

HARTFORD CIVIC SOCIETY

England & Wales · Charity number 1171256

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2017-01-23

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address 276 Chester Road
Hartford
Northwich
Cheshire
CW8 1QW

Phone 07429866550

Email info@hartfordcivicsociety.org

Website www.hartfordcivicsociety.org

Activities

Objects: THE SOCIETY IS ESTABLISHED FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES IN THE AREA COMPRISING THE PARISH OF HARTFORD WHICH AREA SHALL HEREINAFTER BE REFERRED TO AS THE "AREA OF BENEFIT". I. TO PROMOTE HIGH STANDARDS OF PLANNING AND ARCHITECTURE IN OR AFFECTING THE AREA OF BENEFIT II. TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC IN THE GEOGRAPHY, HISTORY, NATURAL HISTORY AND ARCHITECTURE OF THE AREA OF BENEFIT III. TO SECURE THE PRESERVATION, PROTECTION, DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND SITES OF FEATURES OF HISTORIC OR PUBLIC INTEREST IN THE AREA OF BENEFIT. IV. TO PROVIDE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND/OR EVENTS FOR THE PUBLIC AT LARGE OR THOSE WHO BY REASON OF THEIR YOUTH, AGE, INFIRMITY OR DISABLEMENT, FINANCIAL HARDSHIP OR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES, HAVE NEED OF, OR WOULD BENEFIT FROM, SUCH FACILITIES AND/OR EVENTS V. TO PROCURE THE MAINTENANCE, IMPROVEMENT OR PROVISION OF PUBLIC AMENITIES.

Activities: Within the Civil Parish of Hartford to: # promote high standards of planning and architecture.# secure the preservation, protection, development, improvement of the environment and of sites/features of historic/public interest.# educate/interest the public in the geography, history, natural history and architecture.# procure the maintenance, improvement or provision of public amenities.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Arts/culture/heritage/science, Environment/conservation/heritage, Economic/community Development/employment
- **Who:** Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Cheshire West & Chester

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£14,424	£6,141	-	-
2023-12-31	£7,971	£21,084	-	-
2022-12-31	£8,856	£17,437	-	-
2021-12-31	£36,166	£3,147	-	-
2020-12-31	£34,737	£2,025	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Lorna Claire Byrne	Chair	2025-04-17
Heather Pinchien		2025-08-18
Jean Pritchett		2023-04-24
Joanne Elizabeth Mitton		2021-07-26
MICHAEL PINCHIEN		2016-10-07
Michael Roy James Sterry		2022-04-20
Patricia Mary Parkes		2020-04-20
Richard John Capper		2025-10-20

HARTFORD CIVIC SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 1171256

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

	Period start date				Period end date		
From	1	January	2024	To	31	December	2024

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name **Hartford Civic Society**

Registered charity number **1171256**

Charity's principal address c/o Honorary Secretary, 'White House',
23 Walnut Lane, Hartford, Northwich
Postcode **CW8 1QN**

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	David Barr	Treasurer		Elected by Membership
2	Brian Evans			Elected by Membership
3	Margaret Gent		Until 24 April 2024	Elected by Membership
4	Rita Hollens			Elected by Membership
5	Jo Mitton			Elected by Membership
6	Patricia Parkes			Elected by Membership
7	Michael Pinchien			Elected by Membership
8	Jean Pritchett			Elected by Membership
9	Michael Sterry			Elected by Membership
10	John Swaffield	Secretary		Elected by Membership
11	John Szostek	Chair		Elected by Membership
12	Geoffrey Wilde			Elected by Membership

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document	Constitution
How the charity is constituted	Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
Trustee selection methods	Elected by Members at the AGM, interim appointed by Trustees/Members.

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

- In the Parish of Hartford:
- i. to promote high standards of planning and architecture,
 - ii. to educate the public in the geography, history, natural history and architecture of the area,
 - iii. to secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of the environment and sites of features of historic or public interest in the area,
 - iv. to provide recreational facilities and/or events for the public and
 - v. to procure the maintenance, improvement or provision of public amenities.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

Nearly everything we do is for public benefit and not limited to our Members (now referred to as 'Supporters'). The charity's trustees had regard to the Commission's public benefit guidance when choosing its projects, some of which are being delivered early in 2025. Main project expenditure in 2024 was on maintaining the defibrillator and upkeep of our six planters and two hanging baskets. Local residents added and maintained a planter on Hodge Lane, which we licenced and bought using a grant. Repeating the successes of previous years, we organised 8 local walks, 10 well-supported monthly litter picks and two coach trips (Astley Hall and Penrhyn Castle). We are awaiting revised Hartford Parish Council plans for the village clock project; meanwhile we have received back the £6,000 we put towards it in 2023, pending a decision on the new plan. We are working to replace our website with one that is mobile-friendly, secure, and with a modernised logo and which will appeal to a wider audience, whilst continuing with its depth of content. Meanwhile we have promoted our work by supporting the Picnic in the Park and Christmas Fayre events and produced a 2025 Hartford Calendar. We have started work with the Parish Council to update our Neighbourhood Plan, which we jointly produced in 2016.

