

The Harpenden Trust

Christmas 2011

OUR COMMUNITY FUND



Photos © Harpenden Photographic Society

Some of the organisations we have helped recently

In the 60 years following its foundation in 1948, the Trust's help for Harpenden people in need was concentrated on individuals and families. Only occasionally, perhaps following an unexpected donation or legacy, was the Trust able to make modest grants to local community organisations.

That situation changed dramatically when, in 2008, the Harpenden Abbeyfield Society merged with the Trust, bringing with it substantial funds. As part of the merger agreement those funds were placed in a separate Community Fund and the income used to help Harpenden's community groups.

While the Fund welcomes applications from any community

organisation, in keeping with the Trust's aims it concentrates its assistance on those involved with youth and education, the elderly, citizenship and society and the environment.

As the Fund contributes to projects that might not otherwise proceed, it looks to provide single cash grants rather than commit to regular income funding. Some recent grants include £2,500 for new tents and equipment for the 2nd Harpenden Scouts; £3,000 for new windows for Batford Memorial Hall; £600 for new equipment for the Expedition Club; and £500 for a new petrol hedge trimmer and other items for the Batford Springs Nature Reserve.

The largest donation in the past

year was to Harpenden Mencap. This long-established charity helps disabled people to remain independent by assisting them to live on their own if they wish, or in shared accommodation, currently at Stairways in Douglas Road. By September next year the charity hopes to have completed a block of individual flats in Carlton Road. The Community Fund agreed to provide £17,000 to pay for the cost of the building's security entrance system.

In March this year Harpenden Town Council's *Forum* newsletter carried a list of 37 possible community projects for council funding and invited residents to choose which four should succeed.

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Please help us this Christmas



Christmas Appeal envelopes will be dropping through the doors of most Harpenden houses in December. Please don't throw them away. The money in these envelopes provides more than 30% of the total income of the Care Fund. That is the Fund that carries on the Trust's traditional role of helping individuals and families in our community. Without it we would have to cut back on our activities.

Please give generously and if at all possible please complete the Gift Aid declaration on the back of

the envelope. It costs nothing to complete but we can claim back from the Government a further 25% of whatever you put in the envelope. We can assure you that your details will never be given to any other organisation.

If you are out when our collector calls please drop off the envelope at the Trust Hall, 90 Southdown Road, or at Barclays Bank in the High Street or Jelly's Meats, 97 Luton Road.

THANK YOU

INSIDE: Coffee mornings, days out, financial overview, memory lane ...

PEOPLE WHO NEED THE HELP OF A GOOD NEIGHBOUR!

There will always be people in Harpenden who suffer hardship, financial or otherwise; people who need the help of a good neighbour. For more than 60 years the Harpenden Trust has been a very good neighbour to the people of Harpenden, none more so than our team of Home Visitors who voluntarily give their time throughout the year to those in the community who have asked for their help. The team primarily helps out in times of sudden difficulty, or family emergency, rather than offering support over long periods, which is something that other, professional, agencies are equipped to provide.

The initial contact is made through the office. Someone phones, e-mails or calls into the office and the Office Volunteer on duty that day will pass the details to one of the Home Visits Team straightaway, a member of which will get in touch (whenever possible within 24 hours) to discuss and, if appropriate, arrange a visit.

Here are some examples of how Harpenden Trust Home Visitors have helped over the past year.

Angela's husband died of cancer last winter when her three girls were just 3, 6 and 10. Her husband had been the main breadwinner and when he became ill, Angela had to take time off work to care for him. The Trust helped to relieve some of the financial burden brought on by funeral costs, by making sure that Angela could feed her family and keep the house warm over the Christmas period.

Carmen arrived in Harpenden with her three children and one suitcase after they had spent time in a refuge,

having suffered years of domestic violence. She had a home but no funds with which to furnish it. A Home Visitor went to visit her and within a short time she had beds for herself and the children, a washing machine, a table and some chairs, all donated by people in Harpenden. Funds were also provided to buy bedding and food.

When the central heating broke down in **Claire's** house just as the snow arrived last December, she called the Harpenden Trust. Her husband had died the year before, her elderly parents had come to stay and her children would soon be on school holiday. The Trust was able to help with plumbing and repair costs.

When **Nancy** contacted the Trust about caring for her elderly mother who was very poorly, she received a visit from one of the Home Visitors. As well as providing some help with utility bills, the Home Visitor suggested that Nancy should contact the Credit Union Bank to ask about taking out a loan. The Bank, which has a presence in Harpenden every Saturday morning, advised and helped her with this, so she was able to pay for her mother to be looked after in her own home until she died a few months later.

