

A pdf version will be on the village website at www.hempstead-essex.org.uk and a hard copy is available on the Parish Council Noticeboard.

Parish Council

Only 1 resident chose to attend the meeting to hear an overview of that which had been achieved in the past year and to ask questions of both Council members and the District Councillor. None-the-less, an interesting dialogue included discussion on the new Local Plan, the forthcoming re-organisation of Local Government; heating and insulation of council properties and how housing stock generally could be encouraged to improve its Energy Rating by a more creative planning process.

The contribution of Martin Foley, our ex-County Councillor was also noted in securing the bus service until at least July 2028.

The next meeting is on Thursday 18th June at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Members of the pubic are always welcome to attend Parish Council meetings to raise issues with the council but can't speak during the formal proceedings. Nick Turkentine - Chairman

HDS - So Much Fun It's Criminal!

HDS are putting together a Murder Mystery Evening on 9th/10th October this year. There will be a play in 2 acts with dinner in-between. If you would like to be involved in this either on or off the stage, please do get in touch with Anna-May Long on anna-may.long1@nhs.net.

Expressions of interest before **Friday 11th June please.**

Key dates are:

Sunday 14th June 4.30-6pm – *to be advised*

Thursday 25th June 8pm - First read-through

Rehearsals will be Thursday evenings and Sunday afternoons.

Some before end of July, others Sept- onwards.

Dress rehearsals: Sunday 4th October

Thursday 8th October

Performances: Friday 9th October 7pm

Saturday 10th October 7pm

murder HDS Presents
at Wellgoode[©] Manor
A Whodunnit by Georgie Heslett & Anna-May Long

- 🔍 Intrigue, 200% RDA
- 😄 Humour, 400% RDA
- 🎭 Entertainment, 300% RDA

With added drama

£20 including dinner
Tables of 8
Hempstead Village Hall

**Fri 9th Oct
Sat 10th Oct
7PM**

Wellgoode

Speakeasy returns

The Hempstead Speakeasy will return on **Saturday 3rd October** in the Village Hall.

Our Speakeasy re-creates the ambience of the old music clubs from the 1920s-1950s with dim lights and small tables where friends gather and chat while live music plays in the background.

Roger Flaxman, 'Flax the Sax', along with his group, Jazz Array, will entertain you with a broad selection of jazz standards from the 30s to the present plus a few 'songs from the shows' using different saxophones and a backing track.

Please note, this is not a concert.

More details on the exact members of Jazz Array will follow nearer the time but last times' players were highly applauded.

The evening starts with a free cocktail (or prosecco/wine/beer) and some nibbles throughout included in your ticket price of £18 available from Diana Frost at diana_frost@lineone.net, or 01799 599771 or 07796 438137.

The evening will run as:

7.30-8 Meet and free drink, 8-8.45 First set

8.45-9.05 Break, 9.05-9.50 Second set, 10pm Close

Any money raised will go to the upkeep of the Village Hall. Do come along with friends and book your table according to your group size.



From Diane Frainer:

We urgently need volunteers for the below event, the Gig on the Glebe on Saturday 11th July. The event is 1-9pm . Help needed in slots between 10.30am to 10.30pm

If you can volunteer for before the event- e.g collecting resources we need (we can add you to the helpers group) We also need slots : 10.30am -1.30, 1.30-4.30, 4.30-7.30and 7.30-10.30pm

Please let Diane know on 07940 558328!



GIG ON THE GLEBE
A Village Music & Community Festival

Saturday 11th July • 1pm – 9pm

Adult £10 • Child £5 • Family £25 • All in advance

Hempstead Village • Free Parking on Church Hill (follow signs on the day)
■ Dog-friendly event • Bring a camping chair & relax!

- LIVE MUSIC**
DJs, Bands & Live Acts
- CHURCH STAGE**
Cellist + Tea & Coffee until 5pm
- FOOD STALLS**
Delicious food stalls
- LICENSED BAR**
Drinks available all day
- KIDS ZONE**
Children's activity area
- GOAT PETTING**
3pm – 5pm
- JEWELLERY STALL**
Beautiful handmade jewellery
- PRE-LOVED STALL**
Bring anything that can be sold
- FACE PAINTING**
2pm – 4pm

■ Volunteers needed! Please message Diane: 07940 558328

Hempstead Church open until 5pm
Live cellist music • Tea & Coffee served
A tranquil space to relax — all welcome

Proceeds donated to three wonderful causes:

- Hempstead Church
- Dementia UK
- Ace Music Therapy Essex

As bar proceeds support these charities, we kindly ask you not to bring your own drinks — thank you!

★ THE LINEUP ★

- Jayson Norris
- Brittle England
- The Saboteurs
- Antonia Elberg
- Roger Flaxman

...plus a DJ set!

Tickets: David Boreham 07379 730486 | basilcottage@btinternet.com

E-tickets will be emailed after purchase.

