



Annual Report 2021/2022

Looking back - Looking forward

A brief account for the Annual General Meeting of the Society's activities during the year 2021/2022 with a glance ahead to the coming year

The Chairman looks back...and forward

This is the third annual report where I've had to mention the impact of COVID on the activities of the Society and our community. And whilst it no longer seems to be in the headlines all the evidence seems to suggest that it hasn't gone away, and it is still has had an impact on many people and on society at large. Of course, public activities have started to return and in April we resumed our series of public meetings with the presentation by an eminent scientist on the impact of pollution on children's health – an absolutely relevant topic given the impact of proposals such as dramatically increasing the numbers of passengers using Luton Airport and all the environmental impacts that will bring.



The first public meeting of 2022 on April 21st

Despite the absence of public meetings there are numerous issues that have impacted upon our community over the last year and the Society has attempted to comment and influence the way forward for many of these. In September 2021 we heard from the lead councillor on the further attempt by the St Albans District Council to develop and then obtain approval for a Local Plan. The approach seems to favour multiple sites for development rather than a handful of very large developments, but it is still early in the process and the Society amongst others in the community will have to see how the proposals that eventually emerge will affect the town. We resumed our very helpful liaison meetings with the Town Council before Christmas where the council and society exchanged thoughts on a wide of issues affecting the town. There was a debate about whether the County Council should continue with its partial closure measures in the High Street introduced to provide

appropriate social distancing during the height of the COVID outbreak. This closure and whether or not to continue with part closure has engendered a very healthy debate in the town with often quite polarised views. The transport part of this Annual Report deals with this more fully but suffice it say that the Society is keen to see a proper review of parking and traffic issues in the town centre as we are sure that a well conducted review can produce proposals that will enhance the quality of life for everyone in the town.

I've mentioned already the proposals to significantly expand activity at Luton Airport and as is set out in the report on



transport the Society has been working with other organisations to vigorously oppose any further expansion without measures that completely mitigate the inevitable effects of such expansion. The impact of changes in NHS provision affecting the town have been monitored closely and we have contributed to various consultation exercises. Of course, the ongoing saga of what will happen in the use of the Red House continues. Changes in which Trust controls the site haven't helped but the Society has been continuing to encourage the relevant health bodies to continue with plans to provide a much broader range of services for the community on the site. It's good to see the Eric Morecambe Centre finally open and the Society Committee was delighted to be able to tour the new facility as part of the award ceremony where we presented the Society plaque in recognition of the significant enhancement the new centre provides to our community. We have been involved in the discussions as to what replaces the old Public Halls which in the meantime were pressed into valuable service as the COVID vaccination centre for the town.

(Continued on next page)

The Chairman looks back...and forward continued.

We continue to monitor planning applications and comment where we feel that a proposal will impact upon the character of the town. As one step further in this work we have been deeply involved in work initiated by some concerned residents (and members of the Society) to review and update the character statements relating to the town's conservation area and also update the local lists of buildings of note. This has led to co-operation with the Local History Society and the Town Council and as a result the Town Council upon its reconstitution in June will create a working group to undertake this work. I can't underestimate the importance of a group that can bring all the information on the conservation area up to date and which can be submitted to the District Council as the relevant planning authority for conservation area matters. It could even lead to the creation of a Conservation Area Advisory Committee (CAAC) which would be able to advise the District Council on all matters relating to the conservation area. In addition to the scheme whereby the

of the work submitted by the young students which bodes extremely well for the future.

The Society has long recognised that in order to continue to help maintain and enhance the character of our town we have to work closely with other civic bodies. Already we have regular meetings with the Town Council, and we meet regularly with district and county councillors. We communicate regularly with our MP. Our work on the conservation area group has strengthened our ties with the Local History Society and we have worked very closely with LADACAN and Harpenden Sky over the airport proposals. We have met regularly too with the Harpenden Trust. The town is fortunate to have a charitable body in the Trust that can step in to help when other sources of funding and support might wither away. We are all aware of their role in supporting the COVID vaccination programme and their many volunteers have undertaken sterling work for the community. We are in discussion with them about reviving the volunteer scheme for the town's library and we hope that might bear fruit in the near future. Whatever happens the Society remains convinced that growing co-operation between all the civic and voluntary groups is the best way to ensure the town has the best possible future.

