Lighting up time

The big switch-on

The big switch on happens over the weekend of 29 and 30 November. On Saturday, Christmas arrives in Northwich, with bands, carol singing and the parade before the lights are turned on in the town.

On the day after this, our own festive display, organised and funded by Hartford Parish Council, comes to life, in a ceremony outside the Chester Road shops, at 6pm. Lights on our Christmas tree, and four other trees in the village, will be switched on simultaneously. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served free to all and, thanks to the Rotary Club of Northwich Vale Royal, Father Christmas will be here. Bucket collections will be made for charities supported by the Rotary Club.

Victorian Fayre

Saturday 6 December is the date to keep free for Hartford’s sixth Victorian Christmas Fayre. The festivities run from 11:00am to 3:00pm. As ever, a large selection of charity stalls will be based along Chester Road. You can browse a selection of stalls selling garden accessories, hand made (to page 2)
Christmas festivities in Hartford 2014

(from page 1) jewellery and crafts, home made pies, and other gifts.

Come and enjoy hot basket meals and mulled wine in the Red Lion pub, before collecting your Christmas tree.

Santa will be waiting to meet you in his big red 'bus, outside the St Luke's Hospice Shop. Are you still hungry? Our ever popular hog roast will sort that out...

St John's Church Centre will be open all day, and we would love to welcome people of all ages to spend some time with us in there. There will be a wide variety of games and activities - all of which are free. Many of the activities in the Church Centre are to be funded by Hartford Parish Council.

A friendly, inexpensive café will be serving soup and chips. Please do make sure you pop in to see what is on offer, enjoy the entertainment and warm yourself up if it is a particularly cold day! We look forward to seeing you there on Saturday 6 December!

Greetings!

Last posting dates for Christmas 2014

If you are one of the millions of people who send Christmas cards to brighten up someone's festive season, Royal Mail is standing by to deliver your greetings. The main dates to keep in mind for December 2014...

Thursday 18th: 2nd class;
Saturday 20th: 1st class;
Tuesday 23rd: Royal Mail Special Delivery Guaranteed. Details of other services can be found at www.royalmail.com/greetings.

Our Post Office

Stamps are among many ways in which Hartford Post Office can help you this Christmas. John and Marian are delighted to announce that Nat West customers can now make cheque and cash deposits over the counter – indeed most major banks can now be accessed over the post office counter.

Blue plaques – perfect ten

Seven blue plaques were installed in locations around Hartford during November, bringing the total in the village to ten.

Pictured here are Hartford Civic Society Chairman John Szostek, Chair of Hartford Parish Council Phil Herbert, Pat Cox (who, with husband Alan, has made a sizeable donation to the cost of the plaques) and the Civic Society's Pat Hatfield, who has led the project. They are admiring the plaque at the site of the Albemarle Bomber crash.
At this time of year, put out food and water on a regular basis. In severe weather, feed twice daily if you can: in the morning and in the early afternoon.

Birds require high energy (high fat) foods during the cold winter weather to maintain their fat reserves to survive the frosty nights. Use only good quality food and scraps.

Always adjust the quantity given to the demand, and never allow uneaten foods to accumulate around the feeders. Once you establish a feeding routine, try not to change it as the birds will become used to it and time their visits to your garden accordingly.

Although winter feeding benefits birds most, food shortages can occur at any time of the year. By feeding the birds year round, you will give them a better chance to survive the periods of food shortage whenever they may occur.
Parish Council

Meeting of Hartford Parish Council, held on Monday 10 November

Public Open Forum

Three members of the public requested that the Parish Council allow dogs off leads on recreational land leased to Hartford Cricket Club; over 280 residents have signed a petition in support of this view. 32 residents have emailed the Council, the great majority being in favour of dogs being kept on leads in the area leased to the Cricket Club. Four members of the public, including J Rafferty, President of Hartford Cricket Club, asked the Parish Council to abide by its original decision, taken in February, to erect signs, requesting that dogs are kept on leads in the recreational area leased to Hartford Cricket Club.

