



Community News

www.hatfield-herts.gov.uk

Winter 2007

THE OPENING OF HATFIELD KIDS FUNZONE

When Topsy Turvy World Indoor Play Centre at Birchwood Leisure Centre suddenly closed its doors it took everyone by surprise. Following long and detailed negotiations with the liquidators of Topsy Turvy World (Hatfield) Ltd Hatfield Town Council decided that the best option to ensure the continuation of a popular facility was for its own Leisure Services Staff to run the Soft Play Area. The Council undertook a major inspection of the equipment and the whole structure was cleaned and maintenance work carried out. Now called 'Hatfield Kids FunZone' it was officially launched on Saturday 20th October with Radio Station Heartbeat FM broadcasting live. Over a 100 children turned up.

The Kids FunZone will be open daily from 9.30am to 6.00pm and entry fees have been set at just £4 for an hour and a half session and £3 per session for toddlers. This represents excellent value for money compared to other Soft Play Areas located throughout the County. Exclusive evening use is also available.

The Cafe located within the area will be open at weekends and school holidays, offering a varied menu of freshly prepared sandwiches, hot and cold drinks and fruit.

Hatfield Town Mayor, Councillor Mick Clark commented:

"This presents an exciting opportunity to provide the kids of Hatfield with an affordable, available and attractive leisure play time. We want to offer an excellent service that is open to all children from toddlers upwards (height restriction is 1.52m or 5 feet). We will also offering private hire in the evenings for groups under the age of 16. It represents a major commitment from the Council to provide fun play time for the kids on our local community."



For full details of prices and availability please telephone 01707 262023 between 9.00 and 4.30pm Monday to Friday or visit the Hatfield Town Council website www.hatfield-herts.gov.uk.

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Christmas Holiday Playscheme

Wednesday 2nd January
Thursday 3rd January
Friday 4th January



at Birchwood Leisure Centre

Our contact details:

Hatfield Town Council
Council Offices
Kennelwood House
Town Centre
Hatfield
AL10 0LG

Tel. 01707 262023
Fax. 01707 271145

Email: enquiries@hatfield-herts.gov.uk

Our office is open 9am – 5pm
Monday to Friday.



TOWN MAYOR'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

It was a privilege and pleasure to be elected Town Mayor at the Town Council Annual Meeting in May. This message allows me to wish all the residents of Hatfield and their families a Happy Christmas and good fortune in 2008.

Having lived in Hatfield for over 50 years, I witnessed the birth of the new town and also the destruction of part of the old town and some of the beautiful houses that were there. It is said out of bad always comes some good and, hopefully, the successes and failures of that earlier re-planning will not be forgotten in the town centre development so long waited for. The invitation to the formal opening of our much improved, refurbished library marked for me the first sign that this town centre development is now truly under way and the commitment made by the developer to this end in placing signs in strategic places is there for all to see.

The University of Hertfordshire has transformed Hatfield for the better. Of course there have been problems, notably the impact of student parking, some of the student lettings and some late night partying. I know the University, with the Borough and Town Councils as well as the Police and Environmental Agencies, are working together to settle outstanding issues and I am sure common sense will prevail.

The development on the British Aerospace site, coupled with the industry now evident, the new Howe Dell School that is the marker for the new generation of school buildings and the enormous amount of new housing has placed Hatfield well and truly on the map of Hertfordshire and, indeed, the Eastern Area of England.

Although I have spent my whole working life in Hatfield, I have never felt more pride than I do now. The problems we are facing such as excessive drinking, hooliganism, criminal damage, drug taking, to name a few, are just the same as in most towns and cities and so it is up to us to support all the authorities in eliminating these things and be more positive in promoting the good things that are happening. I am particularly pleased to see that the Welwyn Hatfield Community Safety Partnership is now proposing that Hatfield Town Centre becomes an alcohol – control zone, an initiative begun by the Town Council.

The Mayoress and I look forward to the New Year with anticipation and pleasure and hope you do so as well.

