East. 07890984563
David Dransfield
Huntingdon Town Council – List of Councillors

West. 01767604706
Doug Adams

North. 52009
Christopher J Osborn

Lawrence, North. 394630
Alan J Mackender

East. 435587
Gina M Cruickshank

East. 388688
Paul D Harris

East. 388688
Laine Kadic

North. 395487
Maggie Wheeler

North. 52009
Christopher J Osborn

West. 436822
Tom Sanderson

West. 234682
Jennifer Sarabia

North. 391148
Chris Doyle

East. 414744
Brian J Luckham

East. 451604
Susan M Mulcahy

Forthcoming Meetings

Date: Meeting:
September 4th Town Council Planning Applications Panel
September 18th Leisure & Community Services Committee Planning Applications Panel Twinning Sub Committee
October 2nd Planning Applications Panel Grants Sub Committee Lettings Sub Committee
October 16th* Finance Committee Planning Applications Panel
October 30th Town Council Planning Applications Panel
November 13th Leisure & Community Services Committee Planning Applications Panel Twinning Sub Committee
November 27th* Planning applications panel
December 11th* Finance Committee Planning Applications Panel

*These meetings will take place in the Town Hall, Market Hill, Huntingdon.

Mayor of Huntingdon’s Last Night of the Proms
Saturday 20th September
7.30 pm. PatCH and Spun Gold Promotions presents an evening of 50s and 60s musical memories including Nat “King” Cole, Matt Monro, Sinatra, The Beatles, Elvis, Perry Como and more. Further information and tickets from Lydia on 01480 455167 or the Card Gallery.

Saturday 20th September
Wine Evening – Hinchingbrooke Country Park. Noon – 4.30 pm. Discover honey-the varieties and colours as well as the tastes. Learn about the role of the beekeeper and how important the bees are for our plants and animals. Further information from 01480 451568

Saturday 20th September
AGM of the Huntingdon Commemoration Hall Charity. Huntingdon Commemoration Hall, High Street, Huntingdon, 7.00pm. A public meeting to hear an annual report from the Trustees and to elect representatives for the next two years. All welcome.

Saturday 27th September
Family Funday and Human Table Football Championship, at Sacrewell Farm, Peterborough. Organised by Make-A-Wish Foundation® UK and Age Concern Peterborough, there will be activities for all the family including the chance to meet some real life Star Wars characters, face painting, bouncy slides, archery, animal feeding and much much more. The Human Table Football Championship consists of 32 teams of five players competing for the winners cup. For more information on the Funday Day and Human Table Football Championship tel 01733 894495 or e-mail natalie.martin-loat@makeawish.org.uk
Events

**Thursday 4th to Saturday 6th October**

**Continental Market** – Market Square and beyond, Huntingdon. For the sixth year running the continental market will feature the best of Continental produce with over 30 stalls selling goods and produce from France, Spain, Holland, Italy, Germany, Austria and Switzerland. Further information from Katy Sismore 01480 450250.

**Wednesday 15th to Saturday 18th October**

**Old Time Music Hall**. Commemoration Hall. Tickets Wednesday/Thursday £9 and £7; Friday £10 and £8; Saturday £10. Available from the Card Gallery.

**Sunday 19th October**

**Apple Fair at Coneygear Park** – 11.00 am-3.00 pm. Celebrate the good old English apple with local varieties. Homemade cakes, badge making, competitions and fruit trees for sale. Everyone welcome. Further information from 0795 237727.

**Tuesday 28th October**

**Big Draw** at Hinchingbrooke Country Park – 11.00 am-3.00 pm. Families are invited to trawl around the Park and take part in various artistic activities. Equipment is provided and the event is free. To book call 01480 451568.

**Wednesday 29th October**

**Big Pond and Dyke Clear-Up** at Spring Common – 10.00 am-3.00 pm. Join the rangers in giving the pond and dyke a facelift to benefit the wildlife. Meet at the pond wearing ‘wellies’, gloves and old clothes.

**Friday 31st October**

**“Dark Tales from the Misty Fens”** by storyteller Polly Howat. PaTCH presents Polly Howat's chilling tales; Sitting on the cold dark stage of the Commemoration Hall. Intrigue and fascination. Information and tickets from Lydia on 01480 455167 or from the Card Gallery.

**Wednesday 5th November**

**Fireworks 2008** – Organised by Oxmoor Community Action Group (OCAG). After a very successful 2007, Fireworks 2008 will again be held at Coneygear Park. Gates open at 5.00pm. Fire lighting at 6.00pm and firework display 6.30pm. Free glow wands at the main gate, no need to bring sparklers or fireworks. Low cost cost and refreshments will be available.

**Thursday 6th to Saturday 8th November**

**“Choc-O-Wal Pow”** by St Tristram. Commemoration Hall. 7.30 pm. Huntingdon Drama Club presents this thriller which is crossed with “Hamlet” and “Blithe Spirit”. Definitely a production not to be missed! Tickets £8 and £6 available on line on www.huntingdondramachub.org.uk or telephone 01480 454486.

**Saturday 22nd November**

**Mayor of Huntingdon’s Charity Murder Mystery evening**. Commemoration Hall. Further information to be confirmed but all enquiries to the Town Council offices 01480 388688.

**Sunday 23rd November**

**Christmas Lights Switch On** – 2.00 pm-5.00 pm. Entertainment at Market Hill and Chequers Court. For more information call 01480 450250 or 01480 388688.

**Tuesday 9th to Saturday 13th December**

**“The Snow Queen”** – a production by Huntingdon Youth Theatre. Commemoration Hall. Further information from 01480 455167 or check the next issue of About Town.

**Wednesday 10th December**

**Civic Carol Service**. St Mary’s Church Huntingdon at 7.30 pm. Information from Jenni Jones on 01480 388687.

Town Clerk’s Chat

Welcome to the 41st issue. As a result of the growth of your town in the last two years, our door to door distribution service provider, Royal Mail, has advised us that we’re not providing them with enough magazines to go around. At the same time we have received some reports of households receiving more than one copy. Please help us to manage our magazine delivery service, therefore, by letting us know about any problems by 21st September. Tel 01480 388683.

The Council’s first business of this new local government year was to elect your Mayor, Cllr Saeed Akthar. His moving acceptance speech at the Annual Meeting of the Council received resounding applause and we wish him well during his Mayoral year when he will be balancing the demands of work, family and Mayoral duties assisted by Deputy Mayor, Cllr Brian Luckham.

The Council appointed 31 representatives to local community groups and organisations at the meeting on 15th May, when the main committees of Finance, Planning & Leisure & Community Services were also appointed, whose Chairmen this year are Cllr Doug Adams, Cllr Chris Doyle and Cllr Tom Sanderson respectively.

The Leisure & Community Services Committee continues to aim to meet local community needs for play with adequate facilities. Following improvement works at Sapley Road and Nursery Road, partnership work with the District Council is to continue to develop facilities near Kent/Surrey Roads and in Hartford, between the “Birds” estate and the A141. A scheme to provide a safe bus stop on Sallowbush Road at the Recreation area is at the drawing stage and several locations where streetlighting needs improving have been identified, namely at Coneygear Road, Literary Walk and the High Street. Discussion continues on the creation of a footpath linking Portholme with Castle Hills.

Aside from its usual business, the Finance Committee has reviewed and updated its programme of capital expenditure to allow for recent decisions, among others, to contribute £75,000 to safety improvements at the A141 junction with Kings Ripton Road and around £85,000 to repairs at the Huntingdon Indoor Bowls Club. In July, the Grants Sub Committee recommended awards totalling £5500 to holiday activity providers FUSION, Huntingdon Nursery School and FunZone Out of School Club. Our Lettings Sub Committee is overseeing the Council’s interest in planned developments at the Clayton’s Way Field off Mayfield Road involving the St John Ambulance Centre and the Huntingdon Olympic Gym Club Ltd.

Members of the Planning Committee have considered and opposed plans for development of 30 houses at Mayfield Road and were told about the District Council’s plans to improve the Riverside Park between February 2009 and August 2010. The Planning Panel continues to consider planning applications fortuitously, which have included large developments proposed for land off Ullswater, Stukeley Road and the site of the Regional College.

