

# The Harpenden Trust

Christmas 2012

## A DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY 60 YEARS OF THE CHRISTMAS APPEAL

This year Harpenden and the rest of the UK celebrated the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the Olympic Games. Another Diamond Anniversary will be celebrated in December 2012, which marks 60 years of The Harpenden Trust Christmas Appeal, raising funds for Harpenden individuals and families in crisis.

The Harpenden Trust was set up in 1948 after the Second World War. By 1952, although many successful fundraising events were held, it was becoming evident that more funds would be needed if the Trust was to meet the growing

calls for help. A decision was taken to make an annual appeal at Christmas. Special envelopes were prepared, delivered and collected by volunteers over the Christmas period. Each household was invited to make a contribution to help less fortunate townfolk through The Harpenden Trust. The result for that year was a very satisfactory total of £302,16s.10d. Over the last 60 years the Christmas Appeal has gone from strength to strength; last year the amount raised was an outstanding £33,328.00.

The Christmas Appeal Collection has continued over the last 60 years because a team of dedicated local volunteers has carried on the tradition of helping individuals and families in Harpenden who need support and financial aid.

**Please play your part by digging deep this Christmas when that well-known purple envelope drops through your letterbox!**

### 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.

### THANK YOU



Photo © Harpenden Photographic Society

“Over the last 60 years the Christmas Appeal has gone from strength to strength.”

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## Senior Citizens' Events



## Jubilee Tea Party

### REGULAR FEATURES

#### 2013 Calendar

How to buy this calendar with its photographs celebrating Harpenden's past



#### Where we spend our funds

Facts and figures on the back page



### WE NEED VOLUNTEERS

The Harpenden Trust is run by volunteers throughout the year and we are looking for new helpers, especially for our Christmas Collection. If you would like to help, please contact us on

01582 460457 admin@theharpendentrust.org.uk

## Queen's Diamond Jubilee Tea Party

On Monday 4 June, 120 Harpenden seniors enjoyed tea and entertainment at the Harpenden Public Halls to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Volunteers from The Harpenden Trust prepared and served the teas and organised the event with the Harpenden Seniors' Club and Harpenden Helping Hand. The venue was sponsored by Harpenden Town Council.



## Early Fundraising

Regular donations had been raised in Harpenden during the war years through many local organisations to help those suffering from the hardships of war. When the plan for a Welfare State was passed by Parliament in 1948, a meeting was called in Harpenden to decide whether fundraising efforts should stop, but a substantial majority took the view that, however good the State scheme turned out to be, there would be inevitable delays before any government-sponsored aid would arrive. The decision was made to continue to raise funds to sponsor an emergency fund to help local families. The Harpenden Trust was born.

Initially fund-raising events included gymkhanas and fetes but the committee realised that they had to fundraise on a grander scale.



On 4 April 1950 a *Brain's Trust* (a radio quiz show) was held with the BBC question master, Donald McCullough, in the chair and the "radio doctor", Dr Charles Hill (whose daughter Susan Fairbairn is currently President of the Trust), on the team as well as three other dignitaries. A grand ball was held in the Public Halls in the autumn and smaller sums of money were donated by many local bodies. In December 1952 the first Christmas Appeal took place.

## Coffee mornings

Volunteers have been running coffee mornings for Harpenden Seniors for over 60 years. Come and join us for a free cup of coffee and a biscuit at the High Street Methodist Church on Thursdays from 10-11.15am or at The Harpenden Trust Centre, 90 Southdown Road, on Tuesdays between 10-11am.

## Our Home Visit Team Supporting families and individuals in Harpenden

In the early '50s members of The Harpenden Trust management committee made their visits to local people by bus, bicycle or on foot to establish the degree of need. In 2012 our team of dedicated Home Visitors, all of whom are volunteers, are still visiting people at home to help out in difficult times.

Here are some examples of the 537 residents who have been helped by The Harpenden Trust's Home Visit team over the last year.

**Dan's** life was turned upside down when his mother's new partner moved in. There were lots of arguments and after a massive row, Dan's mother asked him to leave the house and not come back.

Luckily for Dan, his best friend's family asked him to come and live with them. His friend's mother contacted one of the Home Visitors, who arranged for the Trust to fund a bed for Dan.

Sometimes clients are referred to the Trust by Health Visitors, as was the case with **Layla**, a single mother with two very young children, who had recently been re-housed in Harpenden. The Health Visitor rang the Trust office and said she was worried about Layla, who was very isolated and did not have much money. She wondered if the Trust could help with the cost of public transport,

which would enable Layla to visit her family in a nearby town. We helped by providing Layla with a three-month bus-pass.

**Tracey** contacted the Trust when her youngest daughter developed a severe allergy to dust mites found in carpet. She had been told that the only way she could ease her daughter's condition was to replace the flooring in her house—something Tracey could not afford. A Home Visitor called to see Tracey and the Trust agreed to fund new flooring for her home.

