



# Community News

[www.hatfield-herts.gov.uk](http://www.hatfield-herts.gov.uk)

August 2007

## Hatfield Citizen Award 2007



The Town Council is now looking for nominations for this year's Citizen Award. The Award is given to someone who resides in the parish of Hatfield and who has enriched the lives of others in Hatfield.

Previous years' winners have been Brian Dummer in 2005 and Mary Birkett in 2006.

Written nominations are invited from members of the public detailing why the nominee deserves this Award. The Award winner will nominate a good cause in Hatfield to receive £300 and will themselves receive a certificate and a gift of champagne and flowers.

The closing date for this year's nominations is 30th September 2007. Please send any nominations directly to the Town Council.

## Howe Dell Community Hall

Later this year the new Community Hall next to the new Howe Dell School should come under the Town Council's management.

This will be the Town Council's fifth village and community hall and is available to hire just like the others. The hourly hire charges are as follows: £9.50 off peak, £15.00 peak.

Please contact Birchwood Leisure Centre on 01707 270772 for further details and to book.

**Update:** Oxlease House and Birchwood have both had projection screens installed so are an ideal choice for meetings and seminars.



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## Playscheme

Below are the Playscheme dates for the rest of the year.



Summer dates can still be booked via Birchwood.

Summer ~ 23rd July to 31st August

October ~ 22nd to 26th October

Christmas ~ Dates TBA

New Year ~ 2nd to 4th January

## Your new Town Mayor



Councillor Mick Clark is the new Town Mayor for Hatfield until May 2008. Councillor Clark has served as a Town Councillor for many years and is also the Leader of the Town Council. He is supported by his wife, Councillor Linda Clark, Town Mayoress. They are both looking forward to serving the community of Hatfield.

**Councillor Mick Long handing over the Mayor's chains to Councillor Mick Clark**

## 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](mailto:enquiries@hatfield-herts.gov.uk)

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

## Report on Festival 2007



The fun fair and Car Rally at Birchwood marked the start of our Festival Activities and some sunshine prevailed in between the rain!

The Car Rally saw an impressive array of vehicles and the winners for each category were presented with their trophies by the Deputy Town Mayor, Councillor Howard Morgan.



Amongst the many stalls, one of our two PCSOs, Angela Wilcox, had organised a Crime Prevention Stall for the day.

There was also a mischievous bird in the Birds of Prey demonstration that didn't want to cooperate and flew off to sit on the roof at Birchwood!



The annual Cricket Match at Roe Hill between Crusaders and Cavendish was rounded off with refreshments provided by the newly opened Briars Pavilion and a barbecue organised by the players themselves. Congratulations to Cavendish who won the match this year and to both teams for playing on despite the weather.

At the regular Scottish Dance Evening at Lemsford, Mary Birkett's Cameron Show Dancers put on a perfect display.

The group comprises dancers aged from 2 and a half up to 17 years of age. Mary regularly teaches at Christ Church in St Albans Road East. Children's classes start at 5pm on a Friday, and adults can learn too (Monday is for beginners, Thursday is advanced, both from 8-10pm).



The Town Mayor's Charity Golf Day was well attended and thanks to donations from organisations such as Beales Hotel and Hotel Chocolat, the raffle was one of our most successful yet raising £505 for the Cystic Fibrosis charity. Mears Group were the winning team and also claimed the trophies for the Longest drive and Nearest the Pin and it was the first time they have participated so well done

to them! Thanks must also go to Mill Green Golf Club who once again looked after our golfers and supported our Charity Day.



The winners of the Poster Competition are as follows:

**Birchwood:** 1st ~ Matthew Smith,  
2nd ~ Bilal Mohammed, 3rd ~ Adam Smedley

**Green Lanes:** 1st ~ Tobi Enaigbe,  
2nd ~ James How, 3rd ~ Dean Murray

**Ponsbourne St Mary's:** 1st ~ Maddy Mangan,  
2nd ~ Zoe Lykourgou, 3rd ~ Jade Cowly-Freeman

**Howe Dell:** 1st ~ Rosie-Jo Mastel,  
2nd ~ Charlotte Chapman, 3rd ~ Ella Proctor

**De Havilland:** 1st ~ Georgina Mayhew,  
2nd ~ Mahi Chowdhury, 3rd ~ Laura Hobson

Congratulations to Rosie-Jo Mastel from Howe Dell who was selected as the overall winner of the competition and will see her entry converted to a poster that will be displayed around Hatfield.

