

# Hurry Uphavinging!

## Your community needs you

**PETRA needs to get more of its Uphavinging House residents involved in our community. Of the three blocks, Uphavinging is under-represented on the PETRA committee and sub committees, and at our social events including those for children.**

Here are some ways in which you can become involved:

### **Attend meetings**

Find out more about PETRA at one of our monthly committee meetings, held in the office in Parkview. You are welcome to attend as an observer, to meet us and to see what we do. Also, please make a note of the date of our forthcoming Annual General Meeting – a half-hour business meeting followed by a social 'do' with drinks, nibbles and a quiz. (see Events on the back page.)

### **Become a block rep**

PETRA is looking to recruit new block reps for all three blocks, especially Uphavinging. You don't have to be a member of the PETRA committee to be a block rep – you just need to represent the views of your block's residents by talking to PETRA on their behalf. You would not have to deal with emergencies or answer to residents outside of normal office hours.

Have a chat with Mike, Natasha or Jim to find out more.

### **Help us tackle the rubbish problem**

As well as the fly-tipping problem, Uphavinging residents and PETRA staff have also had to deal recently with an increase in litter being left on top of bins instead of in them, and scattered around outside the block.

Our advice regarding the fly-tipping remains as follows: if you see a van or tip-up lorry shedding its load where it shouldn't, take a note of the number plate and report the incident to the office as soon as possible.

Regarding general litter, all kinds of rubbish has been found near the green container and around the base of the block. Some of this stuff is being dropped from windows above. If you are responsible for this anti-social behaviour, please stop it immediately. If you think you know the people responsible for it – please report what you know to PETRA.

## PETRA website coming soon

With support from Cocrete, the company that has been advising us on sustainable development projects, PETRA is developing a website. As soon as we go live, you will be able to read the latest news, look at our photos, find links to our partner organisations, and leave a comment. So keep watching this space.



# Chairman Mike's SOAPBOX

## “PETRA does nothing for leaseholders!”



**This astonishing statement was made by a leaseholder at one of our meetings.**

For this person at least, PETRA has clearly failed to get across its commitment to our leaseholder neighbours.

So let me have a go. In recent times, PETRA has often saved leaseholders money by paying the full costs of repairs and improvements. We could have asked leaseholders for a contribution towards these works, but we chose not to.

For example, here are some of the ways PETRA has “done nothing for leaseholders”:

- PETRA recently served a Section 20 notice on the Council for the thousands of pounds we paid to have walls and ceilings painted with special pyroshild paint.
- PETRA met the costs of new estate grounds seating.
- PETRA met the costs of new estate block signs and estate layout direction maps.
- PETRA met the costs of new entrance floors to each block.

- PETRA met the costs of new estate rubbish bins and dropped kerbs into each block.
- And, of course, PETRA has met the costs of many small estate communal repairs and improvements, such as the stairwell window restraints and the renewed communal lighting in Overstrand and Parkview.

I hope you will agree that this amounts to substantially more than “nothing”. Leaseholders, please try to support us in our new endeavours, as we strive to improve this estate for everyone.

*Regards, Mike*



### Welcome on board

At its June meeting, PETRA welcomed new members to its committee. We now have a full complement of 15 committee members drawn from across our estate. Our latest recruits, as full members, are Rob Fry, Jack Humphreys, Paula Lam and Roger Colby. Joyce Luck has been co-opted as members until the AGM. Welcome to them all.

## Fiesta alert

There have been a number of car theft incidents on the estate recently where car parts have been stolen from Ford Fiesta cars. This appears to be the work of a ‘professional’ thief or thieves who ‘steal to order’ such items as headlights, bumpers and wing mirrors.

If you own a Ford Fiesta, we recommend you take extra precautions to secure your car, such as making sure yours has an alarm system and is parked in high-visibility areas of the estate.

If you see anyone acting suspiciously around parked cars, please report the incident to the office as soon as possible.

## Remembering Joe

We are sorry to report the death of Joe Eels, one of our longer-serving tenants. Joe and his mother Lill (better know as Ada) came onto the estate over 30 years ago and after Lill died Joe lived on in their ground floor flat in Uphaving House. Joe never married or had children but we believe he did have some relatives living in Canada.

In remembrance of Joe, PETRA made a donation to his favourite charity, the RSPCA.

***“They helped me turn my life around and now I feel like a normal person.”***

# Talking it over

A local housing association called Family Mosaic, which provides a range of support services for people in Havering, has recently helped some PETRA residents.

Jim Brett, Estate Manager, says he is aware of families who have been helped by Family Mosaic, and adds: “If anyone is struggling with housing, family or personal troubles and feel they need some support, I’d recommend they contact Family Mosaic. They may be able to help you.”