I step down as Chairman at the AGM after over 5 years in the role (and nearly a year as Vice Chairman). It's been a privilege to be involved in the civic life of the town and I know that the Society often because of its work behind the scenes can make a difference. I look forward to our Vice Chairman Jeff Phillips taking on the role and wish him well. The committee lost some long serving members last year who had given great service to the society. This year we will say thank you to Alan Jackson who after 10 years on the committee covering roles such as the environment and more recently the arts portfolio has decided that he has more than done his bit. Alan has always made highly thoughtful contributions to the discussions that take place within the Society and has strongly influenced the Society to take a much broader role than just look at the buildings and the physical environment but to consider the importance of the cultural and recreational life of our community as being equally important. And our Membership Secretary Hester Gabbutt has decided to relinquish that demanding role but fortunately she will remain involved in the work of the committee as one of our representatives on the newly formed conservation area group. In thanking those that are standing down I must also thank all those who continue in their roles. For the steadfast work in producing our ever-excellent Newsletter; to publicising our work and activities, to scrutinising planning applications, looking at transport and parking, monitoring and contributing to health developments, liaison with the town's schools, to looking at community safety and managing our Awards scheme and to running the secretariat and treasurer functions I want to thank all those involved for their tremendous work and support to me as Chairman over the past five years. I look forward to the Society making a difference to our community for years to come.

Phil Waters



Presentation of the Society 'Certificate of Merit' award to the Harpenden Leisure Centre

Society each year presents awards for buildings that are felt to enhance the character of the town we reintroduced after a gap of several years a writing competition across all four of our secondary schools. We managed to engage a high profile judging panel of local authors and publishers in the competition and they were impressed by the very high quality



Presentation of the 'Tell Me A Story' awards at Katherine Warington School

New Chair's Report April 2022

It is with some trepidation that I find myself stepping into Phil's shoes, or indeed Chris Marsden's and Anthony Steele's. It's an honour and a privilege to become the chair of a civic society that has been going for over 90 years, and, with just under 900 members, is one of the largest in the country. Phil's report on activities over the last 12 months covers in more detail, key issues that are still largely work-in-progress – the Luton Airport expansion, the St Albans district strategic plan, road congestion and parking in the town, the changes in NHS health and wellbeing provision in our area and the commercial pressures the town faces.

In essence, these four key areas of environment and pollution, transport, health, the built environment and economy of the town will remain the cornerstones of the Society's focus. In addition, we will be looking to build on and extend relationships with other voluntary organisations such as the Harpenden Trust and the Harpenden History Society, to our mutual benefit, all aimed at enhancing the voice of the community.

Additionally, and with the cooperation and help of the Town Council, we are also starting a long-term project to revive formally the definition and coverage of Harpenden's Conservation Area. We believe that with all the pressures the town faces, this is now a critical element in protecting the town's essential character.

Education - Looking back

After two years of remote learning, bubbles and no extracurricular activities our schools are beginning to get back to normality. At last, our children can return to school, with their friends, and a smile on their faces. Long may this continue.

As far as the Society is concerned one of the highlights of the last six months has been the very successful Write A Story Competition. This has been reported in our Spring Newsletter, but over thirty budding authors put pen to paper and the



results were amazing. The standard of writing was first class and once again proves the young people of Harpenden are hugely talented.