I hope that a great many of our readers will be interested in taking part in our consultation about the Town Hall (on page 12). The provision of Community Halls is a large part of our service to you and the future sustainability of these amenities depends on your involvement and support.
Councillor profiles

Councillor Brian John Luckham

I am 53 years old and have lived in Goshawk Close, Hartford for over 14 years with my wife, Chris, and our 3 children. Over the last 7 years they have all been away to University. My wife is the Ward Sister on Holly Ward (the children’s ward) Hinchingbrooke Hospital and she has also completed a degree in child health during this period.

I joined the RAF as an apprentice in 1971, at the age of 16, and served for over 25 years, retiring from active duty in January 1997 at the completion of a 3 year assignment at RAF Wyton. I then transferred into the Civil Service and continued my association with the RAF, working at RAF Wyton, for 9 years; within this time I completed a 3 year RAF assignment with Boeing, in Seattle, USA where I was responsible for ensuring compliance with contracts that the team at RAF Wyton had placed with the company. I now work in central London as the manager of a large IT Upgrade Programme for the Probation Service.

I was first elected to the Town Council in May 1999 and served as Mayor in 2000/1. On my return from Seattle I stood in, and was elected in, the May 2006 election and re-elected in May 2007.

Of particular concern to me is the lack of youth amenities locally, although the soon-to-be-completed skateboard park at Stukeley Meadows should reduce the numbers of youngsters who feel the need to skate and board in Chequers Court. The closing down of the nightclub was a particular disappointment; who’d have thought a nightclub would be noisy!

I am greatly concerned at the rate of growth being undertaken in Huntingdon without an appropriate increase in local facilities and infrastructure capacity. The core economy of Huntingdon depends on Huntingdon without an appropriate increase in local facilities and infrastructure capacity. The core economy of Huntingdon depends on the residents shopping locally and we need to greatly improve the retail offering.

I am committed to balanced development in the town and recently campaigned and spoke at the Planning Appeal, against the Amusement Centre in the Market Square. The principle of an amusement centre was acceptable to the Town Council, it was always the location which we, and a number of other groups, felt was inappropriate.

This year, I am proud to have been appointed as Deputy Mayor and will do my best to support the Mayor in his work.

Councillor Maggie Wheeler

I was born and raised in Shepherds Bush, London, into a family of 5 girls. I enjoyed a very good education in a London grammar school and left in the Sixth Form to pursue a secretarial career. I moved to Huntingdon in 1974 where I had my son; he now lives in Southern Spain with my two lovely grandchildren, aged 10 and 5. I visit as often as money and cheap air fares allow. I have been working in Hinchingbrooke Hospital now for almost 9 years as an Administration Manager; it’s a privilege to work with such dedicated and hard working people with an excellent standard of care.

My passion has always been dancing, treading the boards at the age of 8 years, and still enjoy my weekly tap dancing lessons at the Ivo Centre. I have been involved in amateur dramatics for almost 30 years now – the pantos are great fun for the cast as well as the audience! I was secretary for the Rowdies for many years and started the brick and window money raising scheme for their club house. I was on the committee of the Boots & Buckles Country & Western Club, based in the Medway Centre, when we were raising up to £10,000 each year for local charities, with the emphasis on LOCAL.

My main priorities on the Town Council have been with Leisure and Development, and trying to ensure that the older residents’ needs and wishes are incorporated and realised. Health and Safety is also important to me and I am glad that the issue I raised regarding the scant hard standing at the bus stop in Sallowbush Road is now nearing a successful conclusion.

I consider myself fortunate to be living in such a well run, historic town; people are friendly, streets are clean, good schools are on our doorstep, the cemetery, parks, gardens and roadsides are abundant with beautiful floral displays, the crime rate is low and our health is well looked after by a choice of hospitals within reasonable distance.

Huntingdon Town Council Committees Manager

I am delighted to have been appointed Committees Manager for Huntingdon Town Council in June and to have the opportunity to work with the Council and its leading officer under the current administration.

I have worked in local government for over 10 years and I am sure that my experience will help support the Town Clerk and all the very committed staff at Huntingdon Town Council in providing high quality services to the residents of Huntingdon, which we will continually strive to improve. I also look forward to working with you, the service users, local groups and authorities. In particular, I will be responsible for the production of this magazine and would welcome your feedback on About Town. I would also be pleased to hear of any items that you would like to be included in the magazine and that would be of interest to the local community.

I am originally from a farming background in Bedfordshire and my family have a long history of working in local government. I am a working mother with two teenage sons and recently ran in the Race for Life!

Sally Hutchinson, Committees Manager, tel 01480 388683, e-mail sally.hutchinson@huntingdontown.gov.uk.
Having lived in Huntingdon for over 40 years I have had the pleasure of growing up and working in a wonderful town with such a rich and diverse history. I have had the good fortune to have lived in most parts of Huntingdon, from the Town centre, then the Oxmoor and finally now settled in Hartford. I attended Local Schools and only left Huntingdon for the years I spent at University.

I have seen this small market town grow into a major town with well served road and rail networks and a very healthy economy.

Recently, Huntingdon has seen the opening of a brand new court building, incorporating the new Huntingdon Crown court. Work on a new library has already started, which will see in a much needed, updated and modern library that will be big enough to serve the increased population of Huntingdon.

It is a very vibrant town that is pleasant and enjoyable to live in and has many sites of interest for tourists and visitors to our town.

During my Mayoral year I hope to continue to build bridges between communities in and around Huntingdon. There is a diversity of cultures that we can all use to our advantage and ultimately result in a richer and highly integrated society. The mere fact that I am Mayor this year hopefully shows that we already live in a free open and democratic society and it excites me to know that the building blocks and foundations are already in place to build on further for the future.

I will be supporting three charities over the next year which do a fantastic job for Huntingdon and its people. These are Huntingdonshire Holidays, Macmillan Nurses (Huntingdon branch) and the Dreamdrops appeal for Holly Ward at Hinchingbrooke Hospital.

Huntingdonshire Holidays has helped and are helping many local families, who through unavoidable financial, medical or other circumstances have not been able to take a holiday away from Huntingdon.

Macmillan Nurses help care for cancer patients and Dreamdrops appeal provide over and above care for children at Hinchingbrooke Hospital.

I will be holding a number of fundraising events over the next year to raise money for my chosen charities and I invite you all, and hope you will join me in helping raise much needed funds for these good causes.

I would like to thank everyone who has supported me and all those who have stopped and wished me well for this year. I am hoping to meet and talk to as many of you as possible this year.

Wishing you all and Huntingdon well for the future.

Cllr Saeed Akthar, Mayor of Huntingdon

About Town No 41. September 2008
Christmas in the dark this year?

It’s going to cost around £15000 to provide the same lights and entertainment this year as for 2007 with an additional high cost in testing the safety of wall bolts and cross street wires to hang the lights.

In March, a questionnaire went to all businesses within the ring road giving options from “the same lights as 2007” through to “five lights in the Market Square” and finally “no lights”. Of the 220 questionnaires only 17 were returned. A big thank you to the businesses that replied and pledged £1900 (see list). £9000 has also come from other organisations including Huntingdon Town Council, Huntingdon Town Partnership and Churchmanor Estates. However, £4000 is still needed to give the same Christmas Lights event as last year.

Will the festive spirit be continued in Huntingdon or will the town be in the dark this Christmas? Can you help? Call today - 01480 450250 or email christmas@huntingdontownpartnership.co.uk

Christmas Lights donations

Extended Sunday opening for 7th Continental Market

For the seventh year running, the hugely popular Continental Market returns to Huntingdon on Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th October.

The Market, organised by Huntingdon Town Partnership, has year-on-year attracted thousands of visitors from across the region. It features the best of Continental produce with over 30 stalls selling goods from France, Spain, Holland, Italy, Germany, Greece, Austria, Switzerland and Portugal. Visitors can once again enjoy Dutch pancakes and French cheeses, savour the flavour and aroma of herbs and spices, olives and garlic, sweets and visit the mouth-watering mobile boulangerie with its fresh bread and pastries baked in the heart of Huntingdon.

Jewellery, leatherwear, handbags and fashion items including cashmere and pashminas also bring a cosmopolitan atmosphere to the market, with the perfect chance to buy gifts with a difference.

