



# Community News

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

July 2006

## HATFIELD FESTIVAL WEEK 2006

The Festival Week began with the Motor Rally on Sunday 11th June held on Birchwood Playing Fields. It was organised by Hatfield Heritage Vehicle Society, and was a scorcher of a day. Our Town Mayor presented the winners in each category with their prizes.



There was also an interesting Birds of Prey demonstration, and due to the heat one of the birds flew too high and was still missing at the end of the day. If any Hatfield residents have spotted it, please let us know, though we are sure that it is home safe now!



On Tuesday evening the Charity Dance Evening took place at Birchwood Leisure Centre. This was organised by the Peace Train Line Dancers and attended by around 150 people, all having a go at jiving, square dancing and line dancing. The event has so far raised around £900, so thank you to all for your support at this event.

On Wednesday evening the traditional fight for the trophy between Cavendish and Hatfield Cricket Clubs was due to take place. However, as one side was short of a few players, the teams were mixed and they enjoyed a friendly match instead.



Also on Wednesday the Welwyn Garden City and District Scottish Dancers put on a display at Lemsford Village Hall, together with the excellent Cameron Show Dancers.

On Friday the "History of Rock and Roll" concert was performed by Bobby Graham and his band. Children from all the primary schools in Hatfield took part, enjoying the music, and dancing as well as assisting the band with percussion and air guitar! Even the teachers were roped in to show the children how to do the "Twist"! University Bus provided the transport for the outlying schools enabling as many children as possible to enjoy the day.

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# HATFIELD FESTIVAL WEEK 2006 (continued)

The end of Festival Week was marked by the annual Hilltop Fun Day opened by the Town Mayor of Hatfield and followed by an energetic display from Bob Fermor's Chinese Lion.

A gorgeous day and a relaxed atmosphere prevailed with jazz music, dance performances and clown entertainment for the children.



There were also craft, produce and charity stalls, as well as refreshments such as ploughman's lunches served in the church. The Town Mayor also presented the prizes to the winners of our "Stop Irresponsible Parking" poster competition. Over 150 children entered, so thank you to all who took part. It was very difficult for the judges to reach a decision.

Our winners are listed below:

School	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
Birchwood	Chloe Harding	Raychel Osei	Fatima Miah
Green Lanes	Jessica Newlove	Sydnie Yai	Katie Boyce
Ponsbourne	Josh Anderson	Reece James-Hackney	Luke White
The Ryde	Kiani Patel	Siya Patel	Lucy Dodge
Streamwoods	Amy Jay	Hiral Mistry	Georgia Dymock



Overall winner Jessica Newlove will see her work transformed into a poster that will be displayed around Hatfield so watch out for this in the coming months!



## INTRODUCING YOUR NEW TOWN MAYOR

Hatfield Town Council is pleased to announce that we now have our very own Town Mayor instead of a Chairman. We would like to introduce you to Councillor Mick Long who has been elected as this Council's first Town Mayor.



Councillor Long had previously served as Chairman for a year. He marked the end of his year in office by presenting cheques to two charities.

A cheque was also presented to Dee Golder of Welwyn Hatfield Women's Refuge.



Pictured here is Hannah Chapman in receipt of a cheque on behalf of Keech Cottage Children's Hospice.



A Deputy Town Mayor was also elected to support the new Town Mayor and this is Councillor Mick Clark.

## TWINNING IN HATFIELD



Zierikzee during the flood of 1953.

Hatfield Town Council has won a diploma for its twinning activities with Zierikzee in Holland. The relationship between the towns started way back in 1953 and is still going strong. Hatfield Town Council is in the top 50 in the UK in length of twinning.

The link with Zierikzee arose out of tragedy when in 1953 many lives were lost in the floods which devastated the Lowlands of Holland as well as the coast of East Anglia. The people of Hatfield subscribed to a relief fund, some of which was sent to Zierikzee, and from this sprang an enduring friendship. Both communities often visit each other and there have been exchange visits between our Bands, Footballers, Youth Clubs and many others.

We also run a successful annual youth exchange programme and this summer we have a group coming over from Zierikzee.

The Council of Europe has awarded the diploma to Hatfield Town Council for its efforts at promoting the idea of European unity. Hatfield Town Council is the only UK recipient of the diploma this year. The Town Mayor and Town Clerk will receive the diploma at a ceremony at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. This is a great honour and there will be a report on the Strasbourg visit in the next issue.

## BIRCHWOOD LEISURE CENTRE

The Town Council has agreed a lease with a new provider of Indoor Children's Play Areas for the facility at Birchwood Leisure Centre.



Topsy Turvy World will be opening in time for the School Summer Holidays and bring their experience of operating on two other sites, at Brent Cross and Bushey.

