



# Community News

Spring 2006

## CHRISTMAS 2005



*NCH Action for children won the award for the best dressed window competition.*

Hatfield Town Council organised a number of activities during the Christmas period for the residents in the parish of Hatfield.

Father Christmas was able to take time out of his busy schedule to let children visit him in his grotto on Saturday 17th December - Christmas Festival Day. He also toured the town in the evenings, helping the volunteers from the Jim McDonald Centre to raise nearly £1,300. The Jim McDonald Centre kindly donated £400 to the Hatfield Town Council Chairman's charities - Keech Cottage Children's Hospice and the Women's Refuge.

A huge number of pupils and teachers from local schools attended the traditional Tree Lighting ceremony on Thursday 8th December and joined in the carols led by Brian and Thelma Dummer.

The Best Festively Dressed Window Competition continued this Christmas, and with numerous entrants the judging panel had a difficult choice in deciding the winner. The £100 cash prize went to the National Children's Home (NCH) Action for Children Charity Shop.

The Amerco Electrical Distributors Christmas Golf Day was enjoyed by those that participated. The weather was kind to the players, and the course and the catering at Mill Green Golf Club was excellent. Nearly £600 was raised for the Chairman's charities.

Christmas Festival Day took place on Saturday 17th December with participants including St. John Ambulance, Royal Air Forces Association, Salvation Army and St. Luke's Church. The Hertfordshire Concert Band and Churches Together Choir performed carols much to the enjoyment of the public. Jimmy Ball Rides and Applejack the Clown provided entertainment for the children along with Santa's Grotto in the Community Resource Centre which was visited by over 70 children. Hatfield Heritage Vehicle Society had a display of its vehicles.



*Father Christmas took time out of his busy schedual to visit children in Hatfield.*

## HATFIELD CITIZEN'S AWARD



The Hatfield Citizen's Award went to Brian Dummer for his outstanding work in the community over many years. The Chairman of the Council, Cllr. Mick Long, presented the award and a certificate to Brian to acknowledge his hard work and dedication, which has proved a great asset to all those he has helped.

The presentation took place on 8th December, at the same time as the Tree Lighting Ceremony. Congratulations and well done Brian!

*Brian Dummer won the Hatfield Citizens award for his outstanding work in the community.*



*Scottish Dancing during last year's festival at Lemsford Village Hall*

As in 2005 the Council has set aside £10,000 to assist community groups, including schools that wish to do something special in Festival Week. This year it will be 10th to 17th June inclusive.

11th June sees Hatfield Heritage Vehicle Society holding its annual Motor Rally at Birchwood Leisure Centre Playing Fields.

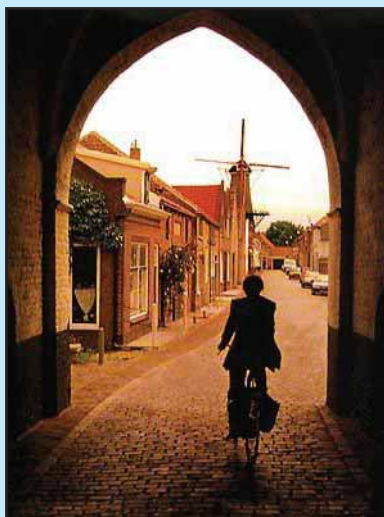
The traditional festival activities will take place and are already being organised. These include the History of Rock 'n' Roll concert for all the junior schools, the Dance Evening at Birchwood Leisure Centre, the cricket match between Hatfield Crusaders and Cavendish Cricket

Clubs at Roe Hill Hall and Scottish Dancing at Lemsford Village Hall. .

The week will conclude on Saturday 17th June with the Hilltop Festivities at Highview, Hatfield. There will be children's fairground rides, side shows, craft and produce stalls, refreshments and more.

A complete programme of activities will be published in the next edition of 'Community News' - out in May. If you would like any further information before then, please contact the Council Offices on 01707 262023, email: [enquiries@hatfield-herts.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@hatfield-herts.gov.uk).

