



Community News

www.hatfield-herts.gov.uk

Spring 2007

CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES

Despite the downpours during the day, a number of schools still managed to make it to the Tree Lighting Ceremony on 7th December.



There was a children's ride and refreshments and we even managed to conjure up some snow on the day!



Our tombola was hugely successful and we raised £180 for the Leonard Cheshire charity.

The Grotto in Asda's foyer was visited by well over 200 children and raised £210 for the above charity.

Nine shops in the Town Centre entered the Window Competition this year and the displays were varied and had obviously taken a lot of effort to do. Thank you to all who entered in helping to create a festive atmosphere in the Town Centre. The winners were judged as follows:

1st place - Trims Trading for their Strictly Come Christmas display.



2nd place - Tashes n Tails for their display of Father Christmas coming down the chimney.



3rd place - Number 1 Hatfield for their festive artwork painted onto the windows by the youth group.



Brian Dummer led the carol singing accompanied by Thelma Dummer on the piano and Father Christmas made a brief appearance to say "Merry Christmas" to the children. Everyone enjoyed hot chocolate and mince pies afterwards.



Our Charity Golf Day was well attended and raised nearly £750 for the Town Mayor's charity, Leonard Cheshire. Trophies for the winners were presented by the Town Mayor, Councillor Mick Long. The winning team this year was the Cavaliers, headed by Councillor Ron Smith.

On Festival Day itself, the sun was shining which was a relief for the stall holders. The Town Council would like to thank the various organisations that took part in the day to help make it a success.



There was an impressive display of cars from the Hatfield Heritage Vehicle Society.

Special thanks must also go to Churches Together and Hertfordshire Concert Band for performing the lovely carol singing and music.

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Festival Week 2007

The Town Council will be coordinating the regular annual events in June.

So far dates have been set for the Car Rally on Saturday 9th June and there will be a fun fair at Birchwood from Friday 1st - Saturday 9th June.

There will be further details on all events in the next issue.



Playscheme Dates for Easter Break

The Playscheme dates for Easter are as follows:

- Mon 2nd - Thurs 5th April
- Tues 10th - Fri 13th April

The booking and registration forms will be available in a couple of weeks time on our website for downloading.



FATHER CHRISTMAS HAD A BUSY TIME IN HATFIELD.....

He told us that he enjoyed seeing lots of children in his Grotto in the Asda foyer and hopes that you enjoyed your presents.



Father Christmas also told us that he wanted to thank the following children for the lovely letters and cards he received from them:

- **LUCY GARDNER • CODIE CUNNINGTON**
- **FINLAY HIGGINS • EUAN HIGGINS**
- **MATTHEW HARRINGTON**
- **JUSTIN HAMER**

We hope that you managed to catch a glimpse of him on his sleigh as he travelled through the streets of Hatfield before Christmas. His helpers raised a massive £1,600 for Jimmy Mac's charity as they collected money each night, of which a donation will be given to Leonard Cheshire, the Town Mayor's nominated charity this year.

He also visited lots of nursery schools in the area and here he is at Stream Woods giving presents to the children and wishing them a Merry Christmas.

He asked us to pass on his best wishes for 2007 to all the children in Hatfield and looks forward to seeing you all again next Christmas.



HATFIELD TOWN COUNCIL'S BI-ANNUAL RESIDENTS' SURVEY



November 2006 was the month in which we conducted our residents' survey. This forms part of our Best Value commitment to ensure that we are performing to the best of our ability and that we seek out areas for improvement.

From the surveys returned so far the following subjects for improvement stand out as the most important:

- The quality of play areas in general and more stimulating play equipment for the older children.
- Lack of awareness in general of the services provided by us.
- Lack of youth facilities in the area.

At the moment the top three most important issues for you are as follows:

1. Cost & information about the services we provide.
2. Cleanliness.
3. Value for money.

The majority of people that have responded are over 50 and have lived in Hatfield for over 10 years.

We will continue to monitor the responses we receive and publish the full results of the survey in the next issue. The prize draw will be done at the end of February so if you have not returned your survey yet, please send it back as soon as possible.

However, in response to the comments about how you are unaware of all of our services, we have compiled an A-Z of Hatfield Town Council on the next page to let you know exactly what services we provide and we hope that you find this useful and informative.



is for Allotments

The Town Council runs the site at Green Lanes which has 92 plots. If you're interested in growing your own then contact us to put your name down on the waiting list.



is for Birchwood

Birchwood Leisure Centre offers an array of sporting facilities.



is for Community News

This newsletter is produced four times a year for the residents of Hatfield.



is for DVD

We sell a DVD called "Hatfield Goes Back to the Future". At only £10, it tells the story of Hatfield.



is for Events

The Town Council coordinates various events throughout the year such as Festival Week in June, Civic Service, Remembrance Day Service.



is for football pitches

We own and maintain several around Hatfield and they are used by various local teams.



is for Grants

Did you know that we give funding to community groups? If there's something that you desperately need or have an idea but don't have the funds then contact us and we can send you the details on how to apply (it's a very very easy process).



is for Hatfield, of course!

