

CLERK'S REPORT ON PARISH COUNCIL ACTIVITIES APRIL 2008

CALOR VILLAGE OF THE YEAR 2008

This turned out to be an absolutely fantastic afternoon. We were extremely lucky with the weather – we had sleet and hail ten minutes before the judges arrived but that cleared up whilst they were taken on a tour of the village. I understand that they found their visit to Black Dog Leisure most interesting. They also visited the Church, Beacon Court, Haileybury, Michele at the Country Store and East Herts Equestrian Centre. Although we had not planned to take them down to Bob's Pond, they insisted on seeing it as they had read so much about it.

Back at the Village Hall, there were displays from a large variety of village organisations and businesses, including the School, Haileybury, Hertford Heath Rangers Netball Club, the Goat Cheese Club, Carpet Bowls, Neighbourhood Watch, the Horticultural Society, Friends of Holy Trinity, Ladies Circle, Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust and many more. Hertford Heath Quilters showed off their quilts, cushions and bags. The Art Group had a display in the foyer. Pam Kimpton came with pictures from her book of the village "Beating about the Bush". Brenda Wilson and her husband brought information on their B & B and their plant business. Jeremy Bartlett who is reviving the Farmers' Market from May was there as was Roger Slater who talked to the judges about U3A. Ray Tisbury brought some of his wonderful bonsai trees and the WI produced another of their magnificent teas.

Mark Prisk kindly came up on the Friday before the visit and recorded three short clips. We thought we would be able to get away with the first until we were rudely interrupted by a car siren going off behind him! He delivered a welcome "in true Oscar style". I have tried to put the clip onto the web but have not been able to view it myself. It may be too large.

We also had a slide show of views and activities in the village playing on the stage wall throughout the afternoon. The Village Hall is looking to produce a CD of village pictures as a fundraising venture.

As they left, the judges said that we were the first of six villages they were visiting in the Eastern Region and that we had set a very high standard.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

This meeting is called by the Chairman of the Parish Council but is not a Parish Council meeting - it is a meeting for all electors in the village and is an opportunity to hear what the Parish Council has been doing over the past 12 months and how it has spent its (our) money. A representative of the Vic Penny Trust will be there to explain how they can help teenagers studying music, drama, dance, poetry, sculpture, literature, art and design or architecture. There will be reports on the Village Fete and the Bonfire Night and it is hoped that there will be reports from the Police and all organisations to which the Parish Council makes donations. The meeting will be on Monday 12 May 2008 in the Mission Room and will start at 7.00pm.

ALLOTMENTS

The Parish Council agreed in principle some months ago to allow wooden sheds not greater than 6 feet by 4 feet onto plots. Plottolders should submit details of their proposed sheds to the Council before putting them up. At the same time, the Council considered the siting of

plastic sheds, houses, etc on the allotments and decided to ask those ploholders who have such things to remove them as soon as possible.

Bob Akers has a growing waiting list (no pun intended). If you are not working your allotment, it will be taken from you under the terms of the allotment agreement – so use it or lose it!

These are still some rents outstanding and these should be paid to Bob Akers. The charges are £15 for a full plot and £10 for a half one.

DROPPED KERBS

If you want to park your car in front of your house, you may need planning permission for a dropped kerb, depending on the class of the road the access is onto. You will need to discuss your proposals with Hertfordshire Highways. You can get more information on www.hertsdirect.org/envroads/roadstrans/highways/info/vxo.

VILLAGE OF THE YEAR POEMS

Here is Lois Kerswell's poem:

"WHY I LOVE MY VILLAGE"

*Our village is pretty and green,
Every home is easily seen,
Flowers brighten up window boxes,
In the woods you might see foxes,
Birds gliding amongst the trees,
Searching for berries and seeds,
The people here are happy and kind
It is the nicest village you will EVER find!*

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Monday 12th May in the Mission Room immediately following the Annual Parish Meeting. Members of the public are always welcome at Parish Council meetings.

Carolyn Morgan
Clerk to the Council

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