The organisation works with anyone with housing or tenancy-related problems. But they also help people with problems such as debt, unemployment, domestic violence, relationship difficulties, neighbour disputes, mental health and drug and alcohol issues.

Family Mosaic holds a drop-in advice service at Holgate House in Romford on the first Friday of every month. To find out more, talk to Jim, or call freephone 0800 288 8883.:

***“I was very unsure and unconfident about what steps to take in life, but Family Mosaic gave me much needed support.”***

## Going to the dogs

Homes in Havering, in partnership with the Dogs Trust, is organising a series of pet owner sessions where residents can get advice on neutering their dogs. You will also be able to get them micro-chipped at these events! Sessions are being held around the borough throughout September and October. For details and dates, ring 01708 434 000.

### & dealing with their mess

There’s no pleasant way of talking about this, so we’ll get straight to the point. Dog shit. Owners, it is your responsibility to tidy up after your dogs. Their mess should be disposed of immediately in one of the clearly marked dog waste bins – **NOT** the general waste bins. Please play your part in making sure our green *and* pleasant estate remains just that – and safe ground for our children to play on.



## Picture this: “Together we are stronger”

PETRA’s annual photo competition is here again and there are three £50 gift vouchers to be won for the best three entries, as judged by Homes in Havering’s Julie Pocock.

Entries – **only one picture per person please** – should be submitted to the office by 1st October, and can be delivered either as individual prints or electronically on a disc or via email (see contact details, back page).

You are free to choose what you point your camera at (though if human please seek their or their parents’ permission first!), but we would like the title of your picture to be: **Together we are stronger.**

Winning pictures will – with your consent – be displayed in the foyers of the three blocks, to inspire us all with the thought that...together we are stronger.

**Fancy coffee with Barbara and friends?**  
See back page for time and date.





# The view from here

Uphavering resident and leaseholder  
**Joe Glendenning**

## How long have you lived here?

I've lived here for 20 years, my wife Denise for 24. We met at the Texaco garage, where we both worked. These days I work for a cleaning company contracted to Tesco.

## How has it change over the years?

One of the biggest changes has been the arrival of PETRA. The Council didn't bother to maintain the housing stock. When PETRA does things like give the walls a fresh coat of paint it makes a difference.

Years ago, we had water leaking into our ground floor bathroom. I called the Council and explained the situation. But because I was a leaseholder they said there was nothing they could do. I had to call on all the flats above mine, at 2 o'clock in the morning, to find out who had left the taps on.

Compare that with more recently, when I had a new boiler fitted. PETRA came out immediately to lend a hand and to turn the water off.



## What's best about the estate?

I'm originally from Darlington, but moved down to London in 1989. I lived in Walthamstow originally before moving over here. I like Hornchurch. I like the fact that our estate is in a London borough yet it's also quite green, a bit countrified.

## Biggest drag?

That must be the rubbish. Ever since the Uphavering forecourt was designated a recycling area we've had a problem, with people just dumping stuff around the place. I noticed a car battery had been left by the recycling bin the other day. Worst of all is the fly-tipping, which of course happens at the dead of night.

## How can we get more residents involved in running PETRA?

There will always be some who just don't care, and others who can't get involved because of other commitments. But for the rest of us, it would be good to find new ways of getting people involved in how PETRA spends its money. I suggested a metal salt container would be helpful, for the care park out front, but nothing came of it.

## PETRA does from time to time ask residents to vote on how it should spend funds. What more can we do?

PETRA could pay individual visits to residents, to canvas people's views. They could run a rolling programme of visits across the estate, visiting perhaps 12 flats per month, which would give everyone an annual visit.

## Alternatives to CCTV

Following the recent vote by residents in which many of you expressed an interest in having external CCTV cameras installed on the estate, PETRA is looking at cost effective ways of monitoring external areas.

Effective external CCTV coverage would be expensive, so before we commit to spending money on this we are checking out the alternatives. We will update you on this issue, and the action to be taken, as soon as we can. In the meantime, if you have any ideas on what we should do, or professional expertise to share, please come and have a chat with us.

## Key Dates

**Next PETRA committee meeting**  
Tuesday 28 August, 8pm

**PETRA's Annual General Meeting**  
A review of the year, drinks and nibbles, and quiz – All residents welcome  
Tuesday 25 September from 7.30pm.

**Barbara's coffee break**  
Barbara Davies' Wednesday afternoon coffee breaks for older residents continue in the concierge every second Wednesday from 2-30pm. The next

## Contacts

### PETRA

Mike Davis (Chair), Natasha Cruickshank (Trainee Manager), Jim Brett (Estate Manager), and Bradley Pavey (Repairs and Ground Maintenance Officer) are based at the PETRA office.

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