We are responsible for the community of Hatfield, with a population of over 32,000 and still growing.



is for information

We provide information to the public such as the Town Guide & Map, bus & train timetables, local services etc.



is for the jogging trail around Birchwood

It is one mile around the outside of the Playing Fields.



is for Kennelwood

Our Council Offices in the Town Centre opposite the Queensway Health Centre where you can pop in for information on anything about Hatfield and we will try to help you.



is for Lemsford Village Hall

This is a hall with grounds that we own and can be hired out for functions.



is for the Memorial Gardens

We maintain the Gardens outside Hatfield House and they are used for the Remembrance Day Service.



is for Newgate Street Village Hall & Playing Fields

This is another of our village halls that can be hired out for functions.



is for Oxlease House

This is a modern hall owned by us in Travellers Lane that can be hired for meetings, functions etc.



is for Playscheme

This is a facility that we run every school holiday for ages 5 - school year 6. Booking forms are on our website. The rates are very reasonable and there is a reduction for Hatfield residents.



is for Quality

We measure the quality of our performance through our Best Value service targets.



is for Roe Hill Hall and Playing Fields

Roe Hill is a large venue that can be hired out. The extensive playing fields are home to the Hatfield Rugby Club, as well as Cavendish and Hatfield Crusaders Cricket Clubs.



is for St. Albans Road East Recreation & Play Area

This is one of many play areas that we provide and maintain around Hatfield.



is for Town Mayor

Did you know that Hatfield has its own Town Mayor? Currently it is Councillor Mick Long.



is for Upkeep

We have a team of grounds staff who look after our green open spaces.



is for voice

We are a voice for the community on issues relating to Hatfield.



is for our Website

www.hatfield-herts.gov.uk



is for Xmas

We organise Christmas events for the community to enjoy over the festive period.



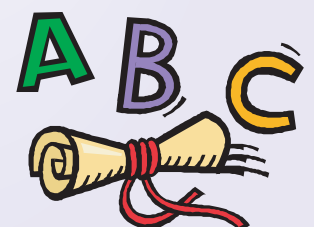
is for Youth Exchange

We organise one each year with Zierikzee. If you are 14-15 years old and interested in participating please let us know.



is for Zierikzee

This is our twin town in Holland.



THE DIARY OF THE TOWN MAYOR COUNCILLOR MICK LONG

The Town Mayor was busy in the run-up to Christmas presenting prizes to the winners on the Golf Day and the winners of the Window Competition in the Town Centre.

He also opened the Howe Dell Christmas Fete on 10th December, which was their last Christmas at the Old Rectory Drive site as this year they are due to move into their newly built eco-friendly facility.

The Town Mayor would also like to extend his best wishes and congratulations to Mrs Florence Wood at St Christopher's Nursing Home in Hatfield as she turned 100 over the Christmas period.



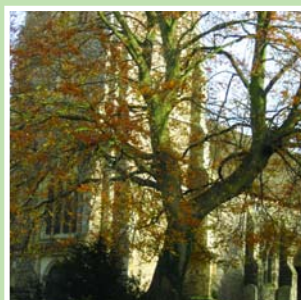
There is now a Welwyn & Hatfield Princes Trust Group that is based at Breaks Manor in Links Drive, Hatfield. They run courses for 16-25 year olds to help towards employment, further education and training. If you want to know more please contact Donna Hemmings, the Team Leader for the area on 07870 169849.

REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

The service at the Memorial Gardens at Hatfield House was very well attended. It began with the parade arriving and the laying of wreaths, followed by a moving service incorporating the two minute silence.

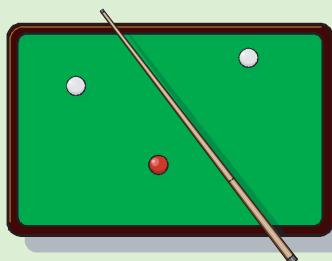


Another service followed at St Etheldreda's Church with refreshments provided by the Town Council and the Church at the nearby church hall.



NUMBER 1 HATFIELD

As part of our Grants scheme, the Town Council received an application from a local youth club for a pool table to be housed at the Number 1 Hatfield Community Centre. We are pleased to announce that this application was approved and the centre now has its own pool table.



