

The County Council has been awarded almost £4 million by the Government to help with the ongoing highway maintenance challenges caused by some of the coldest and wettest periods of weather we've seen for over 100 years. Last Winter we needed many more grit runs than in 2021/22 and inevitably we expected the worst in respect of potholes.

So that's £4 million in addition to the £100 million that the council has already committed to improving the county's roads and we're clearly getting on with the task as illustrated by the fact that since April 2022, the council's highways teams have repaired over 39,000 defects on the County's roads.

However, as we all know there are many potholes that still need fixing in the coming weeks and especially so on our minor and local roads. Can I urge anyone who sees a pothole to report it on the very good online map at: www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/reportit This is much better than emailing or any other method. This interactive map helps pinpoint the exact location and lets you know if it has previously been reported or not.

Still on the subject of roads, but this time, road safety I'm pleased to report that Gloucestershire's Community Speedwatch scheme is beginning to positively influence people's behaviour with promising data and examples showcasing early successes in our bid to make our roads safer.

The fund of £600k was established in 2022 by Gloucestershire County Council in partnership with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) to respond to road safety concerns, particularly those raised by town and parish councils and it's currently delivering around 70 cameras.

The police have already been able to act as a result of the cameras. Examples have seen a persistent offender who was regularly driving at double the speed limit stopped through enforcement action and fined. Another driver was identified as having false plates and upon follow up it was found to been involved in a theft, another was linked to other crimes regionally with follow up action taken.

More broadly, evidence has also found that upwards of 90% of those issued with letters for speeding need no further intervention as they subsequently observe speed limits.

The fund is also in the process of delivering almost 60 Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) which tell a driver if they're exceeding or are sticking to the speed limit. Evidence shows that these signs have a notable impact on reducing speeds.

In addition, over 6,000 wheelie bin stickers have been issued with the slogan '20 is plenty', particularly useful in built up areas. The county council is also working with over 190 towns and parishes supporting road safety initiatives which help to reduce incidents in the county – all very positive news for the county.

All of this shows how we're succeeding in our work for better outcomes in road safety and while there's clearly more work to do, we're not only seeing better compliance with speed limits but also action on unsafe or uninsured vehicles which is great news for the overall safety of our roads. Anti-social speeding is one of the issues that I regularly hear raised by residents.

The tree planting season has come to an end and the county council is proud to announce that 130,006 trees have been planted this season.

It is another step closer to the county council's ambition to plant one million trees by 2030, bringing the current total up to 220,396.

The figure from this planting season is made up of 124 different projects across Gloucestershire, which the County Council, its partners, volunteers and individuals have worked on.

It includes the Woodland Trust's 25,800 trees, 18,270 tree packs from the National Farmers' Union (NFU), 4,605 community tree packs for schools and 2,925 more trees for woods. There were also 18,860 trees planted in private projects.

The Council is committed to planting more trees and to working with partners to increase tree cover across the county. If you have a possible planting project, or some land that could be used, you can submit an expression of interest or simply sign up to receive the *Greener Gloucestershire* newsletter on the Council's website.

Chairman Report 2023

This is the final year of a four year term of office and my eighth as Chairman, a position I am privileged to hold. I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for their help and support and to Vicky, our clerk, for all her hard work.

I would especially like to put on notice my appreciation and thanks to Mrs Sylvia Gibbs who recently retired from the Parish Council after a very long spell. I would like to welcome Mr Cen Davies who has recently joined the P.C. and look forward to working with him.

Thank you also to Philip Burford and Brian Lewis in their respective roles as District Councillors and to Philip Robinson as County Councillor. Brian Lewis did not stand for re-election and so I look forward to meeting and working with Mr Clayton Williams, who was elected in that position.

I would like to thank all our village organisations that help in any way to make Hartpury the special place it is for all of us to enjoy. The W.I. must get a special thank you for their wonderful displays and hard work to what has now become a yearly focal point. Splendid job done but a very high bar to keep raising indeed!!

