

# Annual Report 2024/2025

## Looking back - Looking forward

A brief account for the Annual General Meeting  
of the Society's activities during the year 2024/2025  
with a glance ahead to the coming year.



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

Whilst the key issues I reported in last year's review still exist, sad to say, we've lost on two, and we possibly face further defeat sometime in the future.

The Local Plan was submitted before Christmas 2024, and an Inspector duly appointed. However, such is the complexity of the issues involved, as Paul de Kort emphasised in our public meeting in January, the response is not likely to see the light of day until the early part of 2026. That said, as we understand the process, SADC will get a series of questions from the Inspector's team sometime in the late spring, which will, hopefully, give us a steer as to their view of the Plan as presented.

In the meantime, as you will be aware, and while the Plan is under examination, developers have pursued projects across the district. With the imprimatur from Angela Rayner to build, build, build, SADC are in a precarious position re the granting of planning permission. The recent L&G proposal to build 550 units at Cooters End was approved, despite the Local Plan calling for a limit of just under 300. And in the wings, Crest Nicholson is pushing a proposal for 450 units in north Batford (which at least is contained in the submitted Plan which we have supported).



So our community is already facing 1000 new housing units, some 70% of the total number incorporated in the submitted Plan. And Paul also disclosed that Rayner's Department is looking for even higher numbers than the previous government.

To add to these two major developments, the Transport Minister, Heidi Alexander, has now approved Luton Airport's application to increase annual passenger numbers through the airport from the current approved



maximum of 19m, to over 32m – the current actual level is c.17m.

There was one redeeming feature of this, in that the Society, working with LADACAN and other groups, had at least persuaded the Examining Inspectors to reject the application. But then came Stellantis' decision to close the Vauxhall van factory with the loss of c.1100 jobs, so politics trumped economic logic. We still feel that this approval is only one step in the process.

In our opinion, Luton may well be able to 'squeeze' 20m passengers through its facilities, but the constraints of geographic location and runway length make it very difficult for them to raise the £2-3bn likely to be needed to get to the 32m level.

The bad news for our community is that these three approvals lack any detail of the real impact on our community's infrastructure, either singly or cumulatively. The Society has already publically pointed out that the traffic management proposals for the Cooters End development are frankly risible, with Herts Highways appearing to just roll over.

However, the permission granted to L&G does at least stipulate that agreement has to be reached with SADC on the Section 106 requirements – on matters relating to leisure space, water and sewerage provision, as well as health, education and transport and traffic impacts.

So our task now is to lobby SADC, Herts CC and other statutory bodies to obtain a satisfactory settlement for our community. **(Continued on next page)**

### The initial signs are not good.

The reality of 1000 new houses being built over the next few years doesn't appear to have registered with these statutory bodies that what is needed is a holistic view being taken of the infrastructure needs. They seem, at first sight, to be considering each development on their own.

Just on the traffic impact, how do families get their children to school if the schools are too far away to walk, how do commuters get to the railway station, or get to Welwyn/St Albans etc for work? Herts Highways seem to be convinced that we'll just muddle along and accept the significant increase in road congestion/ gridlock/pollution etc.



And we are now learning to live with the revised parking regime for the town centre, with the imposition of charges for on street parking that are, frankly, complex, and confusing for many of our residents, and which will negatively affect the economic heart of our town. The Society understands SADC's need to generate more income, and we do not oppose a charging regime for the town centre's streets, but it needs to be simple to understand and use.

We have argued strongly, alongside the Town Council, that with the impending increase in the town's population, there is a desperate need for a proper parking strategy to be developed, and that any charging regime should retain the original free one hour parking arrangement.

### So, is there any good news to report?

One victory, following the closure of all of our local bank branches, has been that we now have an interim banking hub based in the Council offices – the result of a long national campaign led by one of our members, Derek French, and lobbying by the Town Council and ourselves and others. This is only a temporary measure whilst suitable permanent premises are found – rumoured to be well advanced.



