



Hartford Civic Society Newsletter

"Cherish the Past - Protect the Future"

Hartford Civic Society is a registered charity in England and Wales No 1099390 and is registered with The Civic Trust

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Society Membership

Membership Renewal

The Society's membership year runs from the 1st April each year and so renewal time is almost upon us.

This year you will have received, along with this newsletter, an individual letter that shows your method of payment.

If you pay by Standing Order there will be no need for you to take any action. If not, please consider changing to this method as it saves the Society a considerable amount of time in processing the renewals. However, if this is not for you then please return your renewal as usual.

Thank you for your continued support of the Society. Our membership continues to grow and we now have the largest number of members since the Society was founded.

Annual General Meeting 2006

The Society's Annual General Meeting was held on Wednesday 4th October.

Change to the Constitution

The committee's proposal to make a minor amendment to the constitution of the Society was passed unanimously by the members attending the Annual General Meeting.

The minimum number of members of the Executive Committee is therefore reduced from 10 to 8. The relevant paragraph of the Constitution has been amended to read "The Executive Committee shall consist of the 4 Officers and not less than 4 and not more than 10 other members."

This change allows us more flexibility in the way the committee functions.

Northwich Vision

Prior to the 2006 AGM the Society enjoyed an interesting talk by Andrew Wallace on what is potentially one of the most far reaching changes to affect the Northwich area for several decades.

He described a dramatic rebuilding and development programme lasting many years to revitalise the centre of the town, provide new housing and increase business and leisure facilities. This programme follows on from the Salt Mines Stabilisation Project and the first phase planning is already well in hand.

We will endeavour to arrange further talks as the project progresses but, in the meantime, information can be found on the Northwich Vision website at www.northwichvision.org

What Are We Working On?

Street Furniture

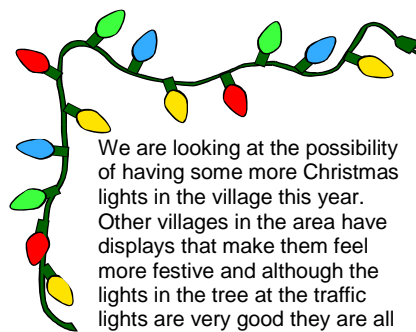
The Society is applying to Vale Royal Borough Council for a grant to place some planters in the centre of the village. This will be a matched funding bid where the Society puts in an equal amount of funding—either in cash or time and resources.

It is hoped that the planters will be sponsored (for the cost of new plants each year) and perhaps watered and cared for by the local shops.

It is felt that this would be an attractive addition to the village—you only have to look at what is done in Northwich and Weaverham to see what can be achieved. The presence of flowers is universally appreciated and this initiative goes hand in hand with our planting of spring bulbs in the verges at the entrances to the village. Remember, when you see them, that you had a hand in them being there!



Christmas Lights



We are looking at the possibility of having some more Christmas lights in the village this year. Other villages in the area have displays that make them feel more festive and although the lights in the tree at the traffic lights are very good they are all that we have.

The proposal is for some tasteful strips on a few of the lampposts in the centre of the village near the shops.

There are considerable logistical problems to be overcome and our advice is that it can take a year to get all the necessary permissions and to get the electrical work done but we are making progress.

Local Walks

The Society is working on producing either a booklet or series of sheets that show walks in and around the Hartford area.

Although there are numerous books about walking in Cheshire the area around the village is not very well covered. The walks will cover all abilities and the information sheets will combine the instructions for the walks with a little local history.

We hope that this will prove popular and not only provide an incentive for a little exercise but also an opportunity to explore the village and learn a little about its buildings and past.

Where possible they will start or end near a local hostelry and so there will be a chance to support local businesses as well!

The first walk will be on the website soon.





Hartford History

Following interest in the article in a previous newsletter about the 1881 Census and the history of Hartford we have decided to try and make this a regular feature. There is little information available on the history of our village and one of the aims of the Society is to try and unearth more about its past and to make it more generally available. Any contributions to this work would be most gratefully received.

Hartford and The Civil War

Hartford featured twice in the Civil War.

