

The Harpenden Trust

Christmas 2008

60 YEARS OF SERVICE TO HARPENDEN

This year, the Harpenden Trust celebrated sixty years of service to the people of Harpenden. Happily, our diamond jubilee coincided with the receipt of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service (see below).

This birthday was also marked by the establishment of the Trust's new Community Fund (see inside) which will enable us to increase our financial commitment to clubs, societies and community organisations in Harpenden.

It was in 1948 that a number of Harpenden citizens decided that they should form an organisation to continue to raise welfare funds. With an enthusiastic response from

local people, the Harpenden Trust was established, the first President being Dr Charles Hill, later Lord Hill of Luton.

Times have changed, but the Trust has held steadfast to its central aim of helping Harpenden people in need. For many years after 1951 one of its main functions was to provide infant foods, orange juice and vitamin tablets, often without charge. In the 1950s holidays were provided for local pensioners.

In 1955, the Trust helped in the establishment of the Friends of Harpenden Hospital and then, in 1960, set up the Courage Club for disabled people. 1963 saw the first pensioners' coffee mornings,

still held today. Four years later, a thousand bags of coal were delivered, at Trust expense, to needy residents. In 1971, the Trust was instrumental in setting up the Day Centre. Until 1987, the Trust had for many years run a youth club, and at the end of that decade, the Trust assisted the setting up of Riding for the Disabled in Harpenden.

The future holds many challenges for the Trust, which must be responsive to the changing needs of local people. But we look forward with confidence to continuing our key role in our town, and to justifying our aim to be "supported by the community, run by the community, for the community".

Trust wins Queen's Award



Lady Verulam, Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire, presents the Award to Trust Chairman Roy Brimblecombe while the President of the Trust, Susan Fairbairn, shows the Award scroll.

Harpenden Trust is proud to have been granted the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. The award recognises the effectiveness of the Trust in supporting Harpenden people and organisations in need, and is a source of great pride to the Trust's band of volunteer workers. It is equivalent to an MBE.

The formal presentation of the award was made at a garden party held to mark the Trust's sixtieth birthday, where the guest of honour was the Countess of Verulam, Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire. Lady Verulam devoted her whole

afternoon to meeting Trust workers, and presented the award and a scroll to Susan Fairbairn and Roy Brimblecombe, respectively President and Chairman of the Trust, on behalf of all the members and workers. We were also delighted that the Mayor of Harpenden, Councillor Pat Kent, was able to join us for the afternoon.



There was even a 60th birthday cake for the Harpenden Trust.



A day by the sea

Betty Prowle is one of the Harpenden pensioners who enjoys a day out at the coast each year, courtesy of the Harpenden Trust. Betty says that "My husband, Gordon, and I always look forward to our outing and to meeting other Harpenden people on the coach. This year, we went to the Esplanade Hotel in Clacton, enjoyed an excellent lunch in the restaurant and an afternoon tea. Harpenden Trust even arranged for a lift from our home

to the coach departure point, and for someone to bring us home in the evening."

Betty, who works as a volunteer at the Harpenden Mencap Shop in Southdown, is one of more than two hundred pensioners who have a day out at the coast, or in the country, each year — a service provided without charge to the people of Harpenden by the Trust. If you would like to be added to the Trust's outings list — or you know someone who would — please contact the Trust office (details on the back page).

A happy band of travellers

The Go-Together Travel Club has now reached its maturity. An initiative of the Harpenden Trust to create friendship and bring like-minded people together, the Club is now fully independent of the Trust. Marian

Durbridge, the organiser, has worked wonders, and members have had a choice of over seventy events since the club was set up. The joining fee is still low and there are many visits in the Club's calendar.

To join this happy band of travellers, contact Marian on 01582 469338, or write to The Go-Together Club, 25 Stewart Road, Harpenden, AL5 4QE.



Members of the Harpenden Expedition Club, one of the local organisations given assistance by the Trust.

Trip the light fantastic!

"At the age of eighty, I never expected to wear my dancing shoes again!" This was the delighted comment of one member of The Harpenden Tea Dance Club, yet another local organisation formed at the initiative of The Harpenden Trust. Formed in March this year, the Club proved so popular with the people of Harpenden that all the membership slots were immediately filled. The Club meets on the first Tuesday afternoon of each month with music by Charles Scott, our local compere. Even during the summer the attendance was high. Dancing is good exercise and members meet like-minded people who enjoy music and dance.

Knowing that there are more people wanting to join, and to avoid disappointment, the Club has opened up membership again. Anyone who is interested in joining should give Alan Cox a call on 01582 712372. It is a friendly two hours for as little as £2 per session. The only snag is that members are asked to make the tea once in every eighteen months!

As some members may be a little rusty (or just have two left feet), an instruction session is offered for one hour on the last Monday in each month (except during school holidays). So there is no excuse — go on, give it a try!

Trust helps local students

During the past year, over sixty Harpenden students have been able to take part in activities which their families could not afford to pay for in full, thanks to the Harpenden Trust. Those helped include primary pupils in years five and six joining their classmates, often on their first stay away from home, secondary school students going to Europe to practise language or for field study, and undergraduates struggling to fund their dissertation costs.