The Rock n Roll Concerts held at Stream Woods were enjoyed immensely by all the children involved. Bobby Graham and his band, Cool and Crazy Music, provided a musical history of Rock n Roll with lots of audience participation that even saw the Town Mayor and Mayoress doing the Twist! Bobby was a drumming sessions man back in the 60s but is equally at home playing blues, jazz or rock n roll music having worked with many musical talents.

We knew the rain would get the better of us at some point and sadly by lunchtime, the Hilltop Fun Day was rained off. Despite this, most of the winners from the Poster Competition managed to get to St John's Church to be presented with their prizes by the Town Mayor. The judging panel included representatives from St John's Church, the Town Mayor, Councillor Mrs White, and Ellie Turner and Sean Tyrrell from the University's Eco Team. The theme for this year was "Energy Saving in the Home" and the Town Council was delighted that the Eco-Team at the University could be involved.

# ANNUAL REPORT



Each year the Town Council produces an Annual Report and Accounts which are audited by the Audit Commission. A full copy can be obtained at the Town Council Offices. As the Best Value Performance Plan includes details of the Council's activities during the last 12 months the Annual Report and the Annual Performance Plan should be looked at together. A summary of the Annual Performance Plan can be found on the centre pages of this newsletter.

When the Borough Council sent out the Council Tax Bills a summary of the Town Council's forecast Income and Expenditure for both 2006/2007 and 2007/2008 was included.

Now that the 2006/2007 financial year has ended and the Accounts completed we can, as set out below, let you know the final figures for last year.

## Town Council's Actual Expenditure

Gross £'S	Income £'S	Net £'S	Area
94,388	30,298	64,090	Democratic Representation & Management
145,096	0	145,096	Corporate Management
8,832	1,057	7,775	Allotments
439,895	252,033	187,862	Birchwood Leisure Centre
145,884	94,854	51,030	Roe Hill Hall
73,175	64,092	9,083	Lemsford Village Hall
16,797	14,260	2,537	Oxlease House
19,065	559	18,506	Newgate Street Village Hall
93,837	0	93,837	Community Parks & Open Spaces
25,512	0	25,512	Community Events & Activities
6,856	0	6,856	Grants to Voluntary Organisations
77,916	0	77,916	Improvements to Facilities
25,133	0	25,133	Loan Charges
1,172,386	457,153	715,233	TOTAL EXPENDITURE
0	23,635	-23,635	Investment Interest
0	0	0	Capital Charges
0	0	0	Contribution from Balances
1,172,386	480,788	722,000	PRECEPT
		131,143	Estimated Reserves
		26	Estimate of Staff Employed (Full Time Equivalents)

## Best Value Summary

**The Town Council has just published its eighth Best Value Performance Plan. Because of its size and activity it is one of only 41 of the 9000 Town and Parish Councils obliged to comply with requirements originally brought in for District and County Councils.**

**The full Performance Plan can be seen at Hatfield Library, Welwyn Hatfield Area Housing Office, Hatfield Swim Centre, The Galleria, Jim McDonald Centre and you can obtain a copy at the Town Council Offices or download it from our website. This summary is being sent to every household in Hatfield.**

**As the tremendous changes to Hatfield become apparent with new businesses and houses and as we all move towards the imminent redevelopment of the Town Centre the demands on the Town Council have changed and will continue to do so.**

## Council's Main Purpose and Objectives

The council's unique purpose is to offer a range of very local services that meet the need of our community, many of which would not otherwise be provided.