One member of the public had issues relating to the Hollies Farm development which the Parish Council will raise with CWaC. A representative of Hartford Bowls Club attended to thank the Council for its donation towards the cost of the new bowls hut.

Cheshire West and Chester Council

Councillor Manley has been actively supporting residents, following complaints about contractors working at Grange Farm.

Grange Park

Installation of new inclusive playground equipment for Grange Park will take place in December. The total cost is £9,477.35.

Village inspection

United Utilities’ engineers have assessed the leak on School Lane, although no remedial action has been taken.

The Clerk has requested that fly-tipping behind the Cricket Pavilion be removed, and has sought quotes to replace the wooden barrier at Grange Park and repainting of the three ‘bus stops owned by the Council.

Councillors agreed the installation of the World War I memorial at the Green Field.

The Clerk is to contact CWaC about providing car parking facilities at the entrance to Millennium (Thorn) Wood, and request the repair of the entrance gates on Grange Park and removal of barbed wire by the nursery.

Dogs and Hartford Cricket Club

The following is extracted from legal advice given to the Chair of Hartford Parish Council by the National Association of Local Councils:

“I am instructed that a cricket club has a lease of a playing field/open space granted by Hartford Parish Council. The cricket club would like to ban dogs without leads. The local community is split about the proposed ban. The powers for parish councils (and other local authorities) to make dog control orders (in the 2005 Act) were repealed by section 42 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 on 20 October 2014. Therefore since 20 October 2014, Hartford Parish Council does not have the statutory authority to make any dog control orders.

“The permitted user clause in the cricket club’s lease will confirm the purpose(s) for which the land may be used by the cricket club. Management of the land (including in relation to use and access of the land by dog walkers) is the responsibility of the cricket club as set out in the terms of the lease. The management of dog walkers on the cricket club’s land is a matter for the Cricket Club, not Hartford Parish Council.”

A meeting is to be held with interested parties, including Hartford Cricket Club, dog walkers/owners and other users of the recreational area.

Contact the Council

Contact with Hartford Parish Council should normally be made via the Parish Clerk:

Jo O’Donoghue
Email hartfordparish@btinternet.com
Tel 01606 41862
Address 231 Hartford Road, Davenham, CW9 8JT
Agenda

Volume 42, number 3
December 2014

Hartford Parish Council

Parish Council Ordinary Meetings

Members of the public wishing to raise matters with Council may do so during the Public Open Forum (7:15pm to 7:30pm).

Although these matters can be discussed, the Council cannot legally make decisions on items not on its agenda, so these must be deferred to the next meeting. Members of press and public are welcome to attend the Council meeting, but once it has started they are not permitted to take part.

The full agenda can be found on the Parish Council notice boards, or obtained from the Parish Clerk, Jo O’Donoghue.

Note that Hartford Village Hall is accessible to users of wheelchairs.

Jo O’Donoghue, 01606 41862
hartfordparish@btinternet.com
www.hartfordparishcouncil.org.uk

English Speaking Union

12 noon for 12.30pm lunch; Portal Premier Golf Club, Tarporley.
A Reflection on Practices of Commemoration
Professor Victor Merriman.

New members and visitors are always most welcome. Prior booking for events is required.

Valerie Mais, 01606 76534
valerie@mais.demon.co.uk

Marshall’s Arm Local Nature Reserve

Because so many Christmas events are taking place, instead of the planned Wassailing Walk, you will now find us selling natural festive decorations at our stall at the Victorian Christmas Fayre.

marshalls.arm@gmail.com
www.marshallsrarm.org.uk

Northwich Heritage Society

8:00pm; Mid Cheshire College
The Bloody Fields of Waterloo
Dr Michael Crumpton, a leading medical military historian, and a Trustee of the Waterloo Committee, on the battle of 1815.

8:00pm; Mid Cheshire College
The Landscape of Cheshire
Fred Owen on the factors that have shaped Cheshire from the rolling countryside to the ridges.
www.northwich-heritage.org.uk

Films in Hartford

7:30pm; the Grange School Theatre
Title to be confirmed.
When the title of the next film is known, it will be publicised on our Twitter feed and Facebook page, as well as on posters in the village.