When **Gladys** fell and broke her hip last year, her recovery took much longer than expected. She had been a very active 80 year old, but since her accident she had become very nervous about moving around unaided. A neighbour suggested she contact the Trust, and within a week she had a tri-wheeler walking support trolley which has enabled her to move around independently.

In 2012, the Home Visit team helped several families who had moved to Harpenden with nothing but the clothes they stood up in. Owing to their extreme circumstances, they were provided with furniture and white goods and also school uniforms.

*Real names have not been used in this article.*

## Help with Utility bills

Keeping the very young and the very old warm has always been a priority for The Harpenden Trust. In 1950, the Trust arranged the delivery of coal to 85 families with the help of local merchants; by 1951 this had increased to 350 families. In the 1960s, when households changed from coal to gas and electricity, the Trust committee authorised the issue of cheques to cover

gas and electricity bills. Every March the utilities committee still issues cheques to Harpenden pensioners who request help with payment of fuel bills and water rates.

If you are a pensioner and need help, please contact the Trust office on 01582 460457.



## Harpenden families enjoy Chessington

For this year's annual children's outing in August, two coaches took us to Chessington World of Adventures. Forty-seven children, their parents and four volunteers enjoyed an almost dry day visiting the animals in the zoo and sampling the huge range of rides available. We saw the sea lion show and the gorillas and lions being fed. The most daring among us sampled thrills such



as "Rameses Revenge" and "The Runaway Train"; others opted for the gentler "Seastorm" and "The Safari Skytrain". There was lots to do and not enough time, so we hope to be able to repeat the trip next year!

Once again about 150 members of Harpenden families were able to enjoy the local pantomime last Christmas thanks to the work of Trust's volunteers.

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!

## Youth and schools

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 can participate in educational experiences with their classmates away from school. This year the Trust has given grants to schools towards such trips for 70 young people. This help is in addition to support to purchase school uniform given to individual families in need. We have also given a donation towards a pantomime at a primary school to ensure that all students can enjoy the experience, and not just those whose parents can afford to pay for them to go to a theatre.

We continue to give grants to Young Enterprise and to the Life Skills & Drug Awareness programme sponsored by the Harpenden Lions Club.

We are working with the charity ReachOut Plus to support the needs of local families, and have helped seven children attend summer holiday activities at the local ReachOut Plus children's centre.



## A new venue proves popular

This year we added a new half-day outing to our Senior Citizens' summer outings programme. This was to Frosts Garden Centre at Woburn Sands, where a delicious lunch was served. There were lots of plants and some small animals to see, as well as the opportunity to browse in the large shop. Our second half-day visit was to Hitchin for lunch at The Sun Hotel. We had two full-day trips to the Esplanade Hotel in Clacton where we enjoyed a roast lunch, a stroll on the promenade (when the weather permitted) and tea-time entertainment.

Clients unable to go on the coach outings were entertained to tea at the Trust Centre in the autumn. About 200 seniors have enjoyed the change of scenery and the company of others that these events provide.

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

## Community Fund

The Harpenden Trust has always been committed to helping the young and the vulnerable in our community, and this year the Community Fund has continued to be very active in providing single cash grants to local community organisations.

The largest grant of £15,000 was awarded to the 3rd Harpenden Scouts for the complete refurbishment of their hut in Southdown. The money will go towards providing a replacement boiler and a new sports floor and updating the fire and alarm systems. Grants have also been awarded to Youth Talk, which provides counselling for teenagers, and to Kinsbourne Explorer Scouts for new tents and a stove. Just before the end of the financial year, the Community Fund agreed to support the refurbishment of Harpenden Town Football Club.

Grove Hospice is well known in Harpenden for its work in the community and estimates that about a third of its work involves Harpenden residents. The Fund has accordingly contributed around £13,000 toward the cost of a new minibus, which will be used to transport patients.

Community Meeting Point (CMP), which supports those affected by mental illness, has returned to Harpenden and is now located in Station Road. The Fund awarded a grant of £5,000 to help provide a ramp and disabled toilet for CMP's new premises. Thanks to a donation of £2,500 from the Community Fund, the Friends of Willow Court have erected a new gazebo for the Willow Court residential care home, which is run as a non-profit organisation.

Two other organisations which have received funding this year are Computer Friendly, which provides computer training for members of the community, and Harpenden Money Advice Centre, which provides debt counselling.

The Community Fund welcomes applications from local organisations for single grants for specific projects. If your organisation would like to apply, you can obtain an application form from the Trust Centre in Southdown Road or by visiting our website at [www.theharpendentrust.org.uk](http://www.theharpendentrust.org.uk) where you can apply online on the Community Fund page.