Section D Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the period.

The projects listed above is evidence of our continued achievements.

Section E Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

We have funds well in excess of our £5,000 reserves policy minimum, thanks to a large legacy, received in 2020/2021.

Further financial review details (Optional information)



You may choose to include:

- the charity's principal sources of funds

Subscriptions and their Gift Aid, two one-off grants, bank interest and the lottery surplus contributed to our net income. We aim to break even on our coach trips and our calendars, both organised to promote ourselves and to encourage community engagement in what we do.

Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.
Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	John Anthony Szostek	Michael Sterry
Position	Chair	Acting Treasurer

Date

HARTFORD CIVIC SOCIETY

Charity Commission Registered Number 1171256

Receipts and Payments Accounts for Year ending 31 December 2024

	Note	Current Year	Previous Year
Income		£	£
Subscriptions	2	2,231	2,259
Donations		178	171
Gift Aid Refund	3	443	494
Grants	4	1,000	0
Interest		805	540
Lottery Income	6	1,416	1,416
Sale of Merchandise	6	828	640
Sale of Coach Trips	6	1,511	1,833
Overpayments		12	25
From HPC re Village Clock	7	6,000	0
		<u>14,424</u>	<u>7,378</u>
Expenditure			
Communications Cost		279	344
Meeting Expenses		230	0
Insurance		134	129
Civic Voice		500	0
Charitable Expenditure	5	2,174	14,889
Lottery Prizes & costs	6	740	740
Cost of Merchandise	6	553	1,194
Cost of Coach Trips	6	1,516	1,695
2023 Overpayment reversed		15	0
		<u>6,141</u>	<u>18,991</u>
-Deficit/Surplus for Year		<u>8,283</u>	<u>-11,613</u>

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2024

Net Worth

At 1 January 2024		53,169	63,282
-Deficit/Surplus for Year		8,283	-11,613
Creditor (agency)	9	0	1,500
At 31 December 2024		<u>61,452</u>	<u>53,169</u>

Made up of:

Barclays Bank - Business Premium Account		60,629	52,314
Community Account		824	855
		<u>61,452</u>	<u>53,169</u>

Michael Steery

Acting Treasurer

HARTFORD CIVIC SOCIETY

Charity Commission registered number 1171256

Receipts and Payments Accounts for the Year ended 31st December 2024

Notes to the Accounts

- 1 Accounts: These Accounts are prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis allowed for small charities. All numbers are rounded to the nearest £ - the totals are accurate.
- 2 Supporters: Subscriptions of £2,231 represent 403 Adult and 16 Junior supporters in 245 households, plus 1 corporate supporter. Previous period: £2,259, representing 409 Adult and 13 Junior supporters in 249 households, plus 1 corporate supporter.
- 3 Gift Aid: As a CIO we now have valid declarations from 77% of our supporters.
- 4 Two grants were received: £500 from Cheshire West & Chester for the Hodge Lane Planter and £500 from The Drinking Fountain Association, towards refurbishing our fountain.
- 5 Charitable Expenditure

	2024	2023
	£	£
Village Clock contribution	0	6,000
Planter purchases	504	4,020
Green Field Pavilion	0	2,250
Hodge Lane Finger Post repaint	0	950
Display Lectern for MALNR	0	708
Upkeep of plants & bulb plantings	829	380
Competition prizes etc	140	240
Royalty Wood plaque	0	200
Walk costs	0	77
Exhibition costs	38	65
Defibrillator	664	0
	<u>2,174</u>	<u>14,889</u>

- 6 Lottery, Calendar, Hartford I Spy booklet and Coach Trips

	2024		2023	
	Sales	Cost	Surplus/ -Loss	Surplus/ -Loss
	£	£	£	£
Lottery	1,416	740	676	676
Calendar, cards, booklet	828	553	275	-555
Coach trips	1,511	1,516	-5	138
	<u>3,755</u>	<u>2,809</u>	<u>946</u>	<u>260</u>

We aim to cover costs on our merchandising and coach trip activities, not to use them for fundraising. Booklets and cards sold in 2024 had zero cost, having been paid for in prior years.

