



# NEWSLETTER

*Spring 2015*

Welcome to the Spring edition of the Newsletter.

Notice is hereby given that the **Annual General Meeting** of the Hertford Civic Society will be held on Wednesday 15 April 2015 at 8.00pm in the Hall of the Church of the Immaculate Conception and St Joseph, St John's Street, Hertford.

## AGENDA

1. Minutes of the AGM held on Wednesday 30 April 2014
2. Report of the Committee for 2014
3. Hon Treasurer's Report and Accounts
4. Election of Officers
5. Election of members of the Committee
6. Any other business

The current Officers and Committee are listed on p8-9 of this Newsletter. All retire annually. The Constitution provides for up to sixteen Committee members in addition to four Officers. Nominations for election of Officers and Members of the Committee should be made in writing to the Chairman, Terry Betts, supported by a seconder and with the written consent of the nominee. Nominations for election as an Officer must be made at least seven days before the AGM, but nomination for election of Members of the Committee will be accepted at the meeting.

Refreshments will be served after the business has been concluded and then David Kirby will give a talk on how to look after your old master - see p2 for further details.

**Membership subscriptions** were due in January - thank you those who have already paid. To take out or renew a subscription, please contact Annette Robinson - contact details p9, membership form p16.

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*Hertford Civic Society is a  
registered charity No 266111*

## PROGRAMME

Here is a brief reminder about our events, particularly those relatively soon. Further details are given on the programme card, or else on our website (click on the Diary tab).

*Pubs and their place: how pubs have featured on Hertford's streets  
18 March 2015*

In our opening lecture, taking place as usual at the Catholic church hall, Les Middlewood, Vice Chairman of the local CAMRA group, is taking us on a virtual pub crawl, with a little technical assistance from Joe Saunders. Any actual drinking will need to be saved for later in the evening, and will be strictly 'off-programme'.

*AGM 15 April 2015*

The formal business will be followed by well-known local architect David Kirby giving us a light-hearted talk: 'Look after your old master'. Not how to support a retired teacher, but real-life issues stemming from ownership of a painting of art gallery calibre.

*Visit to Rochester in Kent 6 May 2015*

Bookings are rolling in nicely for this trip. Rochester not only has a huge Norman castle and a lovely Romanesque cathedral alongside each other, but also includes houses with links to Charles Dickens or which helped to inspire settings in his novels. The local civic society is keen to show us round in the morning, leaving us free to make individual decisions for the afternoon. At £25 a head for the coach and the walking tour, the cost is actually slightly less than it was last year, partly reflecting a shorter journey time, hopefully not too much over an hour. And we will be travelling in the most comfortable conveyance Golden Boy Coaches has to offer, complete with loo. Departure is from beside Hertford East station at 8.45am; we reckon to return between 6 and 6.30pm. At the moment, please contact Malcolm Ramsay to make your booking (contact details elsewhere in this Newsletter), though for the final few weeks you can also visit the Browns' shop in St Andrew St.

*Summer party 10 June 2015*

Courtesy of Fay and Geoffrey Thornton, our annual summer party will be at Whitacre, at the top of Port Hill in Bengoe, with splendid views out over Hertford. And there will be an *a cappella* musical interlude. The party starts at 7.15pm, and costs £15 a head, mainly

to cover food and drink. Book through Malcolm Ramsay or, from early May, the Browns' shop in St Andrew St.

### *Crime and punishment walk 8 July 2015*

Elizabeth Eastwood will take us round the last remains or the sites of courts, prisons and other places concerned with crime and punishment over the centuries in Hertford. She will also be retelling the stories of some of the crimes or cases connected with these locations, like that of the 'flying highwayman'. All the arrangements are necessarily different from our normal ones. The tour will start from Salisbury Square at 7 pm. It will last around 90 minutes. As numbers are limited to 20 you are strongly advised to pre-book with Malcolm Ramsay, if you are interested. There is no fee payable by Civic Society members (non-members £4 if numbers permit). If the tour is very popular, we have a contingency plan to re-run it later the same day, starting at 9 pm. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Malcolm.

