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## Parish Council

### The Queen's 60th Jubilee

The Parish Council has initiated a series of events to celebrate the Queen's forthcoming Jubilee and has agreed to contribute £833 towards the events. This includes a grant of £330 from the District Council. The events will take place on the bank holiday weekend of the 2nd of June and will be a marvellous opportunity for the whole village to come together in celebration and community.

The events will cater for all ages and will be open to all residents in Hempstead. A small sub-committee has been formed to coordinate and arrange the activities and also to organise a series of fundraising events prior to the celebrations. An initial report from them appears later in this Newsletter.

Please support the fundraising events and make a special note of the dates of the main celebrations. Thank you.

### Shared Ownership Housing at Ashdon

A three bedroomed property has become available at 19, Church Field, Ashdon and is available to a local person for £97,625 for a 35% share. If anyone living in Hempstead is interested, please contact Steven Bland of Essex Rural Housing Association on 020 7820 7930.

### Mobile Police Unit

The unit will be here on **Thursday the 9th of February** in the layby by the post box from 11.45am to 12.45pm. Do drop in and have a chat about all policing matters.

### Mobile Library

The unit will be outside *The Bluebell Inn* on **Tuesday the 14th and 28th of February**, 12 noon to 12.30pm.



### Garden Waste Collection

We have now agreed terms with Radwinter PC to share the cost of a waste collection skip. The skip will be at the Radwinter Recreation Ground and will operate on a fortnightly basis between the 4th of April and the 7th of November. No days or times available yet.

### Public Rights of Way

We have agreed a schedule of footpath cutting with Essex County Council for the coming year. Unfortunately, this will be on the same limited basis as last year.

*Sean McCarthy*

### Bellringing is Back!

Join one or both venues as follows:

Hempstead Church — Wednesday the 1st, 15th and 29th of February, 7.45–9pm

Radwinter Church — Monday the 6th, 13th (simulator), 20th and 27th (simulator) of February, 7.45–9pm

Curious about bellringing? All are welcome to visit the towers, and maybe try their hand. No experience necessary — keep fit and learn a new skill! Please contact Matt — [matt\\_antrobus@hotmail.com](mailto:matt_antrobus@hotmail.com) or 01799 599229

## HDS

The AGM takes place on **Thursday the 9th of February** at 8pm in the Village Hall. We look forward to seeing you there.



## Diamond Jubilee

We have formed a committee but are looking for someone to represent the youngest of the village. Please call Dave Boreham on 599885 if you are interested.

There is an official Jubilee emblem but we would like to have our own, so we are launching an **immediate competition** and invite all children of Hempstead to send an entry on paper no larger than A5 to Sara Scott at *Chaseside* or Julie Wilson at 2, *Longcroft* by **Monday the 20th of February**. These will be independently judged and the winner announced in the March Newsletter and via the website.

Fundraisers include a March **Beetle Drive** at the Village Hall, on **Saturday the 3rd** at 7.30pm. Crisps and peanuts provided. Bring your own drinks and food. Cost: £4 per adult or £10 a family. Tickets available now from Sally Rowden on 599257. In April, a **Village Quiz** by Ross Midgley, at the Village Hall, and in May the **Gardeners' Mart**. Details to follow.

Planned events are:

A **Strawberry Tea**, especially for those over 60, to be held on **Friday the 1st of June** at 2.30pm. No charge.

**The Great British Jubilee Banquet**, for over 18s only, on **Saturday the 2nd of June** at the Village Hall. Cost £10 per head. Tickets limited. Register your interest now at [hempstead.jubilee@btinternet.com](mailto:hempstead.jubilee@btinternet.com) or call David on 599885

**The Great Village Jubilee Fun Day**, free to all villagers, on **Monday the 4th of June** at the Glebe and Hall.

Lots more detail will follow as plans are put in place and firmed up.

## Hempstead & District Gardeners' Club

The Club intends to support the Diamond Jubilee by planting a colourful tub of red/white/blue at the signpost at the bottom of Church Hill, and by donating £500 to the village Diamond Jubilee fund.



Our Annual Dinner will take place on **Thursday the 1st of March** at *The Bluebell Inn*. This is a social evening with no presentations, one tiny speech, and lots of good food, laughter and the odd gardening reference. If you would like to come, please ring Sean McCarthy on 599558 by **Wednesday the 15th of February** and a menu etc will be provided. The cost per head will be approx £22 tbc.

The AGM will take place on **Thursday the 8th of March** in the Village Hall at 8pm.

We have decided to promote Ashdon Gardening Club speakers and dates, embracing the concept of the '& District' part of our title. On **Thursday February the 16th**, for a fee of £2, they will have Robin Carlsberg speaking — subject tba. All meetings take place in Ashdon Village Hall.

## Topical Tips

The mildness of the winter so far means that some jobs usually held back to March can be brought forward to February. Prune spring flowering clematis hard back now as buds have already appeared.

Look at primulas and primroses as they develop and move and divide congested clumps for improved flowering. Clear old leaf debris from emerging bulbs. Tidy tubs and hanging baskets and check for saturation. Check roses and if necessary prune hard at the end of the month, check for wind rock and bed back in, remove old diseased leaves at the base and feed.

At the end of the month, as light levels improve, use guttering to start early salad crops of radish and lettuce in the greenhouse, plus peas, onions, spring onions and sugar snaps. Broad beans can be started in root trainers.



## New Business

We welcome a new business to Hempstead. Newly opened at Anso Corner, *Equepet* provides equestrian and pet feed and supplies and country clothing. View them on the web at <http://www.equepet.com> or visit them at Unit 3 Anso Corner Farm, Hempstead, Essex, CB10 2NU.

## WI

The Radwinter WI group, which welcomes Hempstead attendees, meets on the last Wednesday of every month at 7.30pm in their Village Hall. Annual membership is £31.50 and visitors are welcome. On **February the 29th** John Savill will talk on the *History of Punch & Judy*.

Submissions for the March 2012 issue of the newsletter should be with the Editor by February 20th

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