- 7 In 2023 we contributed £6,000 towards the Queen Elizabeth II memorial clock, which Hartford Parish Council planned for the village. This money has been returned, whilst the plan is being revised.
- 8 Voluntary Time
We estimate that some 700 hours of effort was given by Trustees, Supporters and volunteers, valued at £8,000. (2023, 800 hours, worth £8,300).
- 9 Agency and Liabilities
On occasions, the Society is asked to act as paying agents, with no discretion. In the last two years we have collected stall fees for the Christmas Fayre (£593 in 2023, £855 in 2024), then distributed them to designated local good causes. In 2022/2023 we also acted as agent to fund an arboretum in Royalty Wood. Our 2023 accounts have been amended to follow the SORP recommendation that: '*...the receipt of funds as agent is not recognised as income nor is its distribution recognised as the agent's expenditure*'.

HARTFORD CIVIC SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 1171256

Accounts

HARTFORD CIVIC SOCIETY

Charity Commission Registered Number 1171256

Receipts and Payments Accounts for Year ending 31 December 2023

	Note	Current Year £	Previous Year £
Income			
Subscriptions	2	2,259	2,327
Donations		171	470
Gift Aid Refund	3	494	650
Interest		540	57
Lottery Income	5	1,416	1,416
Sale of Calendars and Booklet	5	640	526
Sale of Coach Trips	5	1,833	1,410
Agency Receipts	7	593	1,993
Overpayments		25	7
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		7,971	8,856
Expenditure			
Communications Cost		344	135
Meeting Expenses		0	401
Insurance		129	99
Charitable Expenditure	4	14,889	13,813
Lottery Prizes & costs	5	740	740
Cost of Calendars	5	539	586
Cost of Hartford I Spy	5	655	0
Cost of Coach Trips	5	1,695	1,170
Agency Payments	7	2,093	493
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		21,084	17,437
-Deficit/Surplus for Year		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
		-13,113	-8,581
Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2023			
<u>Net Worth</u>			
At 1 January 2023		64,782	74,863
-Deficit/Surplus for Year		-13,113	-8,581
Creditor (agency)	7	1,500	-1,500
		<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 December 2023		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
		53,169	64,782
<u>Made up of:</u>			
Barclays Bank - 10 Day Notice Account		52,314	63,251
Community Account		855	3,031
Creditor (Agency)	7	0	-1,500
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		53,169	64,782

David Barr CA

Hon. Treasurer, 19 February 2024

HARTFORD CIVIC SOCIETY

Charity Commission registered number 1171256

Receipts and Payments Accounts for the Year ended 31st December 2023 Notes to the Accounts

- 1 Accounts: These Accounts are prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis allowed for small charities.
- 2 Membership: Subscriptions of £2,259 represent 409 Adult and 13 Junior members in 249 households, plus 1 corporate member. Previous period: £2,327, representing 423 Adult and 17 Junior members in 256 households.
- 3 Gift Aid: As a CIO we now have valid declarations from 71% of our membership.

4 Charitable Expenditure

	2023	2022
	£	£
Village Clock contribution	6,000	0
Planter replacement	4,020	0
Green Field Pavilion	2,250	10,000
Hodge Lane Finger Post repaint	950	0
Display Lectern for MALNR	708	0
Upkeep of plants & bulb plantings	380	418
Competition prizes etc	240	243
Royalty Wood plaque	200	0
Walk costs	77	0
Exhibition costs	65	0
Defibrillator	0	1,804
Picnic Bench	0	625
Christmas Lights	0	564
Litter Picking Equipment	0	159
	<u>14,889</u>	<u>13,813</u>

5 Lottery, Calendar, Hartford I Spy and Coach Trips

	Current Year - 2023			2022
	Cost	Sales	Surplus	Surplus
	£	£	/-Loss £	/ -Loss £
Lottery	740	1,416	676	676
Calendar	539	393	-147	-60
Hartford I Spy	655	247	-408	0
Coach Trips	1,695	1,833	138	240
	<u>3,629</u>	<u>3,889</u>	<u>260</u>	<u>856</u>

The deficit shown for Calendars excludes late receipts in the current year and we expect the final result to be at least breakeven. 1,000 I Spy booklets were printed; sales of these will be made over several future years, with no future cost.

6 Voluntary Time

We estimate that some 800 hours of effort was given by Trustees and Members valued at £8,300. This includes the time taken to produce the Hartford I Spy booklet, as well as regular activities. (2022, 700 hours worth £7,000).