“Last year, more than 12,000 people visited Huntingdon over the three-day period. This year we’ve extended it so the Market will be here on the Sunday too,” explained Town Partnership Manager, Katy Sismore. “Huntingdon is one of the most popular Continental Markets in the country and promises visitors a real taste of Europe.”

Huntingdonshire Food & Drink Festival

Taking place during British Food Fortnight from 25 -29 September, food and drink revellers can expect the events to tantalise their taste buds. The festival is a celebration of the area’s local food and its main aim is to encourage people to buy local and to reduce their food miles to help the environment.

The showcase event, Food Fest 2008, is being held at Wood Green Animal Shelter, Godmanchester on Sunday 28 September (10am – 4pm) and will showcase local producers, suppliers and retailers demonstrating the quality of local food and drink on offer right on our doorstep. Fun for all the family! Shopmobility vehicles will be available at the festival for disabled visitors.

For more details: www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/foodanddrinkfestival

Why should I save energy?

We all use energy every day – at home, at work and when we travel. Much of this energy is generated by burning fossil fuels such as coal, oil and gas which releases climate changing carbon dioxide (CO2).

Making your home energy efficient helps the environment by reducing CO2 emissions by around two tonnes and could save around £270 on your energy bills. To make the most of your energy consider:
- Cavity wall insulation will reduce heat loss by around 60 per cent and save you around £90 a year.
- Loft insulation - over 30 per cent of your heat can be lost through an under-insulated loft. Having 270mm or 10.5 inches of insulation could save you around £110 a year.
- Get your energy from renewable energy systems such as solar, wind, biomass and heat pumps. These harness energy from the environment generating hot water, electricity or energy to heat your home.
- Use energy efficient lighting - energy saving light bulbs last up to 10 times longer than ordinary light bulbs; each one could save £60 over the lifetime of the bulb.
- Choose a more efficient boiler - high efficiency condensing boilers are the most energy efficient available.
- Simple actions such as closing your curtains at dusk and only boiling as much water as you need in your kettle will make a difference to your energy use.

For government funded free impartial energy saving advice call the Energy Saving Trust on freephone 0800 512 012 or visit the website at www.energysavingtrust.org.uk

For government funded free impartial energy saving advice call the Energy Saving Trust on freephone 0800 512 012 or visit the website at www.energysavingtrust.org.uk
Huntingdon Town Hall

The Civic Suite of the Town Hall is situated on the second floor and comprises the Council Chamber, Mayor's Parlour and Assembly room. The Suite is available for hire for formal functions and meetings and enquiries should be made in the first instance with Bookings Manager, Jenni Jones, telephone 01480 388687 or e-mail jenni.jones@huntingdontown.gov.uk.

Here’s what some of our recent hirers have to say about the hall:

Sarah Wilkinson, Spotlight Productions
“The Assembly room in the Town Hall, with its sprung dance floor, provided a fabulous rehearsal space for our young people in preparation for their show. Coming from all over Huntingdon and its surrounds, our large group of eighty students would have been difficult to accommodate in many of the small halls available. We couldn’t use the Commemoration Hall on a Tuesday evening as it was in use then by the Huntingdon Youth Theatre, but our young people loved the historic ambience created by the chandeliers, the old paintings and the Mayoral Board. We’d certainly use it again.”

Monica Brown, Huntingdon WI
“Our WI group meeting involved 5 groups from Huntingdonshire totalling 85 guests and we found the Assembly Room an exceptionally nice setting for our meeting, which included a speaker, refreshments and some entertainment. Some of our less able members did have difficulty with the stairs, however, as well as those who carried props up to the meeting. We usually hire the Commemoration Hall, but this was booked on the evening we wanted it”.

Peter Stephenson, Cambridgeshire County Council
“We hired the civic suite for Schools Admissions Appeals because of its central location and the space it afforded to host our appellants. There was no access to the Council Chamber for disabled people, nor was there parking at the building for disabled drivers”.

Huntingdon Commemoration Hall

Are you planning a wedding, party or special anniversary, or does your club or organisation need space to hire for a meeting or activity?

Then the Commemoration Hall in Huntingdon could be the answer to your problems. It is available for hire to community groups at discounted rates and to commercial users for business meetings, conferences and exhibitions.

The hall has some great facilities and has recently had new chairs and café style furniture as well as new equipment in the kitchen including a chill cabinet and ice-making machine. Additional lighting as well as new sound equipment has also been installed.

The Commemoration Hall is an important part of Huntingdon’s heritage, starting life in 1842 as the Literary and Scientific Institute. The auditorium, stage and dressing rooms were added after the Second World War to commemorate those who served during it.

One of its most attractive features is the octagon shaped foyer with the Minerva Room above, so called in homage to the statue of Minerva, Goddess of Wisdom and the Arts, which stands high above the entrance to the hall.

The hall, which is ideally placed in the centre of the town with car parking behind, can seat an audience of 180, accommodate up to 175 people for a dinner/dance, 285 for a disco, and 230 for dancing. The Minerva room is ideal for small meetings or exhibitions. There are good kitchen facilities and toilets for both audience and performers, and includes a disabled toilet in the foyer.

For more information contact Jenni Jones on 01480 388687.

Table of charges

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Main Hall to include use of Stage, Dressing Room, use of kitchen and foyer</td>
<td>£16 per hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kitchen and use of foyer only (other hirers may pass through)</td>
<td>£6 per hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dressing Room only (provided there is no inconvenience to hirers of the Main Hall and stage)</td>
<td>£6 per hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshop space (lower ground floor)</td>
<td>£6 per hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minerva Room for meetings and/or exhibitions</td>
<td>£10 per hour</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Discounts of 25% for weekly hirers and 10% for monthly

New website address: www.commhall.org.uk
Community News

Moor in Bloom

The sun shone on Oxmoor –
15th July – Moor in Bloom – everyone has worked hard since January preparing to present Oxmoor to the Judges. Sprucing up flower beds, allotments, organising 20 hanging baskets to adorn the Oak Tree Centre.

It seems every part of the estate was in the picture; Thongsley Fields, St John’s Primary and St Peter’s Secondary schools, showed the effects of ECO gardens and healthy eating. Blooming beautifully were Sallowbush Allotments, Mayfield Shops, Medway Centre, St Barnabas and all around Oak Tree and Maple Centres. Groups were united in showing Unity in our Community by Oxmoor Community Action Group and Oxmoor Opportunity Partnership.

Medway User Groups arranged demonstrations for the Judges to see how very important the use of Medway Centre is. Amongst the groups is a newcomer, Huntingdonshire Community Group. This group stole the show and entertained the Judges with African music and dance and the Reception group proudly showed us their vegetables – cabbages large enough to win a prize, runner beans, courgettes and strawberries.

On to view the 2008 project of Adopting Huntingdon Railway Station with the sponsors listed outside the station and hanging baskets and containers on the platforms. Posters from local schools on the themes of Trains, Welcome to Huntingdon and on the green aspects of travelling by train were on display in the booking office, with the café garden and its exotic plants looking its best.

The route through the town took us to see the planting at the Sebastopol Cannon and into the High Street, passing the railing baskets and containers in Walden Road. The George Hotel was colourful with many containers and baskets and retailers in the town including the winners of the Commercial Shield, Gathercole & Ward, Optometrists, were at their brightest. Not a scrap of litter was seen, and the judges commented on the efforts of the District Council Streetscene team in cleaning chewing gum off the pavements and setting up the gum boards to make a difference.

The planting at The Walks with the Town Council’s corn drill and the two new beds on the corner of St Mary’s Street provided colour – with spectacular planting in front of Castle Hill House and at St Mary’s Church. Shops through the High Street displayed school posters and the sunflower In Bloom logo to show their support.

On to the Primrose Lane Cemetery where the new arbour and hanging baskets provide a quiet place for reflection, a look at the allotments – over subscribed now, and to Hartford where a walk through the river meadows to the Riverside Park provided a different view of Huntingdon, with biodiversity and views over the river. Once again, no litter to be seen, no doubt helped by the litter pick organised by the Girls’ Brigade a few days earlier!

The eye-catching carpet bedding celebrating 90 years of the Royal Air Force in the Park was planted by Paul Smith and his team from the District Council, along with immaculate displays at Moat Place.

