GAZETTE

HEDGE•END TOWN COUNCIL

Serving the Community

ISSUE 35 WINTER GAZETTE

FEATURES:

HEDGE END TWINNING ASSOCIATION

THE BOX ACTIVITIES UPDATE

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

HEDGE END BOWLING CLUB PROGRESS

WHAT'S ON IN AND AROUND HEDGE END?

KARATE 4 ADULTS - HEDGE END

Come and learn a traditional Okinawan style of Karate in a hard-working and friendly club. Beginners are always always made very welcome. The Uechi-Ryu Karate Club is open to all ages from 16 upwards, your first two lessons are completely free and you have nothing to lose and everything to gain. We train every Monday and Thursday evening at 8.00pm in the HEYCA. Both men and women are encouraged to come along and try it - you will be surprised what you can achieve! Please call 07970 684017 or visit the Website for more details: www.uechi-ryu.org.uk

FLOWER CLUB

Hedge End Flower Club meets on the First Tuesday of the month at 7.15pm in the 2000 Centre. Demonstrations, talks and practice evenings are held. Visitors are very welcome to join us. Enquiries:- Mrs Ann Slade, *Hon. Secretary*. Telephone: 02380 558571

ART AND CRAFT CLUB

Meets every Tuesday in Hedge End Village Hall, St Johns Road, 1.30pm to 3.30pm. Outings and demonstrations. Small friendly club. New Members welcome. Details: 01489 798233

HEDGE END LIBRARY

Greta Park, Upper Northam Road. Opening Hours: Monday 9.30am - 1.00pm. Tuesday 9.30am - 5.00pm, Thursday 9.30am - 7.00pm Friday 9.30am - 5.00pm. Wednesday Closed. Saturday 9.30am - 1.00pm.

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

We meet on the third Monday of each month in the large hall at the 2000 Centre, St Johns Road, Hedge End. If you are interested in gardening, we would like to see you. We have demonstrations and speakers most meetings. Phone Heather on 01489 699027

NEW MUSIC MAKERS

We meet every Thursday at 7.30pm in the Hall at the rear of our Methodist Church, St Johns Road, Hedge End. Our repertoire is Mainly light music and songs from the shows. Currently auditioning tenors and basses. Phone Lin on: 02380 454285 for more details.

LADIES COFFEE CIRCLE

We meet the 2nd Thursday in the month from 11.00am to 12.30pm, in the Old Library, village Hall, Hedge End. Come and enjoy a coffee, chat and craft in great company. We also welcome new members.

NATIONAL WOMEN'S REGISTER

NWR stands for 'National Women's Register'; a group of lively minded women Who gather together regularly,usually on The first Wednesday of the month, to discuss topics of Interest. The Hedge End group has members from as far afield as Locks Heath and Bishops Waltham. Meetings take place in the evenings, although we do have the occasional daytime walk or visit. Some of the events are do-it-yourself, some are organised nationally and we do have guest speakers too. There is also an active book group, which meets monthly. Quite apart from the annual subscription, the costs are kept to a minimum, often 25p to cover the cost of tea and biscuits. If you would like to join this stimulating organisation, then please contact: Mrs Clarke on 01489 600194 or Mrs Burrows on 01489 782121.

KNITTING AND CRAFT CLUB

Hedge End 2000 Centre, St Johns Road. Meet on 2nd Monday of each month, commencing at 7.30pm. New members always welcome. Details: 02380 693163.

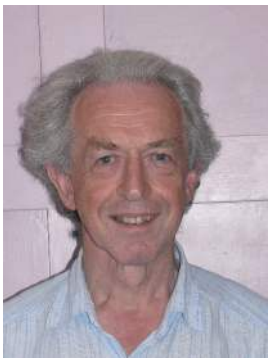
WEST END SINGERS

Meet each Wednesday from 7.30pm at the 2000 Centre, Hedge End. We are a mixed voiced choir singing mainly a variety of modern music from the charts, films and hit shows and are currently looking for additional male voices. You do not need to read music, just sing in tune.

POP IN CAFE

Held at the Methodist Church Hall, St Johns Road, Hedge End. Open every Wednesday 10.30am to 12 Noon. Everyone is welcome to come for tea, coffee and a chat! Also second-hand books on sale for the first Wednesday of the month.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



One of the marks of a successful community is that the people who live in it like doing things together. I feel that in Hedge End we have a rather mixed record - we have some notable successes, but many of you complain that there is not enough going on.

Many of us recently experienced one of our regular successes -the slow march to the War Memorial in remembrance of local people who gave their lives in both World Wars and other conflicts up to the present day. This event goes from strength to strength and gives us all a chance to reflect on events outside our normal day-to-day lives. As usual, we are grateful to St Johns Church for their efforts in ensuring that the service runs smoothly.