7 Agency and Liabilities

On two occasions, the Society was asked to act as paying agents, with no discretion. The £1,500 carried over from last year as a Creditor amount in the Statement of Net Worth was paid out to fund an Arboretum in Royalty Wood. Later in the year we collected stall fees for the Christmas Fayre, totalling £593 on behalf of the organisers, then distributed them to designated local charities.



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

		Period start date			Period end date		
From	1	January	2023	To	31	December	2023

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name **Hartford Civic Society**

Registered charity number **1171256**

Charity's principal address c/o Honorary Secretary, 'White House',
23 Walnut Lane, Hartford, Northwich
Postcode CW8 1QN

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	David Barr	Treasurer		Elected by Membership
2	Brian Evans			Elected by Membership
3	Margaret Gent			Elected by Membership
4	Rita Hollens			Elected by Membership
5	Jo Mitton			Elected by Membership
6	Patricia Parkes			Elected by Membership
7	Michael Pinchien			Elected by Membership
8	Jean Pritchett		From 20 February 2023	Elected by Membership
9	Michael Sterry			Elected by Membership
10	John Swaffield	Secretary		Elected by Membership
11	John Szostek	Chair		Elected by Membership
12	Geoffrey Wilde			Elected by Membership

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document	Constitution
How the charity is constituted	Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
Trustee selection methods	Elected by Members at the AGM, interim appointed by Trustees/Members.

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

In the Parish of Hartford:

- i. to promote high standards of planning and architecture,
- ii. to educate the public in the geography, history, natural history and architecture of the area,
- iii. to secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of the environment and sites of features of historic or public interest in the area,
- iv. to provide recreational facilities and/or events for the public and
- v. to procure the maintenance, improvement or provision of public amenities.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

Nearly everything we do is for public benefit and not limited to our Members. The charity's trustees had regard to the Commission's public benefit guidance when choosing its projects. One-off projects or activities in 2023 included the production of a 48-page Hartford I Spy booklet informing on Hartford history, ready for the Village Hall centenary celebrations; a "Life in Hartford" photo competition for images for our 2024 calendar; a talk to the u3a local history group; an entry in the scarecrow competition promoting our litter picking, and the refurbishment of the Hodge Lane finger post. Repeating the successes of previous years, we organised 7 local walks, 11 monthly litter picks and two coach trips (Jodrell Bank and the RHS Bridgewater Gardens). We replaced our rusting Chester Road planters, provided and maintained the usual spring and autumn plantings, and planted some more bulbs. We have supported Parish Council projects by contributing the shortfall to the village clock project (planning permission now obtained), and paid half the cost of the Pavilion floor upgrade. We paid to replace one of the information lecterns in Marshalls Arm Local Nature Reserve. We updated and expanded our website, which now gives access to the 76-page history of the village hall, researched and written by one of our Members and we maintained our library of books relating to Hartford.

Section D Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the period.

The list of projects above is evidence of our continued achievements. Promoting our work at Picnic-in-the-Park and the Christmas Fayre, we recruited 19 new Members. Retention of Members is high. We know from feedback that our Members and other residents value what we do for the benefit of Hartford. We registered our objection on the planning application to develop the field at the end of School Lane.

Section E Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

We have funds well in excess of our £5,000 reserves policy minimum, thanks to the large legacy, which we continue to spend wisely, consistent with our charitable aims.

Further financial review details (Optional information)



You may choose to include:

- the charity's principal sources of funds

Subscriptions, the lottery surplus and bank interest were the biggest contributors to our net income, in that order. We aim to break even on our coach trips and our calendars, both organised to promote ourselves and to encourage community engagement in what we do.

Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.
Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	John Anthony Szostek	David Christopher Barr
Position	Chair	Treasurer

Date 18th March 2024

HARTFORD CIVIC SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 1171256

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	1 January 2022	To	31 December 2022
Period start date	Period end date		

Section A

Reference and administration details

Charity name	Hartford Civic Society
Registered charity number	1171256
Charity's principal address	c/o Honorary Secretary, "White House", 23 Walnut Lane, Hartford, Northwich Postcode CW8 1QN

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1 David Barr	Treasurer		Elected by Membership
2 Brian Evans			Elected by Membership
3 Margaret Gent			Elected by Membership
4 Rita Hollens			Elected by Membership
5 Jo Milton			Elected by Membership
6 Patricia Parkes			Elected by Membership
7 Michael Pinchlen			Elected by Membership
8 Michael Sterry		From 17 January 2022	Elected by Membership
9 John Swaffield	Secretary		Elected by Membership
10 John Szostek	Chair		Elected by Membership
11 Geoffrey Wilde			Elected by Membership

Section B

Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document	Constitution
How the charity is constituted	Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
Trustee selection methods	Elected by Members at the AGM, interim appointed by Trustees/Members.

