

HERTFORD HEATH PARISH COUNCIL



NEWSLETTER

Issue 12 April 2005

HERTFORDSHIRE VILLAGE OF THE YEAR 2005

The draft entry is on the website at www.hertfordheath.com or you can see a copy by contacting any member of the Parish Council or the Clerk. Do look at it and let the Council know of any comments you may have.

Your help is particularly needed in answering the following:

- How well do you think the Parish Council communicates with residents?
- Do all local residents feel that they are well represented by the Council?
- How easy is it for newcomers to become involved in village life?

The closing date is 5 May 2005.

PARKING ISSUES AT SCHOOL

The police have responded magnificently to the requests for help to control the poor parking near the School. PC Paul Scott and his colleagues have written a letter which, together with a booklet on safe parking, has been sent to all parents. They have patrolled the area at the relevant times 'educating' parents as to their responsibilities and telling some to move on when parking stupidly. In addition, East Herts traffic wardens have been up and leafleted drivers on the potential dangers. The Parish Council has supported requests to Hertfordshire Highways for parking restrictions to be introduced near the school.

Richard and Chris at the Townshend Arms are helping too by allowing parents to park there and walk their children to school.

Annual Parish Meeting

Monday 4th April at 7:00pm
in the
Mission Room

**Find out what the Parish Council
has been doing over
the past year**

**Learn how your money has been
spent**

**See a demonstration of the
Village Website**

Make your views known

**THIS IS YOUR MEETING
ALL ELECTORS WELCOME**

THE CHAIRMAN IS RESIGNING

The Annual Parish Meeting and the Ordinary Meeting following will be the last meetings for Anthony Oliver, Chairman of the Parish Council. After 15 years as a member of Hertford Heath Parish Council, three of them as Chairman, and many years as a member of Great Amwell Parish Council before that, Anthony is leaving the Council. The Annual Parish Meeting on 4 April will be an opportunity to show your appreciation for all the work he has done for the village.

VANDALISM OR MANAGEMENT IN THE NATURE RESERVE?

There has been quite a lot of tree cutting in the Nature Reserve in recent weeks. Some people have expressed the opinion that it seems like vandalism to cut down trees, but there are good management reasons for doing it. I thought readers might like an explanation.

In the Goldingtons section of the reserve, near the end of Mount Pleasant, some hornbeam coppicing has been done. This is the traditional form of managing hornbeam woodland, to provide useful renewable resources while encouraging diverse conditions for wildlife. If hornbeams grow too tall they can become top heavy and fall, tearing out the roots. If they are cut above ground level, new stems grow from the same stumps. This is known as coppicing. Historically, the cut wood was used for fence posts and firewood. The removal of the canopy lets in plenty of light and encourages woodland flowers like anemones and bluebells. Today few people have open fires and the wood is not needed as fuel, but we have used the brushwood to build protective barriers to keep the muntjac from nibbling the new shoots as they grow.

On the Roundings the tree felling has been in pursuit of the long term management plan for the reserve, which is to encourage the expansion of the rare heathland habitat at the expense of some of the much more common secondary woodland. Much of the brushwood which results from this cutting has been built in to "dead hedges". These provide shelter for small mammals and birds, and a habitat for insects and fungi as the wood decomposes. The alternative is burning, which pollutes the atmosphere and produces ash to enrich the soil. One of the requirements for heathland plants is soil which is not too full of nutrients and so we remove some of the leaf mould from the areas where the woodland was, and this allows the heathers and moor grasses to develop. You may have noticed the young heather emerging in other parts of the reserve which were cleared in previous winters.

If you have any queries, do give me a ring.

Anthony Oliver, Voluntary Warden, tel: 01992 583404

HERTFORD HEATH FOOTBALL CLUB

The First Team are currently in third position in the League and have done exceptionally well for their first year in the Herts Senior County League. The management team of Clive Addlington and Anthony Graves (Oxo to all that know him) and all the players have achieved the highest position any team from Hertford Heath has ever achieved in local football. I hope the village is proud of their achievements and we can look forward to seeing more supporters next year.

Not forgetting our second team Hertford Heath Reserves who have achieved some fantastic things this year. They had to start the season with over half of the team as new players and a new management team. The managers both play for the team and deserve some recognition in these achievements so well done to Chris Ward and Mathew Shepherd for pulling all your players together and finishing in the top three of the league.

Duncan Brown, Secretary – Hertford Heath Football Club

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Chairman:

Anthony Oliver
Heath End
Heath Lane
01992 583404

Vice Chairman:

Bob Akers

Other members:

Lynn Bonner
Mary Bourne
Andrew Crumpton
Trevor Goodingham
Martin Nash
Alison Scarll
Gillian Thornton

Clerk:

Carolyn Morgan
97 London Road
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Website:

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East Herts District Councillor:

William Ashley

01992 511313 (tel)
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william.ashley@eastherts.gov.uk

EHDC website:
www.eastherts.gov.uk

Hertfordshire County Councillor:

Nigel Copping

01920 870155 (tel)
01920 871347 (fax)
nigel.copping@hertscc.gov.uk

HCC website: www.hertsdirect.org

Highways fault reporting:

Telephone 01438 737320 or use the online fault reporting service on www.hertsdirect.org/highwayfaults.

Non-emergency Police number:

0845 33 00 222

INTERESTED IN TAKING AN ALLOTMENT?

If you are interested in having an allotment in the village, whether a full or half plot, please contact the Council's Allotment Manager, Bob Akers, on 420340.