**MAYOR’S REPORT 2012/13**

I took over the office of Mayor in May 2012, following Councillor Eddie Nesbitt’s term of office. As usual, the Mayor’s year has been a busy one where I have been accompanied by my husband and/or Deputy Mayor.

I have had the pleasure of representing residents and the Town Council and my official duties have included school events, welcoming Santa in December, the farewell events for Rev. Allington, opening allotments, SSAFA event and participating in the Hatfield Main Cricket Club centenary year.

My duties have been varied and interesting and, as usual, the Town Council has faced a number of challenges during my mayoral year.

 Councillor surgeries were started, last year and to date, have generated little response from residents. These are scheduled for the last Saturday of every month (except August and December) and are held in the Council Chamber where the Mayor/Deputy Mayor make themselves available with members of the various committees to address any issues residents wish to raise.

We had a very impressive fireworks display in November, kindly organised by Mr. J. Dowse and to which, the Town Council made a donation. It is hoped that regular events will be held, in future.

The town saw many celebrations on the event of the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee, following on from which, the Town Council was fortunate enough to be awarded in excess of 400 trees for planting from The Woodland Trust in commemoration of this momentous event. Members, residents and local schoolchildren rallied to plant the trees in the Recreation Ground. This effort was much appreciated. However, very soon after the planting, vandals pulled most of the trees up or damaged them beyond further use. Needless to say, this is an extremely disappointing act and deprives the schoolchildren from seeing the ongoing fruits of their efforts, not to mention the learning potential in the interim.

The town has seen the recent landslip at the colliery which has attracted a great deal of media interest and generated dialogue between members and the various parties involved with this incident. Reports and updates will appear in the Newsletter until this matter has been fully resolved.

Finally, I would like to wish Councillor Mrs. Crosby all the best for her forthcoming Mayoral year and express my thanks to all my fellow Councillors for the support over the last year along with all staff members.

**2013/14** precept. The formula for calculating the precept has been changed following Government advice and every parish now attracts a grant of £53,631.00 from DMBC as well as funds requested by the Town Council. On this basis, the Town Council also requested £110,000.00, giving an overall figure of £163,631.00. This represents an overall increase of £7,131.00 over the previous financial year, and represents necessary funding to enable the Town Council to meet all its rising running costs.

**Summary of Accounts for the year ended 31.3.2013:**

**Income: Expenditure:**

Precept 156500.00 Employees 85686.00

Fees 27790.00 Loan Repayments 9952.00

Other Income 9831.00 All other payments 47123.00

**Total Income 194121.00 Total Payments 142761.00**