

HELPING HARPENDEN PEOPLE IN NEED

The Harpenden Trust

Registered with



FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR

Christmas 2017



The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service

• The Community Fund • The Care Fund • How to volunteer • Befriending • Home visits

The Harpenden Trust is making a difference

Here's how ...

Energy and water bills

"Thank you for sending me the winter utilities grant. It was much appreciated and made a big difference."

Home visits

"Thank you to everyone at the Harpenden Trust for all the help I have received over the last few months."

Befriending

"I would just like to let you know how grateful we are to your volunteer 'befriender' who visits our mother. Mum really loves her visits and says that they get on so well together. On many occasions Mum thinks she is meeting her for the first time, but that doesn't matter. It's the fact that she makes Mum feel so happy and warm when she does visit, and it helps break her week up."

Youth and schools

"Thank you very much for supporting my son's school trip. To show my appreciation, I would like to help by volunteering for the Harpenden Trust."

Children's coach outing

"Thank you for a wonderful day out at Thorpe Park and also for all the help you have given us over the years."

Pensioners' coach outing

"Thank you very much for inviting me to come on the coach trip to Westcliff-on-Sea. Despite the weather it was a very pleasant trip with very pleasant people."

Christmas parcels

"Thank you for the lovely Christmas hamper which I appreciate and enjoy very much."



Christmas Appeal

As our assured income from investments is £22,000 it is the Christmas Appeal that provides the lion's share of the funds we need in our Care Fund to assist individuals and families. When our purple-and-yellow envelope appears on your doormat in December, please 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 £8,997.

Look out for our envelope



Getting in touch

RING US ANY TIME ON

01582 460457

If the office is unstaffed, please leave a message and we will return your call.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.theharpentrust.org.uk

CALL IN AND SEE US

The Trust Centre is open between 10am and noon Monday to Friday.

EMAIL US

General enquiries:

admin@theharpentrust.org.uk

Care Fund:

help@theharpentrust.org.uk

WRITE TO US AT

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 1118870. Registered office at the address shown above. (The Company is the successor to the charity The Harpenden Trust, Number 212973, founded 1948.)

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Can you volunteer for the Harpenden Trust ...

once a week,

once a fortnight,

once a month or

once a year?

We need:

- Befrienders
- Coffee morning helpers
- Volunteer drivers
- Collectors for the Christmas Appeal

If you would like to be a volunteer please contact us or return this form to the Trust (details above)

Name _____

Address _____

Tel _____

Email _____

The Care Fund

HELPING HARPENDEN PEOPLE AND FAMILIES IN NEED

A friendly face for the lonely

Volunteers now regularly visit more than a dozen lonely people, who may be elderly and have little contact with relatives, or unable to get out much for a variety of reasons. The visits are appreciated enormously.

Out and about days for pensioners

Twice a week we provide coffee and tea free for pensioners — on Tuesdays at the Trust Centre and Thursdays at High Street Methodist Church, both from 10-11am.

We have organised three coach outings this year and given a day out to more than 150 seniors.

We went to a garden centre at Woburn Sands, and unfortunately we chose the wettest Wednesday in

Transport to and from the Trust Centre for outings is provided for the elderly by volunteer drivers.

Helping with bills, a chat — and parcels

Last Christmas, volunteers from the Trust distributed 125 parcels to needy or lonely pensioners. Eighty-two pensioners received help with their utility bills in the winter.

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.

Young people won't miss out

Some parents cannot meet the increasing cost of school outings for pupils to gain extra knowledge for their studies so their children are left behind at school. To help out, this year the Trust awarded grants so that 59 pupils from primary and secondary schools in Harpenden could go on the trips.

Grants are given to pupils provided that the family lives in AL5, and to some from surrounding villages attending Harpenden schools. Several families have also been helped with grants for school uniform and shoes.

In the summer holidays, Thorpe Park was the new destination for our annual children's outing for families who are unable to provide such treats.

Most of these activities could not be provided without the help of volunteers. So if you think you would like to help please contact us or complete the form on this page.



August to visit Westcliff-on-Sea! A cruise on the River Lee with a fish and chip lunch was chosen by so many that we needed a second boat and coach.

In November, those unable to go on the outings had a tea party at the Trust Centre.

Volunteers visit the town's senior clients in the spring to check their needs and provide a vital link to our services.



The Harpenden Trust Pensioners' Winter Utilities Grant

If you are a pensioner and need help with fuel bills and water rates, please contact the Trust office. We will then contact you to arrange a visit to discuss our Utilities Grant. We may be able to issue you with a lump sum payment in February or March.

Find out how the Care Fund might help you: 01

I would like to help



A life-changer for Mike

The Trust donated £1,000 towards the cost of an electric wheelchair, which has enabled Mike Joiner, who suffers from a rare and debilitating disease, to get out of his house and regain some independence. Mike was also encouraged to talk to the *Herts Advertiser* and a news story about his plight meant readers donated £1,420 towards his new machine. So, with the Trust's help, he then had the £2,000 cost of the wheelchair and enough left over to make a storeroom to house his machine.

Help at hand for young and elderly

Helping when and where we can throughout the year — that is the aim of the six volunteers who make up the Harpenden Trust's Home Visit team. Here are just a few examples of how the team has helped some families who live in the AL5 area over the last year.