### *Hertford and its landscape: a look at the development of the town with particular reference to maps, plans and illustrations from the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries 18 November 2015*

Our final speaker is Anne Rowe, well known locally as President of the East Herts Archaeological Society. She also writes and lectures on the history of local landscapes, including urban areas such as Hertford.

### *Update - Balls Park and its footpaths*

In late 2013, we had well-attended lectures on Balls Park and local footpaths. By way of follow-up, it is worth mentioning that the footpaths and bridleways at Balls Park are finally about to be more fully signed and publicised, or so Peter Norman has recently established with the County Council. Your events organiser was recently interested to learn that, in readiness for this, it is even possible for pedestrians (or those on

horse or bicycle) to leave and enter the park by the splendid gates on the road to Hertford Heath. You just have to press a button on devices attached to nearby lamp-posts, and the big gates will open wide. Hurrah.

Malcolm Ramsay

## PLANNING MATTERS

### *New houses in the grounds of The Cedars, Bengeo Street:*

This application for four detached houses in the grounds of The Cedars included a proposed 'mews house' facing Bengeo Street, next to The Cedars itself. As reported in the last Newsletter we lodged an objection on the grounds that the mews house would be too large and too prominent in relation to The Cedars, and might be better if it were more clearly subservient to it. However permission was granted in December under delegated powers. The planning officer decided that the scale and design of the proposed mews house reflects the principal dwelling and that it would be an aesthetically comfortable addition which, with the retention of mature vegetation, would outweigh concerns about the impact on historic character and setting.

### *Bengeo Scout Hut:*

The Scout Hut in Watermill Lane stands on land leased from East Herts Council. The lease has expired and the Council wishes to sell the land for housing, using some of the proceeds to part-fund the building of a new scout hut and community building. But the new building would be on land which is at present part of the adjacent public open space. We have joined many local residents in objecting to the proposal, pointing out that the net result is the same as if the Council were to sell off part of the public open space for housing and leave the Scouts where they are. The loss of an area of open space is in clear conflict with policies in

both the existing and emerging local plans. The Council does of course have a duty to manage its assets to secure best value for the taxpayer, so there may be circumstances in which the disposal of land for development might be the right course of action. But any such disposals should take place only after a review of Council landholdings and community needs in the context of the District Plan. Clearly this proposal does not arise from such a review.

### *Retirement village at the former brickfields off Cole Green Way:*

A proposal for a retirement village at the former brickfields, including flats and a care home, was unanimously refused by Councillors last year. We had submitted an objection in principle because it would have swallowed up a large swathe of Green Belt between Hertford and the village of Hertingfordbury. A revised application has now been made, and although details of the proposed buildings and of the access to the site have changed, the proposal is essentially the same as before. We have therefore written to the Council reiterating our objections.

As the proposed buildings would have a greater impact on openness than the surviving features resulting from previous uses of the land, the proposed development is inappropriate in the Green Belt: so the applicants must show that there are very special circumstances to justify it. It is true that specialist housing for older people is needed, and a development of the kind proposed would probably find a ready market in Hertford. But Government ministers have repeatedly made it clear that, no matter how strong the need for accommodation, such need alone does not amount to very special circumstances. Regrettably, it seems almost inevitable that the forthcoming District Plan will have to release some land from the Green Belt if the ever-growing housing needs of the District are to be met – and that makes it all the more important that choices about the future of the

Green Belt are made in the context of an objective review and not forced on us by developers.

### *Proposed Waitrose at Van Hage:*

Another resubmission of an application made last year. We objected to that application on Green Belt grounds and because of the damage which a new out-of-town supermarket would do to Hertford town centre (and indeed Ware). The main differences between the present application and the earlier one seem to be changes to the access and parking arrangements, to meet the requirements of the Highway Authority. Unfortunately the revised arrangements would result in even greater loss of rural character, and exacerbate the urbanising effect of the proposal on the countryside and the Green Belt. Apart from the access and traffic arrangements the application is substantially the same as before, and we have therefore reiterated our objections.

