

CLERK'S REPORT ON PARISH COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

JULY 2006

VILLAGE OF THE YEAR

I expect most people know that Hertford Heath was awarded the title of Village of the Year 2006 - East at the ceremony held at County Hall on 29 June. We were also commended in the Older People section of the competition. Congratulations were received at the award ceremony by Bob Akers, Martin Nash, Trevor Goodingham and Nick Sharp.

The full results of the competition were:

CATEGORY	WINNER	COMMENDED
Environment	Birch Green	Redbourn
Business	Brickendon	Hexton
Older People	Barkway	Hertford Heath
Young People	Woolmer Green	Redbourn
I.T.	Redbourn	Furneaux Pelham
Building Community Life	Pirton	Furneaux Pelham
Most Improved Community Life	Woolmer Green	
Best Community Project	Ickleford	
Small Village	Hexton	
Village of the Year - East	Hertford Heath	
Village of the Year - West	Ickleford (who go on to represent Hertfordshire in the next stage)	

The Judges comments on Hertford Heath were: "Lively enthusiastic commitment by a large number of people across all ages and categories impressed the Village of the Year judges. Fundraising for football changing rooms, the revival of the village bonfire night and the opening of the conservation area, Bob's Pond in a redundant area of the allotments are all examples of this pulling together of the community."

The formal unveiling of the "totem pole" which has been erected outside the Village Hall will be on 22 July. The dignitaries who are coming include the Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire and the Chairman of Hertfordshire County Council. I will include a full report of that ceremony in my next report and hope to include some pictures of the ceremony in the next Parish Council newsletter.

There is a prize of around £200. Suggestions for how to spend it will be very welcome! One suggestion already is that some of it is used to fund the construction of the petanque terrain.

COLLAGES FOR THE QUEEN

Mary Bourne sent the Collages for the Queen produced by the children at the JMI to the Queen and the following letter received in response:

"The Queen wishes me to write and thank you for the letter which you have sent on the occasion of her eightieth birthday and for enclosing the book of splendid collages made by the children at Hertford Heath Primary School.

Her Majesty was touched to hear that you, as an artist yourself, held this competition in celebrations of her special day and The Queen was delighted to see the children's individual wonderful works of art.

Her Majesty has been very moved by the overwhelming response to her birthday and I am to thank you for your loyalty, support and good wishes which she warmly appreciates."

VILLAGE FETE

What an absolutely splendid afternoon. All thanks to the committee led by Brenda Wilson and to Jean Bawcutt for organising such wonderful scarecrows for a fourth year. I hope to include pictures in the next newsletter and a fuller report in my August report. As I write this on 18th July, I have received a number of cards from the balloon race with the one coming from Epsom in Surrey having travelled the longest distance so far. I will try to include a regular update on these cards on the website.

PLAYING FIELD DEVELOPMENTS

The new equipment has been installed and is being well used. A formal opening ceremony is being planned for sometime in September. There are still some matters that need attention, for example the gates need to close automatically and preferably open outwards rather than inwards. These will be done before the official opening.

PC AND INTERNET ACCESS

The response to the consultation leaflet was an overwhelming vote in favour of providing such a service. Given the level of support, the next steps are to identify a suitable location or locations and to investigate sources of funding.

VOLUNTEER TREE WARDEN

The Council is looking for someone to volunteer to "look after" the trees on the Village Greens, to suggest improvements and to advise when works need to be done to the trees. Anthony Oliver used to do this amongst all the other things he did and his efforts are missed since he left the village. Do contact me if you would like to volunteer.

PROBLEMS OF BALL GAMES ON THE VILLAGE GREEN

The meeting yesterday heard of problems caused by the vigorous playing of football on the Green. Cars and plants have been damaged. The Council is looking at ways to alleviate these problems and it would help if parents could remind their children firstly to play in such a way that the balls stay on the Green and, secondly, to exercise care when going into the roads to collect balls. Some of the traffic along Mount Pleasant, as everywhere else in the village, still travels too fast for safety and legality.

GARDEN RUBBISH

Some residents put such rubbish over their fences into the woods or onto the Playing Field which damages the ecology of the areas and blocks ditches. Until the village gets brown bins, please put rubbish in the black bins and not over the garden wall.

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Monday 4th September in the Mission Room at 7.30pm. Do remember that there will be no meeting in August. Members of the public are always welcome at Parish Council meetings.

Carolyn Morgan
Clerk to the Council