

HERTFORDSHIRE VILLAGE OF THE YEAR 2005

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Rural England

Category 1. ENVIRONMENT

1. Do you have a conservation group?
(Please name) YES

Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust manages two nature reserves in the village one of which is an SSSI. Each reserve has a local volunteer warden.

2. Do you have any horticultural/Gardening/Allotment societies?
If yes, please list YES

Hertford Heath Horticultural Society – membership is open to all residents and those renting allotments in the village. (The allotments are provided by the Parish Council.)

3. Do your village school or any other organisations have active
involvement in conservation activities? YES
If yes, please list:

- *Hertford Heath JMI has a nature area on the edge of its playground*
- *Hertford Heath Parish Council has established a wildlife meadow on an unused part of its allotments and is planning a wildlife pond there once a great crested newt survey has been completed*
- *At least two working parties are organised each month on the areas managed by the Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust*

4. How are environmental activities/issues communicated to the
village? Please give brief details

- *Parish Council monthly newsletter – free to most homes in the village*
- *Parish News – monthly newsletter produced by the PCC and available on subscription*
- *Village website – www.hertfordheath.com*
- *Noticeboards*
- *The village's Mercury correspondent includes them in her reports to the weekly paper.*
- *Information boards in nature reserves and wildlife meadow.*

5. Do you have a Parish Paths partnership or similar group? YES

The Parish Council has been in partnership with the Countryside Management Service since 2001 and has carried out a number of projects (see Q7)

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6. Do you have a re-cycling scheme?

YES

Recycling bins collecting glass, tins, paper, clothes and shoes have been provided by the District Council in the village. The District Council also organises a kerbside collection for paper.

Haileybury pupils run a recycling scheme within the College which extends into part of the village.

7. Are there any environmental projects planned or undertaken in the village?

YES

If yes, please list:

- *A wildlife pond will be created in the Wildlife Meadow once the newt survey has been carried out.*
- *Over the past four years, two bridleways and a RUPP have been resurfaced, and kissing gates and way markings have been installed under the Parish Paths Partnership Project. A two-year project to resurface a third bridleway will be completed in the summer.*
- *The Parish Council manages the Village Greens, with particular emphasis on replacing the ornamental trees with native species.*
- *The Parish Council employs two litter pickers who work for a total of eight hours per week with the District Council paying about one third of the cost.*
- *Haileybury is running a project in its own woodland to clear a wide grassy ride which has become overgrown and to reinstate a small lake by repairing a damaged dam.*
- *The Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust has several significant on-going projects in the nature reserves including:*
 - *encouragement of the rare heathland habitat by clearing parts of the more common secondary woodland;*
 - *re-introducing traditional coppice management of hornbeam woods;*
 - *clearing ponds and ditches on a regular cycle;*
 - *re-opening glades and woodland rides for the benefit of wild flowers, butterflies, etc.*
- *Haileybury is also carrying out a dormouse conservation project.*

8. Have you produced any leaflets/maps/guides to support any of your initiatives?

YES

If yes, please list:

