

CLERK'S REPORT ON PARISH COUNCIL ACTIVITIES APRIL 2009

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. There will be reports from our County and District Councillors as well as from the Police. There will also be reports on the Village Fete and the Bonfire Night and It is hoped that there will be reports all organisations to which the Parish Council makes donations. The meeting will be on Monday 11th May 2008 in the Mission Room and will start at 7.00pm. All electors are very welcome to attend and to ask questions.

POST OFFICE

Mark Prisk MP received a further disappointing response to his letter to Alan Cook, MD of the Post Office Ltd. Mr Cook is only prepared to send someone to explain why we cannot have an Outreach service in the village rather than investigating the possibility of providing one.

It has been suggested that we seek information on the difficulties residents are having accessing the Post Offices in Hertford and elsewhere. For example, are problems caused by the fact that the bus only runs hourly, or because of the extended queues in Hertford, or by having to take the car and the cost of parking, or by having to walk to and from carparks and bus stops, etc. If you could let me have details, I will put a dossier together and pass it to Alan Cook and Mark Prisk.

The Council members are not hopeful but thought it worth one last try. I will also be putting the correspondence between Mark Prisk and the Post Office onto the website so that all can read it.

BALLS WOOD APPEAL

As you will no doubt have read, the appeal was successful and both Balls Wood and Hobbyhorse Wood have been saved by the Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust. In addition to the magnificent sum raised by Jean Bawcutt and her helpers at the Garage Sale on 21st March, a further £325 was raised at the Quiz at the Silver Fox. Thanks are due to Gill, David Morgan who set the questions and Malcolm Bolton who read them so eloquently. Congratulations to the winning team of three from the Wildlife Trust who went away with Trust bags, Smartie Easter eggs and Smartie egg cups.

JIGSAW PUZZLES

Trevor Goodingham has a supply of jigsaw puzzles to lend to anyone who is housebound and enjoys doing such puzzles. He will be selling spare ones at the Village Fete and would be grateful for any contributions. You can ring him on 554293.

ALLOTMENT RENTS - REMINDER

These are now due and should be paid to the Allotment Manager, Bob Akers at 65 Trinity Road or to Lynn Bonner at 61 London Road who has volunteered to assist Bob. The rent for a full plot is £15, with a half plot being £10.

YOUTH CLUB

Look out for the stall at the Village Fete. If you want to know more about the Club or want to help, please contact Nick Sharp on 589147.

RECYCLING CHANGES

William Ashley told the last Parish Council meeting of the changes to the refuse and recycling collections that are coming about later this year - possibly in November. The District Council is introducing facilities for the collection of plastic bottles. In addition, we will be able to put cardboard and food waste into the brown bins. All recycling, including paper and bottles, will be collected fortnightly on the same day. Food waste and other waste can, as present, go into the black bins which will in future only be collected fortnightly.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

A reminder that sheds and outbuildings should be secured even if they contain nothing of great value. A spade can be used to lever doors. We need to be aware that wheelie bins can be used to climb over gates and walls and not leave them where they are readily available to those who would like to take what isn't theirs.

PARKING

As well as not parking on pavements or in such a way as to force pedestrians into the road, we would urge drivers not to park on the grass verges along the roads. This churns them up and can also cause difficulties for pedestrians and it looks very unsightly.

VILLAGE OF THE YEAR POEMS

Below is the poem by Franceska Merton:

THE WONDERFUL HERTFORD HEATH VILLAGE ABOUT THE CHURCH

*The Hertford Heath village has a church
It has been there for hundreds of years
It is brown and big
And it is very peaceful.*

*The bells ring
For all sorts of things.
They're gold and shiny
And the bells ring very slowly.*

*The back of the church
Is shaped like the back of a boat.
It is white with brown bits of wood.
The bits of wood are small.*

*The front of the church
Has a silver shiny plate
With a silver shiny cup.
They represent Jesus.*

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The next meeting will be the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council (not to be confused with the Annual Parish Meeting!) and will be held on Monday 11th May 2009 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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