Jemma is separated and works long hours to provide for her two children. Financially, the summer holidays are always a challenge. This September her older daughter started secondary school, which means the extra cost of a new school uniform and new school shoes.

A friend told her that the Trust can help with the cost of school uniforms, so she rang us and was delighted when a Home Visitor was able to give her vouchers for school uniform and shoes, plus food vouchers to help with the added cost of meals during the school holidays.

Jamie's family don't have a car, so he relies on his bike to get to school and to football practice. When a car ran over his bike it was a write-off and the family couldn't afford a new one. A neighbour suggested that Jamie's mother should contact the Trust for help and after a visit from one of the Home Visit team, Jamie's mother received funding towards the cost of a new bike.

John and Ivy have been married for 60 years and their only son lives abroad. Ivy's eyesight is not very good and John suffers from arthritis, so they don't go out a lot. The Trust was asked by their support worker if we could help by

providing them with a new sofa and a fridge. The sofa they had was 60 years old and their fridge no longer worked. We were pleased to help the couple — and now they can relax in comfort and know that their food is keeping fresh.

Karl and Amy have three children. Their youngest child is disabled and requires expensive

specialist equipment, which up till now has been available on the NHS.

However, NHS cuts meant that this equipment is no longer funded. Amy asked the Trust office for help and her message was passed to the Home Visit team. One of the team went to see Amy and her daughter, and much to the family's relief the Trust was able to provide funding towards new equipment.

Jo and Sam are a young couple who were recently housed in a flat in Harpenden. They have a toddler and are expecting a new baby soon. They have basic furniture but cannot afford to cover the concrete floor in the flat. Following a call from a local health visitor, one of our Home Visitors paid Jo and Sam a visit and provided funding towards carpeting the flat.

Names have been changed.

Delays in processing state benefits may sometimes impact on those who rely on benefits to survive. Home Visitors are happy to help with advice and support if this affects you.

HALLS FOR HIRE

If you run classes, or organise lectures, society meetings and community events — or simply want a one-off hire for a children's party — the Trust Centre in Southdown Road has two halls available for hire:



Renwick Hall

Seats up to 80

Randall Room

Seats up to 40

Hires may be hourly, weekly, monthly, term-time or one-offs.

ALL HIRES INCLUDE:

- Full disability accessibility throughout
- Use of kitchen, with fridge, microwave, constant boiling water and cooker
- Large automated screens in both halls
- Piano
- Free Wi-Fi
- Use of portable amplification
- Acoustic doors to reduce disturbance
- Chairs, tables and some child-sized furniture
- Competitive hourly rates

For further information on availability and costs, email the Lettings Team at bookings@theharpendentrust.org.uk.



A plaque for many reasons

THE COMMUNITY FUND

The distinctive purple plaque displayed prominently in a growing number of venues in the town reminds our community that the Harpenden Trust works for everyone and supports many significant local projects every year.

That support for organisations in the AL5 postal code area comes from the Trust's Community Fund, which can provide, improve or enhance facilities for voluntary groups that work for the good of all.

Over a dozen grants in the last year have varied from a few hundred pounds to £25,000.

Sporting and youth organisations figure large: **Harpenden Colts** received money to carry out their developments at Roundwood School as the new all-weather pitch is built, and the **Harpenden Indoor Bowling Club** got money for a defibrillator. The development of the **Southdown Play Area** continues to feature in the Fund's agenda, and funding has been pledged towards the **Cricket Club's** plans to redevelop its pavilion.

Youth Talk was able to continue its work with the town's young people with money to support counselling services and to address issues of mental health and stress. Their work is concentrated in local schools; the Fund is proud to be

associated with this initiative.

Equally important is the on-going support given to schools through the well-established Lion's Club Life Skills Programme, which provides teaching materials, workshops and specialist advisory services dealing with, for example, drug awareness, cycling proficiency and personal relationships. **Young Enterprise** is also a regular recipient of Trust support.

Friends of Greenway Spinney benefited during the year as their improvements to pathways in the Spinney continued to enhance this community facility.

The Fund supports requests for equipment and small alterations to premises (such as disabled access and toilets). **Crabtree School, Sauncey Wood School and Kinsbourne Nursery and Pre-School** have all received money to add to their outdoor equipment and improve their facilities.

A creative arts project funded at **St Dominic RC Primary School** resulted in some stunning displays. **Transition (St Albans)**

was supported in promoting SuSTainability Week in Harpenden, and **St Albans Bereavement Network** received funding for a pilot project working with junior schoolchildren in our town. **Harpenden's Computer Friendly** organisation received support to replace its laptops to ensure this well-supported and worthwhile programme could continue to flourish.



Organisations considering seeking help will find full details of the application process online (www.theharpendentrust.org.uk) or from the Trust office.

All the money spent by the Community Fund comes solely from income from the Abbeyfield Benefaction, the donation made to the Trust in 2008 by the Abbeyfield Harpenden Society from the sale of its house in Milton Road.



The Community Fund's Heather Nye and Alan Cox and Sauncey Wood head Steve Lloyd admire the School's new climbing wall