One of the key differences to Topsy Turvy World is its stance on the food and beverages they offer in their cafes. Parents can be reassured that products are very carefully sourced and include smoothies, fresh juices, organic meat dishes and home baked cookies and muffins.

The Town Council looks forward to working with Topsy Turvy World.

Anyone who visits Topsy Turvy World at Birchwood Leisure Centre before the end of August will receive 2 for 1 entry if they show a copy of this newsletter.

## NEWS FROM ISABEL HOSPICE AUGUST 2006

### SUNDAY 6TH AUGUST 12:00-19:00 ROCK CONCERT AT THE CASTLE, HERTFORD



Come for an afternoon of free musical entertainment performed by local bands and relax in the Castle Grounds at the same time. The Rock Concert is staged in the grounds, and is organised by Hertford Town Council in association with Hertford Marquee Club and Data Gods JFO Ltd.

The main stage will be in front of The Castle facing the East Lawn. There will be various refreshment stalls. All the bands play for free and admission is free, but please give a donation at the entrance as all the proceeds go directly to the Isabel Hospice.

## TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

All meetings of the Town Council and its committees are held at 7.30pm on a Wednesday evening at the Town Council Offices, Kennelwood, 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.

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



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



## Best Value Summary

The Town Council has just published its seventh 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, Hatfield Area Housing Office, Hatfield Swim Centre, The Galleria, Jim McDonald Centre and you can obtain a copy at the Town Council Offices. 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 grown 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

The levels of certified sickness was reduced from 14.7 days to 8.73 days but the level of uncertified sickness rose from 3.31 days to 4.50 days

### Increase the number of staff training days to 1% of total staff working days

Although we have not reached the target all requests for training have been met.

### Improve Councillors attendance at meetings to 80%

Attendance averaged 70% partly because of a 33% attendance by one Councillor who has since resigned and partly because with ten of the fifteen Councillors being District Councillors there are often clashes of meetings.

### Increase awareness of the £10,000 funding available to local community groups to enhance their activities as part of the Hatfield Festival

This has been done by writing to all junior schools in the town.

### Monitor the number of visits that the Town Council's website receives

This has increased from 7,083 to 13,758 per year in one year.

### Promote the availability of grants to local organisations in Hatfield in other ways than just through Community News.

The Council continued to use Community News and the general knowledge amongst community groups of the availability of grants but has now promoted them on its website.

### Complete risk assessments

As the Council did not have sufficient staff for first five months of 2006 some of the risk assessments have still to be completed.

### Establish an Allotment Holders Association

This is in hand but due to staff shortages progress is slower than hoped.

### Increase off-peak usage at Birchwood Leisure Centre

This has reduced from 40% of potential use to 37% of potential use.

### Improve the net profit of the Roe Hill Hall Bar

Increased from £2,666 to £4,201.

### Increase hirings at Lemsford Village Hall

Peak hirings increased from 33% to 39% of potential use and off-peak from 40% to 45%.

### Ensure that the agreed improvements are carried out to Newgate Street Village Hall

The improvements to the main hall, committee room, entrance lobbies, toilets and stage have been completed.

## Targets for 2006/2007

- ✓ Reduce levels of uncertified sickness
- ✓ Ensure that all training needs are met through staff assessments
- ✓ Review timing and extent of events and community activities, particularly at Christmas
- ✓ Investigate improving links to the website
- ✓ Include the availability of the Grants Scheme via the website
- ✓ Establish an Allotment Holders Association
- ✓ Complete all Risk Assessments
- ✓ Develop a mid/long term strategy (2-5 year plan) for improvements to Birchwood Leisure Centre
- ✓ Increase Gold Card Membership of Beeches Health Suite
- ✓ Increase off-peak usage of all facilities at Birchwood Leisure Centre with block bookings
- ✓ Investigate the booking of events over Bank Holiday weekends at Birchwood Leisure Centre
- ✓ Carry out refurbishment work to Roe Hill Hall Bar
- ✓ Work with Hertfordshire County Council to establish a base for adults with learning difficulties at Roe Hill Hall and to seek to use any funds generated to help provide an all-weather sports area
- ✓ Increase Saturday afternoon football usage at Lemsford Hall

- ✓ Carry out improvements to the kitchen at Newgate Street Village Hall
- ✓ Increase percentage of potential hirings at Oxlease House

## Service Reviews

Staffing shortages have slowed the progress made in service reviews and has resulted in the completion of only one review in the year, that of Newgate Street Village Hall.

Considerable progress has been made on the review of Community Parks and Open Spaces and that will be completed by the end of October 2006.

The Council will also undertake by March 31 2007 the following reviews:

- ✓ Procurement
- ✓ Administration

## 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 September 2004 the Council conducted a survey of 1000 households which will be repeated in September 2006, 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*

**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)**

## What's On at Hatfield House

### Sat 22nd July 7-10:30pm Battle Proms

A celebration of classical music by the New English Concert Orchestra with cannons, cavalry and fireworks.