The sun shone, and all went well – and in their summing up, both judges congratulated the town on its cleanliness, lack of litter and graffiti – and its community involvement along with the stunning flower displays and said it is a town to be proud of. Well done everyone, for your support to enable Huntingdon to have become one of the cleanest and brightest towns in East Anglia!

The 2008 Portfolio can be seen in the Town Council Office.

Huntingdon in Bloom

The judges from Anglia in Bloom, George Dawson, Chair of Judges and Brian Thornton, visited Huntingdon on 8 July to assess the 2008 entry. The tour started at Hinchingbrooke Country Park where the new access paths leading through the trees to the café and Education Centre were admired. After presenting the Best Front Gardens Cup for 2008 to Mrs Williams at 1 The Glades, the tour continued to Crowell Park School. Here, members of the Reception group proudly showed us their vegetables – cabbages large enough to win a prize, runner beans, courgettes and strawberries.

On to view the 2008 project of Adopting Huntingdon Railway Station with the sponsors listed outside the station and hanging baskets and containers on the platforms. Posters from local schools on the themes of Trains, Welcome to Huntingdon and on the green aspects of travelling by train were on display in the booking office, with the café garden and its exotic plants looking its best.

The route through the town took us to see the planting at the Sebastopol Cannon and into the High Street, passing the railing baskets and containers in Walden Road. The George Hotel was colourful with many containers and baskets and retailers in the town including the winners of the Commercial Shield, Gathercole & Ward, Optometrists, were at their brightest. Not a scrap of litter was seen, and the judges commented on the efforts of the District Council Streetscene team in cleaning chewing gum off the pavements and setting up the gum boards to make a difference.

The planting at The Walks with the Town Council’s corn drill and the two new beds on the corner of St Mary’s Street provided colour – with spectacular planting in front of Castle Hill House and at St Mary’s Church. Shops through the High Street displayed school posters and the sunflower In Bloom logo to show their support.

On to the Primrose Lane Cemetery where the new arbour and hanging baskets provide a quiet place for reflection, a look at the allotments – over subscribed now, and to Hartford where a walk through the river meadows to the Riverside Park provided a different view of Huntingdon, with biodiversity and views over the river. Once again, no litter to be seen, no doubt helped by the litter pick organised by the Girls’ Brigade a few days earlier!

The eye-catching carpet bedding celebrating 90 years of the Royal Air Force in the Park was planted by Paul Smith and his team from the District Council, along with immaculate displays at Moat Place.

The sun shone, and all went well – and in their summing up, both judges congratulated the town on its cleanliness, lack of litter and graffiti – and its community involvement along with the stunning flower displays and said it is a town to be proud of. Well done everyone, for your support to enable Huntingdon to have become one of the cleanest and brightest towns in East Anglia!

The 2008 Portfolio can be seen in the Town Council Office.

Huntingdon in Bloom 2008

Garden vouchers or Certificates were awarded to:

Best Front Garden and winner of the Whitney Cup
Mr A Williams, 1 The Glades, Hinchingbrooke Park

Other finalists
Mrs James, 41 Sallowbush Road
Mrs Marjorie Barr, 14 Aspen Green

Best Neighbourhood Display
John & Carol Sanders, and Pamela Bruce, 19A and 19B Ambury Road
32-50 Oliver’s Walk House and 41-53 Dartmoor Drive

Best Hotel/Public House
The Marriott Hotel, Kingfisher Way (Certificate)

Best Commercial/Town Centre entry
Gathercole and Ward, Opticians (Certificate)

Schools Cup
Huntingdon Junior School
More than 1,500 people attended an exciting event organised by the Diversity Forum this year in June at St Peter’s School, Huntingdon, where many cultural events took place: International music, dancing and food. Unity in the Community has proved that it is the main project that can unite people from different backgrounds in society and build community stability. Local organisations had the opportunity of introducing their services direct to local residents whilst groups from different countries who are residing in Huntingdonshire had the opportunity of sharing their talents in dancing, drumming, music and world food.

A big thank you goes to community volunteers such as photographers Sonia Dyne & Mayi Reid, as well as the young community photographers of which Robyn, Tara, William Hawkins are intending to lead the start of a photographic project managed to share their experience. Organisers Anne-Marie Waterston of the District Council & Neighbourhood Manager Diane Lane, who made the event successful. And a very big thank you goes to everyone who participated and helped to organise. We hope 2009 will be achieved successfully as well.

The Huntingdon MP Jonathan Djanogly and most of the Town, District and County Councillors attended the event this year to mark a good relationship between members in the community and their top official leaders. Hopefully next year we will receive more support on this project.

Patrick Kadaware,
Huntingdonshire Community Group
Maths Success – Hinchinbrooke School

Although Hinchinbrooke School is a Sports College, it looks for ways to celebrate the achievements of young people in whatever they do. This report from the Maths department shows that in a nation of dwindling numbers of mathematicians, many Hinchinbrooke students are still keen and successful in this area.

Maths Team Challenge
March 2008 in Cambridge for Years 8 and 9

Having held a selection heat which was attended by 26 keen and enthusiastic year 8 and 9 students, a team consisting of Christina and Maddie Thornton (both year 9) competed in the Maths Team Challenge against 30 other schools. Following the completion of the first round, they were in 3rd position, after round 2, they held joint 2nd. By the end of the day, they narrowly missed a top 3 finish, ending up in 4th out of 31 schools. Following recognition for their achievements. These pins are awarded for contributions to the maths college ethos. The idea originated from work done in the Maths department shows that in a partnership which has had an incredibly positive impact on pupils’ social skills and understanding of the diversity of our local communities. As two church schools in very different locations we wanted to help the children have a sense of belonging that, no matter who you are or where you come from, people are the same-unique, talented, equally valued and able to make a positive contribution to society. We aim to raise the children’s own spirituality so that they can fall back on throughout life.

The idea originated from work done in the HuntSNet Continuity group to pair up schools with a view to enhancing the effectiveness of transition. Helen Wilman, Head of Abbots Ripton, and Helen Curtis, Head of St John’s, both agreed that theirs would be an ideal partnership as both schools are church schools and of a similar size. To date, we have had 4 days together, all of which have been wonderful in their own way. The support of local clergymen Brian Atling, Mark Savage and Nick Devenish have been a huge advantage to this work and has ensured that the spiritual focus of the days have not been lost. We started BIG in July 2007 with a day to celebrate ‘Belonging.’ All staff and pupils from Abbots Ripton spent the day at St John’s. We started the day with worship and then children worked in mixed groups to focus on aspects of belonging to the church. The day finished with a communion led by Tim Elbourne- this was a phenomenal and very moving way to cement the relationship between the schools and launch the partnership in a very real way for our school communities.

Our next venture was to share in a joint Christingle celebration. We ‘swapped’ a coach of children and the children worked in mixed groups to make Christingles (materials kindly donated by Waitrose) and then light them in a service in church. There was not a dry eye in the house when the candles were lit- a real ‘awe and wonder’ moment.

Next came- you’ve guessed it- Easter! Abbots Ripton managed to ‘reign in’ a local pony (after a great deal of fruitless donkey searching) and the Year 2/3 children from St John’s spent the day at...
Young People of the Year

Held in Huntingdon first in 2005 and extended to the rest of Cambridgeshire, this contest aims to award recognition to young people who give to others and those who have overcome adversity to better themselves.

There are cash prizes totalling £2000 to be won by young people aged 16-25 in the County who have given to others and made a difference, with the top prize £1000. Half is intended for donation to a good cause and the other to be retained by the winner.

Supported by local agencies the Cambridge Building Society, Cambridgeshire Constabulary, and Kimbolton Computer Company EACS, the campaign is still seeking key sponsors in the Huntingdon area.

Supporter Prime Minister, Gordon Brown said, “The Young People of the Year competition is a wonderful celebration of Britain’s youth. It is looking for the kind of heroes who live next door, and in the next street, and throughout our neighbourhoods – the kind of heroes other young people might want to become.”

Anyone can nominate a young person for a YOPEY, including young people themselves. To find out more log onto website www.youngpeopleoftheyear.org or www.yopey.org; write to PO Box 103, Hare Street, Ware, Herts SG9 0XD; Telephone 0845 838 2640; or e-mail hello@youngpeopleoftheyear.org. Entries are welcomed until the autumn with the awards ceremony being held at Cambridge Airport in December.