## THE DUTCH ARE COMING TO HATFIELD



From the 1st to 10th August 2006 fifteen Dutch youngsters from Hatfield's Twin Town in Holland will be staying in Hatfield. Opportunities still exist for 14 or 15 year olds living in Hatfield to take part by hosting a Dutch youngster and participating in the various activities being organised by the Town Council.

Fancy going to Chessington World of Adventures, Brighton, London, a BBQ, swimming or Activity World to name but a few of the activities currently being arranged? Then give Paul Widdicombe a call on 01707 262023 during office hours to find out more.

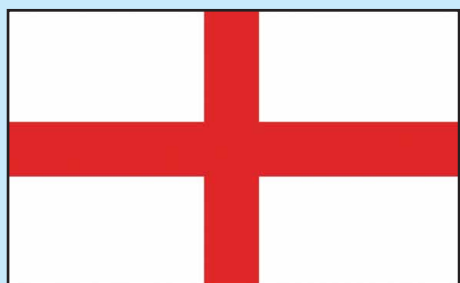
# COMMUNITY UPDATES

## THE DELL, PLEASANT RISE

For years the Town Council has tried to maintain this area as an amenity for all the community. Unfortunately the excessive wear and damage caused to the banks leading down into The Dell from Pleasant Rise has meant that we have had to erect a fence along the whole length of the Pleasant Rise boundary.

There will still be access to The Dell, particularly through a new pedestrian gate by the entrance to The Ryde School.

*Damage caused to the banks leading to the Dell.*



## ST GEORGES DAY

The Town Council believes that we should celebrate St. George's Day with a Service and Parade and to combine it with the Annual Civic Service for Hatfield. We will start this in 2007 and have already had enough support from organisations in the Town to justify our decision. If you have any comments please contact Peter Clark, the Town Clerk on 01707 262023

## PUBLIC OPEN SPACES

Each time we publish 'Community News' we hope to be able to tell you that some areas of public open space on the new housing developments have been transferred to the Town Council. Although we have been promised that the transfer of some is imminent we cannot be certain until it has happened.

As soon as the Town Council owns and is responsible for any new area of Public Open Space we will erect appropriate signs.

*The Town Council will erect signs for any open spaces it is responsible for.*



## 'WHERE IS THIS?' COMPETITION WINNER

We are pleased to announce the winner of the 'Where is this?' competition featured in the last edition.

As many of you knew, the photo featured was of the children's recreation ground and Birchwood Playing Fields at Longmead.

The first correct answer out of the hat was Mrs Joan Cobern, who chose a years free membership at

Beeches Health Suite, Birchwood Leisure Centre as her prize. She also received a commemorative first day cover.

# Congratulations and well done!

## ACTIVITIES IN OUR HALLS

Hatfield Town Council owns and manages Birchwood Leisure Centre, Roe Hill Hall, Lemsford Village Hall and Oxlease Community Hall.

A wide range of activities take place at all these venues including.

- indoor and outdoor sports including aerobics, dance, martial arts, football and rugby and more.
- pre-school groups
- religious groups
- slimming clubs
- children's parties
- 40th birthday parties
- wedding receptions
- yoga
- pilates

For further information please contact our central booking office at Birchwood Leisure Centre on 01707 270772/3



## ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT



### NEWGATE STREET VILLAGE HALL

The Town Council, with help from the Newgate Street Village Hall Committee, has just completed the first phase of a major refurbishment of the Village Hall. The works to the entrance hall, toilets, cloakroom, hall, side lobby and committee room have cost £39,000 of which the Village Hall Committee has contributed £5,000.

The final phase will be refitting and redecorating the kitchen and updating the electrical system which will be done later this year.

### ROE HILL HALL

With the budget for 2006/2007 approved, the Town Council will be making improvements to the lounge bar at Roe Hill Hall. This will provide an improved servery for both staff and customers as well as new furnishings.



## BEST VALUE



Hatfield Town Council, as one of just 41 Town and Parish Councils in England obliged by the Government to comply with "Best Value" legislation, is thoroughly reviewing all its services. This involves an in-depth look at what we are providing, whether it is needed, should we be doing it (if not will anyone else?) as well as the efficiency and cost of delivering that service.

We also compare what we do with other Councils that provide similar services and facilities and have consulted our users and the general public.