### *Newsagent's kiosk at East Station:*

The children's nursery which uses part of the station building want to increase the size of one of their rooms by absorbing the space at present used as a newsagent's kiosk. This may sound innocuous, but if travelling by public transport is to be attractive, railway and bus stations must be as efficient and welcoming as possible, with comfortable places to wait, toilets, and somewhere to buy confectionary, coffee and a newspaper. It is true that, by refusing this application, the Council could not ensure that a newsagent's kiosk continued to operate at Hertford East, but on the other hand if the change of use is permitted the kiosk will certainly be lost permanently. We have therefore submitted an objection.

### *Flats at Hutton Close/Welwyn Road:*

Riversmead propose to build 3 three-storey blocks of flats on the space between the Welwyn Road (opposite Sele School) and the existing flats in Hutton Close. There were many objections (including ours) to the original scheme, but the Council officers persuaded the applicants to make substantial changes and then recommended approval. Members disagreed and refused permission.

Riversmead appealed to the Secretary of State and, following a site visit on 3 February, Inspector Nick Palmer has granted permission. He noted that the proposal would be of significant benefit both in terms of contributing to housing supply in the light of an identified shortage and in the provision of affordable housing. He agreed that the current openness of the setting and the frontage to Welwyn Road would be affected to some extent, but decided that the proposal would be acceptable because the proposed flats would be of limited height in relation to the adjacent blocks and would be set behind the line of trees along the road frontage. He noted that only a minimal amount of tree removal would be necessary to form the access, and did not consider that the proposed blocks would be bulky or dominant in appearance.

### *Public access to Balls Park:*

When permission was granted for the new flats in Balls Park and the conversion of the mansion, the developers made a formal agreement to dedicate public paths through the park, broadly reflecting the routes that had been used informally for many years. Recently the new residents have formed a group, 'Friends of Balls Park', and have expressed concerns about the prospect of public rights of way within the Park. We contacted the Rights of Way Department at County Hall and have been reassured that the developers and their successors are legally bound to dedicate the footpaths and bridleways

to the public as agreed. Formal dedication is expected to be completed very soon, and the paths will then be signed from the road junctions and waymarked with directional arrows within the park; notices will also be put up on site to bring the agreement to the attention of the public.

Peter Norman, for the Planning Subcommittee

## STREET PRIDE

Street Pride is a campaign by Civic Voice, the national body which supports the work of local Civic Societies. Its objective is to rid our streets of unnecessary clutter so we can all be proud of them.

At the heart of the Street Pride campaign is the street survey: a detailed study of the street furniture along a short section of street or around a junction to identify items that are redundant or poorly sited - items such as bollards, signs, posts (including lamp posts and traffic lights) and guard rails. There are many other causes of clutter, from litter bins to electricity boxes, and – as we know only too well in Hertford – problems with poorly maintained or designed pavements and kerbs.

It is official policy that “the excessive or insensitive use of traffic signs and other street furniture has a negative impact on the success of the street as a place” (*Manual for Streets*, Department for Transport, 2007). Despite this, street clutter continues to blight the environment. Although some bollards, rails, posts and signs do have an important function a large amount of street furniture is there simply because it has been provided in the past and has not been removed. So the starting point should be why a sign or other item is needed, not why it should be removed.

A number of Civic Societies have already undertaken street clutter campaigns, looking at each item of street furniture systematically and

asking why it was put there, whether it is really necessary or whether it could be better located or designed. The results of the street survey can be used in two main ways: to achieve change by getting the local authority to take action, and to raise the profile of the issue – and of the Civic Society – in the local Press. In some places, such as Kensington High Street and Exhibition Road in London, the authorities have gone beyond simply removing clutter and redesigned the whole streetscape, and for an example closer to home you need look no further than Letchworth.

If we're to take part in this campaign we shall need a small working party – perhaps three or four people. To volunteer please contact me or any member of the committee: see contact details in the centre pages. If you're on-line you can read full details of the campaign here: [http://www.civicvoice.org.uk/uploads/files/Street\\_Pride\\_campaign\\_briefing\\_-\\_final\\_1.pdf](http://www.civicvoice.org.uk/uploads/files/Street_Pride_campaign_briefing_-_final_1.pdf)

Peter Norman

### Spot the street furniture!

The picture of Ware Road below shows how difficult it can be to reconcile competing uses of space and be both clear and informative. This short stretch of road is in a residential area but is also a major through-route and provides access to a supermarket, other shops, stores and offices, a railway station, an industrial estate and a major junction. Allowance also has to be made for pedestrians crossing and a bus stop.

