



Community News

www.hatfield-herts.gov.uk

Winter 2006

CHRISTMAS EVENTS 2006

Tree Lighting & Carol Service

We will be holding our annual Tree Lighting & Carol Service on Thursday 7th December at 3:30pm with the local schools at our Council Offices. The Town Mayor will be switching on the Christmas lights.



If you are in town then drop by for a warming hot chocolate and a tasty mince pie!

Christmas Festival Day

Be sure to visit Hatfield Town Centre on Saturday 9th December for our Christmas Festival Day from 10am – 4pm.

Father Christmas will be in his Grotto in the Asda foyer with presents for all the children.



Entrance to the Grotto is only £1 and all the proceeds are going to the Town Mayor's charity Leonard Cheshire, which provides care at home for the disabled, elderly or unwell.

There will also be children's rides, refreshments, community stalls and carol singing.

Father Christmas Evening Tours

As Father Christmas is in Hatfield on the 9th December, he has told us that he will also be visiting the residents of Hatfield on the following evenings from 4pm onwards: 4th, 6th, 8th, 13th, 14th, 15th and 18th December. So watch out for him coming past on his sleigh

accompanied by his helpers who will be collecting for charity.

Write to Father Christmas!

If you can't get to see Father Christmas, don't worry you could write to him instead!



Post your letter to us here and we will make sure that he gets it when he pops into the office to say goodbye after his visit to Hatfield. Just make sure that we receive your letter by the 15th December and who knows, if you have been good, you may even get a reply!

Christmas Charity Golf Day

If you enjoy a round of golf then why not get together with some friends and form a team to participate in the Town Mayor's Golf Day on the 7th December? For full details see inside this newsletter.



Best Festively Dressed Shop Window Competition



All shops and businesses in the Town Centre are invited to enter this competition. After the closing date of the 1st December, all participating window displays will be judged and the winning business will be awarded a £100 cash prize by the Town Mayor.

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Christmas Events at a Glance

- **1st Dec** ~ Closing date for Best Festively Dressed Shop Window Competition
- **4th Dec** ~ Father Christmas in Lemsford
- **6th Dec** ~ Father Christmas in Hatfield Garden Village
- **7th Dec** ~ Christmas Charity Golf Day
- **7th Dec 3:30pm** ~ Tree Lighting & Carol Service
- **8th Dec** ~ Father Christmas in South Hatfield
- **9th Dec** ~ Christmas Festival Day
- **13th Dec** ~ Father Christmas in East Hatfield
- **14th Dec** ~ Father Christmas in North Hatfield
- **15th Dec** ~ Father Christmas in Ellenbrook
- **18th Dec** ~ Father Christmas in Central Hatfield

TOWN MAYOR'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

At this time of year the first thing is to wish all the residents of Hatfield the season's greetings for 2006 and hope that you enjoy the whole of the festive season.

Since last Christmas, when I was fortunate enough to be Chairman, lots of things have happened. I have been to Strasbourg to represent Hatfield and the people of our town and received a diploma (now in the Council Chamber) for our sterling work on twinning. I would like to thank the Council staff for another year of hard work, and Officers and Councillors for their support.

At this time of year there are some of us who will miss family members who are no longer with us. If you wish, please join us at the Galleria for a short remembrance service at the Lights of Love ceremony on the 18th November. It will make it a poignant time.

We both hope that all the children have a special time as of course Christmas is about children, and being grandparents ourselves (indeed great grandparents!), we look forward to seeing their enjoyment over Christmas.

So as we move into the festive season we wish you all good luck for the future and good health, and if you're not enjoying the best of health at this time a speedy recovery and a much healthier 2007.

Once again thank you for your continuing support.
On behalf of Officers, Staff and Councillors,

Best wishes,

Cllr. Mick Long & Dorothy Carr
Town Mayor & Mayoress of Hatfield



ANNUAL CITIZEN AWARD 2006

CLOSING DATE EXTENDED TO 31ST DEC 2006

If you know someone in Hatfield that you believe deserves this Award then please send your nominations in by writing to us. The Award winner will be asked to nominate a good cause in Hatfield to receive £300 and will themselves receive a certificate and a token prize of champagne and flowers from the Town Mayor.

