

# Annual Report - 2024/2025



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## The Trustee's report covers the period from April 2024 to April 2025

### **Reference and administrative details**

Halstead 21st Century Group is registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation with the Charity Commission, number 1180748.

### **Registered address:**

c/o 20 Weavers Row  
Halstead  
CO9 2JX

### **Structure, governance and management**

Halstead 21st Century Group formed in January 2013 and registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (Foundation model) in November 2018. Up to April 1st we had 174 members, 14 friends and 5 Trustees.

The Group is controlled by its governing document, the Constitution, and has been managed by 5 Trustees during the year April 2024 -2025.

Under the terms of a foundation model CIO, only Trustees have voting rights. Trustees usually meet every month normally hybrid meetings in person and via zoom, whilst we were gradually returning to in person only, we have found it useful to have the ability to use zoom meetings at times. The groups AGM was held in April 2024,

We continue to have full membership of the Heritage Trust Network and insurance has been renewed. We have managed to catch up on our governance skills and have completed our policies and procedures, which will be reviewed periodically.

### **Trustees April 2024 -April 2025**

Jane Giffould, Jan Mellon, Janet Atkinson, Mary Atkinson. Glen Lagdon

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## **Officers April 2024 - April 2025**

Chair - Glen Lagdon

Vice Chair - Janet Atkinson

Treasurer - Jane Giffould

Secretary - Mary Atkinson

Membership Secretary - Jan Mellon

## **Friends**

Friends do not have voting rights but are invitees to all Trustee meetings in an advisory capacity and receive regular updates on meetings and governance matters.

Their membership (£10 per person or £15 per couple) assures a small income and encourages us to consider value for money and accountability. Some of our Friends are very active in thought and deed. We are very grateful for their contribution.

## **Associate Members**

All associate members continue to receive newsletters and regular updates.

## **Meetings**

Trustees' meetings are generally have been held monthly and are hybrid, both in person and via zoom. Other working party meetings have been held to address specific issues, such as Heritage Park Project steering group, we also have a volunteer steering group and fundraising group.

## **Working for the public benefit**

Since its formation in 2013, the Group has made many representations and presentations to local councils in a bid to preserve Halstead heritage and green spaces.

In November 2013, the Group set up its first display to promote and provide education about our heritage at a local event. The number of displays has increased in number and variety

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since then. Group members have exhibited outside of Halstead and adapted displays to fit events while retaining an educative purpose.

A project to record local social heritage began in 2014 and some of the oral histories recorded were used by Braintree District Museum in 2015. The Group has been involved with the Local Heritage List since its launch in August 2015 and most of the Courtauld buildings in Halstead have been added and approved. No further work has been done on the list, but the group have been researching possible buildings for addition.

We have continued to campaign to preserve the Land East of the High Street, which includes the air-raid shelters, along with other areas within Halstead. The land that included the Air Raid Shelters was sold at Auction in February 2022. We subsequently started negotiations with the new owners, Halstead New Homes & Liam Boyd from B3 Architects, with a view to a long term lease to preserve all of the Air Raid Shelters, with the exclusion of 5 in poor condition. We are looking at restoring 8 of these shelters and the overground shelter.

Three of the Trustees are involved with the Earls Colne to Halstead Cycle Path group, now known as Greenway.

The Group works with Halstead Town Council and other community groups, such as River Care to enhance areas within Halstead.

During this year we continued our schools project, engaging with a local school whose children created plans of what the shelters could be used for.

Trustees have complied with the duty in section 17(5) of the 2011 Charities Act to have due regard to guidance published by the Charity Commission on public benefit. Charity number 1180748.

## Financial Review statement for 2024

The financial year runs from 1 January to 31 December 2024.

The full accounts are provided in a separate document.

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The Group remained in credit throughout 2024 and ended the year with an income of £1230.16, expenditure £476.47, and a balance of £2204.04.

The Group holds reserves of £200, an amount set to cover any outstanding invoices (e.g. room hire) and other contingencies, and guard against any financial loss.

**Charitable Object 1: To preserve, maintain and enhance local sites of historic or architectural importance in the area of Halstead, Essex for the public benefit.**

We made representations on planning applications impacting on heritage or green space

We made contact with the new owners of part of the Land East of the High Street, Halstead New Homes, who now own a number of the Air Raid Shelters. We are in negotiations with them to renovate the shelters with the view to managing them on a long-term lease.

We have worked a a team and with support from the North Essex Heritage Group to develop a management plan for the ongoing operation and maintenance of the Halstead Heritage Park and this has been included with the planning application for the Land East of the High Street.

We have petitioned Braintree District Council to support the application, as well as take a more strategic approach to the site and avoid selling it off in small parcels.

**Charitable Object 2: To advance the education of the public on the subject of the local heritage, historic assets and natural environment of Halstead, Essex.**

We have been busy with local and not so local events throughout the last 12 months. We have attended the Halstead Christmas Fayre's, The Summer Fayre, Meet & Greet at the Bull, Halstead Town council Meeting and Essex Industrial & Archelogy Group Farye. We gave a talk to Ipswich Industrial Archaeology Group

We have continued to distribute the Heritage Trail leaflet that we produced with the help of volunteers and in conjunction with the Local History Society we produced a Heritage Trail leaflet.

We continued working with a local school who are keen to utilise the group's knowledge on Halstead's cultural heritage, more specifically the air raid shelters and Land East of the High Street. The school designed possible interiors for the future use of the shelters and posters

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to save the shelters. We continue to work with the school and utilise the contacts we have made to work with more schools in the future.