We have many other successes. One that readily springs to mind is the Carnival Committee, which has been running events and raising money longer than most of us can remember. The Carnival Week is the highlight of Hedge End's summer. There are, of course, many other successes.

However, compared to other communities of our size, I feel there should be more going on here. We have been putting on a bit of a show with Christmas Lights for some years, with varying amounts of success. This year, the Town Council has decided to try to do better. Helped by a much larger budget than usual, our members, notably Cllrs. Nathan Khan and Jenny Schwausch, have put in a great deal of effort and all looks well for the big switch-on event on 4 December 2008. If it is successful, it should show us the way to organise the Lights for future Christmases.

Cllr. Jane Welsh, a very long-serving member of our Council, has organised several Burns Supper at the ened of January recently, in aid of the Eastleigh Mayor's charities - the next one will be on 24 January 2009. A Scottish event like this might seem out of place in the South of England and it makes for a very different evening.

23 April 2009 is the feast of St George, the patron saint of England - a chance to celebrate the joys of living in England (and why not? - the Scots, Irish and Welsh have been doing something similar for years). It will not pass us by in April 2009 because a few of us have gone a long way to setting up a little festival.

Three main events are planned: a banquet with entertainments on Thursday 23 April in the 2000 Centre, a Regency Ball on the Friday at Botleigh Grange Hotel and Barn Dance with musical and other diversions at the Village Hall on the Saturday evening. We are also hoping to have a market and street theatre during Saturday. There is talk of Wildern School getting together a boys' Morris Team for us. All this is being made possible with help from Hampshire County Council, Eastleigh Borough Council, Botleigh Grange Hotel and Wildern School. We hope that this will be the first of many such events.

I think the Town Council is doing its best to help our sense of community, but none of the events I have mentioned will be a success without you! It will be a shame if most of the people supporting these events come from outside Hedge End. If you have never attended a Regency Ball before, you will never have a better chance. We will have demonstrations from experts and help in giving it a try and all on our doorstep.

I am sure that the Carnival would welcome more events during their week.

I regret that we do not have (to my knowledge), a band that would be capable of playing at our Remembrance Day Parade! Anybody interested?

George Fraser

COMMITTEE ROUND-UP

RECREATION & AMENITIES COMMITTEE

We have been working hard with the committee of the allotment holders to make sure the improvements are working well. As I write this report, I find that our waiting list has reduced considerably, thanks to the new area, which has been cultivated with a new car park and approximately 36 new allotments. Hopefully by the Spring, these will all be taken by our residents. However, we will appreciate that all allotment holders maintain their plots in a reasonable manner as we anticipate further applications for hire in the New Year.

We were very pleased to welcome a member of the public who lives in Cranbourne Park to our last monthly meeting. He was concerned about the times of the opening of the Norman Rodaway Playing Fields each morning and pointed out that many residents could not access the car park before 8.15am, either to walk their dogs or go jogging. The gate will be open at 7.30am Monday to Friday and at weekends it will be opened sometime between 9.00am-10.00am. This service will not operate on a bank holiday.

We are always pleased to receive criticisms and suggestions for better use of our facilities and I would like to thank the gentleman for his public spirited interest in this area. While on the subject of the car park, we hope we can encourage all parents to use this facility for dropping off their children to Kings Copse School each morning and afternoon. This is part of the School Travel Plan and we know that if used, it would save considerable congestion in Kings Copse Road and would also be safer for the children.

Our play areas are gradually being refurbished and we are pleased to say that the Drummond Road play area is next in line.

Another exciting new project is a 'Sport Point' on the Recreation Ground in St Johns Road/Bursledon Road and a Fit Point at Greta Park. These will be mainly for teenagers and adults, so there will be no excuse for not keeping fit in the New Year!

Hopefully, our football teams are doing well in their leagues and we wish them all the best for this season.

A final note. We think, at last, that we have conquered our puddles in the 2000 Centre Car Park. As we all know, this has always flooded in heavy downpours but fingers crossed this should not be a problem in the future.

Finally, our committee would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Cllr. Jane Welsh
Chairman - Recreation & Amenities

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

The Town Council's money is deposited safely with Lloyds TSB and we have suffered no losses during the recent financial turbulence. However, from now on interest rates will be lower and it will mean some loss of revenue to us. The law precludes the Town Council from speculation in markets and the purchase of stocks and shares. The Town Council will be seeking advice from professionals to maximise investments from safe accounts.

Safety of funds is always our highest priority.

The budget for the financial year 2009/10 will soon be set and will take account of slightly lower funds, though as the Town Council always veers to the prudent side, we should still be able to maintain our high standards on existing facilities while providing new ones.

We are always trying to meet the needs of a variety of groups throughout the Town, thinking always 'Is this a good use of the Council Tax payers money?". We do try to provide facilities which individuals could not, for example, playing fields, pavilions, children's playgrounds, Christmas lights, the Cemetery, allotments, litter-picking, to name but a few.