Living in a cleaner and safer environment is high up on the agendas of all our schools. MPs in Westminster and Downing Street have been lobbied by

various groups of our children. A small group of students attended the UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow. There they mixed with delegates from all over the world, made friends and met many climate campaigners. You may

I look forward to the Society hosting a number of public events in the year ahead, subject to Covid constraints, which will be aimed specifically at particular elements of these key areas, as well as the continuation of our very well-received quarterly newsletter, awards and appropriate press releases.



Presentation of the 'Tell Me A Story' awards at Roundwood Park School

So in conclusion, I'd like to thank Phil for all the help and guidance that he has given me in my 'warm-up' period, and wish him the very best for the future – and in particular, good luck for the '22 cricket season!

Jeff Phillips

have seen our students peacefully demonstrating on the High Street; students from Crabtree Junior school, Harpenden Academy, High Beeches Primary, Katherine Warington school, Sir John Lawes, Roundwood Park and The Priory armed with banners and flags got their message across to lunchtime shoppers.

Looking forward

Students have also shown their support to the National Tree Work programme by assisting Harpenden Town Council plant 950 trees at Porters Hill Park in Batford.

Extracurricular activities are beginning again and students are encouraged to take part in lunchtime and after school activities, as well as participating in School fixtures.

As I have reported schools are getting back to normal and that will mean for some students a return to sitting GCSE and A2 level exams. Gone are the days of CAGs and TAGs, students will sit their exams in the school hall just as many students have done before.

It goes without saying that all our children have the opportunity to experience a first rate education from all our schools, and long may this continue.

Chris Armitage

Transport - Looking back

Significant local opposition to the airport operator's 19 million passengers per year application resulted in it being called-in and its fate will now be determined at a public inquiry later in the year. Separately, Luton Rising carried out a further consultation on its plans to grow the airport to 32 million passengers per annum. The Society objected to this application emphasising the significant and detrimental impact of increasing CO2 and other noxious gas emissions at this critical point in the fight against climate change (as well as the likely increased traffic congestion and noise).



The Lower High Street was reopened last autumn. The Society felt this was a lost opportunity to take a longer term view of how the town centre should be organised and also flew in the face of the County Council's own survey where more than 50% supported the retention of the closures for a trial period. As a result, we conducted our own survey, which resulted in a similar outcome. Responses to our latest newsletter article appear to be split on this issue too.



In the same survey, respondents were more settled on the issue of anti-social parking and the vast majority favoured an approach to the Council to stop parking on the zig zag lines outside Savills and remove two parking spaces outside Simmons to ease traffic flow in this area. With one exception, respondents also favoured an approach to the Council to tackle increasing levels of anti-social parking in the town centre generally, including parking on pavements, overstaying time limits and parking on yellow lines (when not permitted).

Looking forward

The Society will continue to oppose the airport's expansion plans, primarily on environmental grounds but also because of the increased traffic and aircraft noise that residents will experience.

With respect to noise, the CAA's plans to alter flight paths across the South have been resurrected and the airport operator is progressing its own proposals expeditiously.

These proposals will have a significant and long-lasting impact on Harpenden residents and we will be publishing a detailed review of them later in the year, ahead of the public consultation.

As mentioned above, we hope to meet with Councillors to address anti-social parking in Harpenden.

We also hope to engage with Councillors regarding the organisation of the town centre to best meet the needs of Harpenden residents and businesses in the future.



Karl Wingfield

Membership - Looking back

Opportunities for recruiting new members were few and far between with the only public meeting being on September 24th. Although membership numbers declined a little we were thankful again to the many members who have stayed loyal to the Society during the second year of the pandemic. Unfortunately I succumbed to Covid in early September 2021 with a severe attack which left me unable to continue my duties at the high level I had set myself. So I resigned my position.

Looking forward

Thankfully the Society were able to recruit a replacement, namely Paul Gloess (below) who took up his role in April 2022. I have briefed Paul on the range of duties he has to undertake and handed over the requisite files and links to the web site.



