

HELPING HARPENDEN PEOPLE IN NEED

# The Harpenden Trust

Christmas 2014

## YES — THERE ARE PEOPLE IN NEED IN HARPENDEN

We know this because, in the AL5 postal district over the last financial year, the Care Fund spent:

- £33,000** helping 559 families and individuals to buy school uniforms and shoes, to pay utility bills, and through food vouchers.
- £16,700** helping 78 pensioners to pay heavy winter utility bills.
- £11,300** in financial assistance to help 92 pupils go on curriculum-related school trips.
- £10,200** in providing furniture and white goods for 58 people.
- £6,100** on a summer outing for 70 children and three summer trips and a tea party for 185 pensioners.
- £2,000** on helping affiliated voluntary groups that provide similar help to families and individuals.
- £1,700** on 140 Christmas parcels for the elderly who mainly live on their own.

Our assured income from investments is £22,000. It is the Christmas Appeal, however, which provides the lion's share of the funds we need in our Care Fund to assist individuals and families. The Care Fund is

completely separate from the Trust's Community Fund, which is independently funded and supports voluntary organisations in Harpenden.

To sustain the Care Fund's crucial work we need your continuing support of our Christmas Appeal.

When our purple-and-yellow envelope appears on your doormat in December, please dig deep and give as much as you can.

Please also complete the Gift Aid Declaration on the back of the envelope. It costs you nothing and the tax man pays us—last year the Gift Aid on the appeal amounted to £6,806.



Look out for our envelope

### INSIDE

How the Trust supports the community

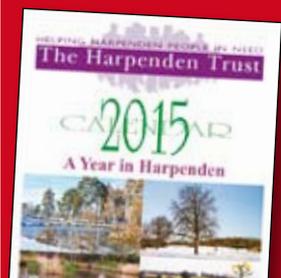
... and much more



### 2015 CALENDAR

Stunning views of Harpenden

NOW AVAILABLE



Visit our new website

Find out about the Trust



# Community Fund supports outside play area



*John Battersby, chair of the Community Fund, and Cllr Mary Maynard, Mayor of Harpenden, admire the Harpenden Community Fund plaque at Porters Hill Park play area.*

**T**he Harpenden Trust Community Fund provides grants to local organisations, charities and community groups within the AL5 postal district, especially those involved with the young and the old. Over the last financial year up to April 2014, the Community Fund has made grants of over £40,000, which come from specific Community Fund resources and do not in any way involve the Christmas Appeal funds, which are used to help and support individuals and families. Look out for the purple Community Fund plaques, which are appearing all over town.

This year the emphasis has been on outdoor activities, with the two largest

grants being awarded to outdoor play areas. The Community Fund gave £8,000 towards the cost of new playground equipment for The Lea Primary School provided by the school's PTA. The second grant of £5,000 was used to erect a secure fence around the new Porters Hill Park play area.

Other grants with a sporting connection included the funding of a bowling buggy for use by disabled bowlers at Harpenden Indoor Bowling Club, and a defibrillator for Harpenden Rugby Club — although we hope that this will not be needed too often!

Our support for the young people of Harpenden was illustrated by a grant of £5,000 towards the provision of a youth worker based at the High Street Methodist Church as well as over £3,000 for equipment and training facilities for the Harpenden Expedition Club.

We also helped several other youth organisations, including Girl Guides and Scouts as well as the local Volunteer Police Cadets.

At the other end of the age spectrum, we were pleased to provide a grant towards equipment used by Computer Friendly to help our seniors improve their computer skills.

**The Community Fund welcomes applications for grants from local organisations to fund specific projects rather than cover regular expenses.**

**If you would like to apply for a Community Fund grant, go online to the Community Fund section of our website at [www.theharpendentrust.org.uk](http://www.theharpendentrust.org.uk) or pick up an application form from the Harpenden Trust office on Monday–Thursday between 10am and noon or Friday between 10.30am and 12.30pm.**



*Parents, staff and children of The Lea Primary School are delighted with the new play equipment, which the Harpenden Trust Community Fund helped to provide.*



*Residents of Pine Court say thank you to John Battersby and the Community Fund for helping to finance their new home.*

## Home visitors are grateful for the generosity of Harpenden residents

**T**hroughout the year our team of Home Visitors helps Harpenden families and individuals who are in crisis. One of the ways the team helps is by providing food vouchers to spend at Sainsburys or the Co-op. This year the Trust has been able to supplement these food vouchers with food parcels received via the SHARE Food Scheme organised by the High Street Methodist

Church. We are extremely grateful to Harpenden residents for their kindness and generosity.