This is a licensed event. Alcohol will be on sale — please do not bring glass to the event.
Hempstead Village • Saturday 11th July • 1pm – 9pm

ROBINN Group – Spring/Summer Update

It has been a little while since our last update, and we wanted to share some encouraging news as the warmer months arrive.

Things are happening at The Bluebell.

The most visible sign of progress is the refurbishment work that has been continuing steadily at the pub, both inside and out. Many of you will have noticed the improvements to the exterior, and work has been progressing on the interior too. After years of standing empty, it is genuinely heartening to see the building being cared for and brought back to life.

We have also heard encouraging rumours that the leaseholder may be looking to reopen the pub with new tenants. We are hoping to find out more and will share any confirmed news as soon as we have it. If that were to happen, it would be a wonderful outcome for Hempstead — a reopened Bluebell, serving the village and surrounding areas once again, is exactly what we all want to see. We would of course encourage everyone to get behind it and make it a success. A landmark moment for community ownership.

We also wanted to share some significant news from Westminster. The Community Right to Buy legislation was passed in April as part of the wider Devolution Bill — a landmark moment for communities across England.

For those who may not be familiar, The Bluebell is registered as an Asset of Community Value (ACV), which gives the community certain rights should the pub ever come up for sale. The new legislation strengthens those rights in two important ways:

1. The moratorium period — the window communities have to prepare a bid — has been extended from six months to twelve. This gives groups like ours much more time to organise and raise funds if needed.
2. More significantly, the legislation moves beyond a simple "right to bid." Where an asset is independently valued and a community can match that valuation, the owner is now required to sell. This removes the uncertainty around so-called "hope value" — where properties are priced based on speculative alternative uses rather than what they truly are. It is a meaningful and fairer footing for communities everywhere. This is good news to have in our back pocket, and we are glad the legal landscape has moved in this direction. For now, though, our focus remains firmly on hoping to see The Bluebell reopen its doors — by whoever makes that happen.

What next?

We continue to work away quietly in the background, keeping lines of communication open and monitoring developments as closely as we can. We hope to have more concrete news to share in the coming months — fingers crossed it will be the news we have all been waiting for.

As ever, thank you for your patience, your enthusiasm, and your continued support. The Bluebell belongs to this village in every way that matters, and we remain as committed as ever to seeing it thrive again.

Warm regards, Chris, James, Julie, Julie, Olly & Steve, the ROBINN Committee



Village Hall

The Committee met at the end of May and welcomed David Dunn as our new representative for the play area on the Glebe.

The Pimms on the Patio on the 24th May raised £170 for hall funds. Thank you to everyone who came for your generosity and support.

We urgently need more volunteers to help with a range of regular jobs to maintain the hall and its surrounds. Please contact me if you can help. A little work from lots of people now-and-again makes a huge difference.

Contact Diana at diana_frost@lineone.net.



Knitting Group

As you have seen above in the Ukraine article, the group are endeavouring to make 60 beanie hats by August 22nd.

The group has decided to continue meeting every other Friday starting from June 5th in the village hall from 10-11.30am and welcome anyone who wishes to learn. £2 per session. Just turn up and we'll help you from there.



Ukraine – shoeboxes for front-line soldiers



Hempstead has supported Ukrainians throughout their unwanted war and we are now asking for your support in an initiative to send some soldiers on the front line, a shoebox filled with a few personal items.

More than 1 in 10 of the front-line soldiers are women, and through Saffron Walden Rotary and with UK-Aid, we have committed to filling 50 shoeboxes for Men and 10 for Women/Girls. UK-Aid are giving us the boxes, which are quite small and must be very carefully packed. Each will contain a torch and batteries, maybe thermal gloves, a selection of toiletries and a flannel, a toilet roll, toothpaste and folding toothbrush and pain killers.

The shoebox will also contain a hand knitted beanie hat to be worn under their helmets for warmth and comfort, and the Hempstead Knitting Group and already busy clicking their needles away to make these.

Because fitting these into the box exactly is important, we have decided to pre-buy the items, so **we are asking you, please, to come and sponsor a box and physically fill it yourself.** The cost will be about £10 (tbc) per box. You may wish to write a short message to include inside.

We will open Hempstead Village Hall on **Saturday 22nd August** from 10-11.30am for filling the shoeboxes, a cup of tea/coffee and a biscuits/cake and accepting donations. As some people will still be on holiday and we want to welcome youngsters to join in this enterprise, we will also open the hall for an hour on **Saturday 5th September** from 10-11am.

Anyone is welcome to come and support this initiative, and we hope you will feel strongly to do so.

UK-Aid are looking for assistants to accompany the lorry drivers on the delivery trips to Ukraine. This is a long journey but if you have the time and are interested to do so, please contact Alan Hillier at felstedaaid@hotmail.com or on 07884 426551.

T&C: Newsletter entries must be received by diana_frost@lineone.net by the **24th** of each month. Only village events will be promoted. No advertisements or personal profit promotions will be featured. To unsubscribe, email Diana Frost.