

HERTFORD HEATH PARISH COUNCIL CLERK'S REPORT AUGUST 2005

Although there was no Parish Council meeting in August, the work of the Council carried on with progress being made on a number of fronts.

POND IN THE WILDLIFE MEADOW

The Parish Council asked the Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust to quote for carrying out the newt survey required by the District Council before the excavation work for the pond could be started. Tim Hill and Paul Hewitt came and visited the meadow site and expressed huge surprise at what the District Council was demanding. Paul works for another authority and said that such a survey would not be required there. However, as the District Council had required a newt survey, they agreed to provide a quotation for carrying out the survey and providing a report. Following their quotation of £250, the Chairman (Mary Bourne) contacted the District Council and, after much discussion and debate, the District Council have now said that a survey is not necessary before we proceed! The Council will be asking the contractor, who it had lined up last year before being told we needed a newt survey, to carry out the work as soon as conditions are right.

BONFIRE NIGHT

The WI's Summer Bonanza was such a success that the Chairman suggested having a bonfire and fireworks on the Green as we had in 2000 and 2002. November 5th is a Saturday and would seem a great time to hold such an event. In the past years, the organisation of and payment for the bonfire and fireworks has been by the Parish Council. Mary hoped that others would volunteer to be involved and to help fundraise for the event. If you are interested and would like to help, could you contact Mary on 500946 or me on 581994.

BONFIRES ON THE ALLOTMENT

Whilst on the subject of bonfires, could I remind allotment holders that bonfires should only be lit when the wind blows the smoke away from the village and ensure that all fires are out before leaving the allotments.

INTERNAL AUDITOR

The Parish Council is required to have an Internal Auditor and for the past few years, Mike Ronald of Hertford has been carrying out that vital task. Unfortunately, he is having to give this work up. If you are interested in taking on this task (for which a small fee is payable) or you know of someone who is or might be, could you contact me.

TREES ON THE GREEN

Some of the trees on the Green are suffering in this dry weather. I will be getting onto the suppliers of a couple which look as if they are dying but the Council would very much appreciate it if those living near the trees would take on the task of watering them when needed.

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies (HALS) at County Hall have asked me to publicise their open day on Saturday 15 October from 10.00am to 4.00pm in the Family History Centre when there will be talks on family history, workshops and help desks, free children's activities, and displays and advice on all aspects of family history.

HALS is open every Saturday morning to help you find out about your ancestors and your family history roots, especially from Hertfordshire. They also host the Hertfordshire Family History Society's trouble shooting service on the first Tuesday of every month.

You can contact them on 01438 737333, asking for the Family History Centre, or via email to hertsdirect@hertscc.gov.uk, or visit their website www.hertsdirect.org/hals.

WINTER WARMER HEALTH CHECK

The District Council have asked me to include the following:

Keeping warm over the coming winter is important but turning up the heating can be an expensive option.

The good news is that if you're over 60 the council is offering you a FREE home energy visit.

This will provide advice on ways to save energy, keep warmer throughout the winter months and save money by reducing energy bills.

A qualified officer from Papworth Care for Energy will carry out the home energy checks and provide the necessary advice on how to keep warm and maintain comfortable conditions over the winter months.

We will also be giving away two low-energy light bulbs as part of the visit, saving you money from the start. To arrange your home energy visit, call Keith Harrison at Papworth Care for Energy on 01279 757756.

My apologies to Peter Clewer who sent me details of the Working Parties on the Nature Reserves but which I have inadvertently deleted from my emails. I will put the information onto the notice boards as soon as I can.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on 5 September in the Mission Room starting at 7.30pm. The public is always welcome to come.

Carolyn Morgan
Clerk to the Council