There is also a new opportunity with the Government's policy announcement focussed on the extension of unitary local authorities and regional mayoralities, as a key component of enhancing devolution. The success of bodies in the North West and the West Midlands has no doubt added impetus to this policy move. In Hertfordshire, one County Council, ten District Councils and a plethora of town and parish councils have always created confusion amongst residents as to who does what to and for whom. The Society is very supportive of giving more authority and spending power to the community, but we have to wait and see what emerges from the consultation with existing authorities that has a deadline of early May to discover what is being proposed for Hertfordshire.

Which generates the thought that those long enough in the tooth may recall that in all of this, they can see hints of a move back to pre-1973 days of Harpenden Urban and District Council.....

However, regardless of the outcome of the consultation, we totally support our own Town Council in acquiring more community assets and responsibilities - not least our own control of parking!

So the Society retains a very full agenda for the coming year, and I have to thank my colleagues on the management committee, and our volunteers for all their help and assistance throughout what has been a very hectic year.

And we will continue to progress our charitable aims, making a positive contribution to our community, and with your support, work to maintain Harpenden as a vibrant and attractive community to live and work in.

Sadly, Karl Wingfield has decided to stand down from the management committee. Karl made an enormous contribution on the Society's behalf, to the Luton Airport expansion application, and which led to the Planning Inspectors to reject that expansion. We all wish him the very best for the future.



## Transport - Looking back

Last year, a considerable amount of time was invested in challenging the on street parking proposals from St Albans District Council (SADC). From the start the Society's position was that the proposals were not fit for purpose and that SADC should engage with the town council, ourselves and other local groups, particularly retailers to come up with something workable. Notwithstanding a few cosmetic changes to the original proposals SADC went ahead and introduced the charges in February 2025. On street parking has reduced as a result and, as I write, retailers are assessing the impact the changes have had on turnover whilst the town council has threatened litigation.



On 4th April the Secretary of State for Transport (SoS) consented to the expansion of Luton Airport to 32 million passengers. The SoS's consent was given despite the recommendation of the examining authority that consent should be withheld as they adjudged that the economic benefits of expansion did not outweigh the environmental impacts. As a result, Harpenden residents can expect more noise disturbance and increased congestion on the roads and railways (an article on the ramifications of the expansion will be included in our Spring newsletter).



Despite the fanfare, we have yet to see any investment in walking and cycling initiatives in Harpenden. As part of the planning consent for the NW Harpenden development, the developers are required to implement walking and cycling routes into the town centre. However, because of ignorance on the part of Herts County Council, these routes will not meet the

national standards for cycling provision. A lost opportunity.



As reported last year, the Department for Transport and the CAA have consulted on a switch to a Single Design

Entity to take flight paths changes forward. We await the outcome of this consultation. Luton Airport has not progressed any flight path changes that are not dependent on other airports in 2024.

## Looking forward

We will continue to campaign for a rethink of the on street parking charges. So far as walking and cycling in Harpenden are concerned we will participate in the consultations on the NE Harpenden development and try to ensure there is adequate provision of walking and cycling options. Ideally, we would like to see the proposals for NW Harpenden revisited.



We hope that the Transport Forum, which met once in 2024, meets more frequently in 2025 as that represents a good opportunity to drive transport improvements across the town, in sympathy with the aims of the Transport in Harpenden report we commissioned in 2023.

## Health & Welfare

### Looking back

The Society welcomed an excellent presentation on Children and Young Person's mental health by Dr Alison Cowan in October 2024. Hertfordshire now has a single point of access for those seeking support on 0800 6444 101 - a 24 hour helpline.



### Looking Forward

A new service has been made available this year to adults who are in need of urgent mental health support. The Mental Health Urgent Care Centre (MHUCC) is open 24/7 at the Lister Hospital Campus in Stevenage. It is being provided by HPFT – the Hertfordshire Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust.

The facility offers an alternative to long waits and crowded spaces for those in a mental health crisis. It aims to provide a comprehensive assessment within a few hours of a patient arriving at the centre.

