

## CLERK'S REPORT ON PARISH COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

JUNE 2007

### CO-OPTION TO THE PARISH COUNCIL

Four residents expressed an interest in joining the Parish Council. It was very encouraging that so many were interested in playing their part in village affairs. However, this meant difficult decisions for the Council as there were only two vacancies. The Council voted to co-opt Dr Jack Eames and Martin Nash but also hoped that the two people who were not co-opted would retain an interest in the Council and would be willing to join "Mary's Eggheads" (see the Chairman's Annual Report which will be circulated to all).

### VILLAGE OF THE YEAR - JUDGES' VISIT 7 JUNE

Three judges visited the village on an overcast June afternoon. They were met at the Village Hall by Mary Bourne, Chairman of the Parish Council, who said a few words before the judges were taken on a tour of the village. The main organiser, Martin Nash, had arranged for two cars to take the judges on different routes. One car load visited the Wildlife Meadow and later learned of the difficulties experienced following the sudden closure of our Post Office. The other car saw the Playing Field, East Herts Equestrian Centre and the Internet Access Point at the Silver Fox.

Back at the Village Hall, the judges looked at the displays of events that had taken place in Hertford Heath since their visit last year and also saw the Parish Council newsletters, the various walks devised by Clive Gillingham (available on the website), the programmes for several Hertford Heath Football Club home matches, and other information on the Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust and the Friends of Holy Trinity. Of great interest were the poems written by children at Hertford Heath Primary School which will appear in the newsletter from next month.

The WI had laid on a wonderful spread for the judges and the many representatives who had come to talk to them.

Mary Bourne opened the proceedings by outlining all Bob Akers' activities on behalf of the village. He has been nominated by the village for the Peterkin Award.

Headteacher Janice Smith had brought along two members of the School Council who spoke about how the pupils get involved in village life - from having a stall at the Village Fete to using the roads to gain their cycling proficiency badges. One pupil read out her poem to great applause.

Representatives from the Ladies Circle, Carpet Bowls, Horticultural Society, Trinity Tots, the WI, the Village Hall Management Committee and Hertford Heath Rangers Netball Club all spoke about what they do and how they enjoy village life. The Rev Nick Sharp and District Councillor William Ashley spoke about their work for the village.

The results of the competition will be announced on 28<sup>th</sup> June at County Hall. We all have our fingers crossed for a great result. Watch the noticeboards for details.

(This report, with pictures, will be on the website [www.hertfordheath.com](http://www.hertfordheath.com))

### MEETING WITH THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE POST OFFICE

I went with Mark Prisk MP to a meeting with Alan Cook and Peter Pycock at the Post Office's HQ in Old Street, London. Mark expressed the concerns of both the villagers at the length of time the village Post Office has been closed and his concerns at the fairness for Mrs Cousins of the procedure used in the investigation. We were both reassured to hear that the Post Office would secure representation for Mrs Cousins at the appeal hearing and that she would be supplied with all the evidence well before that hearing. Alan Cook also re-assured us that the Post Office would act swiftly to restore post office facilities to the village and that the Parish Council would be consulted at all stages.

#### INTERNET ACCESS AT THE SILVER FOX

The laptop at the Silver Fox is up and running now in addition to the wireless access for those who have their own laptops. Do go and try it.

#### ANNUAL REPORT

The Council's annual report will be delivered by the end of the month. Do let me know if you do not receive a copy or copies of the Parish Council's newsletter.

#### COMPLAINTS OF RUBBISH DUMPING

Please remember that rubbish should not be dumped over fences or into the woods. It blocks ditches and obstructs footpaths. Garden waste should preferably be composted but if this is not possible, it should be taken to a recycling centre or (as a last resort) put into wheelie bins. From the Autumn, things should be easier as we have been told that the brown bins are coming to the village then.

Could dog walkers also ensure that they do not leave plastic bags of dog mess in the woods and along footpaths, etc. Such bags should be put into one of the bins around the village or into wheelie bins.

#### BALLOON RACE TO RAISE FUNDS FOR BONFIRE NIGHT

To help raise the funds necessary to hold the Village's free Bonfire Night and Fireworks display on Saturday, 3rd November, a Balloon Race will again be staged at this year's Summer Fete. A cash prize of £100 will be awarded for the balloon flying the furthest from Hertford Heath - which we're told of! Race entry tickets will cost £1 and will be available prior to the event, from the Village's Shops and Pubs, or on Fete Day. We'd welcome your support to make this year's events the biggest yet, and to make Bonfire Night really go with a bang!

#### NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Monday 16 July 2006 (note change from the usual first Monday in the month) in the Mission Room at 7.30pm. Members of the public are always welcome.

Carolyn Morgan  
Clerk to the Council