Sheila Baynes
Chair - Finance & Administration

HIGHWAYS & PLANNING COMMITTEE

Footpaths Update

Hedge End has an extensive network of footpaths, bridleways and cycleways. From time to time these paths need maintenance and Highways and Planning are working to make sure this is done in a timely fashion.

We need **your** help to compile a list of the most used paths. If there is a route that you used to get to the shops, school or sports facilities, or if you have a favourite route for walking your dog, let us know and we will add it to those we are keeping an eye on.

The next step will be to identify volunteers to 'adopt' each path; to walk it regularly and let us know of any problems with litter, nettles or access. Hedge End Town Councillors and Tree Wardens are leading the way by adopting those paths that are already designated rights of way. You can find them on pages 430-432 of the document on Hampshire County Council's Website: www3.hants.gov.uk/statements-h-1.pdf

Only sixteen of Hedge End's paths are designated rights of way, so it is important that we know about the other paths, which are important to you, whether for leisure walking or for simply getting from A to B in a healthy and environmentally friendly way.

We know that the path through the trees at the bottom of Greta Park floods during wet weather, we know that signposts are missing at the Wildern Lane end of Goodalls Lane, we know that crossing Lower Northam Road is a problem and we know that there are safety concerns where the railway path meets Shamblehurst Lane North. This is the sort of information **you** can pass on to us about **your** favourite paths and routes.

You will be helping us to work with the County and Borough where works fall under their responsibility. Eastleigh are already working on a "Walking Strategy" to encourage the use of paths and walking routes. If you know of a traditional or popular name for any of our paths let us know too!

Cllr. Keith Day is coordinating our work on footpaths, so e-mail him at: **keith.day@hedgeend-tc.gov.uk** to nominate your local path for inclusion, to report any problems or even to volunteer as a footpath adopter. If you don't have e-mail, you can leave a message for Keith at the Town Council offices.

Cllr. Peter Hughes
Chairman - Highways & Planning Committe

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

This year, you will see new Christmas lights and a special working party was set up to oversee this project. Work needed to be carried out on the Village Green, excavating a hole for the Tree and providing electrical connections to the lamp posts.

Three companies were invited to submit tenders to erect and maintain the lights and Piggotts was

chosen. Various groups and members of the community have been involved in preparing entertainments at the switch-on, which was accomplished by the Mayor of the Borough of Eastleigh, Cllr. Derek Pretty, together with the Town Council's 'Serving the Community' award winners, Vera Blunt and Daphne Dimmick.

The main committee had to consider requests for grants, which is done on a half-yearly basis.

We have proposed the following amounts to be awarded:

£250.00 - Pavilion Pirates Pre-School towards refurbishing an outside play area;

£200.00 - Victim Support who have helped 132 Hedge End residents;

£40.00 - Hedge End WI who wished to donate a plum tree to Freegrounds Junior School;

£300.00 - Brendan Care Clubs who support Hedge End disabled people and meet at the HEYCA Centre;

£200.00 - Home Start Eastleigh who helped 8 Hedge End families and have 6 home visiting volunteers;

£250.00 - 31st Itchen North Amazon Scout Troop for repairs to sailing boats;

£750.00 - Kings Copse School for outdoor musical instruments

DOWDS' FARM UPDATE

Progress is moving apace with regard to the layout scheme for the new sixteen acre park at Dowds' Farm by Bovis Homes. Essential footpath links have now been achieved and landscaping and planting will continue throughout the winter. The objective is to develop the park to 'Green Flag' status and thereafter to be maintained and fully managed by Hedge End Town Council.

A 'Friends of the Park' Group is in the process of being established with aim of ensuring that there is community involvement in the project.

WELLSTEAD WELCOME EVENT

Over 300 residents of the Dowds Farm development attended Wellstead School to celebrate the opening of the new school and the near completion of the District Park.

The Wellstead Welcome Event was designed to give the local community a unique opportunity to have a look around Wellstead Primary School and take a tour around the new 16 acre park. In addition, visitors had the option to meet the neighbours and share ideas about to make Dowd's Farm a great place to live.

Residents also helped with daffodil and crocus planting in the school grounds.

A cheque for £10,000 from Hedge End Town Council was presented to Richard Wharton, Headmaster of Wellstead Primary School, for outdoor play equipment. Pictured below, is the Mayor and Mayoress of the Borough of Eastleigh, Cllr. Derek Pretty and Cllr. Cynthia Garton together with some members of the Hedge End Town Council.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS CELEBRATION

The next community event on Dowd's Farm will be a carol-singing event to be held at the front of Wellstead Primary School at 4pm on 21 December 2008. Children will be encouraged to come along dressed up as one of the characters from the Christmas story and it is hoped that the community will come together again to catch something of the real spirit of Christmas!