We enjoyed a Platinum Jubilee celebration last year and then with the very sad death of our Queen it meant we have just had a Coronation Pig Roast for King Charles 3rd. We were very fortunately blessed with some lovely weather on the day which made for a really enjoyable village event. Thanks to all who helped out.

I apologise if I have not thanked anyone for anything they have carried out or helped with in the Village. Likewise if there is anything I could do to help anybody in anyway please contact me directly or through our clerk.

Alastair McGhee

Chairman

Hartpury Parish Council

Hartpury Parish Council Finance Report 2023

The Parish Council began the year with a bank balance at 1st April 2022 of **£27,716**

Income in the year amounted to **£10,655**

Expenditure in the year amounted to **£7,335**

Leaving a balance at 31st March 2023 of **£31,036**

The Parish Council currently have the following earmarked reserves:

Reserves	130
Parry seat fund	140
Neighbourhood watch signs	4000
Ashleworth Lane/Corsend Road Fencing	6650
Footpath stiles/kissing gates	2000
Provision for Contested Election	10000
Additional SID(s) to be purchased with ANPR	2500
Bus Shelter Works (following asset inspections)	300
Office Equipment	100
Bench Repairs	

Total Earmarked Reserves

25820

After taking into consideration the earmarked reserves the Parish Council is carrying a general reserve of approx. **£7,117**

Hartpur Annual Parish Meeting 2023

Report from Hartpur Drama Group

This has been another successful year for Hartpur Drama Group that included the celebration of our 50th Anniversary.

In October 2022 the group staged the comedy Old Actors Never Die. The show was enjoyed by full houses and a strong cast received very good reviews. Richard Pett directed and Ron Felgate produced the show.

Over one year ago we began preparations for our 50th Anniversary. Many of our longest serving members got together and produced a potted history of Hartpur Drama Group. This can now be viewed on our updated website. After a fascinating journey of discussion and some hilarious stories, we established that the group's first performance was a pantomime, Mother Goose that was directed by Catherine Smith, as she was then, in March 1973, hence the decision to perform Mother Goose in March 2023 – 50 years later.

The show was an outstanding success with a cast of 20 people, including local children, and a backstage crew of over 20 people. It was in every sense a mammoth team effort. We are very proud of the fact that our group continues to grow in number. The show was strongly supported by a range of local businesses and people connected to the group. We invited former members from far and wide and were delighted when Catherine stood up and spoke about the first performance in 1973. We are very grateful for the legacy her efforts created. Dave Page, directed and Den Groves produced the 2023 version.

I would like to publicly acknowledge the hard work of our secretary, Angela Gaskell, who continues to put boundless energy into communicating with the community and members of Hartpur Drama Group. Credit must also go to Hartpur Village Hall for their continued support of the group.

Our next performance will be a Murder Mystery in November this year. These are always good fun with audience participation and refreshments. Book tickets early to avoid disappointment!

As well as treading the boards, Hartpur Drama Group continues to organize a range of social activities for members including a Safari Supper, barbecue and social dining opportunities. Our committee is hardworking and creative always looking after the best interests of our members and the community.

We are always on the lookout for new members. So if you think you would like to take on an acting role, direct a show or help backstage please contact Hartpur Drama Group. You will be made very welcome.

David Page – Chairperson: Hartpur Drama Group

2023 REPORT

HARTPURY UNITED CHARITY combines several extremely ancient parish charities. Each year it provides small grants to relieve need, hardship or distress in the village. Applications may be made in writing to any of the trustees or to the clerk Jim Chapman.

Current trustees are Pat Gallagher, Esme Jones, Zoë Jordan, Mary McGhee, Sheila Trail (chair), Paul Underwood, and Rev John Longuet-Higgins.

During the year 3 grants were made to individuals totalling £150 and a grant of £5,000 was given to Hartpury School, to be used to provide small grants to support children in need in years to come.

At the end of December 2021, the Charities capital assets were valued at £3,844.65.