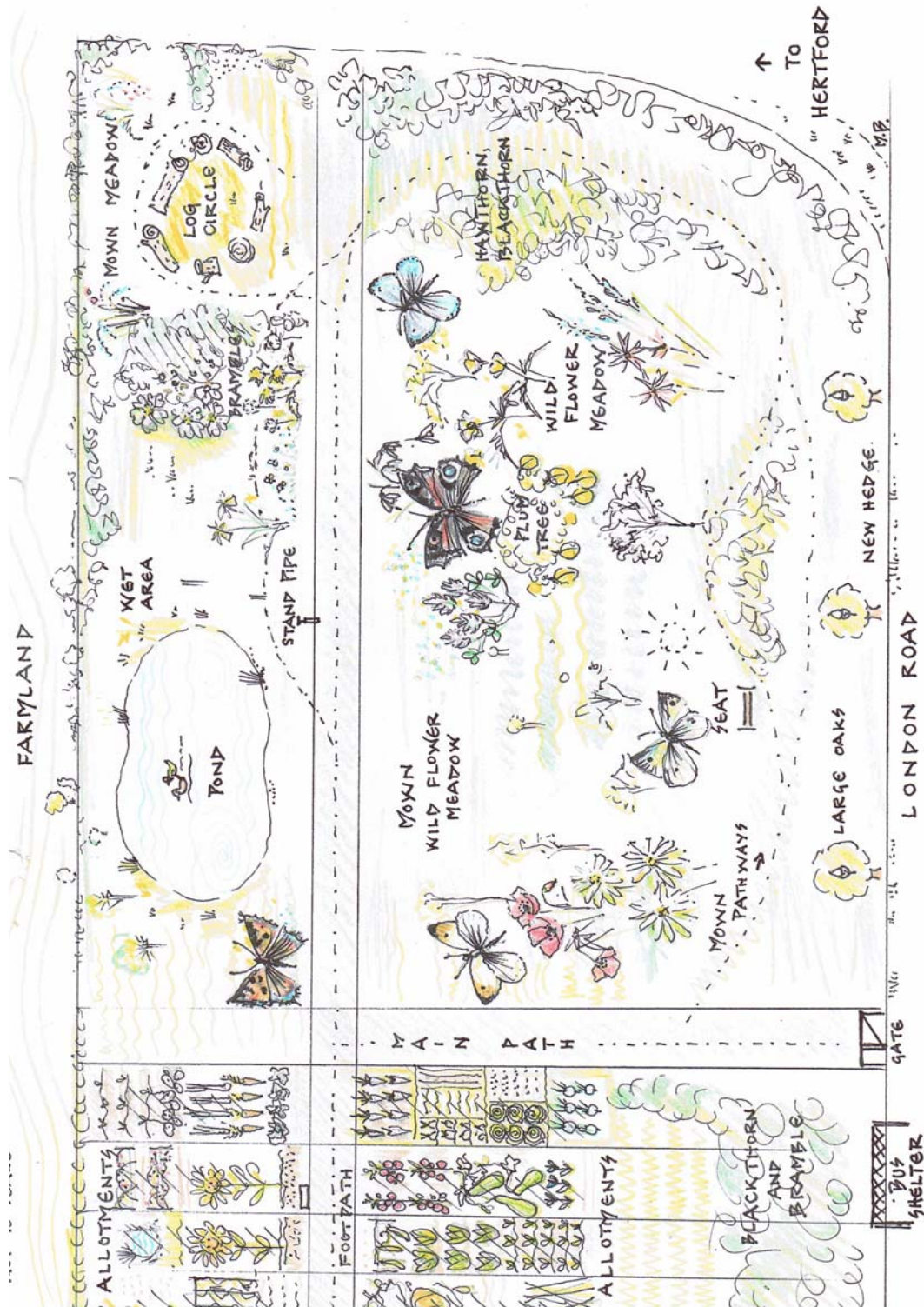
- *Village Map showing Rights of Way and giving the history of Hertford Heath and other information*
- *Plan of the Wildlife Meadow printed in Parish Council newsletter and on board in meadow (see over the page for a copy)*
- *Nature guides in the woods.*

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Category 2. BUSINESS

1. Do you have any of the following in your village (if no, please delete, YES
if yes, please give nos.)

- Shops Number: 3
- Post Office yes
- Petrol station/Garage Number: 2
- Public Houses/Restaurants Number: 4
- Commercial/Industrial Number: 21
- Trades/Crafts people Number: 13
- Agri/Horticulture Number: 9

2. Do the village and Parish Council do anything to encourage or help YES
existing businesses or try to attract new ones?
If yes, please give brief details

- *The Parish Council uses village businesses wherever possible. It always asks for quotations from local contractors. For example, a village contractor cuts the grass on the village greens and in the churchyard and another has built the ramps at the Village Hall, installed seats in the wildlife meadow and churchyard and erected the practice goal posts on the playing field*
- *The Committee has brought a monthly Farmers' Market to the Village Hall*
- *Local businesses can advertise freely on the website and for a small charge in the Parish News*
- *Where appropriate, the Parish Council will support planning applications from village businesses.*

3. Do local businesses get involved/help in community life? YES
(a lot)

- *Haileybury is very involved, as can be seen from this submission. For example, it funded the "Jubilee Crown" on the village green and sixth form students act as teaching assistants in the JMI and visit the elderly in their homes. Many of its facilities and events that take place are open to village people. Haileybury owns the land on which the Village Hall stands and, until recently when a change in charity law required them to charge a small rent, charged only a peppercorn rent. Meals on Wheels for the village are prepared in the Haileybury kitchen.*
- *Local shops and pubs have been involved in fundraising (for Tsunami Relief and the Village Hall).*
- *The Goat Inn hosts a monthly meeting of sports and classic cars and the Jolly Pindar hosts the monthly meetings of the AJS and Matchless Owners Club.*

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4. Do any of the businesses cause environmental or other difficulties?