More specifically we will offer our residents

- ✓ A main sports and leisure centre with a wide range of activities
- ✓ Other venues in the heart of our community, providing local people and local groups with a choice of easily accessible activities and hosting a variety of local clubs
- ✓ A Festival Week in June
- ✓ Well maintained and well occupied allotments
- ✓ Well maintained community parks and open spaces

In addition to these specific services, we seek to promote the broader interests of the community.

## Council will achieve its objectives by:

- ✓ Consulting the community generally and service users specifically provided and by responding to findings.
- ✓ Engaging the community on big issues facing Hatfield and playing a key advocacy role on their behalf.
- ✓ Working in partnership with a wide range of local organisations to ensure an improving standard of services to meet the needs of residents and others.

Our relationships with the University of Hertfordshire and other public bodies are critical to that success.

## Town Council Services

The Council provides a wide range of Leisure and Community services throughout Hatfield. The Performance Plan details a description of each service together with its objectives, achievements, targets, costs and performance. The measurement of performance is via 'performance indicators' which we use to monitor our own progress each year.

## Targets and Progress

Last year we set ourselves the following targets:

### Reduce levels of Sickness

This was reduced from 4.50 days in 2005/2006 to 4.35 days this year but continues to be a service target as there is a need to reduce this figure further.

### Ensure that all training needs are met through staff assessments

Staff assessments were completed throughout the year and from this the staff training days figure has increased to 0.74% from 0.42% the previous year as staff are now trained when there is a genuine need for training.

### Review timing and extent of events and community activities, particularly at Christmas

For 2006, the Christmas activities were based on previous years, but additionally there was the option for children to write to Father Christmas via the Council Offices. Also the Father Christmas visits to the nursery schools resumed this year as did the Council having its own stall with a tombola on Festival Day.

Also this year, the Council was involved in a tree planting event to celebrate National Tree Planting Week which occurs at the end of November/beginning of December each year.

2007 saw the launch of the Best Kept Plot Competition at the Council's Green Lanes Allotments site.

### Investigate improving links to the website

This was not done but instead we concentrated on improving the website by adding a new page for Grants, updating the Council Meetings page to include agendas and minutes for all the main Committees, and regularly updating the News & Events page with Council events. The increase in the number of visits to the website reflects these improvements. Investigation into taking online payments for the Playscheme was done, but due to the low level of monthly transactions, this would currently not make economic sense.

### Include the availability of the Grants Scheme via the website

A new page has been included on the website for Grants where the application form and policy conditions can be downloaded.

### Establish an Allotment Holders' Association

An initial meeting was held in November 2006 and a follow up meeting in April 2007 involved a steering group being set up for the Association. Initial feedback has been obtained from the allotment holders and the majority are in favour of an Association at the site.

### Complete all Risk Assessments

Completed in March 2007.

### Develop a mid/long term strategy (2-5 year plan) for improvements to Birchwood Leisure Centre

As this strategy is Member led it has not yet been developed due to the elections taking place.

### **Increase Gold Card Membership of Beeches Health Suite**

Achieved as there are currently 64 active Gold Card members compared to 24 the previous year.

### **Increase off-peak usage of all facilities at Birchwood Leisure Centre with block bookings**

This is slightly increased but due to one-off casual bookings rather than block bookings.

### **Investigate the booking of events over Bank Holiday weekends at Birchwood Leisure Centre**

From Christmas 2006 it was decided to close Birchwood on Bank Holidays to save money so this target has not been met.

### **Carry out refurbishment work to Roe Hill Hall Bar**

Completed.

### **Work with Hertfordshire County Council to establish a base for adults with learning disabilities at Roe Hill Hall and to seek to use any funds generated to help provide an all-weather sports area**

The construction of the building, Briars Pavilion, was completed.

### **Increase Saturday afternoon football usage at Lemsford Hall**

Maximum capacity of two bookings has been secured for next season.

### **Carry out improvements to the kitchen at Newgate Street Village Hall**

Awaiting final details on kitchen requirements from the Newgate Street Village Hall Committee.

### **Increase percentage of potential hirings at Oxlease House**

Figures have been held with a slight increase in most areas.

