



## Resident's Lunch



Margaret Winstanley had the pleasure to join the Hatton Residents Lunch in February. There was a lovely relaxed atmosphere and she was able to spend a couple of hours in good company with a lovely two course lunch all for £8! All Hatton residents are invited to attend the monthly lunch (traditionally the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday in the month). Just let Robin and Jane know by the Sunday before, for catering purposes and you will be met with a warm welcome by all involved. [robinbrocklehurst35@gmail.com](mailto:robinbrocklehurst35@gmail.com).

Thanks to Robin, Jane and Richard for their hard work in organising on a monthly basis.

## HATTON HAPPENINGS

*All are welcome to get involved—if you have a spare hour and are willing to help out or contribute ideas to bring the village together for social activities, please contact:*

[mwinstanley21@gmail.com](mailto:mwinstanley21@gmail.com)



### National Champion in Hatton – Well Done Jane!

Jane Cliffe has been breeding and showing guinea pigs since her teens. Guinea pigs are also known as Cavies. Jane has about 60/70 guineas and breeds Dark Eyed Creams, Californians and Teddies. Jane is a member of the breed clubs and also a member of the National Cavy Club. She was delighted to win 'Dark Eyed Cream' Breeder of the Year 2018 of the NCC. The picture shows a 3 week old cream baby in the cup and one of her winning show team.



Jane keeps some babies for showing/breeding, sells to other breeders and some as pets.



### THANKS FROM ROOM AT THE INN

A cheque for £125 was presented to Zoe at the charity headquarters of 'Room at the Inn'. The money was raised by the Hatton Carol Singers in December. Zoe asked that thanks were given to all those who participated and to all those who kindly donated. "The money will be put to great use in running the 8 bed facility for the homeless in Warrington."

### Mobile Signal in Hatton Village

Various tests have been carried using different mobile networks in various locations in the centre of Hatton. This, coupled with resident feed back, has confirmed the problem areas but has unfortunately not shown any clear advantage from any specific provider. The Parish Council will now further engage with the network providers to see if any way forward can be found.



## LITTER PICKING — COME AND JOIN US!

You will be aware that we enter the Best Kept Village competition each year and with this in mind we are going to have a couple of litter picking mornings.

The first one is planned for SATURDAY, 16th MARCH, 2019.

The dying back of the hedge rows in Winter exposes litter that has remained hidden in the Summer. We would like as many villagers as possible to join us in this task so please reserve the time in your diary. Black bin bags will be provided and these will be placed in a central place ready for the Council to remove on Monday morning.

Please join us at 10.30am at the bench by the Pub Car Park on 16th March. Thanking you in anticipation.



COUNCIL  
SPOTLIGHT

### Update from the Chair of Hatton Parish Council, Roger Dickin

#### **Village Gateways Update**

#### **Our Council Tax – WBC reductions to Parish Share**

#### **Where does our money go?**

#### **Village Gateways**

The gateway fixtures have now been installed by the WBC contract team. Whilst these are starting to look the part, there are a few snags to fix and additions required, which your PC is raising with WBC on your behalf:

- The structures at the Stretton end on Hatton Lane would be better re-sited to remove the tree from the line of sight of both gateways, as you enter the village from the Cat & Lion.
- The old Hatton sign remains in situ at that entrance
- The PC will consider the best position for the planter following the remedial works
- Both sets of gateways are awaiting their signage, which will 'Welcome Careful Drivers to Hatton' and have the relevant speed roundel. These are yet to be supplied by WBC.

I think it is best to view the current look as a 'work in progress' and I am sure that when we have fully completed entrances, we will see the visual impact and enhanced rural feel this feature is designed to bring – watch this space!

#### **Parish Council Precept**

As you will know, the Parish Council receives a precept from Warrington Borough Council. The calculation historically used by WBC has comprised all properties within the parish. This year however, WBC have made a change to their approach, which we believe you will want to be aware of.

WBC will no longer contribute (by way of precept) for any property which receives Council Tax Support Allowance. These properties are now removed from WBC calculations, reducing precept payments by approx. 10% across the borough. Obviously, this has been a cost-saving measure by WBC and one which takes no account of who may be entitled to such Support Allowance, or their circumstances.

As your Parish council, we have had no option but to accept this recalculation, meaning we now need to raise our own pre-cept charge to make good this loss.

We have submitted to WBC a revised precept, which brings a Band D property to £17.11 from £15.55 last year. This rise is regrettable but given our statutory financial demands, was one over which we had very little choice.

#### **Where does our money go?**

As a Parish Council there are several mandatory costs which we must pay solely from our precept income. These include our Clerks salary, insurance, memberships to public bodies and the like. It is the PC's duty to ensure that it has sufficient monies to pay these mandatory costs from statutory income. WBC's decision meant the Council faced a negative income position for 2019/20. It is for this reason we have had to increase our submission this year.

Although we are fortunate that, whilst Creamfields continues, we receive an annual payment from them of £5000, this cannot be used in our mandatory calculations – as it is not a permanent income source. The PC has been prudent over many years and has used these funds to support village social life, environment and new features, such as our noticeboard.

In April, I will expand on the variety of ways the Creamfields money has enhanced village life in 2018.