



Annual Report 2023/2024 Looking back - Looking forward

A brief account for the Annual General Meeting of the Society's activities during the year 2023/2024 with a glance ahead to the coming year

The Chairman's review of the year, and the issues we face going forward

It feels like my second review of the year is very much a repeat of much of what I wrote a year ago, which I suppose is not surprising given the number and complexity of issues that our community faces.



We are still in the midst of the development of the Local Plan for the district, although progress is being made on this exercise of substantial complexity. Following on from the public exhibitions of September last year, Cllr Paul de Kort delivered a presentation to a packed audience at a Society public meeting in January that illustrated that complexity, and the uncertainties that Government continues to generate for the process.

However, SADC continues to follow the direction it set at the outset, namely to concentrate on the use of brownfield sites, strategic infill where feasible, and the use of Green Belt as sensitive extensions to existing housing. The Society supports that approach, which we reinforced in the consultation submission that we made last September.

Nevertheless, none of this will be without impact for our community, particularly in terms of transport. You do not build c.1200-1500 new homes without having a material impact on our roads and railways – infrastructure that is already overloaded at peak times of the day.

And that's without addressing the need for additional school places, basic infrastructure and health facilities.

The University of Hertfordshire report on Harpenden's transport options, commissioned by the Society, was presented to a lively audience by Professor Stephen Joseph back in September of last year, and the findings were sent to the Town Council and SADC councillors. We still await the formation of the Transport Forum which the Town Council has now formally endorsed, which will enable further dialogue on many of the report's findings.

That said, circumstances have begun to overtake us, in that the financial pressure that SADC face has given rise to the recent proposition that free parking in the centre of the town will soon end. However, SADC have announced that there will be consultation on their proposals, and the Society looks forward to contributing to that exercise.



Which leads on to Luton Airport, which applied a year ago for a Development Consent Order to increase passenger numbers from 19 million per annum to 32/33 million.

The Inspectorate Inquiry ran from the spring of last year through to the beginning of February of 2024, with the commitment to have a report delivered to the Secretary of State for Transport by early May 2024. As reported last year, we have been heavily involved in making comments and submissions to the Inquiry, in collaboration with a number of other groups, particularly LADACAN, and we also engaged with the three Hertfordshire local authorities involved, along with Westminster politicians.

(Continued on next page)

The Chairman's review continued.

The impact on Harpenden cannot be overstated – noise, airborne pollution, and in particular, road and rail congestion. In addition, we contributed detailed rebuttals of Luton's economic case for expansion. As an example of this, the claim that the airport contributes to substantial economic growth for Luton is contradicted by the complete lack of real evidence of any material growth arising over the last 10 years of significant increase in passenger numbers.



It is worth noting that Luton Rising, Luton Borough Council's airport management subsidiary, is currently running a substantial media campaign to generate support for the venture, in an attempt to continue to lobby the Inspectors. At the time of writing, their petition of support has generated just c.6000 signatures out of a population in excess of 250,000.

We now have to wait and see....

Solum, had not addressed in the presentation material they produced for the community. We await developments.



On a different town centre subject, the prediction last year that Harpenden would lose the last remaining High Street bank branch has now come to pass, but it is reassuring to note that the number of banking hubs coming into being nationally continues to increase. We support the Town Council in lobbying for a hub to be brought to the town, but in the meantime, we have to rely on ATMs for cash, and the Post Offices for basic face to face banking services. Anything else requires a trip into St Albans or Welwyn.



Finally, on health matters, the Society held a public meeting in the autumn of 2023 at which Dr Bethan Rees described how the three GP surgeries in the town were jointly developing patient services under the umbrella of the Primary Care Network, and in the autumn of this year, we will be holding another public meeting on mental health services, particularly focussed on children and the elderly of our community.

So as you can see, the Society continues with a very full agenda, and I thank all my colleagues on the committee for their efforts throughout the last busy year.

And I would like to record our thanks to Paul Gardiner for his long service on your committee, and wish him well for the future.

Finally, it remains for me to thank you all for your continued support.