How many items of street furniture can you spot?

Is this area cluttered, or is this the best that can be done in the circumstances to avoid confusion and danger?



### HERTFORD TOWN CENTRE URBAN DESIGN STRATEGY

East Herts Council, in partnership with Hertfordshire County Council and Hertford Town Council, have recently commissioned Tibbalds Planning and Urban Design consultancy to undertake a Hertford Town Centre Urban Design Strategy. This project will inform the future development of the town centre (taking into account economic, movement, and design considerations) and support the preparation of the emerging District Plan to 2031.

The study will produce a Vision and Design Strategy document that will examine the town centre in terms of movement, key development sites and public realm. Members of Hertford Civic Society's Committee have been invited to join an initial workshop and there will be an opportunity for public consultation at an exhibition in the Millbridge Room on 20-21 March.

Members of the Society were closely involved in the work done by the Future of Hertford group convened by Hertford Town Council and it is to be hoped that this previous work will feed into the new project. More information will be available on our website and the Newsletter as the project develops.

### PANSHANGER PARK

The Friends of Panshanger Park have extended their activities into regular runs as well as heritage walks and these have proved very popular with over one hundred people taking part on some occasions. Keep up to date with these developments and with the Friends' work to make progress with the opening up of the rest of the Park at [www.friendsofpanshangerpark.co.uk](http://www.friendsofpanshangerpark.co.uk)

### FAR-REACHING CHANGE AT ENGLISH HERITAGE

Major changes to the way England's historic environment is cared for and funded are about to come into force when this aspect of English Heritage's work is handed over to a new, independent charity.

English Heritage has laid out the following detail on its website at [www.english-heritage.org.uk/](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/)

“From 1 April, English Heritage will separate into two organisations:

- **Historic England**, will be the new name for the public body that champions and protects England's historic environment, everything from prehistoric remains to post-war office buildings, and
- **The English Heritage Trust**, a new independent charity, retaining the name English Heritage, will look after - on behalf of the nation - the National Heritage Collection, consisting of more than 400 historic sites across England including Stonehenge, Dover Castle and some of the best preserved parts of Hadrian's Wall.

The new English Heritage charity will use a Government investment of almost £80m to bring and keep the story of England alive through a major programme of interpretation, presentation and conservation. This will allow the stories of individual properties to be fully told and will help the new charity towards self-funding status.

Historic England will champion the historic environment all around us. It will provide expert advice, promote constructive conservation, carry out research and give guidance and grants to everyone from local communities to national policymakers, from owners of listed and older homes to volunteers saving a building at risk. Historic England will also license the new English

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Heritage charity to look after the sites in the National Heritage Collection and appoint trustees to the charity's board."

More details are available on the English Heritage website, address above.

### CIVIC VOICE UPDATE

A new award scheme is being launched to celebrate good design.

The Civic Voice National Design Award will be "a kite mark to be recognised by community groups, professionals and local government alike," says the campaigning organisation. "Nominations can be made by civic societies or other local community organisations for projects they consider make a significant contribution to the quality of their built environment, whether village, town or city." The inaugural winner will be announced at a ceremony hosted by the organisation's president, Griff Rhys Jones.

Civic Voice hopes that these national awards will encourage local civic societies to offer their own schemes, as Hertford has done for many years. Local awards of this kind are expected to form the basis of the nominations rather than being initiated by professionals.

- See more at: <http://www.civicvoice.org.uk/cda>

### AGM PAPERS

#### *Minutes of the AGM held on April 30, 2014*

#### Attendance:

The meeting was attended by approximately forty members.

#### Apologies:

Susan & David Hunt, Bob & Judith Fawcett, Fay Thornton, Ian Nash

#### Minutes of the previous AGM:

These were accepted and there were no matters arising.