Section C

Objectives and activities

In the Parish of Hartford:
i. to promote high standards of planning and architecture,
ii. to educate the public in the geography, history, natural history and architecture of the area,
iii. to secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of the environment and sites of features of historic or public interest in the area,
iv. to provide recreational facilities and/or events for the public and
v. to procure the maintenance, improvement or provision of public amenities.

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

We recently defined our Vision as: "To be valued by all Hartford's residents as the organisation which is improving Hartford as a place to live, whilst respecting its heritage." Nearly everything we do is for public benefit and not limited to our Members. The charity's trustees had regard to the Commission's public benefit guidance when choosing its projects. In 2022 we provided and are maintaining a defibrillator in the centre of the village. Summer and Autumn floral displays, organised twelve well supported litter picks and lent our equipment to others, led eight local walks, organised a coach trip to visit the National Memorial Arboretum and Lichfield Cathedral, ran a competition "The art of Hartford", which attracted quality entries in both junior and adult age categories and we produced a Hartford calendar with the winning entries. We don't make grants, but where appropriate we support projects managed by others, viz. the Pavilion Project and a picnic bench on the Green Field, and Christmas lights on Chester Road, all managed by the Parish Council. We helped organise the Christmas Fayre and are facilitating the planting of an arboretum in the privately-owned Royalty Wood, in which we organised a summer evening guided walk for Members.

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the period.

The list of projects above is evidence of our continued achievements. Twenty-five households became new Members in 2022. Retention of Members is high. We know from feedback that our Members value what we do for the benefit of Hartford. We continue to register comments on planning applications, consistent with our Objects, whenever appropriate.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

We have funds well in excess of our £5,000 reserves policy minimum, thanks to the large legacy, which we are now spending wisely, consistent with our charitable aims.

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You may choose to include:

- the charity's principal sources of funds

Subscriptions, donations and surplus from the lottery were the biggest contributors to our net income, in that order. We aim to break even on our coach trips and our calendars, both organised to promote ourselves or to encourage community engagement in what we do.

Section G

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above. Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	[Redacted]
Full name(s)	John Anthony Szostek
Position	Chair
	David Christopher Barr
	Treasurer

Date 13th March 2023

HARTFORD CIVIC SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 1171256

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date		Period end date	
From	1 January 2021	To	31 December 2021

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name **Hartford Civic Society**Registered charity number **1171256**

Charity's principal address c/o Honorary Secretary, 'White House'

23 Walnut Lane, Hartford, Northwich

Postcode **CW8 1QN**

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Tracey Abbott			Elected by Membership
2	David Barr	Treasurer		Elected by Membership
3	Brian Evans			Elected by Membership
4	Margaret Gent			Elected by Membership
5	Rita Hollens			Elected by Membership
6	Jo Mitton		26 July 2021	Appointed by Trustees
7	Patricia Parkes			Elected by Membership
8	Michael Pinchien			Elected by Membership
9	John Swaffield	Secretary		Elected by Membership
10	John Szostek	Chair		Elected by Membership
11	Geoffrey Wilde			Elected by Membership

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document **Constitution**How the charity is constituted **Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)**Trustee selection methods **Elected by Members at the AGM, interim appointed by Trustees/Members.**

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Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

In the Parish of Hartford:

- i. to promote high standards of planning and architecture,
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- iii. to secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of the environment and sites of features of historic or public interest in the area,
- iv. to provide recreational facilities and/or events for the public and
- v. to procure the maintenance, improvement or provision of public amenities.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

Our accounts and their notes only partly list our activities. Much more was achieved thanks to the time and effort contributed by Trustees, Members and residents. Once Covid restrictions had eased, we led 5 countryside circular walks and arranged a tour of Royalty Wood. We organised 6 increasingly well supported litter picks; we started green space working parties, the first 3 of which tackled epicormic tree growth; and we organised a rota which kept our hanging baskets and planters watered. We appealed to all residents of Hartford by distributing a trifold map and information on a walk visiting our 13 blue plaques; we ran a 'Hartford Past' competition and we produced a 2022 calendar with historical notes. We continue to respond to individual email requests for historical information on Hartford and its residents. Trustees and Members helped as marshals for the September 'Fun Run' and with the Christmas Extravaganza, where we had a stall. We opposed the demolition of three houses (nos. 433-437) on Chester Road, contributed to Hartford Parish Council's Walk, Ride and Thrive working group and are currently supporting a Member's application for a new footpath right of way between Beach Road and Chester Road. Notes to our accounts record charitable spend on a bench in memory of Pat Hatfield and the planting of six oak trees in Royalty Wood.