## **Targets for 2007/ 2008**

- ✓ To reduce uncertified sickness.
- ✓ To increase Councillors' attendance at meetings following the May 2007 elections.
- ✓ To ensure that new office accommodation is available for occupation before the lease on Kennelwood expires in September 2008.
- ✓ Develop relationships further with Asda, the Galleria and the Town Centre Manager at Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council for support in community events and festival activities.
- ✓ Investigate organising more community events throughout the year rather than just those for Christmas and Festival Week in June. Other periods of the year to consider are Easter, May Day Bank Holiday, Pancake Day, St Georges Day, celebrations of various "national weeks" such as National Allotments Week.
- ✓ Investigate including internal photographs or virtual tours on the website for all venues available for hire to increase hirings.
- ✓ Investigate improving links to the website.
- ✓ Continue with the formation of the Allotment Holders Association.
- ✓ Ensure the recently introduced Best Kept Plot Competition remains an annual occurrence.
- ✓ Reduce waiting times by positive management of unkempt plots.

- ✓ Re-open Indoor Play Area at Birchwood Leisure Centre following the closure by the existing tenants.
- ✓ Develop a mid/long term strategy (2-5 year plan) for improvements to the Birchwood Leisure Centre.
- ✓ Investigate use of the all weather area at Roe Hill.
- ✓ Carry out the improvements to the kitchen at Newgate Street Village Hall.
- ✓ Upgrade the electricity supply at Newgate Street Village Hall.
- ✓ Increase publicity of Oxlease House through the website to increase hirings.
- ✓ Take on ownership and management of the new Howe Dell Community Hall in autumn 2007.

## **Service Reviews**

Last year the Council committed itself to completing the following reviews in 2006/2007:

- ✓ Community Parks and Open Spaces  
Completed 15th January 2007
- ✓ Procurement practices of the Town Council  
Completed July 2007
- ✓ The central administration of the Town Council  
Completed July 2007

It also considered the content of future Reviews and agreed that no reviews will be set at the present time due to the status of the Best Value regime in the next 12 months.

Full copies of the reviews undertaken so far are available at the Town Council Offices and to download on the website.

## **Consultation**

The Council is committed to consulting widely on its performance in various ways.

- ✓ The Council's Website
- ✓ Best Value Panel
- ✓ Active staff involvement
- ✓ The Council's newsletter 'Community News'
- ✓ The Annual Town Meeting
- ✓ Voluntary Organisations
- ✓ The University
- ✓ Community Panel of the Welwyn Hatfield Regeneration Project
- ✓ User and non-user surveys and public questionnaire
- ✓ Public question time at Council Meetings

In November 2006 the Council conducted a survey of 1000 households which will be repeated in November 2008, and carries out ongoing surveys of regular users of its services.

*If you would like to help us further with your views and comments please contact us at:*

**Hatfield Town Council,  
Freepost,  
Hatfield, AL10 0BR**

**Telephone: 01707 262023**

**Fax: 01707 271145**

**Email: [enquiries@hatfield-herts.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@hatfield-herts.gov.uk)**

## Youth Exchange 2007

Currently 12 youngsters from Hatfield are over in Holland until 9th August participating in our annual Youth Exchange with our twin town of Zierikzee.

Organised by both the Town Council and Breaks Manor, the group will follow an itinerary of activities and days out. Look out for photographs and a report in the next issue.

If you are interested in participating in this scheme please contact the Town Council.

## Grants to Local Organisations



The Town Council is pleased to announce that already this year it has managed to assist various local groups with their requests. Recent grant awards include:

- Funding towards the cost of the newsletter for the Alheimers Society.
- Paying for the redecoration of the kitchen at Friendship House in Wellfield Close.
- Various items of kit for Hatfield Youth FC.
- Providing a large plasma TV for the café area in the Foyer at Goldings House for young people to enjoy.

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 and application forms can be downloaded from the Grants page on our website.

The Council has £10,000 to fund groups and projects aimed towards helping the community, so don't miss out.