#### Report of the Committee for 2013:

Terry Betts reported on the Society's work to celebrate Alfred Russel Wallace, in particular, the commissioning of public art in the form of a sculpture for the wall of Hertford Theatre. He also



explained the detailed work being done to monitor and challenge the District Plan currently being developed by East Herts Council, indicated that notes of our March meeting to discuss the District Plan were available and invited further comments for inclusion in our response. Other activities included a number of talks, a visit to Bletchley and a summer garden party at North Road House. Monitoring and commenting on planning applications is an important and on-going aspect of the Society's work, a process outlined by Peter Norman. He scrutinises the list of applications published on the Council website and selects those that seem likely to have an adverse effect on the town or that will affect Listed Buildings. He then formulates a possible response, sends it to members of the Committee's Planning Working Group for further discussion and drafts a final version to send to the appropriate planning authority. A summary of these letters is provided in the Newsletter, which is also made available on our website. Modern technology means that there is no need to hold meetings to discuss the applications and Peter issued an invitation to any interested member of the Society to join the Working Group.

The Report was accepted.

#### Report of the Treasurer:

John Bevan noted new capital expenditure items: for 2014, which is for a PA system in use now and for future meetings, and for 2013 an overhead projector for the use of meeting speakers. We are holding £5,000 on behalf of East Herts Council, as well as £1,200 for Hertford Town Council, towards the total cost of the Wallace sculpture and will contribute £3,800 of our own funds to this. We will be paying for the sculpture, and for some blue plaques to be placed on Hertford buildings, later in 2014.

The Treasurer has submitted a claim for a Gift Aid refund from HMRC and has now received some £470. Gift Aid can add 25% to subscriptions paid by members who pay income tax. If all members were able to complete a Gift Aid declaration a further approx £320 could have been claimed. All members who qualify should complete a Gift Aid declaration form if they have not already done so. He asked members to note a small correction to the 2013 Accounts by moving £72 from social events surplus to subscription income. The Treasurer's Report and Accounts were accepted.

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Members of the Committee can also be contacted by email via the Society's website at [www.hertfordcivicsociety.org.uk](http://www.hertfordcivicsociety.org.uk)

### Election of Officers:

The following officers were elected:

Chairman - Terry Betts, proposed by Linda Haysey, seconded by John Bevan

Vice-Chairman - Malcolm Ramsay, proposed by Terry Betts, seconded by Linda Haysey

Treasurer - John Bevan, proposed by Terry Betts, seconded by Linda Haysey

Committee - Hilary Durbin, Sue Jones, Peter Norman, Andrew Sangster, Geoffrey Thornton and Richard Threlfall were re-elected.

Terry Betts thanked Linda Haysey for the work she has done as Membership Secretary, in particular, in sorting out the database. Linda will now hand over this role to Annette Robinson. Barrie Goldsmith no longer wishes to be a member of the Committee. Terry Betts thanked him for all his work over the years, especially in being our 'conscience' on environmental issues.

### Discussion from the floor:

The main topic was how we can increase our membership, especially amongst younger people, and raise our profile in the town. The Treasurer pointed out that as we are not urgently in need of new subscriptions, it might be useful to form loose associations with other groups concerned with the well-being of Hertford, for example, in finding ways of dealing with the traffic likely to be generated by the proposed new school on the Simon Balle site, and asked members to let the Committee know of any other likely activities or groups, such as residents' associations. Individual members should also approach friends and neighbours to join. The unveiling of the Wallace sculpture will be an opportunity to gain publicity and we will also have a display inside the theatre. Similarly, we should make use of presenting our Awards. Advertising is expensive, but we should continue to send press releases to the *Mercury* and possibly to *Axis* magazine. We could also revive our 'Do You Care About Hertford?' leaflet, which

could be distributed at the railway stations. We need to reach the younger generation, probably by investigating social media, such as tweeting.

### Up-coming events:

Malcolm Ramsay reminded members about the trip to Faversham and the Garden Party and that places could be booked via him or Peter and Susan Brown's shop.

Sue Jones

### *Report of the Committee for 2014*

The major event of 2014 was the October unveiling (by Dr George Beccaloni from the Natural History Museum) of Rodney Munday's Alfred Russel Wallace sculpture funded jointly by the Society, East Herts Council and Hertford Town Council. This achievement ranks in the annals of the Society with the inauguration of "Confluence", the Medlock Fountain in Salisbury Square. Thanks are particularly due to Barrie Goldsmith at the inception and to Malcolm Ramsay for persistence throughout the evolution of the project.