Primary Partnership

Abbots Ripton school. The “Cheer and Jeer” day was based upon the emotions of Holy week and children learnt how different groups of people made choices during that time and why they may have done so. Pupils’ confidence at working with each other had clearly grown significantly by this point and we were delighted that children from both schools were confident to share their work with everyone- at the same time as reflecting about the Easter Message.

Our most recent event was held at St John’s and was based around the ‘Miracles of Jesus.’ 6 children from Abbots Ripton joined each class at St John’s and worked to produce art, drama and poetry related to a miracle- for example the feeding of the 5000. The poem (right) is testament to the quality of thought that went into the day by pupils:

All classes shared their work at St Barnabas- this went from the sharing of tuna wraps (bread and fishes!) to ‘row the boat’ (calming of the storm) and some very powerful drama/ storyboards. What felt really special about this day was the joy on pupils’ faces at seeing their friends and the way that children from reception upwards completely supported each other for the whole day.

We are delighted with the partnership we have formed- but what impact has it had? Where do we start?
• Raised pupil awareness of diversity in our society
• A lot of excitement and fun!!!
• Giving children a sense of belonging that hopefully will stay with them throughout life.

Helen Wilman, Headteacher,
Abbots Ripton CE Primary and
Helen Curtis, Headteacher,
St Johns CE Primary School, Huntingdon
Thongsley Fields Primary and Nursery School SING UP!

We were extremely excited when we received a phone call asking if we had a school choir interested in working with TV’s ‘The Choir’ Gareth Malone. We said “Yes!”. There has always been an extensive repertoire of musical activity at Thongsley Fields School and our children’s singing is wonderful.

As we didn’t have an official choir - just many children who enjoy coming to sing together for particular occasions, we set out to drum up some enthusiasm and audition to find ‘the best’. We thought we could afford to take one coach to Snape in Suffolk to meet Gareth. 84 children aged 4 to 11 came to audition. They bravely sang nursery rhymes and favourite songs either solo or with a friend and the task of choosing and telling half of the children that they couldn’t come wasn’t easy for us. However, thanks to some generous donations from staff and their families we were able to take a second coach. The faces of our 84-strong choir were delighted when they heard they were all successful.

Over two weeks at school we rehearsed to word perfect three songs: ‘Somewhere over the Rainbow’, (my favourite!), a folk song called ‘Sweet Polly Oliver’ and ‘O What a Beautiful Morning’. Thongsley Fields Choir then left at 8.00am for the two-hour journey on a Friday morning for the famous concert hall at Snape. Once there and after some refreshments, the children made their way to the concert hall through the ‘artists only’ entrance. On the huge stage, where Gareth Malone was already waiting, the size of the auditorium instilled a hushed awe amongst them.

The combination of Gareth’s energy and humour and our children’s enthusiasm and excitement was quite a match made in heaven! We played vocal games, and laughed, and rehearsed and laughed some more, and polished and laughed again...After 45 fantastic minutes, the audience arrived. A hush fell on the vast concert hall as they filed in. The Thongsley Fields Choir sat still, silent and in anticipation.

After an introduction by Gareth, the Year 6 boys and girls took the performance with the first part of ‘Somewhere over the Rainbow’. The audience were entranced and our children stood sparkling and singing sweetly. ‘Polly Oliver’ told of a tale of mixed identities, war and love conquering all and after ‘O What a Beautiful Morning’, there was hardly a dry eye in the house! Thongsley Fields Choir were given a standing ovation and even had to perform an encore!

The weary children continued to sing, despite the long journey home. It was an amazing day to remember.

Postscript:

The school and other community members have applied to be in the next BBC series of “The Choir”, showing Gareth Malone building a community choir over 9 months. At the time of writing we are delighted and excited to announce that the Oxmoor has been selected as one of 6 communities that have been short-listed out of hundreds of applications. Thongsley Fields Choir were given a standing ovation of mixed identities, war and love conquering all, and after ‘O What a Beautiful Morning’, there was hardly a dry eye in the house! Thongsley Fields Choir were given a standing ovation and even had to perform an encore!

The weary children continued to sing, despite the long journey home. It was an amazing day to remember.

Fingers-crossed!

Rachel Myer, Headteacher,
Thongsley Fields Primary and Nursery School

Huntingdon Town Hall – What Future?

In 1974 Huntingdonshire District Council succeeded the Borough Council of Huntingdon and Godmanchester as the titleholder in public trust of Huntingdon’s Town Hall. The building is currently leased for a term of 999 years on terms set down in leases dated 1840. The current leaseholder, since 2005 is HM Courts Services (HMCS), which up until September last year used the building to provide Magistrates Courts and to house the Area Offices, now situated in new premises situated on Walden Road in Huntingdon.

Huntingdon Town Council has a leasehold interest in the second floor of the building, where the Assembly Rooms and Civic Suite are located. Council meetings take place here occasionally and the facilities are available for public hire, though access via a stairwell makes for limited use by the less able.

Listed Grade Two Star, the building’s running costs are in the order of £50-60,000 per year and are met by HMRC, with the exception of those for the interior and windows on the 2nd floor, which are the Town Council’s responsibility. Any future use needs to satisfy lease terms that require the building’s continued availability for public use.

A survey carried out by the District & Town Councils in partnership suggests that substantial investment of up to £1.2 million will be required in the building over the coming years to ensure its good order and to replace services. Further, more intrusive surveys have recently been carried out. Limitations on its use make commercial viability extremely difficult, taking into account costs of conversion for new use and given constraints likely, particularly in the courts, due to listed building status. Members of both the Town & District Councils have been considering whether a Building Preservation Trust could be set up to look after the building, which could attract grant funding not available to either Council directly.

As three publicly accountable bodies, Town Council, District Council and HMCS together in partnership have a tough challenge to ensure that the Town Hall in Huntingdon remains available for public access in a safe and suitable condition, whilst not becoming an unjustifiable drain on public expenditure. Please talk to your locally elected representatives from Town or District Councils if you have a view on the Town Hall’s future or call the Town Clerk on 01480 388680.

Karen Cameron,
Town Clerk

Karen Cameron,
Town Clerk
Blue Vision Twirling Team

On 20th May 2003, the Blue Vision Twirling Team was formed and over the past 5 years they have gone from strength to strength, this year they gained 76 trophies at National Championship Level, which proved to be our best year yet!

The Troupe are very much a competing Troupe taking part in two regional competitions and a National Championship which is held for a week over the Easter holidays at Pontins, Camber Sands.

A Troupe photograph was taken to celebrate both Troupe and personal success that they have attained over the 5 years with all the trophies that they have ever won. The Troupe is open to both boys and girls and they train twice a week at Hartford Junior School.

Blue Vision had a very busy summer season this year. They performed at the Riverside Gala Day, Godmanchester Gala Day, Buntingford Carnival, Unity in the Community and will also be performing at the Christmas Lights Switch On in November.

Jo Bathurst said “Its great to see that the Troupe has done so well over the past 5 years there is a lot of hard work that goes into making a Troupe a success right through from members, parents and Committee members and things would be a lot harder without help from our sponsors Freemen’s Charity and Sports & Fashions.

There is a large emphasis on getting children and young adults into sport or activities which promotes a healthy lifestyle and regular exercise but there seems to be no financial help from local councils for this. All the helpers and trainers are not paid for their time and all money raised is put back into the Troupe funds towards new equipment, or uniform. To help finance costs over the past year we have done some bag packing at Waitrose, Huntingdon and Morrisons in Cambourne. Without this extra support from local businesses it would be a struggle to make ends meet and I would like to say a big thank you to everyone for their continued support.

If you are interested in finding out more about joining Blue Vision or if you are interested in booking Blue Vision for a fete or carnival, then please contact Jo Bathurst/Troupe Leader on 01480 436516.

The Winters Tale – William Shakespeare

The George Hotel, Huntingdon

Shakespeare at The George 2008 was another outstanding production greatly enjoyed by those who came to see it. This year’s production was The Winter’s Tale, directed by John Shippey. The weather was mostly kind although on one occasion the production had to be taken into All Saints Church. Nearly all the performances were acted in front of a sell out audience.