In 1644 a battle was fought in Hartford when the Royalists from Chester under Colonel Morrow encountered the Parliamentary forces from Northwich. It is recorded in "Malbon's Memorial of the Civil War"

"Colonell Marrowe slayne. On Sondaye 18 Aug 1644 Colonell Marrowe yssued furthe of Chester wth all or most of the horse & foote theire, and marched towards Northwyche; by the waye they plu'dred some poore mens Cattell; But some of them appeareing vnto the Townesmen on Hertford [Hartford] Greene, The forces in Towne yssued furthe vpon them; wch they p'ceyvinge, fledd before them towards Sandywaye; The Townesmen pursuynge them, (vnadvysedlye to[o] farr) [so] that the Kinges ptie. tooke fyfteene of them prsoners & carryed them awaye; But Colonell Marrowe was shott in Sandywaye by one l'yinge vnder a hedge, & was carryed alyve into Chester, where hee dyed the nexte daye afterwards."

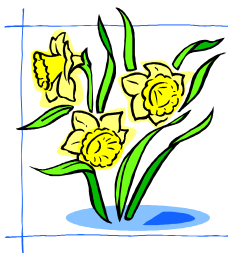
Colonel Morrow was buried in St Oswald's Cathedral Chester on 22nd August 1644.

There was also a skirmish at Hartford before the Battle of Winnington Bridge in 1659 when Royalist forces were defeated. Only about thirty Royalists and one Parliamentarian were killed. The Parliamentarians under Major-General John Lambert allowed the Royalist forces to disperse. The following extract is from "Memorials of the Civil War in Cheshire and the Adjacent Counties".

"This year Sir George Booth, with many other Cheshire Gentlemen, Sir Tho: Middleton, with many in Wales, & Coll: Holland with many in Lancashire, raised Forces against the Parliament, & Army, but were defeated by Lambert at Winnington Bridge, near Northwich 19 Aug 1659 Many were taken Prisoners, but few slain. After which Defeat many were Sequestered."

Born in 1622, Sir George fought for Parliament during the First Civil War and was elected MP for Cheshire in May 1645 but became disillusioned with the Parliamentarians and by 1659 was plotting with the Royalists to bring about the Restoration. He fled the battle dressed as a woman and was arrested at an inn in Newport Pagnell trying to reach London and thence the Continent. The innkeeper became suspicious because of his size and because he tried to buy a razor! He was imprisoned in the Tower of London but was released in 1660 on five thousand pounds bail. After the restoration of the monarchy he was made Lord Delamere at Charles II's coronation (April 1661). He died in 1684.

Spring Bulbs



Don't forget to admire the daffodils on the grass verges at the end of School Lane and the bottom of Burrows Hill. It was your support of the Society that made it possible to plant them. We hope to extend this activity to the other entrances to the village this autumn (volunteers welcome).

The Blue Bridge

The Blue Bridge is a famous local landmark but did you know — The old narrow stone single span bridge over the river at Hartford was replaced in 1939 by the modern "Blue Bridge" in order to make it easier for boats to navigate the river Weaver and to let traffic bypass Northwich. The book "Images of England - Northwich" reports that the central steel section was designed to be lifted ten feet in case tall vessels needed to pass. If this was indeed so, there are no remaining signs of the lifting mechanism although the four pillars do suggest it may have been so.

Village Lottery

As you know the Civic Society restarted the Village Lottery in October 2005. Thank you to the many members who are already taking part and congratulations to those who have already won.

Over £500 paid out in prizes.

Were you one of the lucky ones?

Since the first draw in October 2005, that's the amount that has been paid out. We now have 94 regular players. We have just 4 numbers unallocated. Half the income goes to a good cause – Hartford Civic Society- looking

after your village - so why not take part and have the fun of checking to see whether you've won each month (or just wait for that surprise phone call to tell you that you are the winner - wouldn't that brighten up your day?)

Can't we convince you to take part? If you would like to please ring Hilary on 01606 76400

We can't offer you the chance of £1 million but you can be sure that the proceeds are used locally to support your community!