The Trust also helps those families who have difficulties with the costly business of getting children ready for school, via grants for uniform, PE and games kit and shoes for school. In cases of real hardship, the Trust provides help with funding for utilities and food.

Real names have not been used in this article.



Senior Citizens enjoy a free cup of coffee and a biscuit

Senior Citizens' Coffee Mornings

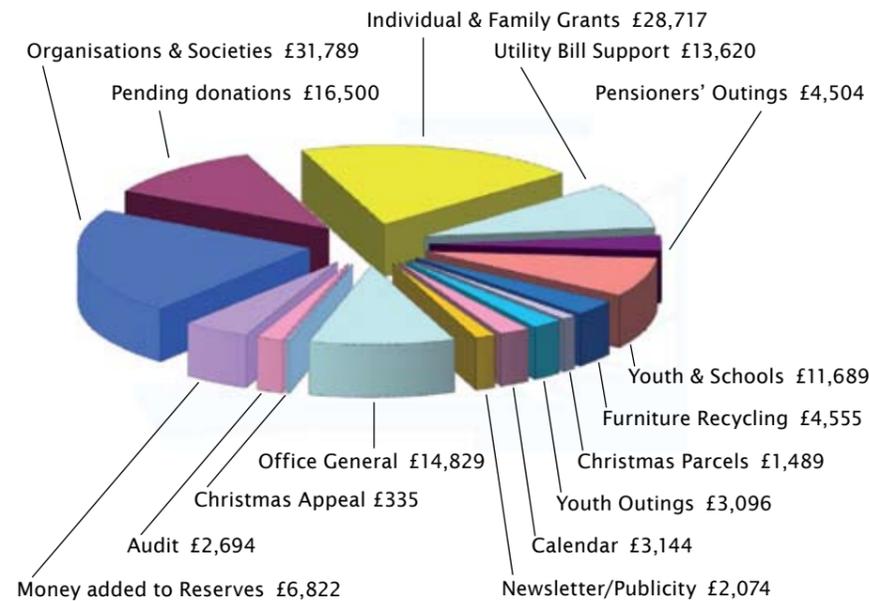
If you are a Senior Citizen who likes some lively conversation and a cup of coffee why not join us for a cup of coffee and a biscuit on Tuesday morning between 10.00 and 11.00 at the Harpenden Trust Centre, 90 Southdown Road, or on Thursday morning at the High Street Methodist Church between 10.00 and 11.15. Some have been coming here for years and others are newcomers but everyone gets a warm welcome from our band of volunteers. It is a good way to make new friends.

Twin Lakes invaded by 35 Harpenden families!

In August, 67 children, 30 parents and four volunteers boarded two coaches and a minibus in Harpenden and made their way up the M1 to Twin Lakes Family Theme Park near Melton Mowbray for our annual children's outing. The sun shone and the mini steam train carried us round the park, taking the more adventurous to the "Log Flume" and "Buffalo Stampede" and the less energetic to see the animals in "Red Rooster Farm" or to watch the falconry display. With lots of space to run around in and playgrounds too, many of the children (and parents!) were exhausted when the time came to head home, taking

HOW THE TRUST SPENDS ITS MONEY AT A GLANCE

Below is a breakdown of the Trust's total expenditure of £145,857 for the financial year 2010-11. For further information on the Trust's finances visit our website www.theharpendentrust.org.uk.



Thanks for the memories ... one of the letters given to one the Trust volunteers

back memories of a good day out.

Over 200 Harpenden children and family members enjoyed the local pantomime again this year as a result of the work of volunteers at the Trust.

Youth and Schools

In today's financial climate many parents struggle to find the extra funds needed for the visits that schools organise, where pupils gain extra knowledge for their curriculum courses, or participate in educational experiences with their classmates away from school.

This year the Trust has given grants to schools towards such trips for over 70 young people. We have also given a donation towards the repair of musical instruments at a local secondary school and towards children's entertainment at the fundraising diamond jubilee celebrations at a primary school.

We continue to give grants to Young Enterprise and the Life Skills and Drug Awareness programme sponsored by the Harpenden Lions Club. A donation helped three Harpenden Girl Guides attend an international camp.

We are working with the charity

ReachOut Plus to support the needs of local families for respite holidays and have helped 12 children attend summer holiday activities at the local Children's Centre.

Sunny Clacton-on-Sea!

