

The Harpenden Trust

Christmas 2013

THE COMMUNITY FUND

The aim of the Community Fund is to provide grants to voluntary organisations in Harpenden for specific projects and particularly to those organisations linked to youth and education and the elderly. These grants are made from the Community Fund and do not in any way involve the Christmas Appeal funds, which are used to help and support individuals and families.

In the last few months the Community Fund has focused on sport, education and the young.

In sport, we have given a grant to provide Harpenden Town FC with a new kitchen and a toilet for the disabled as well as providing Harpenden Cricket Club with some portable practice pitches and a device to remove rainwater from the playing areas.

In education, we have funded a drug awareness workshop at Roundwood School and contributed to the Young Enterprise project for senior schools in Harpenden. We have also given a grant to Youth Talk, which helps young people who need counselling.

For the young, Harpenden is fortunate to have an expanding number of scout, guide and brownie troops. We were pleased to be able to give funds towards equipment for the new 5th Harpenden Scouts and others at Batford. As some of these Harpenden troops are very

long established it is not surprising that their premises need significant refurbishment.

Accordingly we made a significant grant to the 3rd Harpenden Scouts towards work at their hut off Southdown Road. This included a new boiler, new floor, new fire alarm and the provision of wheelchair access. A further grant was made to the 2nd Harpenden Troop in Batford to enable them to renew their toilet facilities. The Shackleton Explorer Scouts received funds to purchase camping equipment, including eight three-person tents, and have kindly agreed to our request to make these available for use by other Harpenden groups.

For the elderly we have given local IT-training charity Computer Friendly a grant to obtain new secretarial equipment and thus aid their work to provide computer skills for senior citizens.

Finally, we have made a grant to the local Samaritans to help provide new audio-visual equipment for training purposes.

We welcome applications for grants for specific projects (rather than to cover regular expenses or deficits); an application form is available on the Community Fund page of our website at www.theharpendentrust.org.uk. Alternatively you can pick up a form from the Trust Centre at 90 Southdown Road or contact us by email at admin@theharpendentrust.org.uk.



Left: Chair of the Community Fund John Battersby presents a cheque to Suzie Heyes, chair of the 3rd Harpenden Scouts, towards work at their HQ. Below: The new boiler installation.



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2014 CALENDAR

Stunning views of Harpenden

AVAILABLE 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 24 November.





Helping with Christmas parcels

For over 60 years The Harpenden Trust has been able to function because of the tireless work and good will of local volunteers. Over the years volunteers move away or move on, and without new volunteers the Trust would not be able to carry on its activities. If you would like to become a volunteer please fill in the form below and send to: The Harpenden Trust Centre, 90 Southdown Road, Harpenden, AL5 1PS