2023 report by Hartpury Heritage Trust

During the year we have at long last received full planning consent for the work on the carpark next to the church. The reinforcement grids have been laid and the grass is growing through them. Soon the carpark will merge with the surrounding paddock. Also, near the Church, we now own the derelict Old Forge, which has for years detracted from the group of listed buildings. We are applying for planning and listed building consent, which we hope will be rather quicker on this occasion. Once restored it will provide much needed storage space for the Old Chapel on the ground floor and a small meeting/activity room for the church on the first floor, which will be accessed from the churchyard.

The building to house vintage cidermaking equipment is now nearly completed at the Orchard Centre. As well as the displays, it will also contain a small visitor welcome area with touchscreen interpretation. We are hoping Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust will become more closely involved with the wetland nature reserve during the next year and Gloucestershire Orchard Trust has agreed to assist with the care of the orchards.

Good morning Vicky,

thank you for this message. The Methodist Church in Hartpury closed on 31 August 2022. Most of the remaining members (6 + 2 CE attenders) continue to meet fortnightly in our homes for Bible Fellowship. Five of the former members have transferred membership to Apperley Methodist Church.

We held a closing service with mixed emotions on 31 August 2022 which was well attended by local people as well as clergy and friends from around the Gloucestershire Methodist Circuit. Rev'd John Longuet Higgins and his wife represented the local Anglican churches.

The property has been sold and further details will be available when the formal arrangements /requirements are complete.

For the Hartpury Annual Parish Meeting – Monday 22nd May 2023

The 2022/23 year has seen the day-to-day operations of Hartpury return to close to the pre-pandemic norms. The lessons learnt during Covid and changes to our internal systems and processes are now embedded into our operations as the 'new normal'.

Hartpury has continued to develop and grow, with once again a record increase in student numbers, whilst maintaining its clear focus on the quality of the student experience. This is evidenced in the recent NSS and What Uni Awards where we were 2nd in England for Overall Student Satisfaction and were awarded the Lecturers and Teaching Quality Award respectively.

Our outcomes have continued to be high with a 99.5% pass rate for A Levels and with BTEC Level 2 and 3 having pass rates in excess of the latest published benchmarks. In HE achievement remained strong with Good Honours improving from 68% to 70.3%.

The delivery of the Hartpury 2025 Strategy has continued apace. FE student numbers are already at the target for 2025 and attention now turns to FE growth in non-core areas such as Apprenticeships, Adult Education and short courses. Higher Education growth continues to track ahead of plan and is on target to hit the 2025 numbers. Growth in HE numbers, improved student retention and strong financial management of expenditure has resulted in a higher than forecast operating surplus and higher than budgeted cash generation.

The delivery of increased and improved student facilities has continued in 2022/23. During the year the Box Park development at Home Farm, funded by ERDF and LEP Grants has opened and is providing accelerator units for small Agri Tech businesses. Our new restaurant, café and teaching facility on site has been handed over for opening in September 2022. The new car park with significant Electric Vehicle Charging points was completed and fully opened at the end of October 2022. Work on the University Learning Centre commenced in August 2022 and is due to open in Autumn 2023.

Partnerships are a key part of the success of Hartpury. Whether they provide financial support through sponsorship, bursaries and grants, assist us with our educational delivery, support us to grow and improve our facilities or provide unique opportunities for our students to enhance their time at Hartpury, we could not succeed without them.

Key examples of our partnerships include:

- Hartpury College working in collaboration with the Royal Veterinary College to ensure that our Animal Science Programme meets the needs for potential entry into Veterinary Medicine – our partnership agreement guarantees our College Animal Science students an interview for Veterinary Science/Medicine (subject to specific criteria) and each year a number of students are successful in entering this career pathway as a result of the partnership.

