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# NEWSLETTER

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## The old school site clearance

Any one walking along School Lane off Main Street recently, will have noticed activity on the old school site, starting with tree removal and trimming and now demolition in readiness for the construction of two 3 bed semis on the site.

Not really the outcome many of us wished for but with the failure to sell the old school building for refurbishment into a family home, it left development as the only option.

The original Hartford School dates back to 1800s. The building was more recently used for pupils excluded from main stream education.

## Extraordinary General Meeting at the Village Hall on Tuesday 12th July

**What with Covid and lockdowns, it's been a quiet couple of years for the Hartford Conservation Group and this has led to discussions about its future role, if any at all.**

Established in the 1970s, the HCG has remained a constant in a much changed world and this in itself requires us to consider what is 'fit for purpose' in the 2020s and beyond.

It's an exciting challenge and we invite everyone from the village to have their say. Meeting starts at 7pm. If you can't make please comment via email.



## Garden of Remembrance: squaring the circle.

May saw the removal of the old circular flower bed following around 20 years of delighting the local residents, especially when displays were inspired by flights of fancy, notably the butterfly with tennis ball antennae!

Unfortunately the old timbers had rotted and this coupled with overhanging foliage necessitated Huntingdon Town Council to take action and the result is a larger rectangular bed which hopefully will continue to delight. It was fascinating to note during the removal of the old bed how roots from adjacent trees had grown up through the flower bed.

I recently posted 2 notices around this lovely green space following incidents of food dumping especially at weekends. Hopefully this well intended but misguided practice will now stop.



*This newsletter is produced by Mike Humphrey of the Hartford Conservation Group who can be contacted on 01480 436 444 or email [info@hartfordconservation.org.uk](mailto:info@hartfordconservation.org.uk)*



## Desborough Road plot thickens

Concerns have been raised by local residents regarding the strip of land running from Desborough Road through to Gardeners Lane.

In the latest stage of a long running saga, a Peterborough builder has acquired the plot and proposes to build a store for his materials. Unfortunately (for him) we were unable to find any record of a planning application and have got HDC Planning Enforcement involved.

Regular readers may recall that HCG organised a survey last year when local residents were pretty unanimous in opposing any development of this plot. Watch this space!



## Welcome makeover for prominent Main Street property

The Hurst is an 18th century high status residence that originally enjoyed gardens stretching down to the river.

Isabella Bird Bishop (1831-1904) lived here for a short time but was less than flattering about her time therein! She was an intrepid traveller, photographer and the first woman to be elected as a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society following extensive travels in Europe, the Americas and Asia.

*Well done to Jeremy Ledwith for bringing some pride back into this Grade 2 Listed building.*



## Hartford marks the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in style

Well done to the King of the Belgians with the return of their popular 'King of Beer Festivals' moved this year to coincide with the Jubilee and raising around £8,000 for local charities.

Meanwhile the Village Hall 'Street Party' defied the weather to be a great success, raising £160 for charity and bringing pleasure to many residents.



## Thanks to everyone who turned up for our Spring Litterpick.

Once again we have cleaned up our green spaces and roadsides for the changing seasons. It's always good to see HCG members supported by other local residents. Thank you and hope to see you again in September for more litter picking.