Our Senior Citizens' summer outings to the Esplanade Hotel in Clacton are still extremely popular. Over 130 pensioners enjoyed perfect weather on all three outings this year. We arrive for coffee, then a roast lunch, a stroll on the promenade or even a paddle in the sea and tea-time entertainment. The opportunity to get to the coast is welcome but it is the company of others that many of our clients value the most.

For those not able to manage a full day's outing, lunch at the Sun Hotel and shopping in Hitchin was the destination again this year. Clients unable to go on the coach outings are entertained to tea at the Trust Centre in

the autumn.

Every spring Harpenden Trust volunteers visit over 300 of our senior clients to check their needs and provide a vital link to our other services. If you have elderly relatives or neighbours whom you think could be added to our lists for trips or assistance, please contact the Trust Centre. Transport to and from the Trust Centre for these outings is provided by volunteer drivers. If you are willing to help out with transport call the Trust Centre — it would only be once or twice a year!

Oh, I do like to be beside the seaside ... the Senior Citizens' summer outings



Photos © Harpenden Photographic Society

OUR COMMUNITY FUND from page 1

The Community Fund has invited those that were unsuccessful to apply to the Fund and has already received a number of applications.

If your organisation would like to apply, you can obtain an application form by contacting the Trust office by e-mail at admin@theharpendentrust.org.uk, by phoning 01582 460457 or by visiting our website at www.theharpendentrust.org.uk.



Photo © Harpenden Photographic Society

2012 CALENDAR

HELPING HARPENDEN PEOPLE IN NEED
The Harpenden Trust

2012
Harpenden through the Seasons

ONLY £4

NOW AVAILABLE FROM:
The Harpenden Trust Centre,
Harpenden Town Hall and
The Harpenden Trust stall at the
Farmers' Market Christmas
Carnival on 27 November
All proceeds will go to the work
of The Harpenden Trust

Photo © Harpenden Photographic Society



HARPENDEN TRUST HALLS FOR HIRE!

Are you looking for a venue for your child's birthday party, a yoga class, dance class, or exercise class, a quiz night, a club meeting or charity event, a day class or evening class? If so, have you considered using the Harpenden Trust Centre in Southdown Road, which offers value for money and a great venue.

We have two newly decorated halls, with disabled access, that are available on a one-off or regular basis. The larger high-ceilinged Renwick

Hall can accommodate 80 people seated or 120 standing. The smaller Randall Hall can comfortably seat 40 people or has room for 50 standing. The rooms are bright and airy with modern lighting and there are three toilets, including one for the disabled, as well as a spacious kitchen.

If you are interested in viewing or hiring the halls please contact The Harpenden Trust Centre (see contact details below) or ring our Lettings Secretary Kay, on 07531 719704.

Photo © Harpenden Photographic Society



A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE

Escape from Hungary

The Harpenden Trust Centre means a lot to many people but it holds a special place in the heart of Mrs Carole Sztchlo, who came to visit the Renwick Hall on 29 October 2010. It was on this day in 1960 that Carole first met her husband Andre Sztchlo.

In 1956 Andre was forced to flee his beloved Hungary during the Hungarian uprising against Soviet invasion. He escaped with his brother across the Hungarian-Austrian border in a horse-drawn hay cart. Through the side-slats he could clearly see the Russian border guard, barely a yard from him on the frozen road. Luckily the border guard did not see him and he made it safely into Austria.

From here he made his way to Vienna, then to Ostend and Dover, and eventually he arrived in Hertfordshire. It was at an engagement party in St John's Church Hall (now the Renwick Hall) in Harpenden that he met his wife Carole.

In her letter to the Harpenden Trust, Carole, now sadly widowed, said, "Thank you very much to the staff at the old St John's Hall for enabling me to look around the hall. This was the beginning of our life together and the hall will always have a special place in my heart."

HOW TO CONTACT US

 Ring us on **01582 460457** anytime. If the office is unmanned, you can leave a message and we will phone you back.

 E-mail us at **admin@theharpendentrust.org.uk**

Call in and see us at the Trust Centre between **10am and noon, Monday to Thursday.**

 Write to us at: **The Harpenden Trust, The Harpenden Trust Centre, 90 Southdown Road, Harpenden AL5 1PS.**



The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service



The Harpenden Trust is a Company limited by guarantee and is registered under the Charities Act. Company number 5951591. Registered charity number 1118870. Registered office at the address shown on left. (The Company is the successor to the charity The Harpenden Trust, Number 212973, founded 1948.)