Here are some examples of families and individuals who have been assisted by the Trust over the last year.

**Sultana's** husband died at the beginning of the year, leaving her with two young children. She spoke very little English as her husband had always done

that for her. When she discovered she was pregnant, Sultana did not know how she was going to cope with no money to buy anything for the new baby. The Home Visitor sent out an emergency message to some other mothers in Harpenden and before long a Moses basket, a baby chair, a baby bath, a push chair and some baby clothes were donated. The Harpenden Trust supplied a cot and a baby sling.

**Fred and Irene** came to the Trust earlier this year when their family home and all their belongings were destroyed by flooding. A friend offered them a

## Trust helps family when tragedy strikes twice

When tragedy happens, the Harpenden Trust can help if financial difficulties arise. When a young man was rendered severely disabled following a serious car accident earlier this year, the Trust enabled him to remain in his family home by providing a grant towards specialist equipment. Shortly afterwards, tragedy struck again when his father suffered a stroke, increasing the family's problems. A grant from the Trust has helped to install a stair-lift to improve the family's quality of life.

## Entertainment for young and old

Chessington World of Adventures was once again the destination for our annual children's outing. A total of 62 children and 30 parents were entertained on rides in places like "Wild Asia", "Transylvania" or "Land of the Dragons", and enjoyed the animals in "Sea Life" and the Zoo. Many of the children were so tired they slept in the coaches all the way back along the M25 to Harpenden!

There was another successful coach outing in August. For a second year, Westcliff-on-Sea was our choice for a seaside visit for 45 pensioners. We again

enjoyed a delicious lunch, elegantly served in pleasant surroundings.

Afterwards, our guests could sit in the shelters amongst the gardens or stroll along the cliff top to the renovated lift leading to the lower promenade and pier. Most of our pensioner clients cannot manage a full-day trip, and so this year we went on half-day outings to two new venues. Pensioners were treated to a hot lunch at the Riverside Restaurant at Willington near Bedford and Bury Lane Farm Shop near Royston, and afterwards had time to browse and shop.

This Christmas, clients unable to go on the coach outings will be entertained at a tea party at the Trust Centre. About 150 seniors enjoy the change of scenery and the company of others that these events provide. Volunteers from the Harpenden Trust also deliver about 140 Christmas parcels filled with festive food and treats to pensioners in the AL5 area who are housebound or living on their own. If you have elderly relatives or neighbours who you think could be added to our lists for trips or assistance, please contact the Trust office on 01582 460457.

Finally, every week there are two venues where we provide coffee and tea free for pensioners to come and have a chat and make new friends: on Tuesdays at the Trust Centre and Thursdays at High Street Methodist Church, both from 10 to 11am.

## Can you help the old and lonely?

Every spring, Harpenden Trust volunteers visit over 200 of our senior clients to check their needs and provide a vital link to our other services. If you have time to spare once a year for a dozen such visits and would like to get involved call the Trust Centre. These visits have identified that there are many lonely people in Harpenden who would appreciate more regular contact. If you could spare an hour once a week, we'd love to hear from you too.

Transport to and from the Trust Centre for outings is provided for the elderly by volunteer drivers. Please contact us if you could help out with this transport service — it would only be once or twice a year!

## Youth and schools

Most schools nowadays organise trips for their pupils. Some of these are day trips, others are residential, but nearly all are curriculum-related and are therefore considered to be an essential part of the course. Unfortunately, some parents cannot meet the cost of sending their children on these trips and this is where the Trust steps in to help.

During the year from April 2013 to March 2014, the Trust awarded grants to enable 87 pupils from seven primary and the three secondary schools in Harpenden to go on such trips. Although school trips accounted for the bulk of the grants awarded, some assistance was given to enable children to have swimming lessons and for others to take part in adventure activities.