Hedge End Twinning Association

The Hedge End Twinning Association is a non-political group open to all ages. Our aims are to facilitate friendship between groups and individuals from Hedge End and in Comines, Belgium and Comines, France.

AGM NEWS

At our AGM held on 2 September, the following were elected to the Management Committee responsible for the day-to-day running of our association:

Chairman - **Mr David Lloyds**
Honorary Secretary - **Mrs Anne Baker**
Honorary Treasurer - **Mrs Linda Galvin**

We extend our thanks to **Mrs Chris Emblin** who has retried from the post of Honorary Secretary.

AGM NEWS FROM FRANCE

At their AGM held on 17 September, the following were elected to the Management Committee responsible for the day-to-day running of the French association “Aux amis d’Hedge End”:

President - **Mme Marie-Françoise Lavallée**
Vice President - **Mme Valérie Louboutin**
Secretary - **Mlle Patricia Barbier**
Treasurer - **Mme Christine Bruneel**

TRIP IN SEPTEMBER

Our 15-seat minibus was full for the trip to Comines-Warneton the weekend of 20-21 September to attend their ‘Ville ouverte’ weekend, held every other year. We were warmly welcomed for a lunch of sandwiches in the Maison de Jeunesse et Culture, then whisked off to Ypres for a professionally-guided walking tour of the old town. This included visits to locked underground casements in the town walls and a war memorial cemetery. Back in Comines, there was the customary “vin d’honneur’ reception in the Town Hall, with speeches and exchange of gifts. Saturday evening we all went to a restaurant for a leisurely meal, a chance to sit down and rest and get to know our hosts better. Sunday morning started at the Bistro du Téléphone in Warneton, which doubles as a telephone museum. We then walked across the square to another bistro for lunch and then had the afternoon free to visit other historic and cultural sites in Warneton, such as the Cathedral of la Lys, a brewery museum, a historical museum and other interesting buildings. Thanks to Chantal Bertouille and her committee for organising our visit to their town.

INCREASED TWINNING LINKS SOUGHT

The trip to Comines-Warneton also included a formal meeting between representatives from Comines-Warneton, Belgium; Argenton-les-Vallées, France and Hedge End. We agreed to seek additional twinning links. Chantal Bertouille of Belgium presented a dossier listing all schools as well as cultural, sportive and miscellaneous clubs and organisations in Comines-Warneton. We need to come up with a similar list from this end. This also includes the hoped-for establishment of a twinning link between local radio via the Internet.

FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

Hedge End has been invited to send a team of footballers comprised of boys born in 1994-1995 to participate in an international tournament. The ‘Tournoi du Ruban’ (Ribbon Tournament) will take place the weekend of 23-24 May 2009 in Comines-Warneton.

English footballers are urged to get in touch so that our nation can be represented at this tournament, which is expected to field teams from various towns in Belgium as well as France.

DATES FOR 2009

Friday 9 January 2009
Carnival Committee Quiz Night, proceeds towards hosting our visitors who come across the Channel for the Carnival from Comines. 7.30pm, 2000 Centre, £5 per person; £4 concessions. Please contact us to book tickets.

Weekend 28-29 March
Annual visit to Comines, France.

Weekend 23-24 May
International Football Tournament in Comines-Warneton, Belgium.

Weekend 4-5 July
Annual visit by visitors from Comines for the Hedge End Carnival,

Contact Details: Mr David Lloyds
Chairman
42 Goodlands Vale
Hedge End
SO30 4SL
01489 690285
E-mail: hedgeend.twinning@ntlworld.com

Father Christmas

Hedge End Rotary will be helping Father Christmas when he visits the Grange Park area of Hedge End at Christmas touring the area in early December.

The dates are 8th to 11th December 2008 and 15th to 18th December 2008.

SUDOKU TIME!

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Warneton Town Hall

Lys Cathedral

Monk Statue

THE THIRD AGE TRUST
U3A
THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

A branch for the Southern parishes?

If anyone is interested in trying to form one, please attend meeting on 23 February at 2.15pm at the Underhill Centre, Hedge End, or contact Patience Sambrook on 01489 782552 or by e-mail: psambrook@yahoo.com

U3As are self help, self managed life long learning co-operatives for older people no longer in full time work, providing opportunities for their members to share learning experiences in a wide range of interest groups and to pursue learning not for qualifications but for fun.

ABOUT HEDGE END

Before the bad weather has really set in, a person or persons, with a strange desire for breaking glass, has made their presence felt. The Information Point, put in by Hampshire County Council outside Somerfields, has had its screen smashed. This must have taken some effort as it is not easy to do! Moreover, virtually every panel and glass in every bus shelter has also been broken. Why? I doubt that the perpetrators know themselves. Worrying, sad and for all of us, expensive.