We are just completing a Review of our Grounds Maintenance. This deals with all the Town Council's playing fields, open spaces and play areas as well as the War Memorial Gardens and the Green Lanes Allotments. The total area maintained by the Council is more than 25 hectares.

The Reviews are conducted addressing the four key principles of the Best Value Review process:

Challenging why and how a service is being provided

Consulting local taxpayers, service users and the wider community on the direction of the service and the setting of new performance targets

Comparing performance with that of others providing a similar service across a range of relevant indicators

Competing as a means of securing an efficient and effective service.

A history of each service is collated and particular details used to give the information needed to review each service.

Later this year we will be writing to 1 in 20 people in the Town asking their views on our services. This enables us to compare our performance year on year

If you have any questions about our Review of Grounds Maintenance please contact the Policy and Projects Officer, Tom Perkin or the Town Clerk, Peter Clark on 01707 262023.

## GRANTS

Are you involved in a community group in Hatfield?

Does it need financial help or match funding to provide the service?

If you need to improve your facilities or buy new equipment why not apply to Hatfield Town Council for a monetary grant? Applications are invited from all community groups in Hatfield.

During the past year the Council has supported a wide range of organisations and would like to be able to help your project too!

The Council also has £10,000 to fund groups, including schools, for special events involving the Community, particularly during our Festival Week.

Contact the Town Council on 01707 262023 for an application pack.



# NOTICE

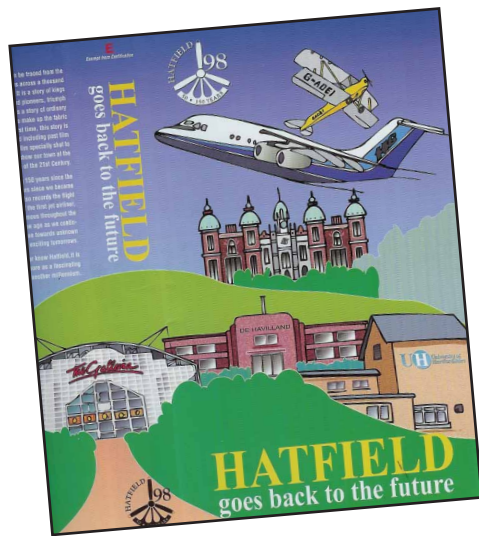
## HATFIELD GOES BACK TO THE FUTURE

When advertised in the winter edition of Community News the video sold out within weeks. Hatfield Goes Back to the Future is now available again to own in both Video and DVD format.

The film was originally made to mark 150 years of Hatfield's history since the arrival of the railway and 50 years since Hatfield became one of Britain's New Towns. It is a film to keep which includes footage of the first jet airliner, which was to make Hatfield famous.

Video £5.00

DVD £10.00



## PURCHASE A PIECE OF HISTORY

### First Day Covers

These First Day Covers are stamped with the official stamp and have 1st Class postage. They were created in 1998 to mark the 150 year anniversary of the arrival of the railway and 50 year anniversary of Hatfield becoming a New Town. The cover design was carried on the Class 317 Mk2 train, "The Hatfield Comet".

Available to buy from the Town Council offices for 50 pence as a good long-term investment.

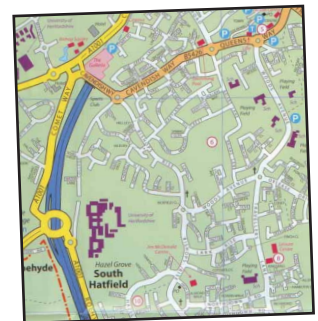
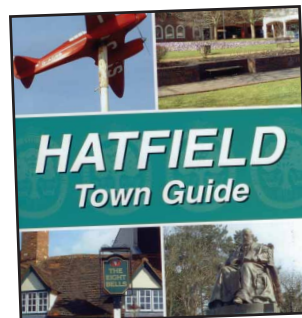
Phone the Town Council on 01707 262023 or visit us at the Kennelwood, Town Centre.



## TOWN GUIDE AND MAP

The updated Town Guide and Map are both available FREE of charge from the Town Council offices. Alternatively telephone 01707 262023 and a copy will be sent to you.