Councillor Mick Clark



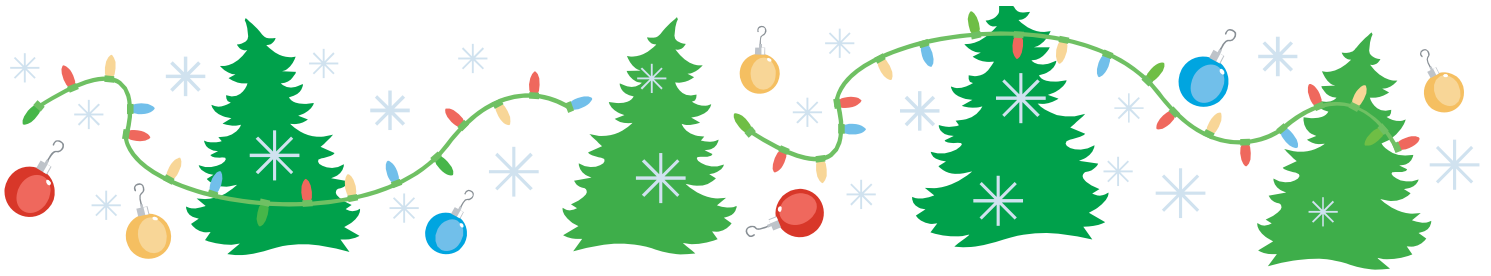
FATHER CHRISTMAS HAS A NEW POST BOX

Father Christmas comes early to Hatfield every year to visit the roads across the Town (see back page for map and dates). He says that although he is very busy at this time of year he enjoys reading letters from children and would welcome them from the children of Hatfield. So a new post-box will be at the Kennelwood Offices from the end of November and children can either post their letters to him there or call into the offices to pop them into the box.

The post-box will also be available for children to post their letters at Santa's Grotto on Saturday December 8th in the Asda Foyer.



CHRISTMAS 2007 FESTIVITIES



Thursday 6th December Christmas Tree Lighting with Carols

This is an event that over the years has involved many hundreds of Hatfield school children. There will be carol singing and the Christmas tree lights will be switched on. This will be followed by mince pies and hot chocolate drink.



Don't Miss The Christmas Festival Day on Saturday 8th December

Outside Boots the Chemist and the Bill Salmon Centre many seasonal activities and charity stalls will be selling all sorts of goodies. (There are still a few vacancies for spaces so please contact Lesley James at the Hatfield Town Council Office.) Just inside the Asda Store foyer will be Father Christmas in his Grotto, with his helpers. There will be a chance for children to write and post their Christmas letters for Father Christmas to read. Outside there will be the singing of festive songs during the day.



Hatfield Town Centre Christmas Window Competition

As usual the judging for the Best Decorated Shop Window Competition will take place during the first week of December. Entry forms will be delivered to the shops in November. 1st prize ~ £100, 2nd £50 and 3rd of £30.



HATFIELD NURSERY SCHOOL CHILDREN HAVE TWO TREATS

Meet Mrs Tiggywinkle

Hatfield Town Council has again sponsored the visit of this popular storyteller who with the aid of costumes and props visited many of the Hatfield Nursery Schools in the year. Mrs Bunn, who has regularly entertained Hatfield children, was joined by The Town Mayor and Mayoress, Councillors Mick & Linda Clark at Roe Hill Hall Nursery.



Father Christmas Comes Calling

Father Christmas will soon come calling to the nursery schools in Hatfield. This annual event is really looked forward to, so much so that nursery schools in other areas have asked if he can call there too!



Newly Published Hatfield 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, District and County Councils, local services, local organisations, schools and doctors.

The guide includes a detailed pull-out map, which is also available separately.

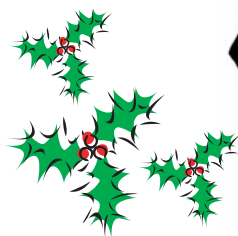
The Great Christmas Gift

The Video or DVD of "Hatfield Goes Back To The Future." This tells the story of Hatfield from its earliest times. A great purchase for £10 for the DVD and £5 for the Video. Available only from Hatfield Town Council Offices.

CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR GOOD CAUSES

Charity Christmas Cards are now on sale at the Resource Centre at Number One Hatfield in the Town Centre, until December 14th. (Next to Pizza Hut).

Times of opening are 10.00 – 4.00pm Monday to Friday and on Saturdays the 1st and 8th December from 10.00 until 2.00pm. (Don't forget to recycle your cards after Christmas at Asda, Tesco's and other local stores!)