I would like to volunteer at The Harpenden Trust

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Tel _____

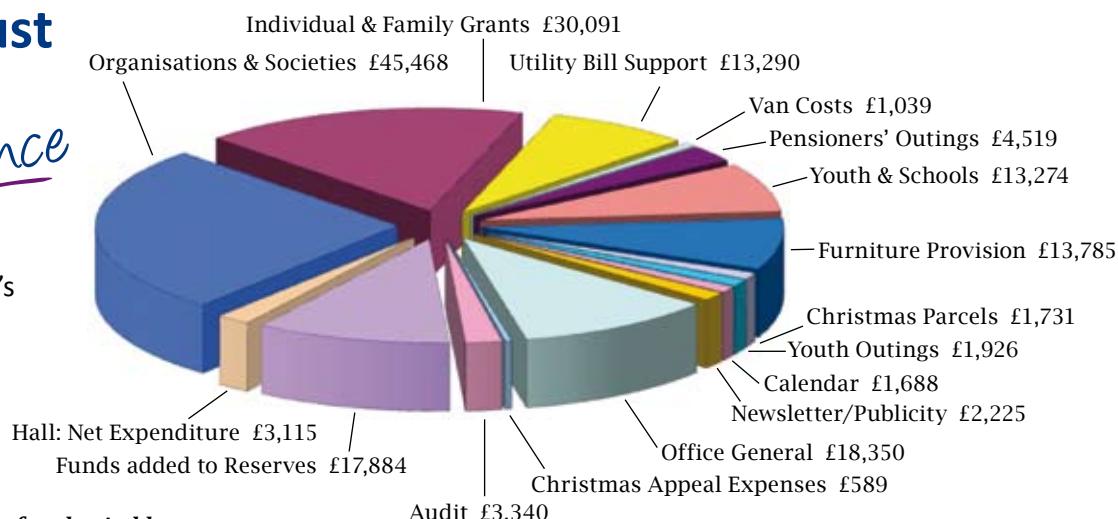
How the Trust spends its money

at a glance

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

£172,314

for the financial year
2012–13



Note: 83% of expenditure is for charitable purposes

The Home Visit volunteers are at the heart of The Harpenden Trust

Since the early '50s a team of Harpenden Trust volunteers has been visiting local families and individuals who are in need of support in the AL5 postal district. Originally they were called case workers, but now they are called Home Visitors. Every week, in all weathers, they respond to calls from Harpenden residents who are experiencing problems—financial or otherwise. Here are some examples of residents helped by the Home Visit Team over the last year.

When **Heather**'s 17-year-old daughter **Katie** became wheelchair-bound after life-saving surgery, **Heather** took **Katie** to school every day and pushed her around from one lesson to the next. This was a difficult time for mother and daughter. **Heather** contacted The Harpenden Trust, who provided a grant towards buying a motorised wheelchair. Now **Katie** can go to her lessons independently.

Earlier this year, one of The Harpenden Trust Home Visitors went to see **Fred**, who was feeling sad and lonely. His wife **Elsie** passed away last year and he had recently lost his sight and could no longer read. The Harpenden Trust helped by paying his subscription to RNIB Talking Books.

Olive is an old age pensioner in her 90s, who became a widow some time

ago. Social Services contacted The Harpenden Trust and asked if we could help. A Home Visitor paid **Olive** a visit and the Trust provided her with a much-needed new bed and mattress and also helped towards plumbing bills for a new hot water cylinder and immersion heater.

Lisa nursed her husband through a long illness. When he died she decided she would retrain to support people with the same debilitating disease. The Trust provided a grant towards the cost of the course.

Scott has been a youth leader in Harpenden for many years and recently approached the Trust for help towards completing a specialised leadership training course. The Trust agreed to give **Scott** a grant towards the course, and now Harpenden-based youth groups will benefit from having a highly qualified instructor.

Elaine is a single mother of two who works part-time to support her family. One of her children is disabled. She is determined to complete a course which will enable her to get into Higher Education. **Elaine** wrote to The Harpenden Trust asking for help and after a visit from a Home Visitor she was awarded a grant towards purchasing a laptop.

Names have been changed.

Centre roof was replaced. Tuesday coffee mornings are now back at the Trust Centre. 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 Trust Centre on Tuesdays between 10–11am.

LOCAL SUPPORT FOR THE HARPENDEN TRUST

The Mayor's chosen charity



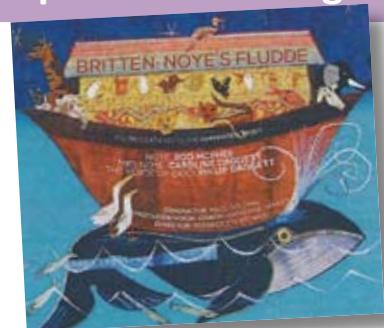
This year, Harpenden Mayor Rosemary Farmer chose The Harpenden Trust as one of her two charities. Her other chosen charity is the Royal Anglian Regiment

Benevolent Charity. Fundraising events so far have included a very successful Quiz Night in July at Park Hall, and a Race Night in November at the Harpenden House Hotel. On 5th December the Mayor will be hosting a drop-in Christmas-at-home at Park Hall. When asked why she had chosen The Harpenden Trust, the Mayor said, "The Harpenden Trust has served the residents of our town for over 60 years

and its work today is as vital as it was 60 years ago. I am delighted and proud that I am able to support this wonderful charity."

The Dragons' Apprentice Challenge 2013/2014

The Dragons' Apprentice Challenge is an initiative of The Centre for Voluntary Services (CVS) St Albans and Harpenden District. It links students from schools with a local business mentor (Dragon) and with local charities and community groups. Year 12 students have the opportunity to set up and run a business, gain organisational and job-related skills and learn about the work and beneficiaries of their designated charity. The challenge is to turn £100 into much more for their designated charity. We are delighted that the Trust has been chosen as a beneficiary charity this year.