Write to:

**Hatfield Citizen Award Nominations,
Hatfield Town Council,
Council Offices,
Kennelwood House,
Hatfield, Herts.
AL10 0LG.**





Creative Herts is an organisation that exists for the benefit of creative professional people. One of their members, a budding graphic designer, has kindly volunteered to design our Christmas Festival Day flyer this year. If you are in the creative industry and would like to meet with similar people, Creative Herts hold monthly meetings in the Talk Bar at the Beales Hotel. Meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of the month at the Talk Bar, Beales Hotel, Comet Way, Hatfield. Situated in the Hatfield Business Park adjacent to the Galleria Shopping Mall.

Next meeting: Thursday 14th December 2006

Creative Herts also hold regular Skills Training Events. For additional information visit www.creativeherts.com or telephone Helen on 01707 284741.



Are you concerned that local health services are failing to meet the needs of people like you? If so, now you can have your say!

By joining the East and North Herts Patient and Public Involvement Forum, you'll be representing the views of health service users to the Primary Care Trust, the body responsible for spending on local health services such as GPs, Dentists and Opticians. You'll also be monitoring the quality of your local health services through regular visits and looking at wider issues, such as transport or social care, which may affect health services in your community.

You don't need to be an expert on health issues – Forum Members are volunteers from different backgrounds, wanting to improve our health services.

Important changes in the NHS lie ahead. You can help make sure those changes are for the best by joining your local Patient and Public Involvement Forum. Phone Amanda Salt on 07795 216174 / 01707 695514 for information about the work of the Forum or becoming a Forum member or email: amandasalt@cda4herts.org.uk

NUMBER 1 HATFIELD

Did you know that Hatfield boasts a welcoming community centre complete with internet cafe, toddler groups, and courses?



Often people come into the centre and tell us that they never knew we existed. In fact, we've been located next to Pizza Hut since January 2003 but maybe you're new to us as well.

If you've never been in to Number 1 Hatfield we invite you to pay us a visit, enjoy a cup of tea or coffee, surf the internet, or find out what courses are forthcoming. You'll also find a large assortment of Charity Christmas cards on sale here at the centre from 30th October. There's something for absolutely everyone here at Number 1 Hatfield!

Toddler Groups: Art & Craft (15months - 3 years) -- Mondays 10-11am £2.00
Music (0 - 3 years) -- Wednesdays 10-11am £1.50

Friendship Group (English for speakers of other languages): Tuesdays 9:30-11:30am £1.00

Internet Cafe: £1.00 per hour. Selection of teas and coffee available.

New course listing available from November!

A2J Youth (Ages 10-15): Friday nights 7:30-9:30pm

Cards for Good Causes: 30th October- 15th December at the following times:
Monday-Friday 10-4
Saturday 2 Dec: 10-2
Saturday 9 Dec: 10-2



We're located at 1 Town Centre, Hatfield AL10 0JZ. Ring us on 01707 270590. Also now online at www.number1hatfield.org.uk

POPPY SUPPORT



To show our continued support we thought we should make you aware of a new welfare branding programme called Poppy Support from the Royal British Legion. This support is available throughout the whole year not just around Remembrance Day.

It provides a range of practical help for serving and ex-Service men, women and their dependants. Individuals do not have to be a member of the Legion, just a member or ex-member of HM Forces or a dependant of such a person. One in six people is eligible for Poppy Support.

There are six areas of support offered:

Poppy Funds – financial support (grants, loans, scholarships).

Poppy Advice – advice on careers, rights and pensions.

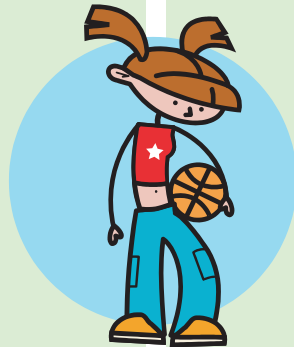
Poppy Homes – seven homes across the country offering nursing, residential or day care.

Poppy Travel – remembrance travel to war cemeteries, memorials and battlefields worldwide.

Poppy Breaks – four break centres across the country offering rest and relaxation.

Poppy People – these are volunteers, caseworkers, and hospital and housebound visitors. They provide emotional support, practical assistance and companionship.