YOUR TOWN COUNCILLORS

Central Ward

Cllr. Colin Croft 01707 265565
Mole End 25 Daysmead, Hatfield, AL10 0SE

Cllr. Sheila Jones 01707 273934
8 Dellfield Road, Hatfield, AL10 8EW

Cllr. Margaret White 01707 880 324
30 The Downs, Hatfield, AL10 8JX

North Ward

Cllr. Doug Berry 01707 259843
9 Daffodil Close, Hatfield, AL10 9FF

Cllr. David Dorrington 01707 276772
1 Ground lane, Hatfield AL10 0HJ

Cllr. Howard Morgan 01707 264391
Flat 2 Maynard House, The Common, Hatfield, AL10 0NF

Newgate Street/Woodhill

Cllr. Geoff Wiltshire 01707 872561
Tolmers Park Farm, Newgate Street Village,
Hertford, SG13 8RG

West Ward

Cllr. Sarah Atkinson 01707 274968
365 St Albans Road West, Hatfield, AL10 9RU

Cllr. Mick Long 01707 891973
7 Lamb Close, Hatfield, AL10 8PS

Cllr. Ron Smith 01707 264742
44 Willow Way, Hatfield, AL10 9QE

East Ward

Cllr. Linda Clark 01707 262082
39 Chantry Lane, Hatfield, AL10 9HW

Cllr. Michael Clark (Town Mayor) 01707 262082

South Ward

Cllr. Linda Mendez 01707 895892
12 Shallcross Crescent, Hatfield, AL10 9QH

Cllr. Paul Smith 0770 3056 088
45 Garden Avenue, Hatfield, AL10 8LL



COUNCIL MEETINGS

All meetings of the Town Council and its main committees are held at 7.30pm on a Wednesday evening at the Town Council Offices, Kennelwood, Hatfield Town Centre. A schedule of the meetings is available from the offices and the Agenda for each Meeting is posted on the public notice board outside the office a week prior to the meeting.

Members of the public are welcome to attend any of the meetings and may speak at the start.

For any further details contact the Hatfield's Town Clerk, Peter Clark
peter.clark@hatfield-herts.gov.uk

Staff are there to help when you call into the office or when you telephone 01707 262023 Monday – Friday 9.00 – 5.00pm



VALUING VOLUNTEERS IN HERTFORDSHIRE

This new campaign has been launched in Hertfordshire with the aim to promote volunteering within the county and value those who already give their time to help. Community Groups help give the life blood to any community and the time volunteers give to projects in the District is greatly appreciated. By working together we can significantly raise the profile of volunteering. This will help to ensure that public funding is invested in creating and maintaining a modern and dynamic volunteering infrastructure across Hertfordshire. In Hatfield we have a wealth of volunteering skills and opportunities and together we can raise the volunteering profile.

Do You Work With Volunteers?

Recognise your volunteers for what they do

By thanking your volunteers and giving them recognition for the work they do you can help raise the awareness of volunteering and what it means to be a volunteer.

Encourage your volunteers to be ambassadors

Word of mouth is one of the best ways of recruiting new volunteers so why not encourage your existing volunteers to promote volunteering to their friends and family?

How Do I Become a Volunteer?

Volunteering is a great way to meet new people and make friends.

Question:

I have some time on my hands how can I become a volunteer?

Answer:

Contact the Welwyn Hatfield Council of Voluntary Service, The Bill Salmon Centre 88 Town Centre, Hatfield, Herts AL10 0JW. Phone: 01707 274861 Fax: 01707 258845 email: info@whcvs.org.uk Web pages: whcvs.org.uk Opening Hours: Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 10.0am-4.00pm; Wednesday 10.00am-1.00pm; Friday closed.



The Council of Voluntary Services has a 'Volunteers Bureau'. Volunteers are placed via the Volunteer Co-ordinator, Maryam Janity. Local groups needing help can then ask for volunteers to be assigned to them. Contact the CVS with details of your skills (e.g. good at manual tasks, driving, computer literate, good at office work, good at dealing with people, can speak a foreign language), the type of work you are interested in and your availability. They will ask you to complete a form. There is a wide range of volunteering opportunities from working regularly in an office, to driving the elderly to their appointments or being involved in a one-off project such as clearing a patch of ground. Training is often provided.