A project is continuing which will result in the display of plaques commemorating the association of historical figures with particular Hertford buildings.

Comments on and objections to the Consultation draft of the new District Plan were submitted on behalf of the Society. We asked the Council to challenge the size of the housing allocation and to consider alternative strategies and sites for development that will protect our towns, villages, important ecological sites and the Green Belt and discourage traffic growth. We highlighted new areas for development within Hertford, particularly under-used land at County

Hall and sites of office buildings such as Stag House and the site of the telephone exchange.

Subsequently a feasibility study carried out for the Society has confirmed that about 400 houses and flats could be provided on the County Hall site.

The Council are working towards a second consultation about Alterations to the Plan.

After East Herts Council handed back their lease of the bus station and car park at Bircherley Green, the Committee were contacted by Wrenbridge, a Cambridge based developer, who had produced proposals for the redevelopment of the shopping centre. Members of the Committee met with representatives of the owners, the developer, architects, planners and highway / transport consultants when the proposals and the reasoning behind them were explained. We were impressed with the proposal for a larger food store with surface car parking clearly included with the aim of persuading Waitrose to remain. However we were concerned that the scheme involved the loss of a bus station.

When subsequently Wrenbridge held an exhibition of the proposals, members of the Committee were present listening to questions asked and comments made by members of the public examining the plans. Written comments on behalf of the Society were sent to Wrenbridge at that point including concern about the scale of the residential development included and the fact that the appearance of the building made little if any attempt to reflect the existing character of the town centre. It was expected that there would be a subsequent consultation / exhibition about proposals for accommodating buses in the absence of a bus station.

The plans had been displayed in a cramped tent and many Society members had not been able to examine them. We circulated images of the display boards to all members for whom we have email addresses with a request for views. The numerous replies were collated and sent to Wrenbridge.

Later, when Waitrose announced that the Wrenbridge proposals would not meet their future needs, Van Hages submitted a planning application for improvements to their garden Centre complex at Great Amwell with the addition of a food superstore designed to accommodate Waitrose. Comprehensive objections, on behalf of the Society, were submitted to this application. Those proposals were withdrawn before they could be determined but later resubmitted with amendments to the highway arrangements.

The Committee's reaction to the proposal for a new primary school on the Simon Balle site, creating a "through school", was that the provision was being made in the wrong part of the town. Unfortunately more appropriate sites were no longer available. Since it was clear that the proposal would go ahead in any event, the Committee decided to concentrate on attempts to minimise the consequences for vehicular traffic. The Society is represented at a series of liaison meetings between the school and residents currently concentrating on minimising disruption during the construction period. Once the school is opened and the number of primary pupils builds up, year by year, the Committee is determined that the liaison meetings should concentrate on measures to reduce the number of pupil journeys to school made by car including improvement of pedestrian routes.

Comments have also been submitted to the County Council in response to consultations about proposed reduction to bus services particularly in the evenings and on Sundays.

Detailed accounts of the events organised for the Society during the year are contained in the four seasonal Newsletters distributed to Members. These can be viewed on the Society web site and a limited number of printed copies remain available to members.

The well-attended events were

- A talk about making a model of the former Hertford Priory
- Presentations on progress with Panshanger Park
- A visit to Faversham, Kent
- A Summer Party at Amores in Hertingfordbury
- A film about the restoration of the River Beane
- A presentation by Rodney Munday about his sculptures

A public address system is now available which it is hoped will ensure that members sitting at the back of the hall can more easily follow speakers and the question and answer sessions.

The Newsletters also record the often very detailed and sometimes technical objections and representations submitted to County and District Councils about particular planning applications. These records relate to 12 cases arising during the year. In most cases, where decisions have been taken, the outcome has been what the Committee, on behalf of the Society sought to achieve (for example the refusal of the proposals for a “retirement village” in the Green Belt adjacent to the Cole Green Way).

In the following cases concerns expressed were not accepted.