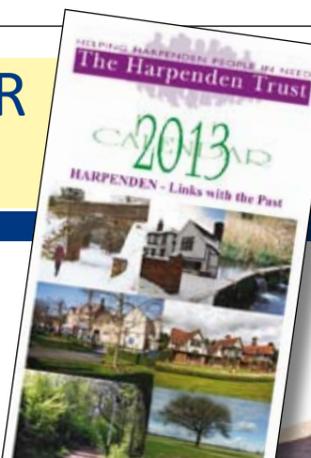


**ON SALE NOW**  
**2013 CALENDAR**  
Fabulous photographs linking Harpenden with the past.

PURCHASE YOUR COPY FROM:

The Harpenden Trust Centre, News 4 U at 1a Station Rd, Harpenden Town Hall, and The Harpenden Trust stall at the Farmers' Market Christmas Carnival on 25 November

**ONLY £4** All proceeds will go to the work of The Harpenden Trust

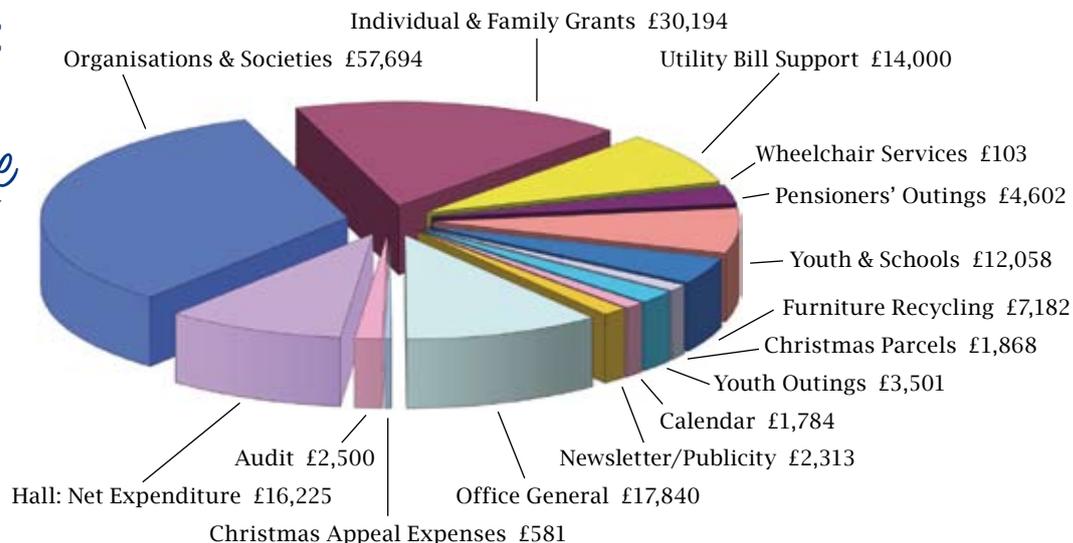


## How the Trust spends its money *at a glance*

This chart shows a breakdown of the Trust's total expenditure of

**£172,445**

for the financial year 2011–12.



For further information on the Trust's finances, visit our website [www.theharpendentrust.org.uk](http://www.theharpendentrust.org.uk)

Photos © Harpenden Photographic Society



## Halls for hire at The Harpenden Trust Centre

The Harpenden Trust Centre is located in Southdown Road. Formerly St John's Church Hall, the building has been a social hub in Harpenden for over a hundred years. It was acquired by the Trust in 1967 and has been extended and modernised to provide a wonderful venue for local residents, which offers value for money.

There are two halls, with disabled access, for hire on a regular or one-off basis: the Renwick Hall is bright and airy with a high ceiling and can accommodate 80 people seated or 120 standing—ideal for birthday parties, club meetings, dance and exercise classes and charity events. The smaller Randall Room seats 40 and has room for 50 people standing, providing a more intimate setting for day and evening classes and quiz nights. The centre also has a spacious kitchen and three toilets, including one for the disabled.

If you are interested in viewing or hiring the halls, please contact The Harpenden Trust Centre (see contact details on the right) or contact our Lettings Secretary, Kay, on 07531 719704 or by email at [bookings@theharpendentrust.org.uk](mailto:bookings@theharpendentrust.org.uk).

### Remembering the Renwicks

The Renwick Hall is named after the late Bob Renwick who was caretaker at the Trust Centre for over ten years until he retired in 2004. Sadly his wife Nan, who helped with the coffee mornings at the Trust Centre for many years, passed away earlier this year. In recognition of their long service to The Harpenden Trust, we are dedicating a new bench on the green beside the Centre, to the Renwicks.

## Getting in touch

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

✉ Email us at [admin@theharpendentrust.org.uk](mailto: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

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 above. (The Company is the successor to the charity The Harpenden Trust, Number 212973, founded 1948.)



## Wheelchairs on loan

Harpenden residents can now borrow a wheelchair from the Trust on a short-term basis. All wheelchairs are safety-checked once a year and cleaned and visually checked after every loan. Although we do not charge for the loan of a wheelchair, a donation to The Harpenden Trust would be gratefully appreciated.