The team works with the patient to create a care plan. This could be support to keep the patient safe at home or transfer to an inpatient bed.

### Looking back

New Services are being introduced at St Albans City Hospital. An area has been cleared, making way for three new operating theatres and a new surgical procedure room.

Hospital leaders have said that there should be shorter waiting times are on the horizon for patients from Hertfordshire and West Essex, who require non emergency surgery, including non complex orthopaedic surgery, spinal injections and ENT (ear nose and throat) procedures.

Two of the theatres and the procedure room in the new block will be for patients whose care is provided by either East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust, The Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust or West Hertfordshire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, which have all worked on this project, together with the Herts and West Essex Integrated Care Board.

The hub is mostly being funded by NHS England using national funding for tackling waiting lists which built up during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The facility is due to treat more than 4,400 patients a year with about half going home the same day and the others staying for one night.

The trusts have said that as well as a shorter waiting times, there will be an "extremely low risk of cancellations or delays" because the schedules are not affected by emergency surgery.

### Looking Forward

The surgical hub should open in May 2025.

### Looking back

The future of the Mount Vernon Cancer Centre has been the subject of a review, which concluded that the best option was to be co located on the eventual new Watford General Hospital site.

### Looking Forward

Confirmation that the redevelopment of Watford General Hospital is going ahead as part of the New Hospital Programme should be positive news for patients, staff, and for the redevelopment of the Mount Vernon Cancer Centre.

Unfortunately, the earliest start date for building on the Watford site is 2032, and may be as late as 2034. This delay will increase the need for West Herts Trust to spend precious capital funding, on maintaining a rapidly deteriorating building fabric, and implies at least 10 years, and probably longer, before the new hospital and the Mount Vernon Cancer Centre are up and running.

### Looking back

The General Medical Council approved the first stage of the University of Hertfordshire's application to establish an Undergraduate Medical School.

### Looking Forward

The first wave of fee paying International students are scheduled to start in September 2026: followed by UK students in September 2027.

Eventually, 70 students will be enrolled each year.

**Harpenden PCN** has introduced vaccination against Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) for residents aged 75-79 and women who are at least 28 weeks pregnant.

**Finally-** the Harpenden Community First Responders continue to provide outstanding care for Harpenden residents. Apart from rapid assessment and resuscitation, the CFR's run regular training sessions on how to perform Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation. They remain a vital part of care in our area.

**Further information can be found at**

[www.harpendenresponders.org.uk](http://www.harpendenresponders.org.uk)



**Ian Barrison**



## Secretary's report

The Society held its AGM on the 16th May 2024 followed by a talk by James Clarke (Communications and Engagement Director of Rothamsted Research) and Katherine Tate (The Food Teacher) on Farming Well and Eating Well. Mr Clarke asserted that in the next 50 years the world will need to produce as much food as has been consumed over our entire human history. Sustainable farming will be key and that will need multiple solutions, not least because of the effects of climate change. He added that we must reduce the use of chemicals, making their application much more selective. Katharine Tate, a Harpenden-based award-winning nutritionist, followed with a presentation describing how healthy eating can keep you fit and well.

On the 17th June the Society held an election hustings for the upcoming general election. An audience of over 200 people watched the six political party representatives answer questions of importance from subjects such as national issues like Social Care; Defence; Criminal Justice System; Immigration; Economic policy; Education and Brexit to local issues like the Green Belt; Housing; the Local Plan and the High Street

The candidates attending were Symon Vego (representing Zara Layne) - Labour Party, Paul de Hoest - Green Party, Nigel Gardner - Conservative Party, Mark Patten - SDP, Saba Poursaeedi - Reform UK, and Victoria Collins - Liberal Democrats

On the 17th October the Society held a meeting on the subject of Children's Mental Health. The meeting featured a presentation by Dr Alison Cowan, a Hertfordshire GP specialising in young people's mental wellbeing.