The Winters Tale is one of Shakespeare’s late plays, one of a group which sits comfortably in neither the ‘tragedy’ nor the ‘comedy’ category as it has elements of both. The play would have stretched the imaginations of his contemporary audiences. John Shippey’s superb talent and imagination supported by an enthusiastic cast and a magnificent back up team ensured the success of the production.

Dame Norma Major, Patron of Shakespeare at the George, hosted the performance on Thursday 26th June and was joined by many of the local civic leaders, including the Mayor of Huntingdon, Councillor Saeed Akhtar. Dame Norma said, “I was thoroughly enchanted by The Winter’s Tale. As usual the casting was excellent and we were all enormously impressed by the quality of the acting.”

2009 sees the 50th anniversary of Shakespeare at the George. The Taming of the Shrew will be performed between Tuesday 23rd June and Saturday 4th July. Advance booking is advised. If you wish to be included on our mailing list please contact Cheryl Cook who is Secretary to the Shakespeare at the George Trustees on 01223 872099.

Item provided by Sir Peter Brown.
Pathfinders Honoured in the 10th Annual Pathfinder March

The Pathfinder March is an annual long-distance endurance event in which walkers aim to complete 46 miles inside 20 hours. The route links the four historical RAF Pathfinder Force Stations of Wyton, Graveley, Oakington and Warboys and was conceived to perpetuate their memory.

Around 250 walkers took part in the March this year, despite signs of a drizzly rain at the Main Gate when the registration tent opened at 3:30 am and which continued throughout the walk. Wing Commander Mike Bale started the walkers off at 4:15am and a handful of runners started out at 7.00am. First back in at a time of 8.32 was Mr Mike Wolfenden from Godmanchester and the last walker crossed the finish line in 19:30.

Around 80 walkers dropped out at various check points because of blisters, strains and other related pains. This year’s event, like others before, was extremely successful with many walkers raising money for charity. The Station would like to thank all the participants, the organising committee, all the volunteers who manned check points throughout the day and of course the RAF Medical Branch personnel and St John’s Ambulance who provided much needed first aid cover. The event is funded by walkers’ registration fees of £10 each. Next year the Pathfinder March has been provisionally set for Saturday 20 June 2009. For more information, visit www.pathfindermarch.co.uk

Visit by National Service Veterans to RAF Wyton

Members of the National Service (RAF) Association, Cambridge Area Group visited RAF Wyton on 20th May. All had served National Service from 1939 to 1962 and one had served his time in the Air Traffic Control Tower at RAF Wyton itself. They visited the Pathfinder Museum and after lunch in the Warrant Officers’ and Sergeants’ Mess, the visitors were taken to receive a brief on Elementary Flying Training in the Royal Air Force, conducted at Wyton by Number 2 Squadron of 1 Elementary Flying Training School. A look around the Grob Tutor aircraft followed, with an explanation of some of the controls and procedures that a new pilot has to become familiar with. A trip up the Air Traffic Control Tower finished the visit off.

For more details about the Pathfinder Museum, visit www.pathfindermuseum.co.uk or contact the Curator at: The Pathfinder Museum, Royal Air Force Wyton, Huntingdon, Cambs, PE28 2EA. For more information about the Cambridge Area Group of the National Service (RAF) Association, visit www.nsrafa.org or contact Tony Shipp, Tel: 01223248639.

Huntingdon Sea cadets

This year Huntingdon Sea cadets have gone from strength to strength. The Sea Cadet Unit is based at RAF Wyton and is held twice a week on Wednesday and Friday evenings from 7pm-9pm.

It has been a very busy year for the Sea cadets who have attended civic functions both locally and in St Ives and St Neots, performed the hornpipe for youth 4 youth production at the Commemoration Hall. The Sea cadets have been involved in numerous fundraising activities, holding flag days collections, running charity, attending Sea Sunday and Remembrance Sunday services and parades, running charity stalls and so much more.

Recent events include guard of honours at the St Georges/Trafalgar night and Mercy ship celebrations, participation in area kayaking competitions, riverside gala. This year alone Cadets have been away on a Training ship (TS John Jerwood), in August cadets attended summer camp in Portsmouth aboard HMS Bristol, and in October 2 cadets will be attending training on HMS Royalist for a week.

The Sea Cadet Unit is a national youth Charity providing young people from 10-18 years with life skills of teamwork self respect and social responsibility, the core qualities of good citizenship. They provide youth opportunities with a training programme ranging from seamanship and boating skills cookery communications and IT.

For more information about Huntingdon and District Sea Cadets please contact: Commanding Officer Nick Gilkes: 07980 725 116 or Unit Management Secretary Zelda Barter-Rayner 0796 805 7094.

The Huntingdon and District Sea Cadets wish to thank the following organisations and supporters for their help throughout the last year which has enabled the unit to achieve the status it now holds as a developing youth community group.

Cllr Jennifer Sarabia (Mayor 2007-2008), Cllr Bob Eaton (Mayor of St Neots), Cllr Swales (HDC), Derek Adams Community Development Officer (Medway Centre), Freemens Charity, Gabriel Newton Foundation, Harry West Paxton pits sailing club, Jack Waterfall (Riverside Gala), and Huntingdon Town Council for their continual support.
Lola’s Golden Celebrations on Streets of Huntingdon

On Sunday 12th October, Lola will celebrate 50 winning years with a Huntingdon town centre parade to mark the Golden Anniversary of Britain’s most prolific manufacturer of racing cars with a symbolic parade of racing cars.

Lola has produced almost 4000 race cars during 50 golden years in the fast lane, some of which have won races in Formula 1, Le Mans, Daytona 24 Hours, Can-Am, Champ Car and Indy 500. A star-studded line-up of race cars and drivers from past to present, including Martin Blundell, is guaranteed to support this landmark event, when a selection of famous Lola racing cars will set off from Lola’s St Peter’s Road headquarters and travel through a designated route via ring road finishing with the cars forming a spectacular paddock in Huntingdon’s historic market square.

Lola will host a public ‘Q & A’ session in the town centre, featuring Lola Chairman Martin Birrane, the Mayor of Huntingdon, and current and former drivers that have raced under the Lola colours.

Executive Chairman Martin Birrane purchased the company in 1997 and has invited local resident Eric Broadley MBE, the founder of Lola Cars, to be an honorary guest for the day. Martin Birrane commented, “With so many of our workforce based in the Huntingdon area we wanted to create an event that would enable our staff, their families, friends and the Huntingdon community to join in our 50th celebrations and to see some of our great heritage at close quarters. Lola is very appreciative of the support provided by the local authorities and we aim to make this a day that the town of Huntingdon can be proud of.” Free copies of an A1 sized limited edition 50th anniversary poster depicting one Lola car from each of the fifty years will be available at the event. For more information, visit www.lolaheritage.co.uk or call Sam Smith from Lola Group on 01480 359590 or Glen Gibson from Jardine International on 0208 607 3910.

New nets for Huntingdon Cricket Club

It was typical English cricket weather (very wet!), but rain didn’t stop play on this occasion when Huntingdon Cricket Club saw the unveiling of brand new training nets at its ground on the King George V playing field on St Peter’s Road.

The new nets were unveiled on July 5th by Huntingdon Mayor, Cllr Saeed Akthar. Funding for the nets was from a National lottery award and from the Freemans charity.

If you visit the playing field you cannot miss also the new white cricket screens which were funded by Huntingdon Town Council and which should make the sighting of the cricket ball much better when a full match is under way.

Young cricketers are always welcome to attend the coaching sessions at the St Peter’s Road ground from 6-8pm Tuesdays, Wednesday (Under 11’s) and Thursdays.
Members from the Huntingdon World Tang Soo Do (Korean Karate) club who qualified to represent Great Britain as part of the team of 50 members from throughout the U.K. recently took part in the 2008 World Championship in Orlando, Florida.

The championship is held bi-annually and lasts for two days. It was attended by members from 27 different countries. There were 1800 competitors in all and double the amount of spectators. The atmosphere was something you could not explain unless you were there. Most noticeable was the camaraderie and brotherhood which World Tang Soo Do is known for. As many competitors do not speak the same languages, their communication is through their understanding of the same martial art and it was great to see children and adults making friends from many different countries.