Jeff Phillips



As for town development, one proposal I reported on last year seems to have disappeared down a rabbit hole, namely the project to improve the access to the west side of the station, and to improve the top of Harding Parade as a result. It has been well-nigh impossible to get a response from Network Rail, but it may be the case that it has been superseded by the project to build c.100 apartments on the east car park. The Society welcomes the concept, but commented on a number of issues that the developers,

Transport - Looking back

The proposals to expand Luton Airport took up considerable time in 2023. In October, the Secretaries of State for the Environment and Transport approved the airport operators application to grow the airport to 19 million passengers per annum (mppa) and Luton Rising's Development Consent Order ("LR DCO") examination took place between August 2023 and February 2024.



A decision on the latter should be forthcoming by August 2024. Whatever the decision on the latter is, short term, the airport will expand under one or other of the permissions, if demand (which remains constrained post-Covid) recovers. Longer term, the LR DCO examination (and other analyses) showed that there are considerable economic risks associated with the building of a second terminal (Phase 2 as it is called) and the expansion to 32 mppa.

In September, the Society held a public meeting on Transport in Harpenden, following the publication of a report we commissioned from the University of

Hertfordshire. We will be following up on the report's recommendations in 2024. One of the recommendations of the report, the setting up of a transport forum is under consideration and we hope that will provide a foundation for addressing the report's other recommendations.

The proposal to improve Station Road (and Station Approach) which we reported on in last year's annual report was canned due to a lack of funds.

There was no progress on Luton Airport's flight paths, in fact it appears that we are going backwards following an announcement (November 2023) that the DfT and CAA are considering changing the whole process to a Single Design Entity (whatever that means). The prospect of flight paths changing before 2030 appears to be receding.



Looking forward

Free from the ongoing saga of Luton Airport's growth, we will focus on transport issues in Harpenden, in particular congestion during peak periods and parking, not only its availability but also the cost. We will also keep abreast of the local walking and cycling strategy which the district council approved late last year (although there doesn't appear to be any funding available presently to implement any of the proposals).

Karl Wingfield

Secretary's report

The Society held its AGM on the 27th April 2023 followed by a talk by Sue Shanahan from Hertfordshire Trading Standards whose presentation was about keeping fraudsters at bay. Sue was supported by Daniel McManus, a staff member of Herts Constabulary, who outlined the work of the Neighbourhood Watch and OWL schemes, which come under the aegis of local police.

There were two other public meetings in 2023. At a meeting on the 21st September traffic congestion, air pollution and parking in Harpenden, and how they might be alleviated, were key issues addressed, by Stephen Joseph, head of the University of Hertfordshire's Smart Mobility Unit (SMU). His presentation was based on a detailed 15-page SMU report commissioned by the Society.

Concerns over the healthcare of Harpenden's growing and ageing population through the coming decade were addressed, at a meeting on October 19th, by Dr Bethan Rees, clinical director of the town's Primary Care Network (PCN) which was set up in 2019. Dr Rees described the changes being made to maximise healthcare resources

locally, in particular by getting Harpenden's three GP surgeries – Davenport House, the Elms and the Village Surgery – to work together in providing the town's 44,000 would-be patients with the best care possible within necessarily finite NHS budget and manpower limitations.

The Society publishes three websites containing topics of interest to members and Harpenden residents in general, The websites are:

<https://www.harpendensociety.org> the website of the Society covering topics of interest

<https://www.volunteerforharpenden.org.uk> - a website containing the volunteering opportunities from over 30 local Harpenden organisations.

<https://connectingharpenden.org.uk> - Connecting Harpenden is a website enabling anyone to find out which groups, clubs and services are available in Harpenden. The contact details of over 400 organisations are listed on the website.

Bob Fletcher

Health & Welfare - Looking back

Herts and West Essex Integrated Care Board- the overall administrative body responsible for health care in our area- budget £2.8 billion.