What a contrast to the youngsters who attended the Remembrance Sunday Parade. Hundreds of them, impeccably dressed in their uniforms and perfectly behaved. These and others who are not members of a youth group but nonetheless behave sensibly, are in the vast majority, I am glad to say. It does seem unbelievable, however, that no-one has seen anything nor reported any of this vandalism. If you do witness hooliganism, please do note it carefully and then report it. Such information as time, number of people and perhaps, if possible, a really good description of at least one of them will all help. It is difficult to describe several people but one, preferably a ringleader or particularly noticeable member, is much easier and with one identified, the police can often catch the others.

On a different subject, in these belt-tightening times, it does seem that some of the best bargains can be found on the Internet. Don't forget our two computers are awaiting your arrival upstairs at the 2000 Centre should you wish to use them and if needed, help is at hand. The Library, of course, also has computers. Before the transaction will be completed our credit ratings are automatically checked.

I was reading a financial magazine recently and thought these comments might be useful If you know of anyone who has been refused credit.

1. Put yourself on the Electoral Roll. This will be checked and no evidence of it can mean you are rejected. If you are not on the Roll, companies feel you may be of a roving nature and possibly considered unreliable.

2. Lots of credit searches needed in a short space of time gives a bad impression. Try to space them out.

3. Make sure you keep up with all your payments even if these have to be the minimum. Although do try to pay even a little above this so that eventually you pay the debt off! If this is too difficult to do, discuss it all with the lender before you miss a payment. An altered repayment is not good, but it is better than ending up with a County Court Judgement (CCJ).

4. It does not give a good impression to have lots of credit cards to your name. If one is not being used, close it.

By the way, you can check your credit rating, Equifax (0870 010 0583) or visit www.equifax.co.uk; Experian (0844 481 8000) or visit www.experian.co.uk

Sheila Baynes

BAND FOR REMEMBRANCE DAY?

Following on from the very well attended Remembrance Sunday last month, there have been suggestions and thoughts on having a marching band accompany the parade for next year. The Town Council would seek your views and opinions on the feasibility of having a band. Please let us know by either contacting 01489 780440 or e-mail us at: townclerk@hedgeend-tc.gov.uk If you know of a band that would like to take part in the parade, we would love to hear from you.

HEDGE END CARNIVAL

Despite the carnival having taken place in July, there is still plenty to keep the carnival committee on its toes. The AGM was held in September. Only one new person came forward to volunteer their services thanks to Claire. At the next meeting, we sadly learnt that one of our members, Peter Renault, had died.

The annual Senior Citizens Lunch took place at the Village Hall on 4 October when 100 of the villages older residents were treated to a four course lunch followed by entertainment from Blackthorn. Following the lunch, presentations were made to the oldest lady, Charlotte Forrester, the oldest man Reg Hobbs and the longest married couple who were Peter & Grace Perry. Chosen as Senior Carnival Queen for the 2008 Carnival, was Mrs. Barbara Reakes.

One of the reasons for holding a carnival is to raise money for good causes. Most of the long established British carnivals were originally started to support hospitals and nursing associations in the days before NHS and Hedge End is no exception. For a long time, the money has not been needed for that purpose. It is now used to support a wide variety of Hedge End organisations. For the first time, the distribution of carnival profits was made at the Firework Fiesta. Cheques being presented to the following groups: St. John Ambulance, New Music Makers, 13th Itchen North Scouts, Performing Arts Company, Junior Cricket Club, ATC, 25th Itchen North Beavers, First Responders, 31st Itchen North Sea Scouts, Southampton Trampoline Club and various Rainbows, Brownies and Guides. Taking into account the cost of the Senior Citizens lunch, commission paid to organisations that sold draw tickets and the seat placed in the play area at Greta Park, the carnival has returned almost £6,000 to the community, more than ever before.

The fund raising started all over again with the Fantastic Firework Fiesta & Fun Fair. As both Saturdays close to 5 November had been very wet days, we were expecting a big turn out. So it was rather a surprise that attendance was a bit down on last year. The team from Skyline FM were there to entertain along with some members of the Spencerette Baton Twirlers who used their illuminated batons to demonstrate the skills that won them so many medals at Twirl Mania in Florida earlier in the year. Nearly 100 of the earlier arrivals received a free helium filled balloon from the Carnival Queen and most people thought that the fireworks really were fantastic even better than last year and some said they were the best they had ever seen. As you know, the Fantastic Firework Fiesta is very cheap, just a quarter of the price of the other big local display. This is thanks to the Burnett family. As the admission charge only just covered the cost of the fireworks, it looks likely that the price will have to go up next year.