For further information please contact Legionline on 08457 725 725 (10-4pm Monday to Friday) or visit www.britishlegion.org.uk



NEW COMMUNITY OFFICER

Introducing your Police Community Support Officer



Hatfield Town Council is pleased to partner with Hertfordshire Constabulary in providing the community with our own local PCSO. PCSOs are uniformed civilian support officers and help to tackle vandalism and anti-social behaviour. They have a variety of powers including the power to detain and the power to issue fixed penalty notices.

Angela Wilcox joined Hertfordshire Constabulary as a police officer but prefers being out and about in the community so decided to become a PCSO. The Town Council has also supplied our PCSO with a bicycle to get around the town more easily.

PCSOs are now recognised as a valuable resource within the police force. Angela can be contacted via Hatfield Police Station on 01707 638100.

CONTACT THE EDITOR

Community News is a newsletter for the Community. If you would like to make any comments or wish to contribute, please contact the editor Juliet Voisey on 01707 262023 or write to Hatfield Town Council, Kennelwood, Hatfield, Hertfordshire, AL10 0LG, email: Juliet.voisey@hatfield-herts.gov.uk

PLAYSCHEME DATES

Winter Holiday Playscheme Dates

Thursday 21st December 2006

Friday 22nd December 2006

Tuesday 2nd January 2007

Monday 12th – Friday 16th February 2007

All you need to do is download the booking and registration forms from our website, fill them in and send them back to us!

BIRCHWOOD UPDATES

The Town Council has agreed to four improvements to Birchwood Leisure Centre and Playing Fields.



The first, in conjunction with Tesco's Stores who paid the entire cost, and with the help of Grant Shapps MP, was to construct a tarmac footpath across the playing fields. The Town Mayor, Councillor Mick Long, officially opened this path in September.

The second has been an upgrade of the CCTV system at the Leisure Centre, designed to protect users, staff and the facilities. This is now in operation.

The third is improvements to the old bar, which has already become very popular as a meeting room. The ceiling is to be replaced and the walls soundproofed and redecorated.

Finally we will be redecorating the front corridor and providing a new floor-covering.



MICK LONG, TOWN MAYOR'S PICTURE DIARY

The Town Mayor has had a busy summer so we wanted to let you know some of the things he has been doing.



At the end of June, the Town Mayor and the Town Clerk visited the Council of Europe Offices in Strasbourg to receive our European Diploma in recognition of the efforts of Hatfield to propagate the idea of European unity.

Hatfield Town Council has also been requested to apply for the Flag of Honour which ranks just above the European Diploma and should we receive this, it will be a great honour indeed.



The Town Mayor also managed a visit to our Summer Playscheme at Birchwood for a spot of tennis with the children who were enjoying the emphasis on sports this year.

Of course, tennis wasn't the only option for our lively Hatfield youngsters who had an array of sports activities to choose some of which included football, a bouncy castle and pictured here with a parachute.



In August, he welcomed the Dutch youth exchange group as they arrived in Hatfield for their stay with local families. The group bonded immediately and had fun days out in London, Brighton and at Chessington World of Adventures. Next year the Town Council will be sending a group from Hatfield over to Holland to experience the way of life over there. If you are interested in participating in this scheme, please see the back page for further details.



In late September, Mrs Tiggywinkle and Little Bo Peep came to visit the nursery classes in Hatfield for some storytelling sessions. At one school 93 pupils sat and listened to stories. The Town Mayor managed to join a couple of the schools for their sessions.

On a weekend in mid October the 1st Hatfield Boys' Brigade celebrated 60 years of working within the local community. Events were held at Christ Church URC, the home of 1st Hatfield, and the Town Mayor attended the Thanksgiving Service on the Sunday. For more information on your 5 – 16year old son joining Boys' Brigade please call Adam on 01707 251158 or email 1sthatfield@boys-brigade.org.uk



Coming up, we have an exciting Tree Planting Day planned at the end of November to mark National Tree Planting Week. Working with Groundwork Hertfordshire, the Town Mayor and staff of the Town Council will be joining a group of youngsters from Hatfield to plant trees.