Most of the above activities benefited local residents, not just our Members. The charity's trustees had regard to the Commission's public benefit guidance when choosing its projects.

Section D Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the period.

The list of public benefit projects listed above is evidence of our continued achievements.

Section E Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The large legacy has resulted in funds well in excess of our £5,000 reserves policy minimum. This surplus will be spent wisely in the next few years on (a) quality project(s) fitting our charitable aims.

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You may choose to include:

- the charity's principal sources of funds;

Appreciation of what we do has prompted an increase in donations, an 'in memory of' gift and the large legacy. Together, these have been our main sources of funds in the last two years. Our objective is to recruit more Members, whilst keeping the rate of subscription unchanged. We continue to save £500 p.a. by not subscribing to the national organisation, Civic Voice, which we do not consider currently represents value to our own Membership.

Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	John Anthony Szostek	David Christopher Barr
Position	Chair	Treasurer

Date **21st February 2022**

HARTFORD CIVIC SOCIETY

Charity Commission Registered Number 1171256

Receipts and Payments Statement for Year ending 31 December 2021

	Note	Current Year £	Previous Year £
Income			
Subscriptions	3	2,196	2,095
Legacy	2	30,568	30,000
Donations		1,031	37
Grants		0	0
Gift Aid Refund	4	480	416
Interest		6	7
Lottery Income	6	1,414	1,426
Sale of Calendars	6	410	737
Sale of Coach Trips		0	0
Sale of Equipment		40	0
Overpayments		21	19
		-----	-----
		36,166	34,737
		-----	-----
Expenditure			
Communications Cost		62	68
Meeting Expenses		0	0
Insurance		99	99
Charitable Expenditure	5	1,809	608
Lottery Prizes & costs	6	740	740
Cost of Calendars	6	437	510
		-----	-----
		3,147	2,025
		-----	-----
Surplus for Year		33,019	32,712
		=====	=====

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2021

Net Worth			
At 1 January 2021		41,844	9,132
Surplus for Year		33,019	32,712
		-----	-----
At 31 December 2021		74,863	41,844
		=====	=====
Made up of:			
Barclays Bank - 10 day Notice Account		68,194	38,188
Community Account		6,669	3,656
		-----	-----
		74,863	41,844
		=====	=====

David Barr CA
Hon Treasurer
9th February 2022

HARTFORD CIVIC SOCIETY

Charity Commission registered number 1171256

Receipts and Payments Account for the Year ended 31st December 2021 Notes to the Accounts

- 1 Accounts: These Accounts are prepared on the Receipts and Payment basis allowed for small charities.
- 2 Legacy: The late Mr George Cain, a member, has left the Society a substantial legacy for use at its discretion. During this year, instalments of £30,568 have been received. The Estate has now been wound up and the total received is £60,568.
- 3 Membership: Subscriptions of £2,196 represent 402 Adult and 9 Junior members in 243 households. Previous period: £2,095, representing 385 Adult and 8 Junior members in 232 households.
- 4 Gift Aid: Claiming Gift Aid as a CIO has depended on receiving new declarations from Members. The sum of £480 in these accounts partly covers 4 years. Our next claim will include Gift Aid on a donation of £500 received in December.

5 Charitable Expenditure

	2021	2020
	£	£
Upkeep of plants & bulb plantings	525	294
Display Equipment	0	214
Litter Picking Safety Equipment	0	60
Competition Prizes etc	153	40
Trifold Leaflets	173	0
Oak trees in Royalty Wood	300	0
Memorial Bench	658	0
	-----	-----
	1,809	608
	=====	=====

The oak trees in Royalty Wood were planted in memory of the late Pat Hatfield and were funded by a donation from her family.

6 Lottery, Calendar and Coach Trip

	Current Year - 2021			2020
	Cost	Sales	Surplus	Surplus
	£	£	/-Loss £	/-Loss £
Lottery	740	1,414	674	686
Calendar	437	410	-27	227
Coach Trips -	0	0	0	0
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	1,177	1,824	647	913
	=====	=====	=====	=====

7 Voluntary Time

Members and Trustees have been limited in their time on Society business by lockdowns. Nevertheless, a higher level of activity has been achieved and we estimate that a fair assessment of hours is 650, valued at £6,500. (2020, 350 hours at £3,500).

8 Liabilities

There were no liabilities outstanding at the period end.