Among the key issues addressed were anxiety and depression (often sleep loss aggravated), which in extreme cases can lead to self-harm and thoughts of,

or actual, suicide. Eating disorders, often related to an individual's perceived body image, were further issues, as well as behavioural disorders and ADHD (attention deficit hyperactivity disorder).

On the 31st January 2025 an audience of over 140, including many non-members of the Society, attended a public meeting in which Cllr. Paul de Kort presented the status of the Local Plan. He said that without the submission, in an acceptable form, of a local plan for St Albans City and District before the middle of next year, protection of key areas of the Green Belt against housing development might well be lost.

Paul de Kort commented: "Putting together a local plan is a complex activity for any local authority. The particular circumstances of St Albans District multiply the challenge. He stated that he hoped his presentation and responses to the audience's questions provided more clarity on the local context, the progress made to date and what remaining uncertainties there are to be resolved.

**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**

## Membership – Looking back

Overall, membership has increased in the last year with the new joiners more than offsetting those who members who have moved away.

Please remember to tell us if you move address or change email address so we can keep the records up to date, and get the newsletters to you. Thanks in advance!

Our new members have mostly joined through our website after attending our popular Public Meetings, or responding to our social media presence.

**Totals now:** 756 people across 496 memberships as at end March. This compares to 750 people across 486 memberships last year. So a net of 10 new memberships with 16 leavers and 26 joiners. Some memberships had two names associated with them, but newer memberships tend to have only one name, hence the people total only being a net 6 up.

## Looking forward

The programme of public meetings and increased social media exposure through the campaigning work 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.



**Paul Gloess**

## Built Environment - Looking back

The last year is likely to mark a pivotal stage when the character and appeal of Harpenden is set to change in a significant way. The main driver for this is the Government's demand for more new housing to be built in the District – approx. 15,000 by 2041, of which over 1,250 will be built in Harpenden – representing approx. 10% of the existing number of dwellings. It is proposed that the majority will be built on two main Green Belt sites – North West Harpenden between Bloomfield Road and Cooters End Lane and in the North East behind the Batford estate. The NW Site – owned by Carla Homes – was granted Outline Planning Consent by the Lib Dem controlled Council for approx. 550 units despite a huge amount of opposition from local residents concerned that the impact of such a large site will have a significant adverse impact leading to traffic congestion and overwhelming of public services.



***Artist's impression of the site development***

The NE site – owned by Crest Nicholson – has the potential to be larger as it will probably include a few smaller adjoining sites bringing the total to about 750 units.

Whilst The Harpenden Society is not opposed to new housing it has expressed concern that it must go hand in glove with adequate new infrastructure which take a holistic approach covering all the town and its road network, especially as there are proposals by neighbouring District Councils for more large new developments which will inevitably impact Harpenden due to its location on the cross roads of already busy trunk roads serving nearby towns.

After much opposition the proposal to build approx. 30 houses on a Green Belt site off Cross Lane, East Common was refused at appeal by the Planning Inspector but we wait the outcome of an application on a Green Belt site next to the Aldwickbury Golf Course where approx. 40 dwellings are planned.

The recent decision by the Government to allow London Luton Airport to expand contrary to the recommendation of the appointed Planning Inspector is also going to have ramifications on Harpenden.

Last year the District Council offered the old Public Halls in Southdown Road for sale in expectation it would be sold for residential development but in the end it was



purchased by Christ Church who are planning to undertake renovation and convert it to a place of worship and community use.

## Looking forward

Crest Nicholson are expected to submit an application for the NE Harpenden site during the coming year but given the decision relating to the NW site, it seems probable that the Council will be minded to grant consent, especially as the draft Local Plan is unlikely to be adopted before 2026 and currently the old local plan cannot demonstrate that suitable sites have been identified to meet the Government's target.

The Harpenden Society will continue to monitor the application and make representations to impress upon the Council the need to ensure suitable provision is made for "on site" services – such as local shops, community facilities, schooling and workable public transport provision – to reduce reliance on personal car travel.