HQS ACCREDITATION FOR OUR PLAYSCHEME FACILITY

Hatfield Town Council is very pleased to announce that we have recently been accredited under the Hertfordshire Quality Standards scheme for our Playscheme at Birchwood.

Pat Bailey, our Playscheme Coordinator, will be attending an Awards Ceremony at the Hertfordshire Development Centre to receive the Award.

The Town Council would like to thank Pat Bailey and her team for all the hard work they have done in ensuring that our childcare services meet such high standards.



WINTER PICTURES

The Town Council was sent these pictures taken of the River Lea at the Mill at Mill Green in winter and thought we would share them with you.



QUIZ NIGHT AT NEWGATE STREET VILLAGE HALL

On Friday 23rd February there will be a quiz night at Newgate Street Village Hall with a 7:30-8pm start. For just £7.50 per person you can take part and the price includes a Ploughman's Supper. Proceeds will go to the Village Hall Fund.

To book please call Beverley Wills on 01707 874870

TREE PLANTING AT NEWGATE STREET

To celebrate National Tree Planting Week in 2006, we joined forces with Groundwork Hertfordshire to organise an Eco-Action Day at Newgate Street Village.



Groundwork Hertfordshire is a charitable Trust providing environmental solutions to local authorities, schools and communities. They are based at Mill Green in Hatfield (www.groundwork-herts.org.uk).

The projects they do range from small community gardens and school ground improvements to major cycle ways and park refurbishments.

Groundwork's projects all contribute to their overriding aim - to create sustainable communities.

The Eco-Action Day was one of six that were happening across Hertfordshire and promoted by V, a charity launched to champion youth volunteering in England. They are trying to engage a million more young people in volunteering by 2010. Further information can be found at www.wearev.com.

Pupils from the 6th form at Onslow St Audrey's volunteered to take part in this special event as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Awards.



They created posters about tree planting and learnt some interesting tree trivia, e.g. an average mature tree can provide enough oxygen each year for a family of 4 for a day.

Town Council grounds staff did a demonstration of how to plant a tree and supervised the planting throughout the day.



A certificate was presented to each pupil by the Town Mayor, Councillor Mick Long, for their achievement of planting 8 trees and 100 whips consisting of hawthorns, field maples and manor ash.



We would like to thank the Groundwork Hertfordshire team for all their hard work and the equipment they supplied on the day and particularly the pupils from Onslow St Audrey's who made the day a great success. We hope that the residents of Newgate Street Village enjoy the trees for years to come.



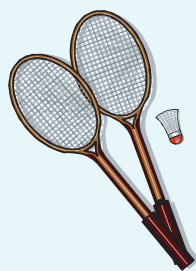
We hope to celebrate National Tree Planting Week again at the end of this year, so if you have any ideas for areas in Hatfield that could benefit from tree planting please let us know.

REDUCE THOSE WINTER WOBBLES

A new year, with new resolutions to keep, and if yours is a fitness one then take a look at what's happening at Birchwood every week!

All the classes are only £3.30, so there's no excuse.

Mondays	10-11am	Low Impact Aerobics
	6-7pm	Body Conditioning
	7-8pm	Hollywood Workout
Tuesdays	6-7pm	Megamix
	7-8pm	Legs/Bums/Tums
Thursdays	7-8pm	Aerobics



Also available is the opportunity to use the sports facilities, such as the badminton courts and Astro-Turf area for netball, basketball, 5-a-side etc. And if you are a Hatfield resident you can become a member for free and get priority bookings.

NATIONAL BADMINTON COMPETITION



Birchwood Leisure Centre hosted a round of a major national Badminton Competition in January.

The National Leisure Centre Championships seek to provide that missing level of competition for the majority of players in England. Currently in excess of 2.5 million play the sport regularly (General Household Survey

2002) in Leisure Centres and are usually referred to as casual or recreational players. As Birchwood regularly provides over 16 hours of casual bookings per week it was deemed an excellent idea to offer a tournament at the Centre that would be open to these players who have never played in a league or any club team.

Leisure Services Manager, Mike Speddy, commented:

"We saw this as an excellent opportunity for our casual users to have the chance to test their skills in a not too challenging environment with a chance to play someone new, improve and learn new skills and enjoy good badminton at a reasonable cost. The winners will now represent Birchwood at the County round and we wish them every success."

Birchwood Leisure Centre was the only local Leisure Centre to provide this competition to its users and all the winners are regular users of the Centre.

The Winners were as follows:

Men's Singles	Chandran Pillai
Women's Singles	Anne Knight
Mixed Doubles	Mark Lawrence and Anne Knight
Men's Doubles	Russell Nwachuku and Cecil Nwachuku

What's On

Thurs 8th Mar 6-8pm
Creative Herts Monthly Meeting (also 12th Apr & 10th May)

For people in the creative industry. At the Talk Bar, Beales Hotel. For more info call Helen Blockley on 01707 284741 or see www.creativeherts.com.