Principles (2023)

- Integration of health, care and wellbeing services
- Priority towards prevention and early intervention
- Targeted work to reduce health inequalities
- Involving our residents and staff

Strategic Priorities(2023)

- Give every child the best start in life
- Support our communities and places to be healthy and sustainable
- Support our residents to maintain healthy lifestyles
- Enable our residents to age well and support people living with dementia
- Improve support to people living with life-long conditions, long term health conditions, physical disabilities and their families
- Improve our residents' mental health and outcomes for those with learning disabilities and Autism

Looking Forward -

An example of the ICB strategy

'Priority 1: Give every child the best start in life

Children and young people:

- Increase school readiness, including an increase in the percentage of children with Free School Meal (FSM) status achieving a good level of development at the end of reception.
- Reduce rates of childhood obesity, particularly in areas of higher deprivation
- Reduced unnecessary A&E attendances and admissions

Looking Forward

West Herts Acute University Trust-

Works start at St Albans City Hospital to provide 3 new operating theatres, additional CT and MRI scanners, and a new surgical procedure room.

Building work in new hospital at Watford due to start in 2026.

Harpenden Primary Care Network

Dr Bethan Rees, Clinical Director of the Harpenden PCN, (pictured with Ian Barrison) gave an excellent talk on the



development and future role of the PCN , at a society meeting in October 2023.

The NHS App upgraded and widely implemented in Primary Care.

From Mid January 2024:

'Patients registered at all 3 of the Harpenden PCN practices who are aged over 13 can now see new prospective information added to their health record by accessing the NHS app. This includes notes from GP consultations, test results, medications, and letters from hospitals. Repeat prescriptions can also be ordered through this app.

Looking Forward

Harpenden Society Talk on Children's mental health - Dr Alison Cowan, GP with a special interest in Young person's Health - October 17th 2024.

Fundraising support to Harpenden Community First Responders .Did you know that we are very fortunate to have the expert resuscitation skills of three Community First Responders, (CFR's), in Harpenden? The Harpenden team are pictured below. The full story



will be featured in the Spring edition of the Harpenden Society Newsletter, publishing late May.

L&D refurbished emergency department ,(ED).

In July 2023, a brand new entrance and waiting area, a dedicated paediatric area and nine new major cubicles opened within the ED.

The bright, modern and spacious areas have made a huge difference to patient dignity and experience when attending ED, and also allow staff to provide outstanding care in the very best environment.

The final phase of works will see the expansion of the department where there will be a further increase in capacity, including assessment and triage rooms and sensitively designed mental health care rooms. This work is due to be complete by the end of 2024.

Ian Barrison

A fresh new look for our logo and graphics

Our active logo and graphic design is now ten years old and looking rather dated. The Committee thought it was time for a change, resulting in a whole new concept, colour scheme, website, banners and templates.

Julie Maginn, a well know local artist was briefed to design a fresh and contemporary concept to reflect our role in reaching out to the residents of Harpenden to highlight issues of common concern, and work with authorities to develop solutions which enhance the quality of life in Harpenden. As you can see below the concept it totally different.



The new concept will be introduced from the end of May onwards across all our media including the Web site, the Newsletter.

Posters and Display banners.

We hope you like it and are confident that it will help the society grow in both size and stature in the coming years.

NEWSLETTER

NEWS
spring 2024

Hello Harpenden...

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

The Harpenden History Society has set up home at the Eric Morcombe Centre, in Rothamsted Park.

Join us for an exciting journey back in time to celebrate 50 incredible years of the Harpenden History Society at the Eric Morcombe Centre!

Visit the museum and discover the treasures of Harpenden's past.

Explore fascinating exhibits and artefacts. Presentations by local history experts. See the children's art in the 'My Harpenden' competition. Official opening speech at 7pm by Anne Brewer, High Sheriff. An exciting journey in time as we celebrate 50 incredible years of the Harpenden History.

POSTER

Will Climate Change affect the future of your food?...

How sustainable farming will feed the world.

How Healthy Eating will keep you fit and well.

James Clarke from Rothamsted Research and Katharine Tate, Harpenden's Food Teacher will explain what the future has in store.

Public Meeting organised by The Harpenden Society including a brief Society AGM
7:30 pm Thursday May 16
Katherine Warington School

Reserve your seat on www.Harpendsociety.org

FREE PARKING
reg. Charity No. 278154

DISPLAY

Hello Harpenden...

Campaigning for Harpenden Residents. Join us and have your say.