As in previous years, the Trust has given a donation to the Harpenden Lions Club Life Skills Initiative, which supports citizenship education in our primary and secondary schools and

vulnerable parents and toddlers in local nursery schools. Harpenden's school students have again been able to take part in the Young Enterprise Company Programme. The High Bat Tree After-School Club received a grant towards replacing its minibus after the previous one was destroyed by vandals. Members of the Hieland Toe Club were able to travel to a competition, and the Harpenden Expedition Club was able to fully equip six more members for overnight camping.



complete with crockery and utensils and recently renewed toilets (including one for the disabled). There is even storage for the use of hirers.

The current hire charge for the

Renwick Hall is £12 an hour, and that for the Randall Room, £9 an hour. Anyone interested in hiring should contact the Trust Centre (contact details shown on the back page).

Increased help available for Harpenden clubs and groups

In our Diamond Jubilee Year, the Harpenden Trust is delighted to announce that we have been able to set up a new fund — the Community Fund — with the transfer to the Trust of the funds of Abbeyfield (Harpenden). Its objective is to provide funding to groups, clubs and associations operating in the AL5 postal district, particularly where those activities provide direct benefit

to the people of Harpenden.

Helping local organisations has always been a feature of the work of the Harpenden Trust. Over the past sixty years we have directly assisted in the setting up of such organisations as the Day Centre, the Courage Club and Riding for the Disabled. We have also given numerous donations to local organisations to help them with specific projects.

The Harpenden Trust
2009
Now available from
The Harpenden Trust
Centre
£3.99
All proceeds will go
to the work of
The Harpenden Trust

Harpenden's value venue



"The best value venue available in Harpenden" is how the halls available for rent at the Harpenden Trust Centre are described by Richard Upton, who is in charge of the Centre's upkeep and lettings. "Our philosophy is to try to increase occupancy rather than the hire charge, and we take pride in being able to offer use of our accommodation to the people of Harpenden," says Richard.

In the Trust Centre on Southdown

Road are two bright halls, both recently refurbished, with disabled access, modern lighting and new floors. The larger, high-ceilinged hall, known as the Renwick Hall, can accommodate 80 people seated or 120 standing. The Randall Room is smaller, comfortable for 40 people seated or 50 standing. Both halls are ideal for club meetings, dance and exercise sessions, educational use, parties etc.

There is a fully-equipped kitchen,

How the Trust helps individuals and families

The Harpenden Trust can provide assistance to individuals and families living in the AL5 postal district in the following ways:

- **GRANTS** Vouchers can be provided for food and/or clothing, assistance with utility and other household bills, provision of furniture and household goods.
- **STUDENTS** Through specified personnel at each local primary and secondary school, individual

pupils can be assisted with costs relating to such matters as their studies or uniforms.

- **UTILITY BILLS** Help can be given to those who rely on state pension, who are experiencing difficulty paying their utility bills.
- **OUTINGS** Pensioners may qualify for a place on one of our free outings to the seaside or the countryside.
- **COFFEE MORNINGS** Free coffee and biscuits are provided for pensioners who call in at 10am

to noon at the Trust Centre on Tuesdays and at the High Street Methodist Church on Thursdays.

- **COMMUNITY HALLS** Two modern halls are available at the Trust Centre for hire at competitive rates for community groups.

If you think you might benefit from any of these services (or you know someone who could), or if the Trust can help in another way, please contact us at the address shown on this page.



LOOK OUT FOR ... OUR LITTLE ENVELOPE

During December our Christmas Appeal envelopes will be dropping through the letterboxes of most houses in Harpenden. Please don't throw them away. This is our major fund-raising exercise and the money from this Appeal provides 30% of our total income and without it we would have to cut back drastically on our activities.

Please give generously, and if possible complete the Gift Aid Declaration on the back of the envelope. This means that we can claim back a further 28% from the government.

If you are out when our collector calls, please drop off the envelope at the Trust Centre or at Barclays Bank in the High Street.



New President has family links to Trust



During the year, the Trust appointed the Honourable Mrs Susan Fairbairn as President, and she is an appropriate choice for the

post because of her family links to the Trust. Her father, Lord Hill, was the Trust's first President in 1948. Best known perhaps to the older generation as "the radio doctor", Lord Hill was MP for Luton and Chairman of the BBC.

Susan has lived in Harpenden for much of her life, having grown up in a now-demolished house in Milton Road. She taught economics, and was the first head of the sixth form at St George's School, where she continues to be a governor. On retirement, she worked at the Citizens' Advice Bureau in Harpenden and St Albans.

HOW TO CONTACT US

Ring us on **01582 460457** at 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 Harpenden Trust is a Company limited by guarantee and is registered under the Charities Act. Company number 5951591. Registered charity number 1118879. Registered office at the address shown on left. (The Company is the successor to the charity The Harpenden Trust, Number 212973, founded 1948)