Hester Gabbutt

Built Environment - Looking back

So far there have been fewer applications for residential extensions/alterations compared to last year although there has been a slight increase since the winter. The rationale for this is difficult to establish, but it may be due to concerns over general rising costs and a shortage of skilled labour and mortgage interest rates are likely to rise in reaction to the predicted increase in the Base Rate.

The developers Beechcroft eventually won planning consent on appeal to redevelop Redclyffe, Salisbury Avenue. Although the number of proposed dwellings was reduced, the scheme still includes 2 storey “mews style” houses in the rear garden, which is out of keeping with the area.

Jarvis and their partners also won consent on appeal for the proposed new Care Home in Coldharbour Lane on the site of Chelford fabrics who have relocated to the neighbouring site.

An application for the redevelopment of a part of the Southdown Industrial Estate to create new business units plus a trade counter, builders merchants together with car and HGV parking has attracted considerable opposition mainly due to concerns about the increase in lorry movement and noise that would affect the nearby residential properties. No decision has yet been made by the Council, although conditional recommendations for the restriction of vehicle movement and noise have been proposed.

During the last year Santander Bank in the Lower High Street has closed, but the premises have been relet to Lords at Home who should be opening shortly. We were pleased to see that after many years of being vacant the former NatWest



premises have been let to Gails Bakery (above). An application by the Oakman Group to change the former retail premises at 6 High Street into a bar and restaurant facility with seating for over 240 people was refused by the Council as it included a roof top conservatory which was deemed out of character for the Conservation Area. We await revised proposals by the new owners.

Looking forward

Steps have been taken to ensure the Conservation Area is protected against inappropriate development. Although the **Harpenden Neighbourhood Plan** provides that no dwelling in the Conservation Area shall be demolished unless it is

clearly uninhabitable or unfit for use, there have been instances where the Council have been minded to allow demolition on the basis that the new dwelling would be better insulated. Such a policy would put many older houses in the Conservation Areas under threat, which would be a great loss and undermine the character of the town. The Harpenden Society has joined forces with other interested groups, including the Local History Society to open a dialogue with the Council to lobby for adherence to the Neighbour Plan.

If someone wanted to change a retail shop into say a restaurant or office, they would have had to previously obtain planning consent for “Change of Use”. This helped the Council regulate the mix of uses within a town, but in 2020 new rules were introduced that puts all shops, offices and restaurants into the same new group – Class E. Consequently an owner can now change the use without applying for consent. The stated rationale for this is that

the new rules reflect the changes in the way we live and work and provides flexibility. However, this undermines the policies in the Harpenden Neighbourhood Plan and runs the risk that more and more shops will change perhaps into cafes/restaurants and potentially reduce the attraction of the town centre. Time will tell if this helps to maintain the vitality and appeal of the town.



John Lowe

Community Safety - Looking back

2021 continued to show a decline in crimes in Harpenden.

Looking forward

Things to be aware of include:

- Drug use. Boys start by the age of 11 and by age of 16, 1 in 10 are regular users. Help and info on www.gov.uk/government/publicationdrugadvice.
- Lock your car. A police check found many cars left unlocked and there is an increase in keyless car thefts so use a metal container to keep remotes in to stop them being hacked.
- Scam phone calls and cold callers.
- Fake bank apps used by sellers on internet ask for your bank details.
- Fake charities- check on www.gov.uk/check charity

Paul Gardiner

Publicity & Economy - Looking back

Despite the almost return to 'normal' within the Town there have been few Society events worthy of media coverage in the later part of 2021 and the early months of 2022.

September 23 saw the first Public meeting for over a year with a the new Local Plan as the key subject. Taking place at Katherine Warington School under strict Covid regulations. With Jamie Day, chair of St Albans District Council's planning referral committee, and vice-chair of its Local Plan advisory group it attracted an audience of over 70 it proved to be highly contentious.



We were back at Katherine Warington School on April 21st with an important health issue being covered. Air pollution. Guest speaker at the meeting was Dr Abigail Whitehouse, from London's Queen Mary University, one of the country's leading researchers in respiratory medicine.