- community
- health
- schools
- education
- meetings
- economy
- planning
- transport
- newsletter
- arts & leisure
- environment
- awards

Turning ideas into reality

The Harpenden Society is a community for everyone who loves Harpenden. Being a member allows you to be involved in the issues that matter and take action to devise creative solutions.

your voice matters

www.harpendsociety.org
reg. Charity No. 278154

REVEALED...The Winners of the Harpenden Society AWARDS 2023

After a two year absence the Society has decided to expand the number of Awards this time round. There were a number of very worthy nominations across a diverse category of developments and buildings, In order of importance:
Two prestigious Plaques;
The affordable homes development at Roan Place.
The new apartment block in Station Approach.
Three framed Certificates of Merit
The new all weather pitch and ground development in Rothamsted Park.
The extended Silver Plate Delicatessen in Vaughan Road

The upstairs development of the new Dahlish Ice Cream parlour

A Letter of Commendation

The new house at 11 Moreton End Lane

Presentations of the Awards will be announced soon and featured

subsequently on the Society web site and local media. See our web site for details.

A big thank you for all the nominations with a reminder to start thinking about your favourites for 2024.



Built Environment - Looking back

As reported previously the number of planning applications for residential extension and alteration has been at a lower volume than last year. On the commercial side, whilst a few shops have ceased trading we have seen the arrival of some new businesses, namely Majestic Wine and Specsavers, both in the High Street. A new Nail Bar in Southdown has opened and another proposed for Station Road. The owners of 6 High Street (former M & Co) were refused planning consent to turn the premises into a pub/restaurant and have submitted an appeal to the Planning Inspectorate. A decision is expected in the next few months.

During the last year a number of significant planning applications have been submitted but the District Council are taking a long time to make any decisions. It is perhaps unsurprising that in March 2024 the Housing Minister blasted the LibDem controlled Council for failings in its planning process and ordered that any applications for “non-major” developments can now be made directly to the Planning Inspectorate.

The Council are still proceeding with the preparation of a new Local District Plan which is not expected to be approved until at least 2025.

Due to a lack of resources at local level, responsibility for Planning Enforcement by the St Albans District Council has now been transferred to Watford Borough Council.



After some years of indecision by the District Council, rather than undertake the redevelopment of the Public Halls in Southdown Road themselves as originally planned, they have now appointed agents to sell the site by way of Informal Tender. The closing date was the 14th March, so we are awaiting to learn what progress has been made. We understand that a number of developers have expressed interest in purchasing the site and at present the Council are evaluating the individual proposals.

Looking forward

A public consultation was undertaken earlier this year by Solum, a joint venture company owned by Network Rail and Kier Construction, for the redevelopment of the eastern car park at the Station. The proposals include building an extra storey for car parking and the provision of 100 flats with undercroft parking. Surprisingly this would involve reducing the number of parking spaces available for the public. The sole access would still be from Station Road although enhancements would be undertaken. Whilst the Society welcomed the prospect of new homes, we expressed a number of reservations about the design of the scheme including the lack of any apparent temporary parking whilst the development was being undertaken. We understand that Solum are now reviewing their development proposals.



As is apparent, the town continues to be threatened by a number of large housing developments. Although the Society is aware of the need for more housing and will support appropriate schemes, the potential impact of major developments on the town will be significant not least by erosion of the Green Belt. The Society hopes the District Council will start to make progress in resolving these issues and produce an acceptable plan that will safeguard the character of the town.

After many months of waiting, the Council has now granted planning consent for a 75 bed Care Home on the former Pan-Auto site in Grove Road, despite attracting many objections, mainly concerning the large size and bulk of the proposed buildings. The Society was surprised that the decision was made by a Delegated Officer rather than being considered fully by the planning committee, given the number of objections received. If it does go ahead, then it will mean the loss of the previously approved scheme for much needed lower cost housing

John Lowe

Publicity Looking back

Our Public Meetings have continued to attract sizeable audiences at our regular venue, Katherine Warrington School. The Transport In Harpenden event in particular, on September 21, following which a 12 page Report was published achieving considerable coverage. This and other meetings provided editorial reports for traditional media like the Herts Advertiser, the new online Magazine, St Albans Times and social media like Harpendia; Next Door and Harpenden Shopping; as well as the Society web site and Facebook platform. Additionally a limited number of retail shops, the Library and Town Council notice boards featured posters promoting the events.