Trish Parker, 01606 74024
tickets, £4 each, from Hartford Dry Cleaners or Hartford Pharmacy

Home Instead Senior Care

1:00pm to 4:00pm; St John’s Church Centre
Tea Dance

An event where the elderly in our community can meet and have fun. Organised with the help of funding from Councillors Keith Musgrave and Herbert Manley. All proceeds will be given to charity.

Tracey Swift, 01606 800101
tracey.swift@homeinstead.co.uk

All 465 previous editions of Hartford News are available in electronic form on request; please contact using the email address at the top of this page.

Commercial advertisements and articles are not accepted.

The editor and the Parish Clerk jointly determine which items are to be included; their decisions are final.
Hartford remembers

Remembrance Sunday 2014

Remembrance Sunday dawned brightly in Hartford, where the fallen of various conflicts, most notably, in this, the centenary of its start, The Great War, were honoured. There was a big turnout for the parade, which included members of the services, young peoples’ organisations and Hartford Parish Council.

Hartford Parish Council is progressing with its plans for the plinth, to mark the gift to the village of the Green Field in 1916, given in memory of the men and women of Cheshire who fell in World War I. Expect to see the plinth in place early in 2015.

Members of various young peoples’ organisations took part.

The pipe band makes an impressive sight and sound – at the head of the parade.

Councillors Phil Herbert, Simon Bridge, Eira Bowden and John Gibb on parade.

You may have missed this, as it sped through Hartford station on the front of a Virgin train.

Hartford Methodist Church

Sunday Services; 10:30am
Morning Worship
Young people meet prior to their classes.
☎ Rev Chris Pritchard, 01606 44613
✉ cn.pritchard@btopenworld.com

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<th>SUN</th>
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<tr>
<td>10:30am</td>
<td>Café Style Service</td>
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<td>An informal gathering where we worship whilst enjoying a cup of coffee or tea together</td>
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<td>6:30pm</td>
<td>Carol Service</td>
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<td>This will be a traditional, quiet and meditative service</td>
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<th>WED</th>
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<td>11:30pm</td>
<td>Holy Communion for Christmas Eve</td>
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<td>10:30am; Davenham Methodist Church, CW9 8JB</td>
<td>Joint Service with Davenham Methodist Church</td>
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St John’s Parish Church

Sunday Services; 8:00am
Holy Communion
Sunday Services: 10:00am
Morning Service
Sunday Services: 6:30pm
Evening Service
☎ Church Office, 01606 872255
✉ www.stjohnshartford.org

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<th>SUN</th>
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<tr>
<td>7:30pm</td>
<td>Traditional service of lessons and carols by candlelight</td>
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<td>4:00pm</td>
<td>Family Carol Service by candlelight</td>
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<td>9:00pm</td>
<td>Christmas Eve Holy Communion</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>Christmas Day Family Communion</td>
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Hartford Bridge

Friendly club welcomes new faces

Councillor John Gibb has been a regular at Hartford Bridge Club for many years, and writes about the club that meets on four occasions each week in the centre of the village.

“The Club was founded in the middle of the last century, for many years meeting, every week, in a room above the Red Lion pub, until it had to find a new home in 1994. Discussions with the Cricket Club saw the Bridge Club relocate to the cricket pavilion, on Grange Park. “Grange Park is leased by the Parish Council to the Cricket Club; the Council maintains the exterior of the building and the Cricket Club is responsible for its interior. Over the years the Bridge Club has improved the access drive, extended the car park and installed a new kitchen.

“The Club currently has a membership of 125, drawn from Hartford and further afield. There is space to accommodate 12 tables (48 players) per session. The club has a licenced bar, with tea and coffee making facilities. There are regular duplicate bridge sessions on Tuesday and Friday evening and Wednesday afternoons. New members are welcome.