Both events were featured in local media inc the key sites: Harpenden; The Harpenden Network; Next Door; Harpenden Shopping; Mum's Guide to Harpenden, as well as the Society web site and Facebook platform.

As mentioned elsewhere in this report the School Writing competition received good media coverage.

Our ongoing support for a thriving High Street has seen more closures BUT thankfully a demand for replacement businesses has maintained the appearance of an active centre.

Looking forward

The Society will continue it's media campaigns across all subjects and in particular the opposition to the over expansion of Luton Airport under it's new trading name of Luton Rising.

Increasing business rents and ongoing changes to shopping trends will continue to worry many shop owners going forward in 2022/23. A number of businesses are established in the Town on smaller sites adding to the diversity of the local economy. Rayden Solicitors; Twist Teas; Acoustic Marine Systems; idea group; The Language Cabin; Harley Street Skin to name just six.

The Society will also be back at the Summer Carnival on June 18 with a stand promoting the benefits of membership and have two fun games where prizes can be won. The

Carnival theme being Superheroes



We will continue to monitor business development in line with the policies of the Neighbourhood Plan and report findings of importance.

Ron Taylor

Newsletter - Looking back

Our quarterly newsletter has, over the last year or more, become something of an 'ambassador' for the Society – in other words a means of stimulating greater awareness of the Society's existence and its role in the life of the town. Although of course it is published primarily for the benefit of members, a conscious effort is made to get copies out to the 'wider world', with the obvious ulterior motive of recruiting new members.

Coverage in the newsletter of the Lower High Street/ Bowers Parade pedestrianisation controversy for example – on which the Harpenden Society has endeavoured to adopt a fairly neutral stance – has elicited differing opinions from members as well as let's call them 'potential members' alike.



Spring News 2022 Founded in 1930

SADC planning cuts threaten conservation aims

Important concerns have been raised by the Harpenden Society in collaboration with Harpenden Local History Society about the intended amending of proposals by St Albans District Council to its best-fit planning application.

The proposal, closely with existing on the drive to have only one 'filter' in line – planning committee for the whole of St Albans District, has been widely welcomed by members. It is seen as a step towards the more direct control of knowledge and 'filter' applications, the latter to which Local Planning committees as well as proposals to demolish buildings in designated Conservation Areas.

The two Harpenden-based committees have duly put forward a number of considerations and suggestions for improving the planning process, the crucial, without being destructive scrutiny of planning applications that affect individuals and communities.

There are fears that tighter SADC budgets could restrict democratic scrutiny, in the opinion of the HS and HLHS. The proposals can be seen as fundamentally undemocratic, with each attempt placed at public consultation.

The aim of streamlining the 'entry point' of the planning process is a commendable intention to focus on strategy and issues of principle. The reduction in other time and cost to the process, accompanied by the loss of democratic representation.

The success of Harpenden Town Council, with the neighbouring Conservation Area Group now under its wing (see Winter newsletter) and members of the public actively involved in planning applications would be effectively silenced. And planning officers would routinely have their local area knowledge and conditions, inevitably making decisions less transparent.

Electoral candidates would be invited to engage in important site-specific discussions. Their ability to respond to individual concerns, to make a judgement on the risk of planning decisions being made, by members' responsibility leading to individual responses having a cumulative effect in whole streets and surrounding areas.

Decisions to make structural and/or visual changes to buildings listed – typically historic – buildings or to demolish unlisted buildings in Conservation Areas could well be made by planning officers with little or no knowledge of the buildings or area concerned.

Councillor 'old' has indicated that the council's best fit to support with applications to grant Conservation Areas existing applicants' access to planning officers, to ensure decisions made, not the HS and HLHS, be reviewed – but not by abolishing the Harpenden committees, as is proposed.

Availability of SADC-employed Conservation Area officers would support the new direction, on the cost of staff and the value of voluntary community involvement in Conservation Area management, adding more democratic legitimacy to planning decisions.