- Land north of Hertford East Station (103 flats and 4 houses). Concern was expressed about the relationship between the proposed apartments and

the new link road which is to be built from Mill Road (near the station) to the point where Mead Lane meets Marshgate Drive. The flats next to the new link road have not been designed to take account of its existence. The link will be in frequent use by heavy vehicles going to and from an industrial area, which is likely to generate more traffic in the future if regeneration of the area continues. Nevertheless permission was granted.

- Redevelopment of Grehan’s Yard, Molewood Road. In 2012 permission was granted for terraced houses on this site. This decision ignored our suggestion that it would be beneficial both to the appearance of the Beane Marsh Green Finger and to the occupants of the new houses if the gardens of the houses faced the Marsh. We repeated this suggestion when a revised application was submitted in 2014 for houses of a much improved design. Again this was ignored.
- Site on corner of Railway Street and St John Street - Proposed part 3 and proposed 4 storey block (8 apartments, retail unit and basement parking). We proposed that development should be limited to three storeys to protect the amenity of the adjacent houses in St John’s Street and to limit the degree of overlooking that will be experienced. We also wanted omission of the retail unit because, when demand for retail floor-space is so slack, it would surely be wise to restrict the construction of new shops outside the town centre in order to concentrate demand within it. Permission was granted for the scheme as submitted.
- Redevelopment of former Hertford Glass site in Ware Road (renewal of 2008 permission for flats with large shop on ground floor) We requested the omission

of the large shop as inappropriate in this location for the same reason as in the previous case. Permission was renewed without any change to the scheme.

- The Cedars, Bengoe (4 houses in the grounds). We objected to the proposed 'mews house', which would face Bengoe Street, as too large and too prominent in relation to The Cedars itself. This objection was not accepted and permission granted for the scheme as submitted.

Objections on behalf of the Society to the application for an illuminated artificial playing pitch at Richard Hale School were submitted in August 2014. The proposals have been amended. At the time of writing (1 March 2015) a decision is awaited.

Terry Betts, on behalf of the Committee

### ***Treasurer's Report for 2014***

The major change in the accounts for 2014 arises from the Wallace sculpture, unveiled in October outside Hertford Theatre. The Society spent £4,522, adding to the £5,000 given by East Herts Council, and £1,200 by Hertford Town Council. The sculpture and its future maintenance are now the responsibility of East Herts Council.

Other items of note include:

1. a small but welcome increase in income from members' subscriptions
2. an increase in the cost of newsletter production for purely technical reasons, as five rather than the more usual four issues fell into the financial year
3. the Surplus on Social Activities reflects the participation by members in the

- Annual Coach Trip and Summer Garden Party - numbers vary each year
4. an increase in subscriptions and donations because £304 was given to Hertford Museum (to help restore the orrery, back on display in 2014), and £100 to the River Beane Restoration Association
5. income of £470, Gift Aid Tax recovery, relating to subscriptions paid in previous years. This shows how tax paying members can add value to the Society from the subs they pay, simply by completing a Gift Aid Declaration
6. the £409 shown as Donations and Income, under Accumulated Fund and Reserves, is the interest received on the Charities Fund account. At year end this fund stood at still very healthy £92,478 (£99,869 in 2013 - see 8. below)
7. the £1,111 expenditure also shown in the same section of the accounts is for the Society's Salisbury Square fountain; it was £1,186 in 2013
8. the combined effects of an increased Deficit on Members Income (£1,453), cost of the Wallace sculpture (£4,522), and the fountain costs (£1,111), were to reduce substantially the balance of the Charities Fund deposit account

I should like to thank the Society's examiner, Tom Busby, for his hard work to assure members that they may rely upon the reported accounts, and verifying the Treasurer's actions. His work includes presenting the accounts in a manner comparable with previous years, checking that expenditure is authorised, evidenced, and in support of the Society's objectives, and that reported assets really exist. He is a past Treasurer of the Society, with a distinguished career as a qualified accountant before retirement.