### Sun 30th July 4-7pm Shakespeare in the Park - Romeo & Juliet

The play will be staged in the Elephant Dell surrounded by ancient trees.

### 4th-6th August National Pottery & Ceramics Festival

This event has become one of the leading pottery and ceramics events in Europe.

### 18th-20th August Hatfield House Country Show

There is a full programme of events ranging from heavy horses, flying falconry displays and dog agility; to a fascinating Traditional Breeds show, a Shopping Village and Rural Crafts area, plus appearances from celebrity chefs.

### Sun 27th August 4-6pm Shakespeare in the Park-A Midsummer Night's Dream

The play will be staged in the Elephant Dell surrounded by ancient trees.

### Wed 30th August 4-5:30pm Children's Theatre - Double Bill

Goldilocks & the Three Bears followed by Little Red Riding Hood.

Performances to be staged in the Elephant Dell surrounded by ancient trees.

For further information on all these events, group bookings and advance tickets call 01707 287010 or visit;  
[www.hatfield-house.co.uk](http://www.hatfield-house.co.uk)

## Local Services under Threat

### - Public Meeting on 26th July 2006

Are you concerned about local services and shops being forced to close in Hatfield? Do you want to see your local high street keep its post office, bank, butcher, baker, fishmonger and the sense of community these local services can bring to Hatfield?

Then please come along to a public meeting on Wednesday 26th July 2006 at 7:30pm at Main Hall, Wood Hall Community Centre, Mill Green Road, Welwyn Garden City.

The meeting will be about the Campaign for the Sustainable Communities Bill which seeks to reverse the decline of local communities across Britain by becoming law. It will campaign against local services and shops closing, increased traffic, big out of town supermarkets opening up, less democratic participation etc.

The Bill is supported by the Town Council and the following organisations:

CAMRA, Disability Rights Commission, Friends of the Earth, Garden Organic, National Association of Farmers Markets, National Association of Local Councils, National Federation of Sub-Postmasters, National Federation of Retail Newsagents, National Federation of Women's Institutes, UNISON, Soil Association, Women's Environmental Network.

The meeting will be chaired by Councillor John Hawkins (Mayor of Welwyn & Hatfield).

For more information please contact Local Works on 020 7833 9898 or visit [www.localworks.org](http://www.localworks.org).

This is one area where local people can really make a difference to where they live!

## Summer Playscheme - Weeks at a Glance

### Book now!

24th July - 1st September 2006 - For all children age 5 to Year 6

**Week 1 -** Safety Week - Fire Brigade & Community Police Visits



**Week 2 -** Animal Week - Birds of Prey & Prize the Alsatian appearances



**Week 3 -** History Week - Henry VIII & The Great Fire of London



**Week 4 -** Beach Week - Shorts & Shades, Sand & Water Play

**Week 5 -** Dance/Drama Week - also Arts & Crafts



**Week 6 -** Sports Week - Lots to choose from including: Football, Netball, Badminton, Kick Boxing, Roller Hockey, Aerobics, Cricket, American Football, and Basketball!

For booking enquiries / form contact **01707 262023** or [enquiries@hatfield-herts.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@hatfield-herts.gov.uk) or see the back page for the booking form but do it ASAP as places are filling up fast!

# HATFIELD TOWN COUNCIL HOLIDAY PLAYScheme REGISTRATION FORM

A Separate Form needs to be filled out for each child

CHILD'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_

NAME CHILD LIKES TO BE CALLED \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL ATTENDED \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS \_\_\_\_\_

RELIGION \_\_\_\_\_

ETHNIC ORIGIN (Please circle)

White

Black-African

Black-Caribbean

Black-Other

Asian-Indian

Asian-Pakistani

Asian-Bangladeshi

Chinese

Dual-Heritage

Other

NAME OF PARENT (S) OR CARERS (S) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TEL NO: (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (work) \_\_\_\_\_

DOCTOR \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

SURGERY TEL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

COLLECTOR AND EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS (In Addition to above)

1. NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TEL NO (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (work) \_\_\_\_\_

2. NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TEL NO (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (work) \_\_\_\_\_

DOES YOUR CHILD HAVE ANY KNOWN MEDICAL PROBLEMS? (PLEASE LIST)

DOES YOUR CHILD HAVE ANY KNOW ALLERGIES OR MAJOR DISLIKES (I.E FOOD OR MATERIALS)?