You never have to ask when is the Hedge End Carnival, it is always on the first Saturday in July. In 2009, the date will be the fourth. To get the most benefit, you need to take part! If you are not already planning to enter the procession, once Christmas is over, this is a good time to think about what you can do. We hear that one local haulier has already had all his lorries booked for Carnival Day! Hopefully, we will be able to keep our carnival amongst the best in Hampshire but this depends upon how much effort you put in.

Remember to keep putting all your spare coins particularly those nice shiny silver ones away in your money box, ready for the carnival collection and perhaps we will be able to donate to even more good causes next year!

Carnvelesco

Hedge End Carnival Committee

QUIZ NIGHT

FRIDAY 9TH JANUARY 2009
2000 Centre, St Johns Road at 7.30pm

Tickets £5 per person, concessions £4 and includes supper, bring your own drinks. Maximum team size 6. Please reserve your place as Carnival Quizzes often sell out!

01489 690825

GAZETTE

EDITORIAL

It never ceases to amaze me how quickly the months seem to pass us by with alarming speed and now here we are with the festive season just around the corner.

By the time you have read this editorial, Hedge End will have switched on the Christmas Lights and the village centre looks delightful. It makes Hedge End look welcoming and attractive. Whilst writing, it dawned on me where did Christmas Lights originate? After some research, I can tell you that the tradition of using small candles to light up the Christmas tree dates back to at least the middle of the 17th century.

Amazingly, it took two centuries for the tradition to become widely established first in Germany and soon spreading to Eastern Europe. Candles for the tree were glued with melted wax to a tree branch or attached by pins. Around 1890, candleholders were first used for Christmas candles. Between 1902 and 1914, small lanterns and glass balls to hold the candles started to be used.

It was in 1882, that the first Christmas tree was lit by the use of electricity. Edward Johnson lighted up a Christmas tree in New York City with eighty small electric light bulbs. It should be noted that Edward Johnson created the first string of electric Christmas lights that were then mass produced around 1890. By 1900, department stores started using the new Christmas lights for their Christmas displays.

So, a small piece of historic trivia that I feel sure will come in useful when you play trivial pursuit or answer a deciding question at a Hedge End Carnival Quiz!

I wonder if you saw recent articles regarding the healing power of green parks. Living near parks, woodlands or playing fields can boost people's health. Living close to green space encourages people to take more exercise. Studies have shown that proximity to parks and woodland can reduce blood pressure and stress levels. Indeed, it is quoted in *The Lancet* that 'Studies have provided valuable evidence that green space does more than pretty up the neighbourhood'.

The point of this goes to show that we in Hedge End have a fantastic opportunity to make use of many parks and playing fields in our patch and that we really must enjoy and appreciate the green spaces that we have. You will find them well kept and in an excellent condition thanks to our conscientious and skilled Groundstaff.

Now that it seems that there are health giving properties in these public utilities, I shall resolve to undertake several walks and circuits of our parks and just a reminder, the Town Council will soon be installing Sport Point and Fit Point facilities, so don't travel far, look only to where you live, Hedge End!

Please remember this Gazette is for the community of Hedge End and we welcome your contributions for the Spring Gazette. The deadline for receipt of contributions for the next Gazette will be **20 March 2009**. Goodness, that seems a long way off but it will arrive before you know it!

Please send your contributions to:
Hedge End Town Council
2000 Centre
St Johns Road
Hedge End
Southampton SO30 4AF

Or e-mail: townclerk@hedgeend-tc.gov.uk

All that's left to say, is to wish you all a very happy Christmas and all the best for 2009!

See you soon.

Kevin

THE BOX

'The Box' Youth Centre is a Hampshire County Council youth provision for 11-21 year olds, it is situated near the entrance to Wildern School. We have various activities available, such as:

A pool table (20p a game), professional standard DJ decks ('Technics 1210s' for those in the know of old school hip-hop), air hockey, Internet access, 'Nintendo Wii' games console, healthy cooking and healthy lifestyle projects, TV-HIFI system, music equipment (right **and** left handed guitars for example), recording equipment, art and drawing opportunities and many other wholesome activities. Access to these activities are subject to numbers of young people, staffing and appropriate planning. We do, of course, also provide a warm, safe space for young people if they just want to socialise with their friends and 'chill-out'.

There are also opportunities for young people to engage in local government and Town Council issues in the Hedge End, West End and Botley (HEWEB) Youth Council. They meet on the 2nd Monday of the month. These meetings are supported by youth workers (including myself) and local Town and Parish Councils. The aim is to empower and enable young people to pro-actively engage in civic issues, practice responsibility and learn about politics (also to hopefully enjoy the process, of course!).

There is no charge for young people using 'The Box', but all that is asked is that the young person gives details on a membership form (emergency contact numbers etc) on their first visit and adheres to the Youth Centre Codes of Conduct (respect of self, others and the premises).