**Charitable Object 3: To promote for the benefit of the public the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment in Halstead, Essex**

Braintree and Essex councils have still not resumed work on the Local Heritage List

Members have supported: (i) Essex Industrial Archaeology Group an organisation that promotes industrial heritage across the county. (ii) River Care and River Improvement groups (iii) Halstead Town Council's Tree Charter commitments v) The Earls Colne to Halstead Cycle Path Group (Greenway). We regularly update our website and social media accounts with information, blogs etc.

**Organisational sustainability: To ensure that we are legally compliant and able to withstand external demands and recognise and respond to opportunities**

The Friends membership continues to increase our income and accountability.

We continue to seek funding from new sources, and have been quite successful, the application process requires us to demonstrate that we are living our environmental, social and governance values and processes.

Trustees and volunteers have taken part in training, webinars and conferences.

## Acknowledgements

Trustees are grateful to:

- North Essex Heritage for their unwavering support and guidance.
- Heritage Trust Network
- HDLHS, the Empire Theatre and Halstead Heritage Museum, EIAG and Colne Valley Postal Museum for working with us;
- The Cultural Engine
- The Benefact Group
- Halstead Town Council

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- EIAG, Halstead and District Local History Society, the Heritage Trust Network, Subterranea Britannica, The Cultural Engine, Council for British Archaeology, SAVE Britain's Heritage, and everyone else who submitted representations to planning applications and appeal.

## Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Lagdon", written in a cursive style.

GLEN LAGDON  
CHAIR

Dated: 14<sup>th</sup> October 2025

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Heritage  
Trust  
Network  
Member

Date	Item	Activity	Income	Banked	Pay in/c	Exp	Balance	Bank statement	Inc	Exp	Subs
01 01 24	bfwd						1450.35				
17 01 24	G B Lagdon	membership	10.00	10.00			1460.35	1460.35	y	0.00	10.00
01 03 24	Janet Mellon	membership	10.00	10.00			1470.35	1470.35	y	0.00	10.00
05 03 24	Eileen Penn	membership	10.00	10.00			1480.35		y	0.00	10.00
11 03 24	Charities Trust	Grant from B	1000.00	1000.00			2480.35		y	0.00	
30 03 24	donation		5.00	5.00			2485.35		y	0.00	
	Heritage Trust	subs				100.00	2385.35		0.00	y	
	Treasurers F	subs				35.00	2350.35	2350.35	0.00	y	
17 04 24	Janet Mellon	donation from	20.00	20.00			2370.35		y	0.00	
30 04 24	Zurich Chariti	insurance				105.59	2264.76	2264.76	0.00	y	
13 05 24	Janet Atkinsc	membership	10.00	10.00			2274.76	2274.76	y	0.00	10.00
08 08 24	M Atkinson	membership	15.00	15.00			2289.76		y	0.00	15.00
	summer fair	balance	22.95	22.95			2312.71		y	0.00	
	J Giffould	URC hire				20.00	2292.71		0.00	y	
31 07 24	E Penn	Summer Fair				15.00	2277.71	2297.71	0.00	y	
27 08 24							2277.71	2277.71	0.00	0.00	
02 09 24	J Blunden	membership	10.00	10.00			2287.71	2787.71	y	0.00	10.00
	Halstead Eve	Christmas Fair				15.00	2272.71	2272.71	0.00	y	
28 09 24	S Card	membership	15.00	15.00			2287.71		y	0.00	15.00
10 10 24	J Giffould	membership	10.00	10.00			2297.71	2297.71	y	0.00	10.00
10 10 24	J Giffould	Zoom				155.88	2141.83	2141.83	0.00	y	
03 12 24	Revival Books		7.21	7.21			2149.04	2149.04	y	0.00	
25 12 24	Debbie's Walking group	raf	85.00	85.00			2234.04	2234.04	y	0.00	
28 12 24	J Giffould	SubBrit subs				30.00	2204.04	2204.04	0.00	y	
							2204.04		0.00	0.00	
							2204.04		0.00	0.00	
<b>Totals</b>			<b>1230.16</b>	<b>1230.16</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>476.47</b>	<b>2204.04</b>	<b>2204.04</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>90.00</b>

Accounts for 2024

To my knowledge these are a true and fair record of the accounts for the year 2024 for Halstead 21st Century Group.

**Jane Giffould**

**H21C Treasurer**

Meetings	Donation	Fund rais	Transpor	Website	Courses	Visits	Subs	Equipment	Postage	Phone	Publicity	Meetings
	1000.00						100.00					
	5.00						35.00					
	20.00											
		22.95										
											15.00	20.00
											15.00	
										155.88		
	7.21											
	85.00						30.00					
0.00	1117.21	22.95	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	165.00	0.00	0.00	155.88	30.00	20.00



misc	check				Date	Detail	Income	Exp	Balance	
105.59	0.00		Summary	2024	01 01 24	bfwd			20.00	
	0.00		bfwd	1450.35	03 08 24	summer fair	64.65		84.65	
	0.00		Income	1230.16				41.7	42.95	
	0.00		Expenditure	476.47	08 08 24	to main account		22.95	20.00	
	0.00		Balance	2204.04					20.00	
	0.00		Bank balance	2204.04					20.00	
	0.00		unc inc	0.00					20.00	
	0.00		unc exp	0.00					20.00	
	0.00		Balance	2204.04					20.00	
	0.00		Cash in hand	20.00					20.00	
	0.00		Balance + ca	2224.04					20.00	
	0.00								20.00	
	0.00								20.00	
	0.00								20.00	
	0.00								20.00	
	0.00								20.00	
	0.00								20.00	
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0.00								20.00		
0.00								20.00		
0.00								20.00		
0.00								20.00		
0.00								20.00		
105.59	0	0	0	0	0	0	64.65	64.65	20.00	0