Representatives of the HS and HLHS held a Zoom meeting with SADC councillors, including council leader Chris White, at the end of March to raise the above concerns, which were heard sympathetically. It was pointed out however that any procedural changes, with or without Conservation Area related provisions, could not be implemented before the May local elections.



Nevertheless, it was clear that the current Liberal Democrat SADC administration was willing to consider, discuss, and give due weight to the concerns raised by Harpenden TC, the authority for all of conservation plans, particularly those in a Conservation Area.

GH White welcomed the idea of a once or twice-yearly Conservation Area group meeting with council members and officers to review progress and consider any proposals for improvement to the way in which the HS and HLHS are used.

Looking forward

Now that Covid restrictions have thankfully eased, it has become possible for face-to-face public meetings organised by the Society, and its involvement in other town events, to be resumed, with consequent prioritised reporting in the newsletter.

But we will continue to cover wider issues affecting the people of Harpenden. The view has been expressed recently that more can be learned from our newsletter about what is going on in the town than from the Herts Advertiser – which, in any case, has recently suffered a severe cut-back in news pages.

We are continuing to widen the newsletter's appeal by including, where we can, written contributions from young people in Harpenden – stimulated by the Secondary Schools' writing competition reported in the Spring issue.

But, as always, written contributions from Society members with a 'Harpenden angle' will continue to be sought and, of course, welcomed. The editor is not (necessarily) looking for deathless prose; a bullet-point outline can often be moulded into an interesting report or article. Likewise, straightforward suggestions for topics worthy of coverage in the newsletter's pages, possibly from members hesitant about putting metaphorical 'pen to paper' will be gladly received; email those ideas to editor@harpendensociety.org.

Alan Bunting

Arts Leisure & Entertainment - Looking back

The In recent years the arts, leisure and entertainment scene in the town has been dominated by the decision to replace the Public Halls, which are owned by St Albans City and District Council (SADC), in Southdown Road with a new arts facility in Rothamsted Park. The replacement of the aging Public Halls, which were no longer fit for purpose, was strongly advocated by the Society from the outset. The Society actively sought to maximise public participation in defining the facilities that would be required of the new centre. There was strong and effective cooperation between SADC, the Society and local people as the project progressed.

The outcome of this process was the decision to repurpose the former Sports Centre in Rothamsted Park. The implementation of the decision took far longer than was anticipated thanks to delays caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. Despite the difficulties, the conversion was eventually completed in 2021. There is general agreement that the new Arts Centre, now officially named the Eric Morecambe Centre (EMC) after the nationally-renowned comedian who resided in Harpenden for much of his life is, with its 511-seat theatre, a fine new addition to the town's resources.



Looking forward

It has been repeated many times over by SADC that the new facility would be more than just a direct replacement for the Public Halls: it would be an arts and cultural hub for the whole town. To this end SADC accepted the Society's suggestion that a User Group be formed to enhance public participation in determining how the facility could best be developed to suit the needs of the local arts community. Everyone has accepted that whilst local groups and individuals would like to have easy access to the centre's facilities, the income raised from such users would be fairly minimal and that in order to sustain the financial health of the facility an extensive programme of commercial entertainment activities would be essential.

Constructive meetings of the User Group were initially held, but the meetings were discontinued at the outset of the covid pandemic and, regrettably, have yet to be reinstated. It could be argued that the activities currently being offered at the EMC are not fundamentally different from those that were offered at the former Public Halls. A challenge for the future is to make the EMC feel more like a community facility rather than a municipal institution. That, of course, would require an active input from the public - but the Society feels that encouraging this would not only make a positive contribution to the well-being of the town, but also that this was what SADC originally had in mind - and, we believe, still does. There are real opportunities for our community to unlock the potential of the excellent facilities offered by the EMC and thus strengthen the expression and appreciation of the arts in the town.