HARTFORD CIVIC SOCIETY

Charity Commission Registered Number 1171256

Receipts and Payments Statement for Year ending 31 December 2021

	Note	Current Year £	Previous Year £
Income			
Subscriptions	3	2,196	2,095
Legacy	2	30,568	30,000
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Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2021

<u>Net Worth</u>			
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Barclays Bank - 10 day Notice Account		68,194	38,188
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		=====	=====

David Barr CA
Hon Treasurer
9th February 2022

HARTFORD CIVIC SOCIETY

Charity Commission registered number 1171256

Receipts and Payments Account for the Year ended 31st December 2021 Notes to the Accounts

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	2021	2020
	£	£
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Display Equipment	0	214
Litter Picking Safety Equipment	0	60
Competition Prizes etc	153	40
Trifold Leaflets	173	0
Oak trees in Royalty Wood	300	0
Memorial Bench	658	0
	-----	-----
	1,809	608
	=====	=====

The oak trees in Royalty Wood were planted in memory of the late Pat Hatfield and were funded by a donation from her family.

6 Lottery, Calendar and Coach Trip

	Current Year - 2021			2020
	Cost	Sales	Surplus	Surplus
	£	£	/-Loss £	/-Loss £
Lottery	740	1,414	674	686
Calendar	437	410	-27	227
Coach Trips -	0	0	0	0
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	1,177	1,824	647	913
	=====	=====	=====	=====

7 Voluntary Time

Members and Trustees have been limited in their time on Society business by lockdowns. Nevertheless, a higher level of activity has been achieved and we estimate that a fair assessment of hours is 650, valued at £6,500. (2020, 350 hours at £3,500).

8 Liabilities

There were no liabilities outstanding at the period end.

HARTFORD CIVIC SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 1171256

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

	Period start date				Period end date		
From	1	January	2020	To	31	December	2020

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

Hartford Civic Society

Registered charity number

1171256

Charity's principal address

c/o Honorary Secretary, 'White House'	
23 Walnut Lane, Hartford, Northwich	
Postcode	CW8 1QN

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Tracey Abbott			Elected by Membership
2	David Barr	Treasurer		Elected by Membership
3	Brian Evans			Elected by Membership
4	Margaret Gent			Elected by Membership
5	Patricia Hatfield			Elected by Membership
6	Rita Hollens			Elected by Membership
7	Patricia Parkes			Elected by Membership
8	Michael Pinchien			Elected by Membership
9	John Swaffield	Secretary		Elected by Membership
10	John Szostek	Chair		Elected by Membership
11	Geoffrey Wilde			Elected by Membership

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document	Constitution
How the charity is constituted	Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
Trustee selection methods	Elected by Members at the AGM, interim appointed by Trustees/Members.

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

In the Parish of Hartford:

- i. to promote high standards of planning and architecture,
- ii. to educate the public in the geography, history, natural history and architecture of the area,
- iii. to secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of the environment and sites of features of historic or public interest in the area,
- iv. to provide recreational facilities and/or events for the public and
- v. to procure the maintenance, improvement or provision of public amenities.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

Covid-19 precautions limited our activities that were planned for the year and the ability for our Trustees to meet, but we can report positively on the following:

1. Providing and maintaining colourful spring and autumn floral displays,
2. Organising 5 litter picks, renewing and sanitising our equipment and lending the litter pick equipment out to individuals for ad-hoc picks,
3. Contributed to the Parish Council's "Walk, Ride and Thrive" strategy, and successfully applying for five "Assets of Community Value",
4. Lodged objections to planning applications considered inappropriate for the village, consistent with made policies in the Hartford Neighbourhood Plan,
5. Informed our Members with two hand-delivered newsletters, plus additional emails, and sharing information with all, via blogs and new pages on our website, which now includes our previous newsletter articles,
6. Invited all Members to take part in a telephone befriending scheme. Fourteen individuals were linked, thus helping social contact.
7. Produced and sold a well-received calendar covering Hartford's history, together with a sheet of historical notes.
8. Launched our 2021 competition "Hartford Past in one hundred words",
9. Prepared a tri-fold information sheet, which will be delivered to all residents in 2021, encouraging them to walk and visit the locations of our blue plaques

Most of the above activities benefited local residents, not just our Members. The charity's trustees had regard to the Commission's public benefit guidance when choosing its projects.

Section D Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the period.

The list of public benefit projects listed above is evidence of our continued achievements.

Section E Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The charity has a policy to keep £5,000 as a reserve for unplanned activity such as fighting inappropriate planning decisions. It aims to spend funds above this figure, after paying its running costs, on projects that meet its charitable aims.