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

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

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

Thurs 10th - Sun 13th May
Living Crafts - Hatfield House

The best of British Crafts. For more info call 01707 287010.

Sat 19th May - Sun 20th May
Model Soldiers Demo - Hatfield House

The British Society's National Collection.
For more info call 01707 287010.



ISABEL HOSPICE NEWS

Sun 18th Feb, 9-5pm
The Isabel Hospice 100 Mile Pink Endurance Swim at Haileybury Pool, Hertford Heath.

You can swim any number of lengths raising sponsorship from friends, colleagues and relatives. This is a fun day, very informal and enjoyed by all swimmers.

Tues 13th - Thurs 15th Mar
Chanticleer's Fashion Show Events

This series of 3 Fashion Shows are being held in the Chanticleer's shop, 7-9 High Street, Welwyn, Herts. AL9 6EE. Tickets: £5 to include a glass of champagne and nibbles. Seats must be pre-booked. Please contact Sam on 01438 712200.

Sun 25th Mar
Big Fun Walks - London Parks

A beautiful 8 mile Big Fun Walk across the parks of London. Finishes at Westminster for tea and Jazz. If you are interested in taking part, call Renee Friend on 01279 755320.

OUR FACILITIES FOR HIRE



OXLEASE HOUSE

Oxlease House, Travellers Lane, Hatfield.

Bookings: 01707 270772/3

Oxlease House Community Centre will accommodate 70 people and comprises a carpeted main hall, annex and kitchen. It is unlicensed.



ROE HILL HALL AND PLAYING FIELDS

Roe Hill Hall, Briars Lane, Hatfield

Bookings: 01707 270772/3

Roe Hill Hall has recently undergone a bar refurbishment. The larger hall will seat 100 people and the second hall can accommodate 50 people. Both Halls have kitchens and access to the bar.



LEMSFORD VILLAGE HALL AND SPORTS AREA

Lemsford Hall, Brocket Road, Lemsford

Bookings: 01707 270772/3

Set in the village of Lemsford, the hall accommodates many local activities. The hall can accommodate 75 people. It has a lounge bar and an outdoor terrace.



NEWGATE STREET VILLAGE HALL AND PLAYING FIELDS

Newgate Street, Hertford, SG13 8RP

Bookings: 01707 870188

Set in the village of Newgate Street, the hall will comfortably seat 120 people. It also has a stage, kitchen and ample parking facilities.



THE SPORTSMAN MEETING ROOM, BIRCHWOOD LEISURE CENTRE

Longmead, Hatfield

Bookings: 01707 270772/3

Recently refurbished and soundproofed, this room is perfect for meetings, seminars or courses. It can accommodate 50 people easily and even has a kitchenette for tea and coffee making facilities.

You can also book to hold your children's parties at Birchwood on a Sunday. There is a bouncy castle available and various other sports options. Just call the above number for more details.

THE HATFIELD HERITAGE VEHICLE SOCIETY PRESENT THEIR 5th VEHICLE RALLY & FAMILY FUN DAY

SUPPORTED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL



HATFIELD HERITAGE VEHICLE SOCIETY
FAMILY FUN DAY & VEHICLE RALLY
 Birchwood Leisure Centre (behind Tesco)
Saturday 9th June 2007
FREE admission to the public

Hatfield's premier event
for all the family

children's games
Arena events
Beer Tent
Event opens at 10.00

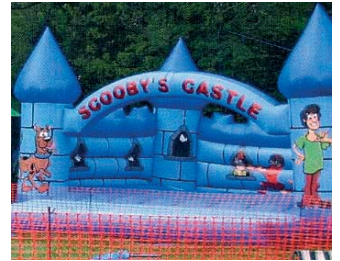
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PAUL
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vehicles

Side shows
Fun Fair
Skill displays

Autojumble &
trade stalls

MAKE A DATE TO BE THERE AND JOIN THE FUN !
WWW.HATFIELDCLASSICS.CO.UK
 ☎ 01707 265 565



**FREE
Admission
To The Public**

Something
For
All Ages

**SATURDAY
9th June 2007**

ALSO



ANNUAL CAR / VEHICLE RALLY



Please circle for :- Vehicle exhibit — Trade Stand — Auto jumble — Boot sale.

PLEASE PRINT

NameVehicle.....

Address.....

Post CodeTel.....

For application form

Please return to:

Colin Croft (Hon Sec) 25 Daysmead, Hatfield,Herts AL100SE Tel 01707 265565