## Welwyn Hatfield Prince's Trust Group



The latest group of young people to go on the course run by the Trust has been busy fundraising and improving our local community.

They recently managed to raise over £600 through a street collection and have put that money to good use by redecorating the hallway and committee room at the Lord William Cecil Memorial Hall and starting work on regenerating the garden area at Breaks Manor Youth Club.

## Green Lanes Best Kept Plot Competition



This summer, the Town Council and the Allotment Association are running a competition at the Allotments to reward plot holders who keep their plots tidy and presentable.

There are 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes available and despite the weather so far this summer, there is sure to be some fierce competition.

## Heritage Open Days in Hatfield



The Hanger 1954

Heritage Open Days celebrate England's fantastic architecture and offer free access to properties. This year the Hatfield History Society is participating in this event. Here is a list of what will be going on 6-9th September.

### **Cockaigne Housing Group 68, The Ryde, Hatfield.**

Grade 2 listed 28 single story terraced patio houses which were built in 1966. **Open 8th September 2-5pm.**

### **The Eight Bells, Park Street, Old Hatfield.**

This Grade 2 listed public house was first mentioned in 1756. It has connections with Charles Dickens and Dick Turpin. **Display of history.**

### **Mill Green Museum, Mill Green.**

Working water mill and museum. **Open 8th September 2-5pm.**

### **The Hangar, Next Generation Sports Complex, Hatfield Business Park.**

Grade 2 listed Comet flight test Hangar. It is the largest aluminium structure in the world. Built for de Havilland in 1954. The hangar closed in 1993.

**Open 6-9th September 7am- 11pm. Display of history.**

### **South Hatfield Guided Walk**

The walk will show how design of the New Town was influenced by existing landforms. Includes housing by Lionel Brett and Sir Basil Spence. Meet at the Hilltop shopping centre. **9th September 12pm.**

### **Old Hatfield Guided Walk**

Walk highlighting present and former buildings which form part of the route of Old North Rd from London to York. **7th September 2:30pm & 9th September 10.30am. Pre-book on 01727 857845.**

Churches also participating are Marychurch, St. Etheldreda's and St. Lukes.

For further information regarding Heritage Open Days go to [www.heritageopendays.org](http://www.heritageopendays.org) or call 01707 274515/269662.

## What's On



**Meetings for local creative people at Talk Bar, Beales Hotel from 6-8pm.**

**13th Sept, 11th Oct, 8th Nov. Contact Helen Blockley on 01707 284741 or see [www.creativeherts.com](http://www.creativeherts.com)**

**Sun 19th Aug ~ Mill Green Museum**  
All about dolls & making dolls.  
Tel. 01707 271362.

**Wed 22nd Aug ~ Mill Green Museum**  
Family bread making. Tel. 01707 271362.

**Sat 8th Sept ~ Knebworth House**  
Open Air Classical Proms Concert. Gates open at 5pm, bring a picnic.  
Tel. 01438 812661.

### Hatfield House

**Fri 17th – Sun 19th Aug**

**Hatfield House Country Show**

Open 10am-6pm. Tel. 01707 287010.

**Sun 26th Aug**

**Romeo & Juliet in the Park**

An all male cast performs Shakespeare's play in the Park. **Wed 29th Aug 3-4:30pm**

**Open-air Children's Theatre**

Jack & the Beanstalk and Hansel & Gretel. Tel. 01707 287010.

**Sat 17th Nov**

Christmas Market at Hatfield House.  
Tel. 01707 287010.

**Sun 16th Sept 10-2pm**

## Isabel Hospice News



**Children's/Family Walk**

3 miles long, starts at Glaxo Sports Hall, Ware.

**Sun 23rd Sept**

**Adult's Chain Walk**

17 walks through Herts countryside, each around 10 miles long with lunch at a country pub along the way. For details contact Pam Shepherd on 01707 376782.

**Thurs 27th Sept**

**Ladies Open Golf Day**

At Panshanger Golf Club. For tickets contact 01707 330686.

