes to  
  
Havering

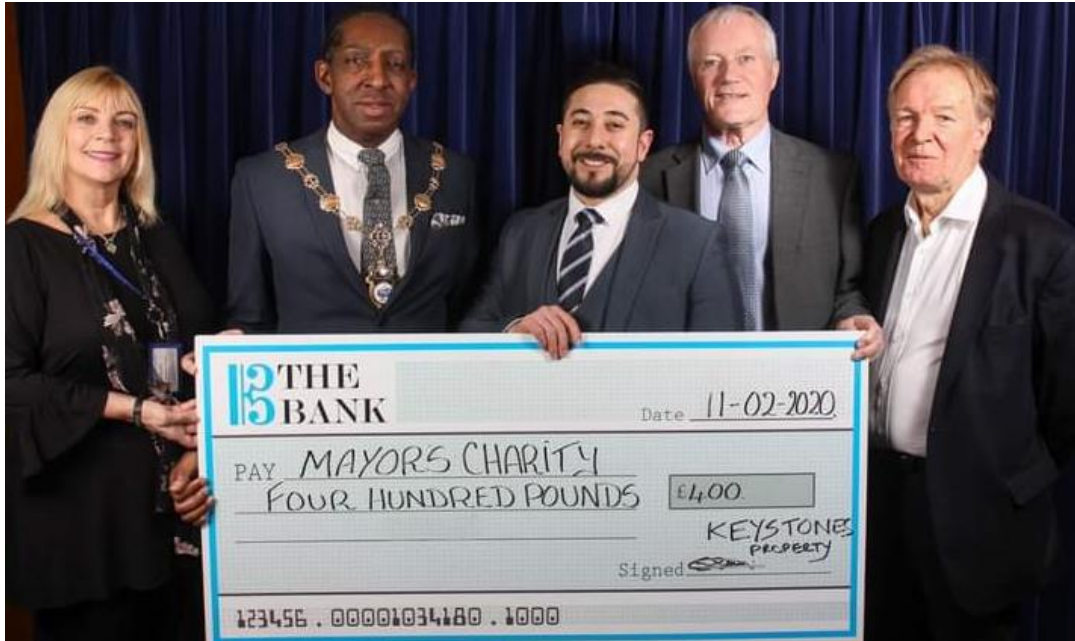
**Harrow Lodge  
Park,  
Hornchurch,  
RM11 1JU**  
(Hornchurch Road entrance)

Join the Facebook page now:  [HaveringChristmasLand](https://www.facebook.com/HaveringChristmasLand)



**SCOTT JAY, DIRECTOR OF KEYSTONES SUPPORTING THE MAYORS CHARITY –  
FEBRUARY 2020**

Scott Jay, Director of Keystones attended a presentation at the Town Hall when he kindly presented the Mayor with a charitable donation for his chosen charities.



**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2020 – Diversity and Equality**

I attended a meeting in the Council chamber presented by Vernal Scott. This was the launch of the diversity staff forums and volunteers forming various groups.





Thank you very much to everyone across the Borough of Havering who kindly contributes their time to support others within the Community.

Whilst working side by side with other volunteers a connection is formed as people make a difference in life whilst caring and sharing for others and each other.

I hope this report has captured some of the variety and colour of the many community groups and events that have taken place over the past twelve months.

**Councillor Christine Vickery**

**Member Champion for the Voluntary Sector**

**June 2020**