Performance of Noye's Fludde in aid of Trust

On 28th and 29th June, St Nicholas Church was the venue for an amazing performance of Benjamin Britten's *Noye's Fludde* by local amateur and professional musicians and singers. We would like to thank Miles Golding and his wife Catherine for organising this event, which raised over £3,500 in aid of The Harpenden Trust.

Trust wins the ballot

In September, readers of local newspaper *The Herts Advertiser* voted for The Harpenden Trust to receive the £500 Community Chest Jackpot donated by builders, Taylor Wimpey. Readers were invited to nominate and then vote for the winning charity.



Utility grants for Harpenden pensioners

Every March the utilities committee issues cheques to 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.

Youth and schools

In today's financial climate, some Harpenden parents struggle to find the extra funds needed for school trips. Without our help a few children would be left at school, unable to participate in educational experiences away from school with the rest of their class. This year, grants from the Trust have enabled 121 young people to go on school trips. Applications for these grants should be made through the schools. In some cases, we also provide support towards the purchase of school uniforms. In addition to this the Trust works with charities such as ReachOut Plus and Mencap and has supported the needs of three local families by providing funds towards respite holidays.

Southend outings popular with both young and old



Adventure Island on the promenade was once again the destination for our annual children's outing. On a sunny August morning, 46 children, 23 parents and four volunteers joined coaches and headed along the M25 towards Southend. Once we had acquired our wrist bands and free lunch tickets the day was spent on thrills like "Rage Coaster" and "Time Machine", or the more gentle "Choo Choo Train" and "Viking Boats". Time seemed to fly and a very weary group made their way back to Harpenden with many memories of a good day out.

Westcliff Hotel, a few minutes along the cliff from Southend pier, was our choice for a seaside outing for 45

pensioners. We enjoyed a delicious roast turkey lunch elegantly served with all the trimmings, on another beautiful day in August. Afterwards our guests could sit in the shelters amongst the gardens or stroll along the cliff top to the renovated lift to the lower promenade and pier.

Most of our pensioner clients cannot manage a full-day trip so this year we have organised two visits to Frosts Garden Centre at Woburn Sands and one to The Sun Hotel in Hitchin. At both venues a roast lunch was followed by time to browse and shop.

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 free events provide. 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.



Making the most of the sunny weather

The Harpenden Expedition Club



One of the beneficiaries of the Trust is The Harpenden Expedition Club. Founded in 1993, the club currently has 12 leaders and about 50 members aged between 13 and 19 years, who

live or go to school in Harpenden. The organisation offers a way for teenagers to discover a range of outdoor pursuits, including fell walking, sailing, rock climbing and canoeing. About five times a year, they test their skills on expeditions to Snowdonia, the Lake District, Derbyshire, the Wye Valley and Atlantic College Outdoor Centre in South Wales.

The club meets on the last Tuesday of the month in the Harpenden Trust Centre from 7.30–9.30pm. The organisers are currently looking for young and enthusiastic leaders, preferably with outdoor experience and qualifications. Training will be provided. If you are interested please contact Andrew Marr at andrewmmarr@yahoo.com.

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



The Harpenden Trust Centre

An ideal venue for parties and club meetings!

Located at 90 Southdown Road, opposite the Plough and Harrow, the Harpenden Trust Centre offers a perfect venue and great value for money. There are two halls, with disabled access, for hire on a regular or one-off basis. There is even locked storage available for regular hirers. The larger Renwick Hall with its high ceiling can accommodate 80 people seated or 120 standing, whereas the smaller Randall Room can seat 40 people and has room for 50 people standing. The rooms are ideal for dance

and exercise classes, club meetings, birthday parties, quiz nights and evening classes. The centre also has a spacious kitchen and three toilets, including one for the disabled.

If you would like to view or hire either of the halls, please contact the Harpenden Trust Centre (see contact details right) or contact our Lettings secretary Kay, on: **07531 719 704** or by email at bookings@theharpendentrust.org.uk.



Wheelchairs available on loan

If you need to borrow a wheelchair on a short-term basis, please contact the Trust Centre. All wheelchairs are safety checked once a year and cleaned and visually checked after every loan. Although we do not charge for this service, any donation is gratefully received.



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

Call in and see us at the Trust Centre between 10am and noon Monday to Thursday, and between 10.30am and 12.30pm on Friday.

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



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.)