Looking forward

A similar strategy will continue to be used in 2024 with an increased presence in social media. The Society will promote a variety of subject matters and in particular the opposition to the over expansion of Luton Airport and the threat of more large scale housing developments

The Economy Looking back

The High Street suffered further losses with the closure of three independent retailers. Good Sports, G&P Hair Salon and Map Stores. Plus AGA. However on a positive note five new ventures opened: Morrisons; Nonna's Cafe and Restaurant; Johnson Blythe Hairdressers; Wenzels Bread and Cakes and Darlish Ice Cream. Southdown Shops have seen a new owner at Southdown Hardware where local entrepreneur Peter Metcalfe



promised to retain the same product range with expert advice. A Sushi Take Away opened it's doors next to the Co Op and is proving very popular.

Looking forward

The High Street as a whole is yet to recover high levels of footfall with trade across

many sectors still disappointing. Pubs and bars are also seeing lower spending whilst coffee bars are continuing to thrive. AND more hospitality units due to open soon. Like



the burgers and beers at SEAR almost next door to The MEATING ROOM, both in Station Rd. Nail Bars like Krystal.s Nails in Southdown are appearing in a number of other locations with beauty treatments. Southdown has also seen the opening of The Burger Box.



The Town's two Employment Centres offer a stark contrast



with Coldharbour Lane about to see the completion of a new 63 bed care home development. PLUS the expansion of two purpose built

multi business centres which are already well occupied.

The **Southdown Industrial Estate** is still unoccupied in the lower section and the upper section is a mess of parked cars, potholed roads and unrepaired structures. The units on the right as you enter reflect the way the rest of the site should be developed.



HTC have announced a Business Plan which includes a Strategic Objective to **Promote the economic and commercial vitality of small businesses, including the High Street, Southdown and other retail hubs.**



Let's hope their plans 'work' towards improving the Southdown Estate

Ron Taylor

Social Media

Welcome to Martyn Reed who has joined the Society as both a member and the management committee with a focus on handling social media and bringing the benefits of the Harpenden Society to a wider and more diverse audience.

Martyn explained why he joined;

I am very fortunate to have lived in Harpenden, going to school, raising four children and just loving all that Harpenden delivers, whether that's transport links, shopping, entertainment, community or countryside. I also care for the environment and I am concerned for the world that my children will inherit.

Looking back

What has surprised me is the indirect power that the Society can have. In one sense we have no more authority than any other group of residents but being a charity that is seen to be representing the views of many it does allow us to, perhaps, punch above our weight. For example we are consulted on building planning applications, and our public meetings attract hundreds of people and are frequently attended by local councillors and politicians wanting to gain a better understanding of the issues.

Looking forward

I will be using the power and coverage of social media to communicate Society views on issues of importance, details of our events and encouraging new memberships. The examples here show the graphic style and impactful messaging.

My message to all resident of Harpenden is become involved. Communities don't work without the involvement of individuals and the Harpenden Society is an excellent opportunity for you to ensure that your opinions and view get heard.



Martyn Reed

Newsletter - Looking back

Over the last year our quarterly newsletter has continued to receive plaudits for its coverage, of not only issues directly concerning Harpenden Society members, but of matters of wider interest to everyone living in the town. People nowadays learn more from our newsletter – even likened appreciatively to an informative ‘magazine’ – than from the local press – about important local affairs.

As a key priority we strive to keep a watching brief and duly report in the newsletter on developers' often controversial building proposals, in advance of submission of formal planning applications that affect Harpenden and its precious rural surroundings.

Among other environmental concerns which continue to be aired through the columns of our newsletter is the regrettably ongoing saga of Luton Airport's grotesque expansion plans, to the potential detriment of life in

Harpenden by way of increased aircraft noise, traffic congestion and air quality.

Looking forward

However, looking forward, there are challenges for the Society to address on the newsletter, as Alan Bunting, the newsletter editor since 2015, endeavours to ease his journalistic workload, where the gathering of ‘source material’, that is identifying and researching potential stories.

All of which is effectively an appeal for what might be termed ‘editorial support’ from someone, perhaps –

though not necessarily – with journalistic aspirations, who would like to help maintain the newsletter's role as the ‘flagship’ of the Harpenden Society.