Another way of becoming a volunteer is to go online to REACH, a free placement service available for organisations throughout the UK. It finds part-time, expenses only opportunities for experienced managers and professional people of all ages and backgrounds who want to use their skills working as part-time volunteers to help voluntary organisations with charitable aims. Web pages: www.reach-online.org.uk

No Time To Go and Volunteer?

You can still help support a local charity. **Everyclick.com** is a computer search engine that lets you search the web and benefit the charity of your choice. So far they have raised £303,082 for charities. All you need to do is to go to www.everyclick.com and select the charity you would like to support and then search the web as normal. Then either have everyclick.com in your 'favourites' or as your home page and every time you use their search engine you are making a contribution to the school, voluntary organisation of your choice. If you do not have a specific charity to support you can select to support all charities.

Voluntary Groups and Organisations

Do you have an event planned or on-going money-raising activities? If you are a representative of a community group or voluntary organisation in Hatfield and you 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 you.

Please contact Lesley James on 01707 262 023 or email: Lesley.james@hatfield-herts.gov.uk to feature in our future editions, which will be distributed to every business and household in Hatfield.



YOUTH EXCHANGE 2007

Twelve young people from Hatfield took part in the 55th Annual Youth Exchange with our Dutch Twin Town in The Netherlands from 30th July to 9th August. Staying with Dutch host families the group of 13, 14 & 15 year olds enjoyed a variety of events including a trip to Amsterdam, a visit to a Theme Park, sailing on a mussel - cutter boat, barbeque, cycling, trips to the beach as well as time with their host family to experience the Dutch way of life.

The group was accompanied by three adult leaders from Breaks Manor Youth & Community Centre: Head of Centre Barry Clark and Youth Leaders Bob McNab & Mary Oliver. Travelling for the first time by 'plane from Luton to Amsterdam and coach to Zierikzee on the island of Schouwen - Duiveland the whole group returned with happy memories and experiences of the ten day visit. The event is funded by Hatfield Town Council.



BEST KEPT PLOT COMPETITION AT GREEN LANES ALLOTMENT SITE

The first annual best allotment competition took place on August 21st. The judges managed to pick a wet day to walk the site! The judge was David Beaumont, Head Gardener at Hatfield House, accompanied by Hatfield Town Council's Technical Services Team Leader, Colin Smith. David was impressed by some of the ingenious mixtures of crops on the plots. He also remarked on how well the crops were doing considering the wet weather we have had and that the quality of the soil at the site appeared to be better than that at Hatfield House. It was a very hard job for them to pick the top three as more than ten plots were in the running for a place. After much discussion the judges agreed on the winner and both said they were envious of the quality in the chosen plots.



1st prize

Plot 24a, due to the variety of crops grown, the use of ecological methods and the standard of maintenance.



2nd prize

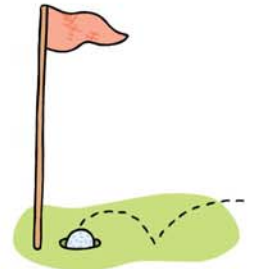


3rd prize



The winners received gardening vouchers that can be redeemed at garden centres locally:

Congratulations to the winners, and thanks to all plot holders who have had a tough season trying to keep their plots going because of the weather this year. There were a few other plots that were noted for their appearance as the winners were not the only plots that were well maintained.



