



OUR NEW STATION – THE LATEST LANDMARK IN HATFIELD'S RAILWAY HISTORY.
The opening of the new Hatfield Station marks 162 years since trains first came to the town. A railway from London to York, via Hatfield, was first proposed in 1844, the prospectus highlighting the advantages of faster links to the industrial north – not least much cheaper coal from the Yorkshire mines. Indeed Hatfield's Rector, the Reverend Faithfull, was convinced that cheap coal would encourage people to stay at home with their houses now properly heated,

and therefore "keep them from public houses and other places of questionable resort." Like the good Reverend, most Hatfield people welcomed the railway. Lord Salisbury, in particular, saw it as an opportunity to get the Great North Road out of his park and rerouted alongside the railway, a route the A1000 pretty much follows today. Only Lord Dacre of Codrington refused to allow the line through his land, forcing it to be rerouted via the Mimram valley by the 100ft Welwyn viaduct. This is still a serious bottleneck. Construction from London was challenging, with seven tunnels and sticky London clay to contend with, but in August 1850 the line was opened from London to Peterborough. Alas, Rev Faithfull's hopes of a clean-living Hatfield were soon dashed. The railway triggered a growth spurt for the town, with eight new pubs being opened during 1850 and 1851! Many Hatfield people will remember the original Victorian station, which was knocked down in the 1960s and replaced by the mean little building we have suffered for half a century. The offset platforms were said to have been laid out that way so that Queen Victoria, a frequent visitor to Hatfield House, would not be stared at by the lower orders as she awaited her train home, even though she would have been ensconced in the Royal waiting room. The station became an important junction, with branches to St Albans, Luton and Hertford, which explains why it had a buffet, complete with curly sandwiches under glass domes and warm Bass. By 1887 there were 24 London trains daily, with an average journey time of 39 minutes, and Hatfield remains an exceptionally busy station, with a large body of commuters as well as thousands of students, not to mention those working in or visiting the Business Park and visitors to Hatfield House. Now, once again, we have a station building that reflects this importance. Please check out video of Station Interior at www.ohra.com also FB



THE OHRA GAZETTE Apr 2015



The Old Hatfield Residents' Association, taking an active role in promoting the community and events in Old Hatfield.



OHRA – AGM

At last years annual general meeting held at Marychurch Hall, our constitution was ratified and the OHRA committee was formed with the following people elected in the following roles: Andrew Starr – Chairperson, Letitia Hutt – Finance/Treasurer, Chris Goward and Nannette Mitchell – Company Secretaries. If people would like to get involved in our association then please contact us to discuss how we need your help.

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARDS

With the help from our local borough councillor money has been donated to erect two community noticeboards in Old Hatfield. A local tradesman has been commissioned we are currently awaiting planning consent to erect them where the History information tablets are at Marychurch and Salisbury square.

COMMUNITY WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGE.

The Ohra have recently developed a website and have revamped our facebook page, recent additions to the site are some photographs of the interior of the new station and details of recent minutes to mtgs. If anybody is interested in reviewing past minutes to meetings or old gazettes then they can be found here, if anyone would like to add any useful or interesting information about Old Hatfield then please contact us to discuss getting it added to this form of media.

SUMMER PICNIC

This years summer picnic at Salisbury Square will be on August 15th, our chosen charities for this year are Family Lives based in Old Hatfield and the Nepal Disaster Fund. This will be the last picnic day before the redevelopment of Salisbury Square. There will be similar competitions for Blooming Old Hatfield, best kept garden/window display. Best office/shop frontage and what child can grow the tallest sun flower, to collect your flower for caring come to Salisbury square on

Back by popular demand The Old Hatfield Residents' Association invites Old Hatfield Residents to:

OLD HATFIELD SUMMER PICNIC

Salisbury Square, August 30th 2014 12 -5 pm

Flower and vegetable competitions	BRING YOUR OWN PICNIC	Family Games: Pad Boxing Pillow fighting Tag Wrestling
Beer and wine tasting	PLUS ANYTHING TO SHARE!	Tug of War
Visit Mary Church stained glass windows	Extra refreshments will be available on the day with several local eateries providing tasting menus: bake your own pizza	Trampettes
Face Painting		Hair Ups
Head massage	LIVE MUSIC	Face Painting
Great Raffle prizes	THROUGHOUT THE DAY	Hoopla and Skittles
Crafts Old Hatfield Style	Contact us if you'd also like to play/sing	Soft soled shoes required
	Anyone wishing to support contribute please contact oldhatfieldres@btinternet.com	Old Hatfield Exhibition & Quiz by local historians
	Any proceeds in aid of OHRA and Jacob's Ladder restoration	Pirates Chest
	Thanks to all who have donated and local businesses and friends for their support	

OHRA Potential Projects.