“To encourage those who would prefer a gentle introduction, the Club is starting a new initiative on Thursdays, starting at 7pm.”

Paul Mathews, 01606 889544.

Knots & Needles

THU 11
7:30pm; Hartford Village Hall
Christmas Stitch and Chat
Seasonal refreshments and our exchange of Christmas cards.
☎ Jean McBride, 01606 889871

Wednesday Club

JAN 14
2:15pm; Methodist Church Hall
Country Customs
Raymond Rush.
☎ Jean Harrop, 01606 79021

Hartford Women’s Institute

WED 3
7:30pm; Methodist Church Hall
Actor’s life for me
Jacqueline Pilton.
☎ Pam, 01606 75520
➢ www.cheshirewi.org.uk

Eddisbury Flower Club

TUE 9
2:00pm; Sandiway Church Hall
Festive Favourites - Old and New
Jackie Charnock. Competition 'Christmas Splendour’.
There is no meeting in January.
☎ Hilary Marsh, 01606 782812
➢ www.nafascheshire.org.uk/clubs

Vale Royal Abbey Golf Club

WED 17
7:30pm; The Great Hall
Sing Carols
St Mary’s Singers
(conductor: Andrew Millinchip).
Entrance £2. All proceeds to St. Mary’s Church, Whitegate. Refreshments available.

The Bostock Singers

TUE 9
7:30pm; Hartford Methodist Church
A Christmas Concert
All welcome. Free admission. Refreshments available.
The Singers will also be performing at the Victorian Christmas Fayre.
➢ www.bostock-singers.co.uk

Hartford News reported the success enjoyed by young players at Hartford Bridge Club in 2010.

John Gibb (centre) with members of Hartford Bridge Club.
Civic Society news

Litter pick – volunteers wanted

Hartford Civic Society looks to preserve and enhance our village in a variety of ways. Mundane it might seem, but this includes its regular litter picks, the next of which will be on Sunday 18 January. Help is needed from all residents, whether they are members of the Society or not and whatever their age, though under 18s have to be accompanied by an adult. The group meets at the ‘bus stop at the end of Walnut Lane at 10:00am. All the necessary equipment is provided. Apart from offering help to tidy our village, suggestions are also welcomed about which areas to tackle. Please get in touch with Geoff Wilde if you want to help. wilde.geoff@tiscali.co.uk

Hartford News

Thanks are due again to all those who have volunteered to distribute Hartford News to peoples’ homes in the village. More than 1,000 copies of the November edition were delivered by hand. If you can help, get in touch by email to hartfordnews@hotmail.co.uk, and a member of the Parish Council will contact you.

There is no edition of Hartford News in January; the next will be the February 2015 issue.

In the meantime, all at Hartford News and Hartford Parish Council wish you a merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous new year.

Letters From Elsewhere No. 8: Icepeople

This series had been on a back burner (Number 7 appeared in our February edition) but we couldn’t resist giving some space to Icepeople when it came to our attention and our Christmas edition seems to provide the perfect opportunity to do so.

Icepeople bills itself as the world’s “northern-most alternative newspaper”, not a claim to dispute lightly, given that it is produced in Longyearbyen, on the island of Svalbard, in Northern Norway which, at the time of writing, is “enjoying” 24 hours a day darkness.

The most recent issue to hand is from 4 November (Icepeople is published weekly) and leads with the explosion on the ferry from Svalbard to mainland Norway. Thankfully the “explosion” is not for real, but an exercise to train rescue workers. Longyearbyen really is a long way from Hartford!

HN’s personal highlight concerns the antics of the “polar bears behaving badly”, featured in the 21 October edition. In one town, Halloween has been cancelled due to visits by aggressive polar bears, while another bear had been raiding the beer in a hotel in Pyramiden. Elsewhere, the closing of the late night pizza house has resulted in “yet another kitchen fire”, as drunken folk had tried to cook a pizza in the small hours. Now we have Chime, we’d better hold onto it!

You can download copies of Icepeople from www.icepeople.net. You won’t be disappointed...