Interested, but want to know more about the ‘job description’? If so please contact Alan on editor@harpendensociety.org or Society chairman Jeff Phillips chairman@harpendensociety.org

Alan Bunting

Heat pumps enhance new Batford social housing

As reported in our Winter newsletter a year ago, St Albans District Council abandoned its earlier plans to redevelop the Harpenden Public Halls site to include some social housing. However, provision of such housing elsewhere in the town has gone ahead. Four new semi-detached houses, completed by local developer Jarvis some two years ago but hitherto unoccupied, have been acquired for rental by SADC as social housing. They are numbers 5, 6, 7, and 8 Viking Close, a new cul-de-sac off Noke Shot at Batford and are part of a ten-home development, the remainder of which – comprising four more identical semis and a pair of bungalows – are for private sale through estate agent Frostis.

Built on what was a council-owned communal garage site, with original 1940s council estate housing on three sides, the new architecturally-distinctive three-bedroom properties are, says SADC, being let to families who had previously lived in smaller, more restricted council accommodation. The new homes incorporate several noteworthy sustainable features designed to minimise carbon emissions, including air-source heat pumps instead of gas boilers, as well as solar roof panels.



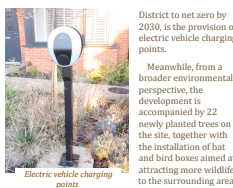
Solar roof panels

They are said to meet the government's top A energy rating, with each of the new homes calculated to generate just 0.8 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions per year, compared with what is deemed to be the national household average of 6 tonnes per year. Also potentially enhancing their energy saving attributes, in keeping with the council's goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions across the St Albans

10



Batford's new social housing: four new energy-efficient semis.



Electric vehicle charging points

District to net zero by 2030, is the provision of electric vehicle charging points.

Meanwhile, from a broader environmental perspective, the development is accompanied by 22 newly planted trees on the site, together with the installation of bat and bird boxes aimed at attracting more wildlife to the surrounding area.



Air source heat pumps

The rear gardens back on to Porters Hill play area which two years ago was transferred to Harpenden Town Council ownership and subsequently planted with hedge sapplings along its boundaries.

Membership – Looking back

We did an exercise in January 2024 to check our membership records, and this highlighted several members who had moved away from Harpenden completely and did not want to continue their membership. Please remember to tell us if you move address or change email address so we can keep the records up to date. Thanks in advance!

This 'data cleanse' resulted in an overall decline in membership over the last year with the 32 'leavers' being partially replaced by 21 'joiners' - a similar number of 'joiners' to the previous year. Our new members have mostly joined through our website after attending our Public Meetings, or responding to our social media presence. Totals now: 750 people across 486 memberships as at end April.

Looking forward

The programme of public meetings and increased social media exposure will provide opportunities for recruitment, and some of the activity streams in hand, eg stands at public events, should also generate interest by demonstrating the reach and influence of the society.



Treasurer's report on the accounts to 31 December 2023

The Society earned an overall surplus for 2023 of £3,165.48 compared to a surplus of £18,155.83 in 2022.

During the year, the Society benefited from a residual legacy of £3,814.55 and a further small residual legacy is expected in 2024. As mentioned in my 2022 report, the Society has established a new designated fund, the Civic Development Fund, and this additional legacy has been credited to this fund. There were no restrictions on how the Society should use this money so the committee is continuing to discuss how these funds could be used to further the aims and objectives of the Society in the medium term. During 2023, a transport study being undertaken by the University of Hertfordshire costing £2,250 and this expenditure has been financed from the new Fund.

Following the receipt of these legacies, it was decided to invest the surplus funds to earn more interest so £35,000 has been invested in a 95 day deposit account with the Society's bankers. Combined with rising interest rates, interest received has risen from £66.35 in 2022 to £841.79 in the current year. There was a small reduction in subscriptions but this was offset by an increase in gift aid recoveries. Expenditure was down from £7,354.69 in 2022 to £6,934.77 in 2023.

As a consequence of the above, the Society made a surplus of £1,600.93 on the Accumulated Fund and £1,564.55 on the Civic Development Fund for 2023. The Society is in a strong financial position with funds as at 31 December 2023 of £41,308.84 of which £19,564.55 is housed in the Civic Development Fund.