NO

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Category 3. YOUNG PEOPLE.

1. Does the village have any Crèches, Playgroups or Toddler groups or clubs aimed at pre school children? YES

If yes, please list:

- *Trinity Tots*
- *Ducklings*
- *Buggy Club*
- *"Little Artists"*

2. Does the village have any after school clubs/groups for children and young people? YES

If yes, please list:

- *At the JMI – Line Dancing, Football, Recorders and Music Skills, Short Tennis, Drama, Art, Small Games Club and Matches.*
- *Junior Football*
- *Cubs*
- *Beavers*
- *Rainbow Guides*
- *Sunday School*
- *Church choir*

3. Does your Village have facilities/activities/transport arrangements for teenagers? YES

If yes, please list:

- *Meeting Point and practice goal on Playing Field with further equipment planned.*
- *Haileybury has numerous facilities including Astro turf, tennis courts, swimming pool, gym, squash and a sports centre.*
- *Football clubs*
- *The village has a bus service to and from Hertford and Hoddesdon supported by Hertfordshire County Council*

4. Are any of the groups in 2 and 3 run by volunteers/parents? YES

If yes, please list groups:

- *All Football Clubs*
- *Cubs*
- *Beavers*
- *Rainbow Guides*
- *Sunday School*
- *Church choir*

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5. Are any of the groups in 2 and 3 helped/financed by community fund raising? **YES**

If yes, please list groups:

In addition to the fund raising carried out by the individual clubs, the following support is also provided:

- *The Friends of the school raise funds for school activities*
- *The Parochial Church Council supports the Sunday School and the choir*
- *The Parish Council provides the football field and pays for the grass cutting as well as providing the Meeting Point, the children's play area and the practice goal post. It is helping to provide car parking for the very successful Hertford Heath Football Club first team.*

6. Are young people encouraged to be involved in decision making which affects their role in village life? **YES**

If yes, please give brief details:

Teenagers were encouraged to come to Parish Council and Playing Field Committee meetings where the Meeting Point was discussed and were also encouraged to come to the Village Community Event held on 21 May 2004.

The planned improvements to the playing field were discussed with a number of them on site.

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Category 4. OLDER PEOPLE.

1. Are there village social clubs/activities or schemes to help older people? YES

If yes, please list:

(a) Those run by volunteers

- *Ladies Circle*
- *Women's Institute*
- *Carpet Bowls*
- *Trinity Club*
- *University of the 3rd Age*
- *Village Hall fundraising including Quiz Nights and Fun Casinos*
- *Badminton*
- *Netball*
- *Football*

(b) Those with paid staff

- *Yoga at the school*
- *Self Defence at the Village Hall*
- *Squash, swimming, archery, etc at Haileybury*
- *Beacon Court has regular coffee mornings, bingo and keep fit sessions which are open to all village residents*
- *Mobile library*

2. Is there a housing scheme specifically for older people to help them remain within their own community? YES

If yes, please give brief details

Beacon Court provides around 20 sheltered housing flats. A number of bungalows and flats in the village are connected to the Beacon Court alarm system.

3. Is there interaction between Younger/Older people? YES

If yes, please give brief details

- *Amwell Awake service especially for all generations*
- *Church choir performs in Beacon Court*
- *Carol singing takes place on the village green and is open to all*
- *The donations at Harvest Supper time to the school and the church are distributed in Beacon Court.*
- *Haileybury 6th formers go into the JMI as classroom assistants and also visit the elderly in their homes*
- *Help with reading in the school is typically provided by grandparents*
- *The Cheese Society is open to all.*

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Category 5 BUILDING COMMUNITY LIFE:

SPONSORED BY Defra (Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs) Please answer as many questions as possible

1. How many people in need are supported by your community?

Numbers are not known.

In what way?

This is difficult to answer as much of the pastoral work in the village was carried out by the Vicar who decided to return to Africa at the end of last year. Expressions of interest have been received from 40 people and it is hoped that a new Vicar will be appointed soon.

2. Are young people actively encouraged to be involved in general community life?

Yes

How?

The Church, the JMI and Haileybury encourage their members and pupils to become involved in the community, examples include:

- Haileybury 6th formers helping at the JMI as classroom assistants*
- Haileybury environmental works pupils visit elderly local residents to provide companionship and work such as gardening or housework.*
- Church choir and JMI singing at Beacon Court*

3. Is there strong community spirit?

Yes. For example, a bring and buy on behalf of Tsunami Relief was organised within two weeks of the disaster and, thanks to the generosity of those who gave and those who came to buy, over £1400 was raised in under three hours..