John Bevan

HERTFORD CIVIC SOCIETY

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2014**

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
<b><u>Income from Members</u></b>		
Subscriptions and Donations	1,633	1,530
Sale of Books	70	70
Surplus on Social Activities	27	217
	----- 1,730	----- 1,817
<b><u>Less Society Expenses</u></b>		
Newsletter	1,493	1,175
Subscriptions and Donations	929	781
General and Lecture Meetings	125	337
Civic Awards and Activities	-	15
Insurance	308	245
Other expenses	288	260
Depreciation of Society Equipment	40	53
	----- 3,183	----- 2,866
<b>Surplus (Deficit) on Members' Income</b>	( 1,453 )	( 1,049 )
Gift Aid Tax Recovered	470	
	----- ( 983 )	----- ( 1,049 )
Net Cost of Russel Wallace Sculpture	4,522	
	----- ( 5,505 )	----- ( 1,049 )
<b>Surplus (Deficit) for the Year</b>	===== ----- ( 5,505 )	===== ----- ( 1,049 )

**HERTFORD CIVIC SOCIETY**  
**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2014**

	<b><u>2014</u></b>		<b><u>2013</u></b>
<b>SOCIETY EQUIPMENT</b>			
At cost		733	733
Less Depreciation		613	573
		-----	-----
		120	160
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Sundry Debtors and Prepayments	148		118
Cash at Bank, in Charities Fund and In Hand	93,037		99,933
	-----		-----
	93,185		100,051
<b>Less CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Sundry Creditors	631	92,554	1,330
	-----		-----
		-----	-----
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		92,674	98,881
		=====	=====
<b>ACCUMULATED FUND AND RESERVES</b>			
	<b><u>SPECIAL RESERVES</u></b>	<b><u>CUMULATIVE FUND</u></b>	<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>
Balance, 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2014	112,890	( 14,009 )	98,881
Donations and Income	409		409
Net Expenditure During 2014	( 1,111 )		( 1,111 )
Surplus (Deficit) for 2014		( 5,505 )	( 5,505 )
	-----		-----
<b>TOTAL RESERVES</b>	112,188	( 19,514 )	92,674
	=====		=====

**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER**

I have examined the books and vouchers of HERTFORD CIVIC SOCIETY and, with the information and explanations received, report that the Balance Sheet and annexed Income and Expenditure Account accord therewith.

T.A.Busby

To apply for or renew membership of Hertford Civic Society, please complete and send this form to:

Annette Robinson, 11 Norman Avenue, Bishop's Stortford, Herts, CM23 4HL. Tel. 01279 833242

Existing members need submit the form only if their details have changed, e.g. new address

Subscriptions, per annum, are as follows:

Full membership £9.00

Full joint membership at the same address £14.00

Full membership with concessions £5.00

Full joint membership with concessions at the same address £8.00

Joint membership (one full and one concession) at the same address £11.00

Corporate membership £20.00

Junior membership (under 18 years of age) £5.00

#### PART A MEMBERSHIP FORM

I/We wish to become/remain members of Hertford Civic Society and

(a) enclose a cheque for the sum of £\_\_\_\_\_being my/our subscription for 2015

(b) wish to pay by standing order and enclose my completed standing order form (delete as appropriate)

FULL NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

CLASS OF MEMBERSHIP (please circle) FULL CONCESSION CORPORATE JUNIOR

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

POSTCODE \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Your personal details will be held on a computer and used to help run the Society as a membership organisation, to include the collection of subscriptions and delivery of a newsletter. Your details will be kept secure, in compliance with data protection principles, and will not be given to third parties. The committee may write to or email you from time to time, with news of interest to members, to find out your views, or to ask for participation in Society activities. If you do not want your details to be held on computer, tell us, but be aware that it may then not be practical to provide you with full membership services.

#### PART B GIFT AID DECLARATION

NAME OF CHARITY - Hertford Civic Society. Registered charity No. 266111. I pay tax at the standard rate and wish the above named charity to treat as a Gift Aid donation all subscriptions I have paid since 6 April 2000 (if applicable) and all subsequent donations until further notice.

FULL NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

POSTCODE \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

#### PART C STANDING ORDER FORM

NAME OF YOUR BANK \_\_\_\_\_

BANK ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

SORT CODE \_\_\_\_\_ ACCOUNT NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

Pay to the account of:

Hertford Civic Society at Barclays Bank, 12 Market Street, Hertford SG14 1BA; sort code 20-20-37; account no 40475807 on receipt of this order and on each 1 January thereafter, the sum of £\_\_\_\_\_

FULL NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

POSTCODE \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_