*The Town Mayor of Hatfield
Charity Golf Day*

In aid of his nominated charity Leonard Cheshire

*Thursday 7th December 2006
At Mill Green Golf Club, Welwyn Garden City*

Registration 9 am for 10 am start

Tea/Coffee and Bacon Baguette on arrival

18 Hole competition

Nearest the Pin

Longest Drive

Three Course Christmas Dinner

Prize Presentation



*Only: £180 per four man team
Why not treat your staff this Christmas
Or get together with friends for a fun day out?*



*Supported by SB Engravers
Organised by Hatfield Town Council
Enquiries to Juliet Voisey
01707 262 023*

Juliet.voisey@hatfield-herts.gov.uk



PICTURES OF YESTERYEAR...

A Hatfield resident kindly dropped this old picture of our offices in to us recently. It shows Kennelwood House way back in 1913, along with a lady called Agnes Royds, who we think is a niece of the wife of John Lloyd, the first Chairman of Hatfield Parish Council.



If anyone has any other old pictures of anywhere in the Town Centre, then please send them in and we will continue to publish them. With the Town Centre redevelopment on the horizon, it would be good to build up a picture of what the Town Centre used to look like.

ROE HILL HALL

Work has started on the new building at Roe Hill Hall...

You may have noticed building work taking place at Roe Hill Hall. This is the County Council providing, in partnership with the Town Council, a Centre for Adults with Learning Difficulties. The work will take some months but we will let you know when it is completed and what additional facilities will be available for community use.

Inside the Hall the Town Council has now completed the refurbishment of the Bar area. If you are looking for a venue for the festive season, then Roe Hill or any of our other halls are an ideal choice. Contact Birchwood on 270772 for further details.

ST JOHN AMBULANCE PRESENTATION



In September, the Deputy Town Mayor, Mick Clark, stepped out to present St John Ambulance with a cheque for £3,500 to assist them in the purchase of their ambulance for the area. St John Ambulance has been raising funds for some time to be able to buy this vehicle, so the Town Council was pleased to be in a position to help with this.

If you are a local community group looking for funding for something then why not contact the Town Council for a grants application pack?

What's On

Sat 18th Nov 10:30-4pm
Christmas Market - Hatfield House

The annual gift fair in aid of Isabel Hospice, held in the Riding School. Adults £2.

Sat 18th Nov 4-5pm
Lights of Love – Hatfield Galleria

Isabel Hospice invites you to help light their Christmas tree in memory of your loved ones. For further info contact 01707 376782.

Sat 25th Nov 10am-12pm
Coffee & Cakes – William Cecil Hall

Buy Christmas cards while you have refreshments in the Hall on French Horn Lane. In aid of Hatfield & Welwyn Kidney Research Group.

Sun 3rd Dec 10-4pm
Book Fair at Hatfield House

Purchase rare and out of print books. Held in the Riding School. Adults £1.

5th & 6th Dec 1:30 & 7pm
The Iron Man, Family Theatre

At the Weston Auditorium, De Havilland Campus. Box Office 01707 281127.

Sun 10th Dec
Dolls Houses & Miniatures Fair at Hatfield House

Organised by Dolly's Daydreams with up to 50 stands. Held in the Riding School.

Mon 11th Dec 2:30pm
Hatfield Local History Society

Christmas Open Meeting at Friendship House, Wellfield Close. Sharing memories of Hatfield & District, so bring all your old photographs.

Call 01707 274515 for further details.

Thurs 8th Feb 2:30pm
Hatfield Local History Society

"I've come about the drains" a new look at Roman architecture by Tony Rook. Friendship House, Wellfield Close. Call 01707 274515 for further details.

Mon 12th March 7:30pm
Hatfield Local History Society

"Sprits Ahoy" Thames barges past and present by Ken Cain.

Friendship House, Wellfield Close. Call 01707 274515 for further details



DUTCH YOUTH EXCHANGE

31st July to 9th August 2007



Do you live within Hatfield Parish?

Are you 14 or 15 years Old?



De Efteling (Amusement Park), Amsterdam,

Aqua Park, Boat

Trip, Beach, BBQ



For further information:

Paul Widdicombe—Hatfield Town Council 01707 262023 (daytime)

or Barry Clark Breaks Manor Youth Centre 01707 263201

mornings & evenings

Sponsored by Hatfield Town Council