ANY OTHER INFORMATION YOU THINK WE OUGHT TO KNOW

SOME OF THE ROUTINE ACTIVITIES OF THE PLAYScheme MAY INVOLVE VISITING PARKS OR SHORT TRIPS ON FOOT OR IN A MINI BUS. FOR YOUR CHILD TO TAKE PART IN THESE ACTIVITIES, YOU MUST GIVE YOUR PERMISSION.

I AGREE TO MY CHILD TAKING PART IN THE ACTIVITY DESCRIBED ABOVE.

**YES/NO**

THE TOWN COUNCIL MAY DURING THE PLAYScheme TAKE PHOTOGRAPHS, TO ASSIST IN THE PROMOTION OF THE PLAYSchemes.

I AGREE THAT PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE TAKEN OF CHILD FOR PROMOTIONAL PURPOSES ONLY.

**YES/NO**

I CONSENT TO ANY EMERGENCY MEDICAL TREATMENT NECESSARY DURING THE RUNNING OF THE PLAYScheme. I AUTHORISE THE PLAYCARE STAFF TO SIGN ANY WRITTEN FORM OF CONSENT REQUIRED BY THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITIES IF THE DELAY IN GETTING MY SIGNATURE IS CONSIDERED BY THE DOCTOR TO ENDANGER MY CHILD'S HEALTH AND SAFETY.

**YES/NO**

I/WE HAVE READ THROUGH THE RULES/REGULATIONS ABOUT HOW THE PLAYScheme OPERATES.

I/WE UNDERSTAND THAT IF THERE ARE ANY PROBLEMS I/WE CAN DISCUSS THESE WITH THE CO-ORDINATOR OR A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL.

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

*Please use a separate form for each child. A registration form and payment must accompany this form.*

**MINI TENNIS OPTION - WITH QUALIFIED L.T.A. COACH. £2.50 per day or FREE if a FULL WEEK is BOOKED.**  
 Participation in the Mini Tennis can only be on the same day/s as your child's Playsceme Attendance.

Age  
5 to 11  
School Year 6

Book Early  
to avoid  
Disappointment

Please put a X in the day/s you require.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	24-Jul	25-Jul	26-Jul	27-Jul	28-Jul
All Day 8.30pm to 6pm Mini Tennis - 10am to noon					
	31-Jul	1-Aug	2-Aug	3-Aug	4-Aug
All Day 8.30pm to 6pm Mini Tennis - 10am to noon					
	7-Aug	8-Aug	9-Aug	10-Aug	11-Aug
All Day 8.30pm to 6pm Mini Tennis - 10am to noon					
	14-Aug	15-Aug	16-Aug	17-Aug	18-Aug
All Day 8.30pm to 6pm Mini Tennis - 10am to noon					
	21-Aug	22-Aug	23-Aug	24-Aug	25-Aug
All Day 8.30pm to 6pm Mini Tennis - 10am to noon					
	Bank Holiday	29-Aug	30-Aug	31-Aug	1-Sep
All Day 8.30pm to 6pm					

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**OPTION 1 - 1 CHILD**

**OPTION 2 - 2 CHILDREN**

(same family/same address attending the Playscheme on the same days)

	£ 11.00	per child per day	Hatfield Resident *	£ 10.25
	£ 50.00	per child per full week		£ 46.00
Non Hatfield Resident	£ 14.25	per child per day	Non Hatfield Resident	£ 14.25
	£ 67.00	per child per full week		£ 67.00

\* Hatfield Residents are households that pay Council Tax to Hatfield Town Council.

All Day	Hatfield Resident	£ _____ x _____ Day/s =	£ _____
All Day	Non Hatfield Resident	£ _____ x _____ Day/s =	£ _____
All Week	Hatfield Resident	£ _____ x _____ Week/s =	£ _____
All Week	Non Hatfield Resident	£ _____ x _____ Week/s =	£ _____
<b>Mini Tennis</b>	<b>All Participants</b>	<b>£2.50</b> x _____ Day/s =	£ _____
	(Limited Availability - FREE if a FULL WEEK is BOOKED)		
<b>Total Due</b>		=	£ _____

No Cash  
Payments -  
Cheque or  
Card Payments  
Only

Cheques should be made payable to "HATFIELD TOWN COUNCIL" and sent to:  
**HATFIELD TOWN COUNCIL, KENNELWOOD HOUSE, TOWN CENTRE, HATFIELD. AL10 0LG**

Or please debit my \_\_\_\_\_ (type of card) credit/debit card with £ \_\_\_\_\_

My card number is \_\_\_\_\_ Issue date \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry date \_\_\_\_\_ Issue No. \_\_\_\_\_ (switch only)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address for Confirmation**

**Cardholders Signature**

Any queries please call our BOOKINGS HOTLINE on 01707 262023.  
 Booking Office closed on Friday 21st July 2006 ONLY

Ofsted  
Registration  
148164

Sports  
Art  
Games  
Crafts  
Cooking