The Town Guide is full of information regarding the Town and District Council, local services, local organisations, schools and doctors. The guide includes a detailed pull-out map, which is also available separately.



# BOARD

## PLAYSCHEME DATES

Hatfield Town Council Playscheme at Birchwood Leisure Centre will take place on the following dates.

Easter - Monday 3rd to Thursday 13th April 2006

Whitsun Half Term - Tuesday 30th May to Friday 2nd June 2006

Summer holiday - Monday 24th July to Friday 1st September 2006

The Playscheme has a wide range of activities including arts and crafts, sports such as badminton, basketball, football and dance, games, drama and quizzes.

Playscheme is for all children age 5 to school year 6. For booking enquiries contact 01707 262023 or email: [enquiries@hatfield-herts.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@hatfield-herts.gov.uk)

## HATFIELD AREA HOUSING OFFICE

Until the new Offices are built on the old Forum site the District Council's Hatfield Area Housing Office is in White Lion Square, 30-32 Town Centre.

The Town Council does not deal with housing and is therefore unable to assist with any enquiries of this nature.

## VOLUNTARY GROUPS

If you are a community group or voluntary organisation in Hatfield and want to spread the message of what you do, or if you want to attract new members, please let us know. We will try to make space in the Community News for a small article about you.

Do you have an event planned or on-going money-raising activities? Please contact Tom Perkin on 01707 262023 or email: [tom.perkin@hatfield-herts.gov.uk](mailto:tom.perkin@hatfield-herts.gov.uk) to feature in our next edition, which will be distributed to every business and household in Hatfield in May.

## CONTACT THE EDITOR

Community News is a newsletter for the Community. If you would like to make any comments or wish to contribute, the next issue goes to print late April so please contact the editor Tom Perkin on 01707 262023 or write to Hatfield Town Council, Kennelwood, Hatfield, Hertfordshire, AL10 0LG.  
email: [tom.perkin@hatfield-herts.gov.uk](mailto:tom.perkin@hatfield-herts.gov.uk)

## NEWS FROM ISABEL HOSPICE - MARCH AND APRIL 2006

### Fashion Show, WGC Thursday 16th March

We are delighted that Brooks, Ladies top designer fashions, will be doing a fashion show in aid of Isabel Hospice again. This was a very exciting event last time and well worth getting in early with tickets as it is sure to be very popular.

There will be two shows - morning and evening. Further details re tickets will follow shortly or call fundraising on 01707 376782

### QUIZ NIGHT - WELHAM GREEN MEMORIAL HALL

Saturday 18th March

North Mymms Group. Further details to follow.

## FLORA LONDON MARATHON 2006

Sunday 23rd April

We would like to invite you to join our team of runners in 2006. Why not make 2006 your year to support a local charity, Isabel Hospice.

For more information please contact Pam Shepherd on 01707 376782

## INFORMATION CENTRE

The Town Council is a source of information for the community about a wide range of issues. Please feel free to drop in to our offices at Kennelwood, Town Centre during office hours for free information about any of the following:

- Museums
- Travel
- Planning Issues
- Churches
- Entertainment/Leisure activities
- Health
- Community events
- Councillors
- Points of contact

Our staff will be happy to help with any enquiries and welcome any feedback on our service.



## CAR RALLY



*A classic car at last year's rally*

### HATFIELD HERITAGE VEHICLE SOCIETY MOTOR RALLY SUN 11 JUNE 2006 BIRCHWOOD LEISURE CENTRE

Transport throughout the ages. Classic, Vintage and Antique Motor Vehicles of all types.

Birds of Prey Display • Side shows and Stalls  
Refreshments • Majorettes • Tug of War Amusements Fair

FREE ADMISSION TO THE PUBLIC

To participate at this event, complete the coupon and send with a 9"x 6" SAE to  
HHVS Rally Secretary, 25 Daysmead, Hatfield, Herts., AL10 0SE

Please circle: Vehicle Exhibitor / Trade Stand / Auto jumble / Boot sale / Other

Name: ..... Vehicle: .....

Address: ..... Reg. No: .....

..... Year: .....

..... Tel: .....

Details of Stall / Stand: .....

Car Boot: Yes / No