

Diamond Jubilee Celebrations 1897

Looking at two articles from the Herts. Mercury in June and July of 1897, Hatfield made great efforts to celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in style.

From the first article dated, 26/06/1897, we learn that the celebrations were organised by a large and influential committee and subcommittee. At noon many people assembled near the Brewery. The National Anthem was sung and then a procession headed by the Hatfield Town Band, and followed by the ambulance corps, novelty cricketers and the Boys Brigade Band, preceded through Batterdale, up Fore Street to Hatfield Park. Here there was a novelty cricket match, then a "Capital programme of athletic sports". At 6 o'clock "Two-thousand people assembled before an open-air stage to listen to an amusing programme given in capital style by Grooms Merrie Minstrels." Sports prizes were given out and then there was a short concert by the "Excelsior Quartetta". After this a torch light procession marched to Glebe Field, where a "monster bonfire" had been erected. This was lit by Lady Florence Cecil. Also that day, during the afternoon, "800 persons of the labouring classes were entertained to tea with meat pies in the Riding School." The various committees were congratulated on having organised such a successful day which "Would be remembered and talked of for many years to come."



**Queen Victoria on her
Diamond Jubilee**

The second article dated 03/07/1897 tells us that "Parishioners of Hatfield were entertained by the Marchioness of Salisbury in Hatfield Park in honour of the record reign of her Majesty". At one o'clock old folk, aged seventy and over, sat down to a dinner in the Riding School. There was a "Plentiful supply of ale and after the meal tobacco and cigars were handed round". In the afternoon there was a "Capital tea" for 800 school children. Then there was a sports programme for the children on the south front of Hatfield House. In the evening there was dancing to the band of the Herts. Militia. A plentiful supply of ale, tea, sandwiches and other light refreshments were provided. The day ended with "A grand firework display", and each child was presented with a handsome china Jubilee mug as a souvenir of the occasion.

I wonder if the celebrations taking place, this year in Hatfield, for Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee will match the 1897 celebrations.

Hatfield Library 50th Anniversary

This September Hatfield Library will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of its opening in the Town Centre. Do you remember the opening, or your family using the library? Can you remember the earlier library and where was it? Share your memories, contact Hatfield Library in person or phone 0300 123 4049 and ask to be put through to Hatfield Library.



Dates for Your Diary

Thursday 14th June, 2.15 for a 2.30 start. We will be having a **Jubilee tea Party** to celebrate the Queen's Diamond jubilee.

Monday 10th September, 7.15 for a 7.30 start. An open meeting. A chance to chat and socialize.

Thursday 11th October, 2.15 for a 2.30 start. John Cox, "Born in Ayot St Lawrence"

Monday 12th November, 7.15 for a 7.30 start. Kate Thompson, "The Elephant Man"

All meetings are held a friendship House, Wellfield Close, Hatfield

Rock Around the Block

Half a century of local pop Music,
Dance and Venues in Hatfield.

£3.00 for members or £5.00 for non members.

On sale at our meetings or phone 01707 269662



Community Fun Day

Here is our stand at the Community Fun Day at the Campus West in Welwyn Garden City on 10th March. Although it was a fairly quiet day we did manage to sell a few books and had people stopping to talk about their memories of Hatfield. The picture shows Jane Teather, a committee member.



What's new on the Our Hatfield website. www.ourhatfield.org.uk

- Rifleman Harry Ernest Ewington
- Memories of De Havilland by Stuart McKay
- Listen to St Michael's Bell
- Guiding Memories
- The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment.

Put your memories on the website