Are there local networks that provide help and support when people need it?

Help and support is provided by our MP(Mark Prisk prior to the dissolution of Parliament), County Councillor Nigel Copping (although he is retiring from the Council this year), District Councillor William Ashley, our Community Policeman, the Parish Council, the Church, residents' associations and Meals on Wheels.

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Does everybody know about them and find it easy to get help?

Contact names and telephone numbers are given on the website, in the Parish Council newsletter, in the Parish News and on village noticeboards

How do you make sure that people aren't left out?

The Parish Council newsletter is delivered to most of the homes in the village. It is also available in the Post Office.

4. Are people from the surrounding areas encouraged to join in community life and events?

The two bonfires and firework displays organised by the Parish Council for the Millennium and Golden Jubilee were well attended by both villagers and those from the surrounding areas.

The fundraising events put on by village organisations also attract numbers from outside the village.

5. How are people welcomed into the village and how easy is it for them to become involved in village life?

There are no formal arrangements for welcoming new people into the village. When asked at the Community Event in May 2004 what they liked most about living in the village, most said the countryside but a significant number said that it was the people and their neighbours.

How do new people find out about village life and what is going on?

- *The Parish Council newsletter is distributed to most homes in the village or is available in the Post Office and the Parish News is available in the Church.*
- *A directory of village organisations is on the noticeboards.*
- *A number of years' ago, a Village Information Pack was produced and distributed to all homes in the village. Many of those moving away from the village have left the pack for those moving in. All the information in the packs is now contained on the website, with a great deal of further information on the village and its activities.*
- *The village website*
- *The village map*
- *The Hertfordshire Mercury reports*
- *Noticeboards around the village*

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6. What provision is made for:

- The housebound
 - *Meals on Wheels*
 - *Dial a Ride*
 - *Hertfordshire Action on Disability transport*
 - *Church members regularly hold 'tea parties'*
- Single or isolated mothers and their children

If they are known about, they are specially invited to join the Buggy Club, the Ducklings and Trinity Tots.

- Teenagers
 - *The Meeting Point and the practice goal on the Playing Field, together with the extra equipment planned*
 - *The Football Clubs*
 - *All the facilities at Haileybury.*

7. Do you have any form of community transport scheme?

- *Hertfordshire Action on Disability transport*
- *Dial a Ride*
- *Bus service supported by Hertfordshire County Council*
- *Red Cross*
- To what extent is it used?

Dial a Ride is used extensively. The bus is used regularly.

By whom?

The bus is used by children going to school and adults going to work and to shop.

Dial a ride is used by residents of Beacon Court and other elderly residents mainly to go shopping.

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8. Does your Parish Council communicate well with residents?

Yes:

- *It produces a monthly newsletter which is delivered to most homes in the village*
- *It has a regular column in the Parish Magazine*
- *It has a website which contains a huge amount of information*
- *It organised a meeting to discuss the East of England Regional Plan.*
- *It organised a Community Event in May 2004 where a large number of issues were explored with those who attended*
- *It organised a consultation exercise for Hertfordshire Highways on the London Road Traffic Management Scheme.*

Do all local residents feel that they are well represented, including the minority and ethnic groups?

One of the questions asked at the Community Event was: "Do you think your Parish Councillors are sufficiently aware of local concerns and feelings?". Of those who responded, 45 said 'yes', 12 said 'no' and 18 did not know.

9. What range of activities, organised by local people, goes on in the village hall or other village centres?

IN THE VILLAGE HALL:

- *Farmers' Market*
- *Self defence classes*
- *Badminton*
- *Buggy Club*
- *Carpet Bowls*
- *Horticultural Society's Annual Show*
- *Tumble Tots*
- *Twins Club*
- *Dance Class*
- *Musical Minis*
- *"Little Artists"*
- *Village Hall fundraising events such as quiz nights, fun casinos, etc*
- *Private parties*

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IN THE MISSION ROOM

- *Parish Council meetings*
- *Women's Institute*
- *Ladies' Circle*
- *Trinity Club*
- *PCC*
- *Geology Club*
- *Parish News compiled every month*
- *Ware Lace*
- *U3A Singing*
- *U3A Camera*
- *Art Group meet weekly*
- *Hertfordshire Holly meet weekly*
- *Flute Cocktail*
- *Amwell Quilters*
- *Private parties*

10. Is the hall well used and welcoming?

Both the Village Hall and the Mission Room are very well used and welcoming.