Photo courtesy of John Coad



Above: A thank you card from some happy children.  
Left: Pensioners enjoy lunch at Bury Lane Farm.

room in her house and the Harpenden Trust has helped by providing them with clothes and food and some kitchen crockery, while their house dries out and is redecorated. When they move back into their home, the Trust has promised to help them further.

2014 is a year that **Elaine** will never forget. First of all the company she worked for went into liquidation, then her husband left her and cleared out their joint bank account, leaving her with no money to buy food or pay rent. The Harpenden Trust is providing support and food vouchers.

**Jane** and her three young sons were rehoused in Harpenden by the Council this year. Victims of domestic violence, they had been staying in a women's refuge and had absolutely no furniture. Jane contacted the Harpenden Trust and a Home Visitor dropped in to see her and the boys. The Trust then provided help with furnishing their new home and buying shoes and school uniforms for the children.

**Raz** was very concerned when her daughter's eyesight deteriorated and the optician said she needed to see a specialist as soon as possible. The Trust

helped with the cost of the specialist's fees and the prescription glasses the child needed.

**Nina** is a single mother who recently started working to support herself and her young son, but when it came to the summer holidays, she couldn't afford to pay for child care. The Trust helped by paying for her son to go to a summer play scheme, which meant she could carry on working in the knowledge that her son was safe and enjoying the summer.

*Names in this article have been changed.*

## Halls for hire at the Harpenden Trust Centre

If you don't know about the halls for hire at the Harpenden Trust Centre, 90 Southdown Road, come along and have a look. The Renwick Hall (1,080 sq ft) is bright and airy with high ceilings. It can accommodate up to 80 people

sitting down and 120 people standing up, and is ideal for birthday parties, and dance and exercise classes for young and old alike. The smaller Randall Room (294sq ft) can seat 30 people and has room for 50 standing; it is used

for evening classes, club meetings and language classes to name but a few. Wifi is now available at the Trust Centre.

The Centre has disabled access, a spacious kitchen with a fitted water heater for making hot drinks, and separate male and female toilets plus a disabled access toilet, which also has baby-changing facilities. There is even locked storage available for regular hirers.

If you would like to view or hire either of the halls, please contact Kay, our lettings secretary, by email at [bookings@theharpendentrust.org.uk](mailto:bookings@theharpendentrust.org.uk) or phone 07531 719704. Alternatively you can contact the Harpenden Trust Centre (see contact details below).



## Utility grants for pensioners

At the end of February or the beginning of March every year, the Harpenden Trust Utilities Committee issues cheques to pensioners who are having trouble paying their winter fuel bills and water rates. **If you are a pensioner who needs help, but have not received a cheque from us before, please contact us on 01582 460457.**



## 2015 Harpenden Trust Calendar

Available from

- The Harpenden Trust Centre, 90 Southdown Road;
- Harpenden Town Hall, Leyton Road;
- News 4 U at 1a Station Road;
- The Oval Cafe at YWAM Harpenden (Highfield Oval Harpenden);
- The Harpenden Trust stall at the Farmers' Market Christmas Carnival on Sunday 23 November.



## Getting in touch

### RING US ON

01582 460457 anytime. If the office is unmanned, please leave a message and we will phone you.

### VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE

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

### EMAIL US

[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, and between 10.30am and 12.30pm on Friday.

### WRITE TO US AT

The Harpenden Trust Centre, 90 Southdown Road, Harpenden, AL5 1PS.

## Volunteers needed

The Harpenden Trust is run entirely by local volunteers. Every year, however, some people retire or move away and so we are always looking for new volunteers to replace them. Volunteer roles are varied: you can help once a year by delivering and collecting envelopes for the Christmas Appeal or by helping with the pensioners' annual

coach trips and the children's outing in the summer or by joining in at the Seniors' Christmas tea party. You could also volunteer on a more regular basis by becoming a Home Visitor or visiting elderly people in their homes.

**If you would like to volunteer please fill in the form below and enclose it in our Appeal Envelope or send to: The Harpenden Trust Centre, 90 Southdown Road, Harpenden, AL5 1PS.**

Name	
Address	
Postcode	
Tel	Email
<input type="checkbox"/> I would like to help once a year	
<input type="checkbox"/> I would like to help on a weekly/fortnightly basis	



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.)