**Sun 30th Sept**

**2007 Great North Run**

Join the Isabel Hospice team and raise money in this popular half marathon. For details contact Pam Shepherd on 01707 376782.

## What's On at our Facilities?



If you ever wondered what clubs or activities are going on in Hatfield then you might be interested in a new page that has been added to our website called "What's On".

For each day of the week all activities are listed that take place in our facilities across the Parish. From Roller Hockey to Yoga to Belly Dance there is sure to be something that appeals to everyone.

See <http://www.hatfield-herts.gov.uk/WhatsOn.php> and contact Birchwood on 01707 270772 for further details on any of the listed activities or groups.

## Hatfield Local History Society

**Mon Sept 10th 7:15pm** ~ The City of London, its people, buildings and history, a talk by Martin Copping.

**Thurs Oct 11th at 2:15pm** ~ Hatfield Town Council, a talk by Peter Clark. Learn all about the history of your local town council from the Town Clerk himself.

**Mon 12th Nov at 7:15pm** ~ "I've come about the drains", a new look at Roman architecture, a talk by Tony Rook.

All talks are held at Friendship House in Wellfield Close. For further details on these talks please call 01707 274515.



# ASDA

## Fun Day

If you're in town on Saturday 25th August, then head for Asda. They will be holding their 2nd Fun Day from 10am-4pm as the first one was so successful.

There will be lots going on including line dancing displays, face painting, a varied plant stall and a tombola.

Everyman Charity and Isabel Hospice will be the recipients of the funds raised on the day.

For further information please contact Asda directly on 01707 630800.

## Newgate Street Village Hall

The May Fayre held on the Playing Fields and in the Village Hall was a great success this year. Proceeds were divided between the Village Hall, Ponsbourne St Mary's Primary School and St Mary's Church with each receiving £2,900. There was also a donation to the Willow Foundation of £300. Congratulations to the Village Hall Committee on doing so well.

On the 12th October, there will be a Quiz Night in the Village Hall with a Ploughman's Supper.

For bookings please telephone Maxine Offredi on 01707 870188.

# Festival Survey

We are conducting this survey about the recent Festival Events that took place in Hatfield as we want to ensure that we are putting on events that the community wants. Please spare five minutes to fill out this form and return it to us.

1. Are you aware that Hatfield Town Council coordinates various events in Hatfield as part of our annual Festival in June? (please circle a response)

Yes                      No

1a. If yes, which particular events were you aware of and where did you hear about them?

Event	Aware of? Yes/No	Heard about from?
Fun Fair at Birchwood		
Car Rally at Birchwood		
Schools Cricket Tournament at Roe Hill		
Cavendish & Crusaders Cricket Match at Roe Hill		
Scottish Dance Evening at Lemsford Hall		
Town Mayor's Charity Golf Day at Mill Green Golf Club		
Rock n Roll Concerts at Stream Woods		
Hilltop Fun Day at High View & St John's Church		
Energy Saving Schools Poster Competition		

2. Did you or your family participate in any of the following Festival events?

Event	Yes	No
Fun Fair at Birchwood		
Car Rally at Birchwood		
Schools Cricket Tournament at Roe Hill		
Cavendish & Crusaders Cricket Match at Roe Hill		
Scottish Dance Evening at Lemsford Hall		
Town Mayor's Charity Golf Day at Mill Green Golf Club		
Rock n Roll Concerts at Stream Woods		
Hilltop Fun Day at High View & St John's Church		
Energy Saving Schools Poster Competition		

2a. If yes, please give us your comments about the events you participated in.

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3. From the list of events, what would be your favourite and least favourite event?

Favourite	Least Favourite
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4. Are there any specific events that you would like to see included as part of Festival for Hatfield?

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5. Do you live in Hatfield? (please circle a response)

Yes                      No

If no, where do you currently live?

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**Thank you for your co-operation.**

**Please return to Juliet Voisey, Hatfield Town Council, Freepost ANG9379, Hatfield, AL10 0BR.**

**[www.hatfield-herts.gov.uk](http://www.hatfield-herts.gov.uk)**