As the Ohra wants to grow and get involved in new projects we want your help and ideas to improve our community, new ideas include a Hatfield Station users group, 20 MPH speed limit for Old Hatfield, expanding our association to include The Ryde, Ball Stag Green, and Burleigh Mead. Community Shop/Space in Salisbury Square, and a Pantomime Production. If you are motivated by any of these or you have an idea and want to share with others please contact us.

Are we there yet? .. Jacobs Ladder Update

Herts CC have finally agreed to allocate some funds to re-open the Ladder, a small (should have been larger, come on Old Hatfieldians) working party recently weeded the steps and tidied the ground both sides of the ladder, as we move forward to reopening the Ladder we would like to discuss what happens next with local residents and business'. As a residents association we have our own ideas but would like a local input into what happens with this area of old hatfield. Please contact us to discuss.



The above photo is taken from the existing Jacobs ladder steps, looking down on the cottages that formed the old Salisbury Square. Prior to the cottages being built this area was once a chalk mine. The photo to the right is last years BOH winner, this display would be somewhere above the cottage gardens on the left of the above picture.

May half term activities in Welhat

Calling all children upto the age of eleven, Welhat Community Housing Trust are sponsoring fun multi-skills activity sessions during the half term holidays costing only £2.00, for more information contact f.plumridge@welhat-cht.org.uk or ken@fit-fighters.org



'To be or knot to be' – we have a man that does

The picture on the left is of Japanese knot weed taken on 21st April, the picture on the right was taken on 27th April, same plant just seven days later. Please do not try to chop or dig this weed out from your garden it will only make matters worse, we are aware of some areas of Old Hatfield that have this very invasive plant. If any residents play golf at Mill Green get them to sort there infestation out asap. If you believe you have some in your garden or close to your property then please contact us as we have a man that knows how to handle this weed and help you in the long eradication of it. Email oldhatfieldra@hotmail.co.uk



Blooming Old Hatfield

We need your help, well Margaret Stephens and her small but enthusiastic group of helpers do, if you can lend a hand to tidy up communal areas in old Hatfield then please contact her on 652865 to find out where they are tackling next. They recently tackled the area under the viaduct. If you are keen to tidy up an area near you then please contact us to see if we can help you. Please don't forget there will be prizes again for blooming Old Hatfield at the annual Salisbury Square picnic day on 15th August.



Parking in Old Hatfield - What's your view?

It has been just over 4 years since the residential parking scheme was introduced to Old Hatfield. I think most of you will agree this created a vast improvement to parking locally but 4 years on is this still the case? You may remember, last year Welwyn Hatfield Council ran a parking survey across Hatfield. The Council has collated the responses to this survey and the Old Hatfield area is fifth in line to be reviewed for parking. The OHRA has spoken to the Council and realistically it will be at least April 2016 before the Old Hatfield area is reviewed. The key reasons we are behind other areas are that several areas are having significant knock on effects of the station upgrade, and Old Hatfield is currently the only area to have a residential parking scheme already in place. Our conversation with the Council highlighted that parking restrictions can be in place for up to 6 days a week (Monday - Saturday) 9am - 6pm. They can be for the whole day or any part of the day. Unfortunately the Council does not have the resources to police parking restrictions in the evening or on Sundays. Once Old Hatfield is top of the list to have parking reviewed, the Council has stated that the quickest way to have any change to the parking restrictions is if all residents are in agreement regarding any changes. To this end, the OHRA will be sending a parking survey to residents over the coming months, to understand the current views on parking. This will hopefully lead to a consensus regarding parking so when the Council start reviewing Old Hatfield, any changes to parking can be implemented quickly. If you would like to get involved in facilitating this change then please contact us, alternatively please make every effort to complete this survey so we have as many views as possible from residents regarding parking.

Hatfield House Space Portal ?

Some of you may be aware of a new installation at the north side of the House, it is in fact an Angela Connor water sculpture that will have a moving orb that will rise and fall with the movement of the water. Expected to finished end of April.