The first event of the championship was the weapons hyungs (patterns). The Huntingdon students started off the championship well, with the youngest member of the Huntingdon Team, 12 year-old black belt Safiya Khan, getting Gold. Zhane Lister, blue belt, gained Silver and Father and Son, Kit & Jordan Lee, who are both black belts, gained Bronze.

The Weapons event was followed by empty hand forms. Once again Huntingdon proved to be a strong team with Safiya Khan again gaining Gold, followed by Stephanie Pratt, 2nd Dan Black Belt, who got a Silver medal.

The last event of the two days was the Free Sparring, where Huntingdon members did well once again. Safiya Khan gained yet another Gold, followed by Stephanie Pratt, Jacquelyne Pratt and Zhane Lister all winning a bronze medal.

To finish off a great two days for the Huntingdon Tang Soo Do club, during the closing ceremonies of the championship Safiya Khan was announced as the 2008 Youth Female Black Belt Grand Cup Winner, having won 3 Gold Medals. What a great way for the Huntingdon Club to end a very successful World Championship.

The Huntingdon club meets every Tuesday and Thursday at Huntingdon Leisure Centre. Anyone interested in joining the winning team can contact Master Khan (01480) 451621.

Hinchingbrooke School – Artificial Grass Pitch Development

Hinchingbrooke School is pleased to announce that the refurbishment of its Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) is nearing completion. This is part of ongoing improvements to the sports facilities used by both students and the local community.

The project, which includes a new 3rd generation carpet, complete floodlighting and two new changing facilities, is the culmination of 18 month's planning between the School, The Football Foundation, Huntingdonshire County Football Association and various other local community organisations.

The AGP remains one of the largest in the area allowing use of either 4 five-a-side mini soccer pitches or 1 full size football pitch. Whilst predominantly focussing on football there are aspirations to use the facility for other long grass sports for both training and where appropriate competitions.

The project has been successful in not only attracting local football clubs but also partnership agreements have been developed with both Peterborough United Football Club and Histon Football Club who intend to use the new facilities for the development of their youth teams.

The AGP will be available for hire from early August. For more information contact Hinchingbrooke School Sports Lettings Services on 01480 375700 ext 5758.

Mick Forsdick
Huntingdon has had a boat club since 1854 although the position of the boathouse has changed over the years. The club is affiliated to both the EBA and EBF and many of our members take part in their competitions, up to District and County levels. At the same time a considerable number are content to take part in the various league games within the District, as matches are held against local clubs, both home and away. There is a full calendar of friendly games and plenty of opportunities to enter the open competitions arranged by other clubs.

Improvements are continually being made to our facilities. This goes some way to explaining why several of the inter-county competitions are held in our grounds. Members do go out of their way to give all visiting players and their supporters a warm welcome.

Membership continues to flourish and we are endeavouring to persuade colleagues from other ethnic groups and races to try out the sport. There are no bars to anyone, regardless of sex or age, playing bowls and tuition can be arranged. The beauty of bowling is that it is all inclusive and easy to learn, so why not give it a try?
Contact Charlie Cullen on 01480 391845.

By the time this article goes to press, we shall have completed our 2008 season, and thoughts will be turning to bowls indoors.

Once again this has been a very successful year, ending with our “open triples event” and the finals day on the 7th September.

We have been fairly successful during the course of the year with several of our members winning their way through to the finals of the EBF. The club is affiliated to both the EBA and EBF and many of our members take part in their competitions, up to District and County levels. At the same time a considerable number are content to take part in the various league games within the District, as matches are held against local clubs, both home and away. There is a full calendar of friendly games and plenty of opportunities to enter the open competitions arranged by other clubs.

Huntingdon Boat Club has had a busy couple of years following a large increase in membership and more involvement in community activities. The club now has a large and thriving junior squad who are training for races from single sculls right up to eights. The club is also keen to teach the junior members to cox boats where appropriate and some have already been representing the club at races.

The increased membership means the club needs a new trailer to get to events and to raise funds for this a 24 hour row was organised on the 21st June. From 1pm Saturday until 1pm Sunday crews constantly rowed the stretch from Godmanchester Bridge to Houghton lock to raise money for the new trailer. Additionally two senior rowers did the whole day between them on a rowing machine and covered the equivalent of 400 miles and raised nearly £2300 through sponsorship and private donation. The club is also actively seeking sponsorship for refurbishment of boat and gym equipment to ensure our promising young rowers have the best opportunity to succeed.

Huntingdon Boat Club were proud to be associated with the Huntingdon Riverside Gala on the 7th June in conjunction with the Huntingdon Town Partnership and the Rotary Club. The highlight of the event was going to be raft racing on rafts made from four-pint milk cartons but sadly dangerous river conditions meant the event had to be cancelled. However people still had a fun day out with a variety of stalls, displays, a bar and barbecue to entertain the local community.

In addition to these achievements the boat club continues to accomplish wins at regattas such as Shrewsbury, Loughborough and Ironbridge. The club also has a thriving social scene with regular quiz nights, poker nights and live music in the friendly bar.

The boat club is always looking for new members, both rowing and social, and anyone wishing to know more can look at our website http://www.huntingdonboatclub.co.uk

Huntingdon Bowls Club

Huntingdon has had a boat club since 1854 although the position of the boathouse has changed over the years. The club is for both rowing and sculling and members of all ages and abilities are welcome.

Huntingdon Boat Club has had a busy couple of years following a large increase in membership and more involvement in community activities. The club now has a large and thriving junior squad who are training for races from single sculls right up to eights. The club is also keen to teach the junior members to cox boats where appropriate and some have already been representing the club at races.

The increased membership means the club needs a new trailer to get to events and to raise funds for this a 24 hour row was organised on the 21st June. From 1pm Saturday until 1pm Sunday crews constantly rowed the stretch from Godmanchester Bridge to Houghton lock to raise money for the new trailer. Additionally two senior rowers did the whole day between them on a rowing machine and covered the equivalent of 196 miles. The club as a whole rowed the equivalent of 400 miles and raised nearly £2300 through sponsorship and private donation. The club is also actively seeking sponsorship for refurbishment of boat and gym equipment to ensure our promising young rowers have the best opportunity to succeed.

Huntingdon Boat Club were proud to be associated with the Huntingdon Riverside Gala on the 7th June in conjunction with the Huntingdon Town Partnership and the Rotary Club. The highlight of the event was going to be raft racing on rafts made from four-pint milk cartons but sadly dangerous river conditions meant the event had to be cancelled. However people still had a fun day out with a variety of stalls, displays, a bar and barbecue to entertain the local community.

In addition to these achievements the boat club continues to accomplish wins at regattas such as Shrewsbury, Loughborough and Ironbridge. The club also has a thriving social scene with regular quiz nights, poker nights and live music in the friendly bar.

The boat club is always looking for new members, both rowing and social, and anyone wishing to know more can look at our website http://www.huntingdonboatclub.co.uk

Boat Club hosts German rowers

The Huntingdon Boat Club had nine visitors from Germany in July. The nine guests were all from rowing clubs in the northern part of Germany (lower Saxony). They were participating in the Oldenburg Rowing Tour 2008, which is a two week rowing tour around the South East of England. This started off by visiting Bedford then Huntingdon. They also visited rowing clubs in Ely and Kings Lynn before spending seven days rowing on the Norfolk Broads. Over the two weeks they enjoyed two days off from rowing to visit Cambridge and Norwich. The visitors arrived in their two boats, a quadruple four, coxed and a double skull, coxed and were warmly welcomed by the members of the Huntingdon Boat Club. The Oldenburg Rowing club has 460 members and was founded in 1909.

The 5th Wertheim Trade Fair started on May 21st at 2pm local time. The Mayor of Wertheim, Stefan Mikulicz and political representatives as well as representatives of trade and commerce were invited to officially open this important Wertheim event with 2 talk sessions – closely followed by local radio and TV channel – and thereby giving a certain splendour to the occasion.

Shortly after, the gates were opened for the public. About 130 exhibitors covered a wide range of businesses, products or services, f. ex. household articles, communication techniques, industrial and craft products, health, sport and leisure equipment, media, existing and alternative energy suppliers, the Wertheim hospital informed about health issue, but also banks, associations and last not least Wertheim’s 3 Twin Towns: Huntingdon/Godmanchester, Salon-de-Provence and Szentendre were present.