SADC's proposal for redeveloping the Public Halls site in Southdown Road

The existing Public Halls have continued to be used as a NHS Vaccination Centre: but this arrangement is likely to end soon. The Society has helped facilitate public involvement in determining the way this site will be redeveloped, and SADC's current intentions well reflect the aspirations of both the public and the Society.

Alan Jackson

Secretary's report

As it was in 2020, the Covid pandemic has resulted in 2021 being a very strange year for the Society. We had a Zoom meeting in February 2021 when our MP, Bim Afolami, gave a short presentation before answering questions from his constituents. As the pandemic eased we held a much delayed public AGM in September 2021 followed by a talk by Cllr. Jamie Day, chair of St Albans District Council's planning referral committee, and vice-chair of its Local Plan advisory group giving an update on the state of the Local Plan.

We are hoping that now that the Covid situation seems to have improved we will be able to hold more public meetings on topics of local interest in 2022.

Bob Fletcher

Health & Welfare -Looking back

Vaccination

Many thanks to the Harpenden Health PCN (Primary Care Network) volunteers, local pharmacies, NHS Trusts and everyone else involved in delivering the COVID Vaccination programme.

The Red House

The Central London Community Health Trust continues to invest in services:

Clinic Rooms have increased from 4 to 10. Current clinical services include Podiatry ,speech and language therapy, rehabilitation for cardiac and respiratory patients, musculoskeletal referral triage, clinics for patients with bladder and bowel problems ,and diabetic retinal screening. ENT consultations and blood tests are available in The Stewarts

Looking forward

Planned improvements at the Red House include resurfacing the car park, windows replacement, improval of the green spaces, and installation of electric vehicle chargers.



St Albans City Hospital Urgent Care Hub

Herts Valleys CCG are currently considering bids from potential providers of the new service, scheduled to open in October 2022.

This will be a 'bookable ' service only ,via NHS 111 or GP practices, with no walk-in access.

The Hub will be staffed by Nurses with GP oversight.

The range of services offered will be publicised later in the year.

Herts and West Essex Integrated Care System

This new overriding administrative arrangement starts in July 2022. The aim is to strengthen partnerships locally between the NHS and local authorities, hopefully providing clarity over what services are available and how these can be accessed. It is likely that the new arrangements will take several months to be implemented.

West Hertfordshire University NHS Trust

The proposed 'new build' at Watford is again being considered by the Trust Board at it's meeting on May 31st .The Trust 'will approve the recommended fresh option

for all three sites after a detailed cost benefit analysis to confirm which options offer the best value.'

The Board will also take a 'fresh eyes' approach to the decision on October 20 to rule out building on a new greenfield site.

Unfortunately, the increase in the overall cost of the build at Watford,(now £1.1 billion),and the need to relook at the project, will lead to further delays in the delivery of new hospital facilities, with building now not likely to start until 2024.

Ian Barrison

Awards - Looking back

The aim of the Harpenden Society Awards is to recognise projects which have enhanced the local area of Harpenden and which are of architectural or historic or other public interest or which contribute visually or socially to the locality.

For the year 2021 (last year) , the Awards Committee decided that the prestigious Harpenden Society Plaque should be awarded to the Eric Morecambe Centre in Rothamsted Park. Our chairman is looking forward to presenting this Award at a date to be decided in the near future.

Also we have already awarded a Certificate of Merit to the much improved children's play area in Rothamsted Park and a Letter of Commendation to the new Boardwalk at Batford Springs Nature Reserve. The design and construction of both these awards was managed by the Harpenden Town Council and our President Alison Steer presented both these awards to Paul Cousin, the Mayor of Harpenden, at a recent Harpenden Society Meeting.



Looking forward

We will be looking forward to receiving suggestions for the 2022 Awards in the new year. So keep your eyes open for something that you think is worthy of nominating

Penny Ayres

Treasurer's report on the accounts to 31 December 2021

The Society earned a surplus for 2021 of £2,036.08 compared to a surplus of £2,689.44 in 2020.