Solum, a joint venture company set up by Network Rail and Kier to explore development potential of their railway estate held a public exhibition last year to illustrate how they wanted to build 120 flats in two 5 storey blocks on the east car park and at the same time build another car park deck. Unfortunately, this would reduce the current number of spaces available for public use by about 15%. Solum considered this was feasible as more people would continue to work from home. The Harpenden Society held separate meetings with Solum to stress this was not realistic especially given the planned increase in local housing in the next few years. A planning application was due to be made last autumn but so far none has been submitted.

At a more focused level we hope that 6 High Street – the old M&Co/C & A store – will soon be brought into use after standing vacant for many years. With the arrival of Cotswold Furniture in the old Barclays Bank premises there does seem to be a demand for units in good prominent locations.

**John Lowe**



## Publicity Looking back

Our stand at the Seniors Fair on April 9 (below) is a recent example of reaching out to local residents. Coupled with public meetings, editorial coverage in local media & the Newsletter we are maintaining our presence in Harpenden with news of our activities.



## Looking forward

The same coverage will continue during then year ahead with the Herts Advertiser and the St Albans Times being the key media. The Society AGM on May 21 will have 2 guest speakers as shown on the poster below. Pre event and post event stories will be posted to all local media & social.

**The Future of Farming in Harpenden**

**Land Use... Food Production...  
Environment...Organic Issues...  
Climate Change and how it affects you.**

Local farmer **Stuart Roberts** will explain the history of farm land in Harpenden and how farming has changed to meet the challenges ahead and satisfy our need for good home produced food alongside the other needs we have from our land.



Photo courtesy of Debbie Dennis

The Food Teacher™, **Katharine Tate** will explain how to support our grey matter! She will share the research around food and lifestyle interventions that may protect our cognition as we age.



**PUBLIC MEETING 8.00 pm**  
Preceded by a short AGM  
**Wednesday May 21**  
Katherine Warrington School - Free Parking

Reserve your seat via our web site  
[www.harpendensociety.org](http://www.harpendensociety.org)  
Registered Charity 278156



## The Economy Looking back

The High Street has seen a mixture of changes during the year with the closures of Purple menswear, Jessica Wilson jewellers, the Forge Boutique, JoJo Mama Bebe. Talk Easy, Reeds, & Stevensons School wear. However several new stores have opened with Swanne Boutique, Crew Clothing, MYSTR Menswear, Cotswold Furniture, Mandarin Stone, TRAVELBAG Travel Agency and Per Tutti restaurant. A temporary Banking Hub is open in the Town Hall AND just a short distance away Brad & Dills have expanded into the Park Cafe. So there are still very few empty premises. Whether the current status will remain will be dependent upon the reaction to trade now the parking charges have been implemented. **This subject covered on page 3.**



**Above: A room interior set at Cotswold Furniture in the old Barclays bank unit. Below: The new look Karina's Barber Shop adjacent to Costa on the lower High Street.**



## Looking forward

The Southdown Industrial Estate is still awaiting further development and remains an underused facility. Just a short distance away sees the progress on the Harpenden Springs Care Home which is due to open 2026.

Two key Southdown shops continue to provide valuable service with everyday hardware from Southdown Hardware and motor accessories from Milehams.

The world renowned Rothamsted Research publish wide ranging data analysis on agricultural subjects. A recent example being: **Nearly a fifth of the world's agricultural land is contaminated by toxic metals, posing a serious threat to food security, public health, and ecosystems, according to a new global study published in April in the journal Science.** Learn much more on their web site.



The annual Lyndhurst Personal Financial Conference (above) in November at Rothamsted Conference Centre continues to attract large audiences with top speakers from a wide range of high profile financial companies.

## Ron Taylor

## Social media - Looking back

It's been a big year for the residents of Harpenden with a number of changes that will impact the quality of life in Harpenden, in particular the introduction of parking charges, applications for two large residential developments, the airport expansion and the adoption of a new Local Plan, and the collective response that the society can deliver has never been more needed.