Are any groups not allowed to use the hall?

As the Mission Room is a Church hall, the groups allowed to use it are as specified by the Church.

11. Does the community provide access to advice and other services to those who would benefit from them?

The Parish Council and the Church provide such access.

In what ways?

The Parish Council provides access via its website, newsletter, noticeboards and individual members of the Council.

The Church provides access via its monthly Parish News and its noticeboards. The vicar set up a bereavement counselling group which also carries out pastoral work such as visiting the sick at home and in hospital.

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12. Is there good accessibility for all to village facilities and centres - ramps, hearing loops, toilets and so on?

- *The Village Hall has an access ramp and toilets (but not disabled)*
- *The Church has an access ramp and toilets for the disabled, together with a sound system*
The Mission Room has a toilet (but not suitable for the disabled).

13. What is the attitude of your community to overseas visitors, people of ethnic minorities and seasonal workers?

The village is very open and welcoming. Haileybury has a large number of overseas students, the Church has sponsored two All Nations College students from Burundi for over two years, one of the village shops is run by an Asian family, one of the pubs by a Croatian and another by an Italian.

14. Are there any village charities?

There is a branch of the Home Farm Trust in the village. The Village Hall is a registered charity as are, of course, Haileybury and the Church. In addition, the Church makes donations to a number of charities each year including the JMI and the Isabel Hospice.

If so, how are they publicised?

The Parish Council newsletter, the Parish News, the website and local and national newspapers all carry information on them.

Can you give any evidence of local people benefiting from them?

- *Local children have obtained assisted places at Haileybury*
- *Local people are and have been employed by Haileybury*
- *Local groups meet in the Village Hall and Mission Room at very reasonable rates*

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15. Do you have any special village projects? If so please give brief details below

- *Refurbishment of the children's play area on the Playing Field and the provision of more equipment. Project costs estimated at £24,000.*
- *Refurbishment of the Village Hall, including the upgrading of the kitchen facilities and the provision of disabled toilets.*
- *Provision of a pond in the Wildlife Meadow when newt survey complete. Estimated cost - £1,000.*
- *"Beating about the Bush" – A village history based on individual questionnaires to recover personal memories from old village families.*
- *Planned replacement of dead and dying ornamental trees on the Village Green with native species.*
- *Provision of a new football hut and other improved facilities on the Playing Field – very much in its initial stages at the moment.*
- *Promoting the Farmers' Market so that it becomes an established attraction and service.*

Past projects completed include:

- *The design, writing and production of the village map*
- *The provision of two village signs. As the location of one could not be agreed after much consultation in the village, the Parish Council decided to have two.*
- *Millennium bonfire and firework display*
- *Golden Jubilee celebrations including a picnic on the green, a bonfire and firework display and the production of a Jubilee Crown with a design by a local artist on one face as well as the planting of the "Jubilee Crown" on the village green*
- *The establishment of a wildlife meadow with a log circle to sit on and a seat commemorating the 100 years three residents had held allotments in the village. The meadow was formally opened on 4 July 2004 with a communal picnic.*
- *The cleaning of the war memorial.*
- *The redesign and expansion of the website.*

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Category 6. IT

1. Do you have a village website? YES
If yes, please give website address (judges will be visiting it)

www.hertfordheath.com

2. Does your village have a public Internet terminal? NO

3. Do you have any IT/Internet training within the community? YES
If yes, please give brief details
 - *AGRE (Action for Growth in the Rural Economy) provides IT/Internet training for small businesses (including Parish Councils) in East Herts*
 - *Richard Hale School in Hertford has a Microsoft ICT Academy which offers courses*

4. Does the Parish Council have an email address? YES

hertfordheath@aol.com

5. Do any of the local businesses offer a public fax service NO

Although the Clerk to the Parish Council will help if asked.

6. Do local businesses lend their technology for the benefit of the village (scanner, digital camera, faxing, printing)? YES

If yes, please give brief details

The laptop, fax machine and photocopier used by the Clerk to the Parish Council are all provided by her husband's company, Uncertainty Management Limited. The Parish Council newsletter is printed on the company's laser printer.

THANK YOU FOR ENTERING. GOOD LUCK!

**Return your entry form BY 5 MAY 2005 to:
Jo Simson, CPRE - The Hertfordshire Society
31a Church Street, Welwyn
HERTS AL6 9LW**

Tel: 01438 717587 Email: office@cpreherts.org.uk