As a charity with a considerable range of activities, the Society aims to hold sufficient liquid reserves in the unrestricted Accumulated Fund to cover up to twelve month's expenditure of a non-discretionary nature. In framing this policy, trustees are mindful of establishing the correct balance between financial prudence and properly expending funds raised for the Society's charitable objectives.

At 31 December 2023, the unrestricted Accumulated Fund balance at £21,744.29 is more than in line with that required by this Financial Reserves policy.

Harry Downie

The Harpenden Society
Income and Expenditure account
for the 12 months to
31/12/2023

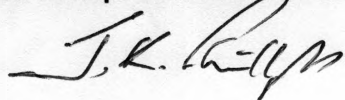
	Accumulated Fund £	Civic Dev Fund	Total £	Year to 31/12/2022 £
INCOME				
Subscriptions and donations	4,481.27		4,481.27	4,516.79
Legacy	0.00	3,814.55	3,814.55	20,000.00
Interest received	841.79		841.79	66.35
Gift aid refund	962.64		962.64	927.38
	<hr/>			
	6,285.70	3,814.55	10,100.25	25,510.52
EXPENDITURE				
Newsletters	2,332.16		2,332.16	1,991.12
Other Publications	0.00		0.00	406.80
Development Expenditure	0.00	2,250.00	2,250.00	2,000.00
Public Meetings	447.50		447.50	195.10
Economic Activity	0.00		0.00	130.20
AGM expenses	267.73		267.73	0.00
School Arts competition	0.00		0.00	781.83
The Harpenden plaque	207.60		207.60	251.27
<u>Donations, gratuities and gifts</u>				
Harpenden in Bloom	192.00		192.00	192.00
Subscriptions to other societies	40.00		40.00	40.00
Without whom award	80.00		80.00	0.00
Adverising & Promotion	145.00		145.00	807.00
Committee Meetings	280.00		280.00	240.00
Office expenses, postage, telephone etc.	405.29		405.29	115.87
Insurance	287.49		287.49	203.50
	<hr/>			
	4,684.77	2,250.00	6,934.77	7,354.69
Surplus/-Deficit for the period	<hr/>			
	1,600.93	1,564.55	3,165.48	18,155.83
Funds b/f	20,143.36	18,000.00	38,143.36	19,987.53
Surplus/deficit	1,600.93	1,564.55	3,165.48	18,155.83
Funds c/f	21,744.29	19,564.55	41,308.84	38,143.36

Balance Sheet
31/12/2023

FUNDS	Accumulated	Civic Dev	Total	Year to
	Fund	Fund		31/12/2022
	£	£	£	£
Balance at 1st January 2023	20,143.36	18,000.00	38,143.36	19,987.53
Surplus/Deficit for the period	1,600.93	1,564.55	3,165.48	18,155.83
	<u>21,744.29</u>	<u>19,564.55</u>	<u>41,308.84</u>	<u>38,143.36</u>
Represented by:				
FIXED ASSETS				
Display boards, etc.	1,551.69		1,551.69	1,551.69
Deduct depreciation	-1,551.69		-1,551.69	-1,551.69
	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
CURRENT ASSETS				
HMRC re gift aid	0.00			0.00
Payments in advance	0.00			0.00
Cash on deposit at bank and in hand	5,769.86		5,769.86	38,143.36
Cash on longer term deposit at bank	15,974.43	19,564.55	35,538.98	
	<u>21,744.29</u>	<u>19,564.55</u>	<u>41,308.84</u>	<u>38,143.36</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Sundry creditors	0.00		0.00	0.00
	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS	21,744.29	19,564.55	41,308.84	38,143.36
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>21,744.29</u>	<u>19,564.55</u>	<u>41,308.84</u>	<u>38,143.36</u>

The above Income and Expenditure Account were approved by the Trustees and authorised for signature on 11th March 2024 and signed by:

Jeff Phillips - 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 2023, 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.

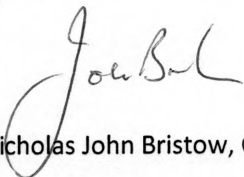
Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

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

13th March 2024

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.harpendensociety.org

Designed by Ron Taylor
Published by The Harpenden Society,