Here are the opening times:

Monday:
3.00pm to 5.00pm - Teenage Health Drop-In
4.00pm to 5.45pm - Young Women's Session
6.00pm to 8.45pm - Young Centre Open Session

Tuesday:
2.00pm to 4.30pm - Hampshire 'Connexions' (Careers Advice)

Wednesday:
4.00pm to 5.45pm - Young Men's Session
6.00pm to 8.45pm - Youth Centre Open Session

Friday:
4.00pm to 6.45pm - Open mainly for 11 to 14 year olds

These are general opening times for the week, subject to staff availability, holidays etc.

Please ring Guy Davies (Youth Worker-in-charge at 'The Box') or Jenny Critchlow (Area Youth Worker for HEWEB) on 01489 789638 for further information and details.

Hedge End Men's Bowling S&D Championship Team Progress to Division One.

A comfortable 30 shot victory at Romsey on Thursday 21st August gave Hedge End the points they needed to overhaul Parkside and claim the second promotion spot in Championship 2.

A fifth successive win (this time by 6:2) sent the Hedge End Bowling Club into the top division of the S&D championship for the first time in their seventeen year history. Having kept the same squad that strolled to the Division Three title the previous year, the club's main aim was to cement their place in the higher league. Wins followed, which steadied the ship, before consecutive victories over the then league leaders (first Aerostructures, then Parkside) left them needing five points for an unprecedented promotion.

The club are in no doubt as to the challenge that now lies before them and while they accept that it is going to be tough, are hoping to ruffle a few more feathers among the big boys.

Well done Hedge End Bowling Club!

TREE WARDEN REPORT

ANDREW JEMMETT

Well, the Autumn is now upon us with all its riotous range of autumn colours in the trees and shrubs. This display of the colourful leaves do a lot to brighten this greyer time of the year. The shorter days hasten the changes in the leaves as winter approaches. We have been lucky so far, as there has not been too many strong winds to blow the leaves off the trees nor to send them scattering around everywhere, making it easier to collect them. Some people use the lawn mower to collect the leaves from their lawns, as this also cuts them down to a good size for the compost bin or to bag up for disposal.

If at all possible, put the leaves back under the trees to naturally rot down and protect from too much water, if there is a prolonged wet spell. I am glad to say that the trees in and around Hedge End seem to be in relatively good order and the trees that have been thinned out are not looking any worse for the thinning. I will be doing my rounds during the winter months waiting for the showing of leaf buds to herald spring, sometime in the New Year.

Until then, I wish everybody the very best of the season.

Andrew Jemmett

RECYCLE THAT CHRISTMAS TREE!

Think twice when the time comes to dispose of your Christmas tree and the festive fun is all over! Take your tree for recycling at Pavilion Road off Woodhouse Lane, Hedge End near to the Hedge End Bowls Club between 5th to 18th January 2009. It will be used to make wood chipping or ProGrow Soil Conditioner.

CHRISTMAS RUBBISH

Eastleigh Borough Council's policy not to collect waste left beside the grey bin does not apply over the festive period.

Any additional waste left out will be taken away with the two grey bin collections after Christmas.

Restrictions on waste collection do not apply to the green recycling bin at any time of the year. For further information, please contact Eastleigh Borough Council on 023 8068 8440 or visit their Website www.eastleigh.gov.uk

JUST DIALLED
'999'
'SO YOU NEED AN EMERGENCY SERVICE'
YOU NEED THEM QUICKLY
THEY NEED TO FIND YOU QUICKLY
Precious seconds could pass if they cannot find your house
IS THE NUMBER OF YOUR HOUSE CLEARLY VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD?
ESPECIALLY IN THE DARK?
If it is not, please endeavour to do one of the following:
Have a member of your family or a neighbour stand outside to direct the Responder.
Put on as many lights on in the house as possible
ALWAYS GIVE VERY CLEAR DIRECTIONS
SECONDS SAVE LIVES
'HELP THE EMERGENCY SERVICES TO HELP YOU'

PUZZLE TIME

Santa's Reindeer Word Search

Words can go across and down only. Pick them out from left to right, top line to bottom line!

d	**a**	**s**	**h**	**e**	**r**	**a**	**n**	**d**	**o**
f	**c**	**d**	**o**	**n**	**n**	**e**	**r**	**o**	**u**
r	**s**	**c**	**o**	**m**	**e**	**t**	**e**	**v**	**t**
r	**u**	**d**	**o**	**l**	**p**	**h**	**b**	**i**	**d**
y	**y**	**t**	**j**	**c**	**a**	**r**	**l**	**x**	**a**
k	**b**	**r**	**w**	**u**	**n**	**m**	**i**	**e**	**n**
l	**r**	**p**	**m**	**p**	**c**	**k**	**t**	**n**	**c**
r	**t**	**y**	**p**	**i**	**e**	**c**	**z**	**n**	**e**
c	**k**	**n**	**t**	**d**	**r**	**z**	**e**	**z**	**r**
p	**r**	**a**	**n**	**c**	**e**	**r**	**n**	**d**	**v**

Here are the names to find!

blitzen, dancer, prancer, comet, dasher, vixen, cupid, donner, rudolph.