Further financial review details (Optional information)



You **may choose** to include:

- the charity's principal sources of funds;

The CIO received membership fees during the year of £2,095 from existing and new members, on which it was able to claim £416 Gift Aid. In addition, it generated a net income of £686 from running a lottery and it received £37 from donations. Its biggest item of income was £30,000 from a single legacy. It will continue to apply these funds to achieve its charitable objects. The aim of producing the calendar for sale, was to promote the Society. Our surplus over costs on merchandise was £228.

Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.
Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	John Anthony Szostek	David Christopher Barr
Position	Chair	Treasurer

Date 18th January, 2021

HARTFORD CIVIC SOCIETY

Charity Commission Registered Number 1171256

Receipts and Payments Account for Year ending 31 December 2020

	Note	Current Year	Previous Year
		£	£
Receipts			
Subscriptions	1	2,095	2,262
Legacy	2	30,000	0
Donations		37	54
Gift Aid Refund	3	416	438
Interest		7	20
Lottery Income	5	1,426	1,369
Sale of Calendars	5	737	626
Sale of Coach Trips	5	0	1,447
Overpayments		19	45
		-----	-----
Total Receipts		34,737	6,261
		-----	-----
Payments			
Communications Cost		68	137
Meeting Expenses		0	203
Insurance		99	285
Civic Voice		0	500
Charitable Expenditure	4	608	4,555
Lottery Prizes & costs	5	740	710
Cost of Calendars	5	510	385
Cost of Coach Trips	5	0	1,702
		-----	-----
Total Payments		2,025	8,477
		=====	=====
Net Receipts less Payments		32,712	-2,216
		=====	=====
Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2019			
		£	£
Barclays Bank - 10 day Notice account		8,181	10,161
Community account		951	1,187
		-----	-----
		9,132	11,348
		-----	-----
Surplus/ -Deficit		32,712	-2,216
		-----	-----
Net Worth at 1st January 2020		41,844	9,132
		=====	=====
Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2020			
		£	£
Barclays Bank - 10 day Notice account		38,188	8,181
Community account		3,656	951
		-----	-----
Net Worth at 31st December 2020		41,844	9,132
		=====	=====

David Barr CA

Hon Treasurer, 11 January 2021

HARTFORD CIVIC SOCIETY

Charity Commission registered number 1171256

Receipts and Payments Account for the Year ended 31st December 2020

Notes to the Accounts

These Accounts are prepared on the Receipts and Payment basis allowed for small charities.

1. Membership: Subscriptions of £2,095 represent 385 Adult and 8 Junior members in 232 households. Previous period: £2,262, representing 415 Adult and 12 Junior members in 247 households.
2. Legacy: The late Mr George Cain, a member, has left the Society a substantial legacy for use at its discretion. During this year, instalments of £30,000 have been received. The value of the remainder will not be known until the estate has been wound up.
3. Gift Aid: Claiming Gift Aid as a CIO has depended on receiving new declarations from Members. The sum of £416 in these accounts partly covers 4 years. We expect to receive more declarations and our next claim will therefore cover more than the 2021 income stream as members sign up retrospectively.

4. Charitable Expenditure

	2020	2019
	£	£
HCS Share of Redrow Appeal Costs	0	3,877
Upkeep of plants & bulb plantings	294	638
Display Equipment	214	0
Litter Picking Safety Equipment	60	0
Competition Prizes etc	40	40
	-----	-----
	608	4,555
	=====	=====

5. Lottery, Calendar and Coach Trip

	Current Year - 2020			2019
	Cost	Sales	Surplus	Surplus
	£	£	/-Loss £	/-Loss £
Lottery	740	1,426	686	650
Calendar 2018	0	0	0	111
Calendar 2019	510	737	227	130
Coach Trips - 2020	1,537	1,447	-90	-90
Coach Trips - 2021	0	0	0	-165
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	2,787	3,610	823	636
	=====	=====	=====	=====

The loss of £165 in last year's accounts under "Coach Trips - 2021" was a deposit for the planned May 2021 coach trip to Lichfield which had to be postponed. It is expected that it will be valid against future Coach Trips.

6. Voluntary Time

Members and Trustees have been limited in their time on Society business by lockdowns. We estimate that a fair assessment is 50% of the previous year - 350 hours, valued at £3,500. (2019 - 700 hours worth £7,000).

7. Liabilities

There were no liabilities outstanding at the period end.



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Hartford Civic Society

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31st December 2020

**Charity no
(if any)**

1171256

Set out on pages

1 and 2

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2020.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

[Redacted Signature]

Date:

09/02/2021

Name:

Rachel Sterry

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

ICB Diploma in Manual Bookkeeping

Address:

2 Booth Road, Hartford, Northwich, CW8 1RB

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

N/A