The Town Mayor of Hatfield Charity Golf Day

Tuesday 4th December 2007
At The Hatfield London Country Golf Course

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

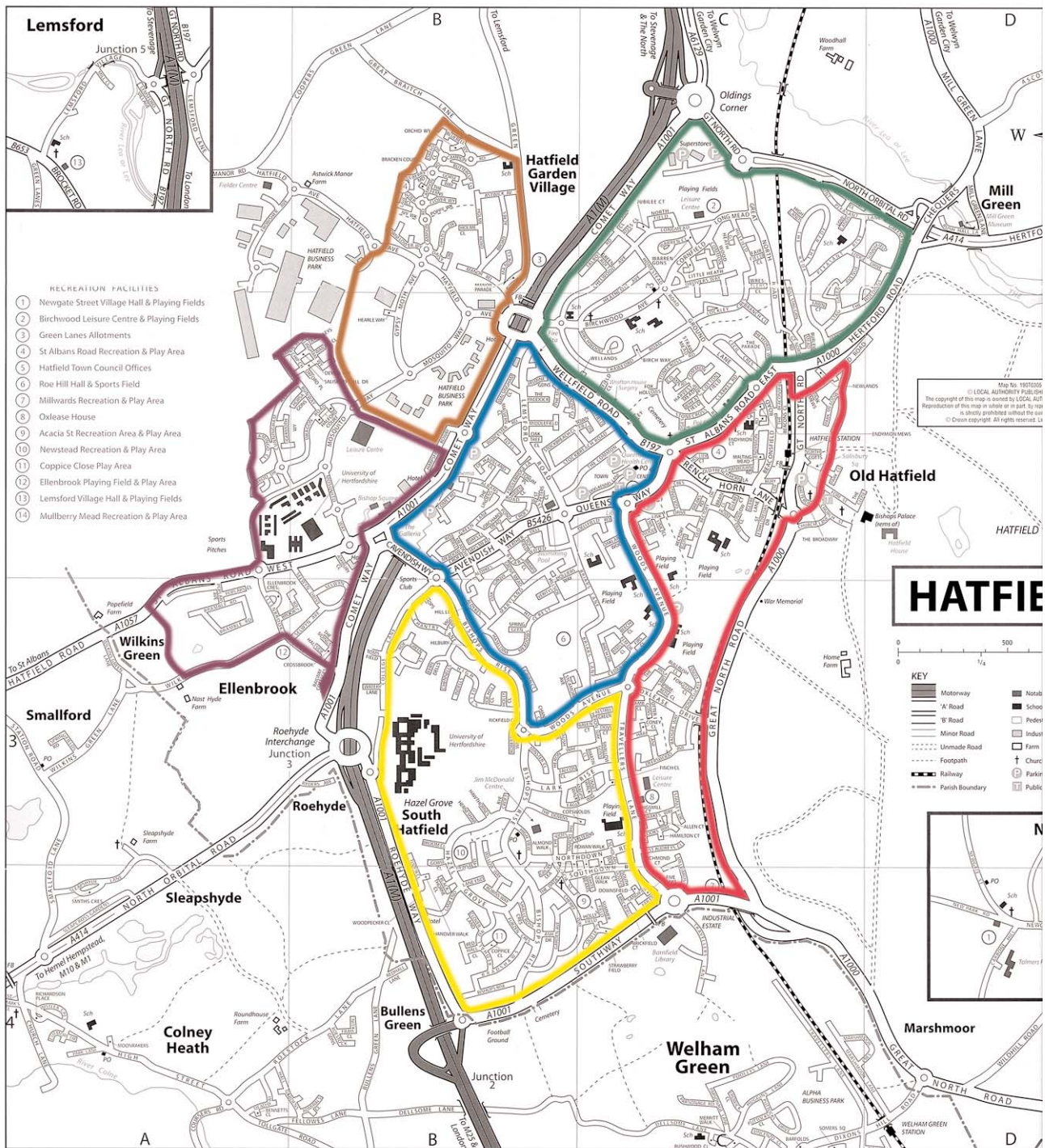


Only: £225 per team of four
Why not treat your staff this Christmas
Or get together with friends for a fun day out?



Supported by SB Engravers
Organised by Hatfield Town Council
Enquiries to Lesley James
01707 262 023
Lesley.james@hatfield-herts.gov.uk





Father Christmas Evening Tours

Please note that all tours start at approximately 4.30pm

Legend

DATE	AREA	= WARD AND INITIAL ROADS
Mon 3rd Dec	Lemsford	= Lemsford Village
Tues 4th Dec	Brown	= Hatfield Garden Village, Manor Close, Manor Road, Holme Road, Astwick Ave
Wed 5th Dec	Yellow	= South Hatfield, Hazel Grove, Rycroft, Hawthornes, Herneshaw, Gorse Close
Tues 11th Dec	Green	= North Hatfield, Longmead, Chelwood Ave, Crawford Road, Birchwood Ave
Wed 12th Dec	Purple lower area	= Ellenbrook, Ashbury Close, Selwyn Drive, Selwyn Cres, Selwyn Ave
Thur 13th Dec	Blue	= Central Hatfield, Lemsford Road, Stockbreach Close, Stockbreach Rd, The Minims
Frid 14th Dec	Red	= East Hatfield, Millwards, St Audrey's Close,
Mon 17th Dec	Purple top area	= De-Havilland Site, Cunningham Way