Income was up by £292 due to a recovery in membership.

Expenditure was up by £945. The enhanced newsletter cost an extra £331, we were able to hold a public AGM at KWS which added £465 and the School Arts Competition cost £185. Harpenden in Bloom and the Jubilee seat added a further £528.

The Society is in a strong financial position with funds on 31 December 2021 of £19,987.53.

In February 2022, the Society received a legacy of £10,000 from a former member. There were no restrictions on how the Society should use this money so the committee will meet to discuss how the funds could be used to further the aims and objectives of the Society.

Harry Downie

The Harpenden Society Income and Expenditure account for the 12 months to 31/12/2021

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	Year to 31/12/2021 £	Year to 31/12/2020 £
INCOME		
Subscriptions and donations	4,848.80	4,573.16
Interest received	2.12	16.27
Gift aid refund	1,043.43	1,013.31
	<u>5,894.35</u>	<u>5,602.74</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Newsletters	1,410.43	1,078.96
Other Publications	0.00	219.00
Public Meetings	4.70	272.40
AGM expenses	538.82	74.21
School Arts Competition	185.50	0.00
Awards	466.52	274.34
<u>Donations, gratuities and gifts</u>		
Harpenden in Bloom	192.00	0.00
Subscriptions to other societies	40.00	40.00
Jubilee Seat	336.00	0.00
Advertising & Promotion	71.20	245.71
Committee Meetings	44.00	14.39
Office expenses, postage, telephone etc.	146.26	272.46
Insurance	183.91	183.91
Depreciation	238.93	237.92
	<u>3,858.27</u>	<u>2,913.30</u>
Surplus/-Deficit for the period	<u>2,036.08</u>	<u>2,689.44</u>
Funds b/f	17,951.45	15,262.01
Surplus/deficit	2,036.08	2,689.44
Funds c/f	<u>19,987.53</u>	<u>17,951.45</u>

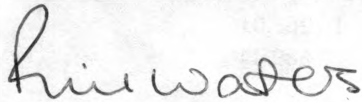
**The Harpenden Society
Balance Sheet**

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	31/12/2021	31/12/2020
	£	£
FUNDS		
Balance at 1st January	17,951.45	15,262.01
Surplus/Deficit for the period	2,036.08	2,689.44
	<u>19,987.53</u>	<u>17,951.45</u>
Represented by:		
FIXED ASSETS		
Display boards, etc.	1,551.69	1,551.69
Deduct depreciation	<u>-1,551.69</u>	<u>-1,312.76</u>
	<u>0.00</u>	<u>238.93</u>
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash on deposit at bank and in hand	<u>19,987.53</u>	<u>17,780.52</u>
	<u>19,987.53</u>	<u>17,780.52</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Subscriptions received in advance	<u>0.00</u>	<u>68.00</u>
	<u>0.00</u>	<u>68.00</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS	19,987.53	17,712.52
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>19,987.53</u>	<u>17,951.45</u>

The above Income and Expenditure Account were approved by the Trustees and authorised for signature on 15th March 2021 and signed by:

P Waters - Trustee and Chairman



H Downie - Trustee and Treasurer



Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Harpenden Society

I report on the accounts of the Harpenden Society for the year ended 31st December 2021, which are set out on pages 1 and 2 above.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that neither an audit nor an independent examination is required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) but in the interests of good governance that an independent examination should be conducted as though it were required.

It is my responsibility to:

- a) examine the accounts prepared pursuant to section 145 of the 2011 Act
- b) to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act) and Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Harpenden Society and
- c) to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
 - a) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - b) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or
- 2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding accounts to be reached.

Nicholas John Bristow, Chartered Accountant
5 Tuffnells Way, Harpenden AL5 3HJ
28th February 2022

Please send comments on articles or any other issues raised
in this Annual Report to: Ron Taylor
info@harpendingia.com
Visit the Society's website –
www.harpendingia.org

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