The society now promotes its work on two social media channels, **Facebook** and **Nextdoor** with the intention of raising awareness and driving traffic back to society's website for the detail. Many of our current members may receive their news from direct emails and newsletters, but to be considered a representative group we need a constant flow of new members and social media is the most efficient and cost effective method of communicating. Our most successful communication was seen by over 13000 neighbours (that's 1/3rd the population of Harpenden!) and received over 100 interactions

The second initiative that we have delivered this year is the

**Photography Competition**, in conjunction with the **Harpenden Photographic Society**, in which we asked residents to send us their images that illustrate why Harpenden is such

a great place to live. We received a lot of entries and the voting panel thought the quality was excellent. A condition of entry was that photograph submitted can be used to promote the society. Winners will be announced in May 2025.

## Looking forward

If you use social media platforms then please do follow our page and when you see a post please react to it, ideally with a like. The more followers and reactions we get then the more exposure we receive. With the rate of change that the town is being subject to there has never been a more important time for the residents to come together and support the society. Please encourage your friends and neighbours to join us because together our voice is louder

**Martyn Reed**

## Newsletter - Looking back

Our quarterly newsletter continues to receive plaudits, even from non Society members who happen to see one of the copies distributed around the town, as an important means of publicising the work of the Society, for example to the Public Library and Town Hall, as well as to events like the recent Seniors Fair. There the newsletters on the Society stand picked up by 'passers by' were crucial in helping to recruit new members, and where a regular comment from was that 'it tells us much of what is going on in Harpenden, which we would otherwise be unaware of'.

For the past nine years or so, since **Alan Bunting** took over the reins as Editor, the newsletter has indeed widened its remit, well beyond simply reporting the activities of the Society. It has accordingly grown in size, from six to eight and latterly twelve pages. As several Society members have approvingly observed, that has boosted the (still modest) annual subscription's value for money!

Much of the newsletter 'copy' has continued to be generated by Alan himself, albeit supported from time to time with written contributions from others. But after such a lengthy stint he has now expressed a wish to wind down his involvement. However under the title of Editor Emeritus, he has agreed pro tem to oversee the editorial content of the newsletter, at least to ensure that – in the words of one Society member recently – 'it reads well!'

Over the last two years or more we have, alas so far to no avail, made several appeals in the newsletter's pages for someone, perhaps a person with journalistic experience or aspirations and with a keen interest in the life of Harpenden, to take on part or all of the Editor's role. And, of course, it should be added, written contributions to the newsletter, within reason on any subject that's Harpenden related, will be welcomed.

## Looking forward

Colleagues have taken on the responsibility for crafting items for the newsletter, ably supported (and driven!) by our publishing and PR guru, Ron Taylor.

And members can be reassured that the newsletter will continue to be created along similar lines to those Alan developed

**Jeff Phillips**





**AWARDS TIME.** The Harpenden Society are proud to recognise these worthy nominations for our annual Awards. Presentation dates will be announced in the months ahead with reports on the Society web site.



**Prestige Plaques:**

- The Harpenden History Museum in the Eric Morecambe Centre. An important centre of Local History & Archives plus their regular special exhibitions.
- The Lea Grange Care Home in Coldharbour Lane. A much needed 24-hour residential, nursing, dementia and respite care within an environment purpose-built unit for the practical delivery of high-quality care.



**Certificate of Merit:**

- The All Weather pitch at Katherine Warrington School - A fantastic 3G Facility for students at KWS and the local community especially Wheathampsted Wanderers their partner club

**Letters of Commendation:**

- Brad & Dills Park cafe in Rothamsted Park- transforming the old cafe/restaurant
- The Harpenden Trust Halls in Southdown - newly refurbished for community use



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## Harpenden Society Treasurer's Report 2024

**Income for the year was £6,724.18 compared to £10,100.25 in 2023.**

During 2023, the Society received a legacy of £3,814.55. In 2024 Subscriptions fell by £190 and Gift Aid by £52 but interest received increased by £680 as we benefitted from a full year of interest on the 95 day deposit account.