Sunday evening about 32,000 visitors had passed through the gates. Some of the exhibitors might have wished for more business and seriously interested customers. But as for the Huntingdon and Godmanchester Twinning Association (HGTA), we had 5 highly successful days crowned by mainly nice weather.

5 members of the HGTA were manning the stand: Gesine DeVere, Gwen and David King, Maggie Williams, Marian Walls - over the weekend joined by Malcolm Lyons and Trish James. All were busy handing out leaflets in German telling about what to see and do in and around Huntingdon and Godmanchester.

The main attraction, however, were Gwen King’s handmade cards. A long frontage space made it possible for Gwen to display her lovely cards as well as making them to order on the spot. Lots of people were gathering around Gwen to admire her skills. Many of them were also interested in hearing why Gwen started her special “hobby” and that all profits from her work go directly to Breast Cancer Research. Impressive sales of over 400 EURO made her efforts and commitment worthwhile.

In the meantime, children were attracted by free sweets kindly donated by Graham Lynn – and lovely animal calendars from Woodgreen Animal Shelter. Next to us were the Salon-de-Provence Tourist Information and Twinning Association. A wonderful display of colourful table cloths, place mats, napkins, hand-made dolls, baskets filled with lavender, scented soaps, special olive oils and much more made this a truly eye catching stand as well.

Hungary was represented by 2 businesses displaying hunting jewellery and iron wroughts. Peter Kallay, former Mayor of Szentendre, accompanied the group and helped with communications between Germans and Hungarians. With the large HGTA banner and the 2 eye-catching pop-ups our stand looked both professional, attractive and inviting and left no doubt what and whom we were representing.

Many people asked about England and the Twinning Association. Several people that already were or became interested in England whilst visiting our stand and were considering joining the German IPW. During the 5 days members of the German IPW helped to man the stand.

A variety of indoor and outdoor entertainment such as music performances, belly dancing, children’s events, hypnosis show, pony riding and much more offered something to all ages. And several food places made sure that no one had to leave hungry.

Once again the English delegation was overwhelmed by the hospitality of the Wertheim people. Official and private dinner invitations didn’t leave much time to rest: a dinner with the Mayor at the “Bach’sche” Brewery, other dinners took place at the Wertheim Castle, in a genuine Biergarten, a fantastic private invitation brought many of us to lovely Dörte Peter’s home. Dörte’s husband, Volker, invited us to a classical concert at the beautiful renovated “Schlösschen im Hofgarten” where also porcelain from Napoleon’s time and beautiful paintings were exhibited.

All in all a very busy - but also wonderful, memorable, successful week making it truly worthwhile participating in this 5th Wertheim Trade Fair 2008.

Report by Gesine DeVere, Chair Wertheim Committee

Best Kept Allotments Competition

Huntingdon Town Council’s allotment plots at Hartford Road, Sallowbush Road, North Street & Primrose Lane were visited on Monday 14 July 2008 by judges Trevor Peacock of Cranbrook Plants, Somersham & Paul Smith, Supervising Inspector of Huntingdonshire District Council’s Operations Division.

Winners were presented with certificates, garden vouchers & trophies at the Annual Allotment Holders’ Forum in the Commemoration Hall on Thursday 7th August 2008 and will benefit from years’ free plot rental in reward for their labours.

Results:

First Prize, Mr P Dobson of Plot Number 8 Sallowbush Road;
Second prize, Mrs Sandra Wilcox of Plot Number 34a Sallowbush Road;
Third Prize, Mr A Adams of Plot Number 40b Sallowbush Road;
Best Newcomer, Mrs Lisa Moody of plot Number 32a Sallowbush Road.

About Town No 41. September 2008
At the heart of the Oxmoor the St Barnabas Learning Centre provides the ideal location to undertake training and self development.

The Learning Centre and Church boasts a 12 computer up-to-date IT suite as well as meeting room space and a crèche. Learndirect courses run Mondays and Tuesdays between 9.30 am and 4 pm and thanks to the Learning Centre’s close relationship with the Huntingdon Children’s Centre we are able to offer a free crèche on these days between 9.30 and 11.30 am.

Courses offered at St Barnabas by Learndirect include Skills for Life, Literacy and Numeracy and ITQ which is a nationally recognised standard in computer skills. Open Access is also available on Mondays and Tuesdays subject to availability of computers.

Deborah Martin, one of our Learndirect learners said “I plucked up the courage to attend an open day, and was surprised to find so many different courses, I started with an introductory 1st time online computer course and now I am doing Skills for Life Literacy, when I have finished that I will be doing Numeracy” she went on to add “the courses are easy to understand as they are broken down bit by bit and there is always someone there to help, they are easy access and I can chose to do them at St Barnabas or at home, but I always chose St Barnabas as I feel so at ease there”

Within the centre we can provide you with support in returning to work, helping you create your CV and understanding how to complete application forms and prepare for interviews, using the links we have with other providers in the community we can also help you plan for your career or further training.

Working closely with the adjoining church means there is additional room space offering a larger range of activities and meeting space. We are able to cater for large courses or conferences and offer facilities for refreshments and lunch for these events.

The Learning Centre and Church rooms are often used by Children’s Centres for courses which help to support parents and children from things such as Ready Steady Lunch to help ensure parents understand about food and nutrition to Post Natal Support providing support for new Mums. All courses run by the Children’s Centre at St Barnabas are supported by the free crèche so parents can learn, secure in the knowledge that their children are also developing new skills and having fun.

Cambridgeshire County Council use the centre for training and development for adults with learning difficulties and disabilities because the centre is all on one level and offers easy access to wheelchair users, as well as having some specially adapted computers with larger screens for those who are vision impaired. In the main hall and church there is a hearing loop and we have a disabled toilet.

Children’s activities in the Learning Centre and Church include Beavers on Mondays and Rainbows on Wednesday evenings.

Jess Hutchinson, Coordinator.

Huntingdon Methodist Church – The Open Door

What is The Open Door?
A Place where people can meet for tea/coffee and have a chat

Where is it?
The Methodist Church, High Street, Huntingdon

When?
Monday to Friday, 10.00am to 12.00noon

Who comes?
Anyone passing by is welcome to come in and check it out. We especially welcome service users from Huntingdon Community Centre and Stanley House, Day Centres for adults with learning difficulties (some helping with kitchen duties on a Wednesday morning) – pupils and staff from Spring Common School – members of CRUSE who gather together on a Wednesday for a chat and many others who pop in when they see the Church open.

Refreshements are served free of charge but donations can be made and money collected each month is donated to various charities, eg EACH, MS, the local branch of Carers UK, TOYBOX and many others.

Jess Hutchinson, Coordinator.
**What Does Christmas Mean to You?**

The About Town Editorial Team are looking for a cover picture for the December issue to suit the festive season. To enter the competition, send your image of what Christmas means to you to Huntingdon Town Council, 1 Trinity Place, Hartford Road, Huntingdon, PE29 3QA, stating your name and your contact address by the closing date, which is 22nd October 2008. Photos, drawings & paintings are all suitable for our use.

Vouchers to the value of £50 will be awarded to the winner chosen by the Newsletter Sub-Committee. The winning entry will feature on the cover of the December issue of About Town.

**Competition Rules**

Staff, members and relatives of members of the Huntingdon Town Council will not be eligible to participate. Personal details must be clearly stated. Illegible entries will be disqualified. Entries must be received by the closing date. Only one entry per entrant is permitted. Proof of submission will not constitute proof of delivery and no responsibility will be accepted for lost, delayed or mislaid entries. In the event that the judges cannot agree on a winner, the Chairman will exercise a casting vote. No correspondence will be entered into. The decision of the judges shall be final and unchallengeable. Huntingdon Town Council reserves the right to publish or issue to the press the name of the winner and the winning entry. All entries shall be the property of Huntingdon Town Council and will not be returned. By entering the competition entrants are agreeing to abide by these rules and any conditions set out in the competition instructions.

**What does Christmas mean to you Competition**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title and full name:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full Address:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postcode:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone Number:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signatures:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional Details:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>