Question 1
What is hidden in the Christmas pudding?
A: A coin
B: A watch
C: A pair of dice

Question 2
What animals traditionally pull Santa's sleigh?
A: Cat
B: Guinea Pigs
C: Reindeer

Question 3
Complete the carol 'O Little Town of.....'
A: Hedge End
B: Bethlehem
C: London

Question 4
How many days are there on an advent calendar?
A: 24
B: 25
C: 31

Question 5
What is the last day of Christmas called?
A: Advent
B: Epiphany
C: Boxing Day

Question 6
How did Boxing Day get its name?
A: Lots of boxing matches took place
B: Churches emptied collection boxes
C: Children would play hide-and-seek in boxes

Question 7
What fruit is used to make a Christingle?
A: Peach
B: Pear
C: Orange

Question 8
What flower is connected with Christmas?
A: Daisy
B: Daffodil
C: Poinsettia

Question 9
What do people do under mistletoe?
A: Sing
B: Kiss
C: Dance

Question 10
Who wrote the book 'A Christmas Carol'?
A: Philip Pullman
B: Charles Dickens
C: J K Rowling

Question 11
Which royal couple started off the fashion for Christmas trees?
A: King Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn
B: Queen Victoria and Prince Albert
C: Prince Charles and Princess Diana

HEDGE·END TOWN COUNCIL

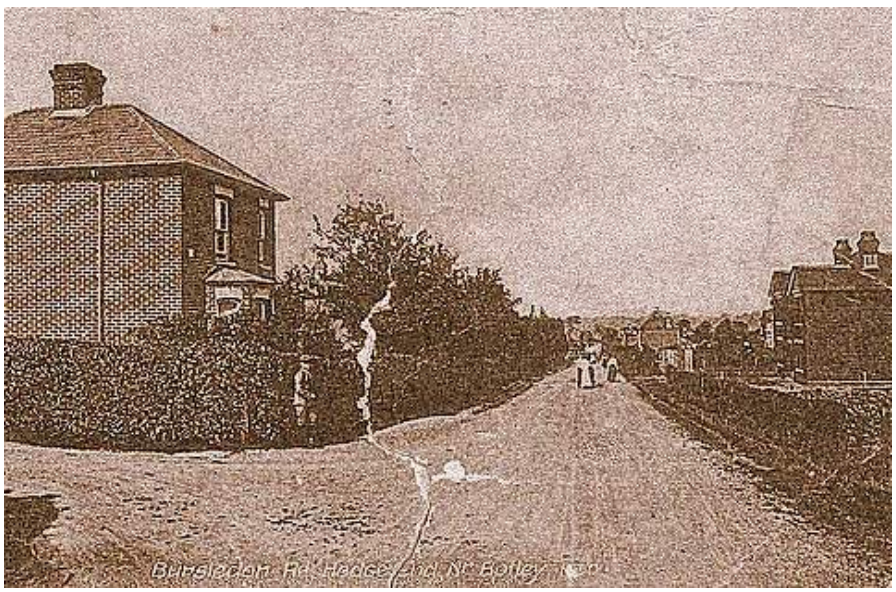
Serving the Community

HEDGE END TOWN COUNCIL 2008 SCHEDULED TIMES FOR COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Recreation & Amenities	**First Thursday monthly**
Finance & Administration	**Second Thursday monthly**
Highways & Planning	**Second and Fourth Wednesday monthly**
Full Council	**Third Wednesday monthly**
Community Services	**Fourth Tuesday monthly**

All meetings of the Town Council commence at 19.00 hours, unless otherwise stated at the Town Council Offices, 2000 Centre, Hedge End.

2008/2009	Recreation & Amenities	Finance	Highways & Planning	Full Council	Community Services
DECEMBER	4th	11th	10th	17th	To be confirmed
JANUARY	To be confirmed	8th	14th - 28th	21st	27th
FEBRUARY	5th	12th	11th - 25th	18th	24th
MARCH	5th	12th	11th - 25th	18th	24th



Following a request in the last Gazette for old photographs of Hedge End, we are delighted to feature this photograph (left). The picture shows Bursledon Road looking towards the village with Pretoria Road, to your left. Do send your photographs or old documents relating to Hedge End to us and we will be happy to feature them. All materials supplied will, of course, be returned. You can e-mail copies to:
townclerk@hedgeend-tc.gov.uk or send to:
Hedge End Town Council
2000 Centre
St Johns Road
Hedge End
SOUTHAMPTON SO30 4AF