### Expenditure

Expenditure during the year was £7,538.55 compared to 6,934.77 in 2023. The most significant item was £2,000 for rebranding included in the heading Advertising & Promotion.

The deficit for the year was £814.37 compared to a surplus of £3,165.48. Nothing during the year has been spent from the Civic Development Fund.

### Balance Sheet

Despite the deficit, the Society is in a healthy financial position with total funds of £40,494.47

**Harry Downie**

**The Harpenden Society Income and Expenditure account for the 12 months to  
31/12/2024**

	Accumulated Fund £	Civic Dev Fund	Total £	Year to 31/12/2023 £
<b>INCOME</b>				
Subscriptions and donations	4,290.50		4,290.50	4,481.27
Legacy	0.00		0.00	3,814.55
Interest received	1,523.40		1,523.40	841.79
Gift aid refund	910.28		910.28	962.64
	<b>6,724.18</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>6,724.18</b>	<b>10,100.25</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
Newsletters	1,669.10		1,669.10	2,332.16
Other Publications	22.50		22.50	0.00
Development Expenditure	0.00		0.00	2,250.00
Public Meetings	1,691.06		1,691.06	447.50
AGM expenses	409.42		409.42	267.73
School Arts competition	77.90		77.90	0.00
The Harpenden plaque	617.04		617.04	207.60
<u>Donations, gratuities and gifts</u>				
Harpenden in Bloom	160.00		160.00	192.00
Subscriptions to other societies	100.00		100.00	40.00
Without whom award	0.00		0.00	80.00
Adverising & Promotion	2,255.00		2,255.00	145.00
Committee Meetings	0.00		0.00	280.00
Office expenses, postage, telephone etc.	120.50		120.50	405.29
Insurance	411.16		411.16	287.49
Paypal charges	4.87		4.87	0.00
	<b>7,538.55</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>7,538.55</b>	<b>6,934.77</b>
<b>Surplus/-Deficit for the period</b>	<b>-814.37</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>-814.37</b>	<b>3,165.48</b>
Funds b/f	21,744.29	19,564.55	41,308.84	38,143.36
Surplus/deficit	-814.37	0.00	-814.37	3,165.48
Funds c/f	20,929.92	19,564.55	40,494.47	41,308.84



**Balance Sheet**  
**31/12/2024**

FUNDS	Accumulated Fund £	Civic Dev Fund £	Total £	Year to 31/12/2023 £
Balance at 1st January 2024	21,744.29	19,564.55	41,308.84	38,143.36
Surplus/Deficit for the period	-814.37	0.00	-814.37	3,165.48
	<u>20,929.92</u>	<u>19,564.55</u>	<u>40,494.47</u>	<u>41,308.84</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**

Cash on deposit at bank and in hand	3,514.23		3,514.23	5,769.86
95 day deposit	17,415.69	19,564.55	36,980.24	35,538.98
	<u>20,929.92</u>	<u>19,564.55</u>	<u>40,494.47</u>	<u>41,308.84</u>

**CURRENT LIABILITIES**

Subscriptions received in advance	0.00		0.00	0.00
Inter fund balance	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**

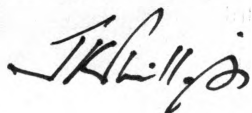
	20,929.92	19,564.55	40,494.47	41,308.84
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**TOTAL ASSETS**

	20,929.92	19,564.55	40,494.47	41,308.84
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The above Income and Expenditure Account was approved by the Trustees and authorised for signature on 15th March 2025 and signed by:

Jeff Philips - 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 2024 which are set out in the attached financial statement. I can also confirm that the contents of the Trustees Annual Report are consistent with the financial data in the accounts.

#### **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, 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
- 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:

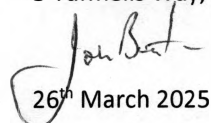
- a) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- b) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

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

  
26<sup>th</sup> March 2025

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](http://www.harpendingia.org)  
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