- Strategic Development Fund Partnership for the South West lead by Weston College supporting industry immersion which in turn positively impacted on delivery to students and development of Climate Change modules to raise awareness with students.
- We have a range of support from philanthropic trusts and charities. The Guyll Leng Trust is a key college partner, financially supporting over 100 college students. The Clive Richards Foundation, Margaret Giffen Charitable Trust and Elizabeth Creak Charitable Trust have provided significant support to Hartpury to enable new and improved education facilities to be provided by Hartpury.
- Hartpury University's relationship with the University of the West of England continues to go from strength to strength, now largely focusing on Postgraduate Research students and shared research projects.
- Forest Green Rovers FC, Gloucester Rugby and Team Bath Netball all provide unique partnerships in their respective sports. Each provides meaningful work experience and opportunities to complement and enhance our student academic offer at Hartpury and exit routes for students and student athletes.
- Hartpury has worked with the Holly Gazzard Trust for a number of years promoting the Holly Guard App to all our students. Nick Gazzard and his team have attended our annual Wellfest since 2014 and have delivered student and staff training including healthy relationships, domestic abuse, stalking, coercive control, sexual harassment and using Hollie Guard.
- We work with the Charlie Waller Memorial Trust to support our institutional approach to mental health with access to a trainer and access to valuable mental health resources to support initiatives.

Andy Collop
Vice-Chancellor, Principal & CEO

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

This has been a very busy year for Hartpury Village Hall, with some significant organisational changes taking place alongside a number of investments and improvement projects. We achieved a record level of hire income, with particularly strong demand for private events and parties. This was in part a continuation of a trend which we had seen following the end of the COVID lockdown period, but it is also evident that our good reputation has gradually spread outside the immediate neighbourhood and we are seeing more and more enquiries from potential hirers from the wider Gloucester area.

Having ended the previous year with a considerable financial surplus, largely as a result of COVID-related grant funding, we took a conscious decision this year to spend to invest for the future. The hall was repainted throughout and we also invested significant sums in, among other items, replacement bollard lights and picnic tables, a new height-restriction barrier on the driveway, a “smart” heating control system (which was partly grant-funded), a battery operated floor scrubber-dryer and some additional stage lighting equipment. We commissioned a new keypad entry system alongside the introduction of the *Hallmaster* booking and invoicing software which significantly simplified the overall administrative workload involved in managing the charity. These changes were especially relevant in the context of the continuing increase in the number of private bookings which we have experienced.

Having been hit with a major increase in electricity prices in early 2022 (not all of which is yet reflected in the accounts, because of some one-off factors) alongside continuing high general inflation, we raised our charges at the start of the financial year, and more recently announced a further increase to take effect at the start of the 2023-24 financial year. On each occasion we took steps to protect as far as possible the local and regular hirers, taking note of the primary focus of our charitable objects, which meant that the hirers from further afield have seen correspondingly higher rate increases. We have had relatively little kick-back following the announcement of these increases, which would appear to indicate that we are continuing to provide an attractive facility at competitive rates.

Although our main focus is on managing the hall for use by local and other hirers, we also organise occasional events ourselves, including live theatre shows and concerts. The barbecue which we held to celebrate the Queen’s platinum jubilee was a particular highlight, exemplifying the benefits of social integration and cohesion which facilities such as ours promote and foster in village communities across the country. We have also continued to benefit from the support of a large number of volunteers who support the village hall directly and / or indirectly through their involvement as committee members, volunteer members of the marquee team, bar team and grounds maintenance team, 100+ club collectors and many other people who support our work in lots of unseen ways. Thank you all for your support. In particular I would like to thank Susan Knox and Deborah Siddle for taking on and doing great work in the important roles of Bookings Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Thanks also to Margaret and Richard Evans for keeping the facilities clean and tidy and continuing to go the extra mile whenever necessary.

Looking ahead, we don't envisage the same level of overall expenditure in 2023-24 and we would hope to be able to run a financial surplus, assuming the current strong level of booking enquiries continues. We are always looking for opportunities to improve our facilities but at this stage we are only actively investigating one major new project, namely the replacement of the gravel surface with tarmac around the entrance to the car park, which we hope to carry out during the coming year. At some stage we will need to consider refurbishing some of the play equipment, but this isn't yet urgent. There is, however, a potential cloud on the horizon which is worth noting, in the shape of the housing construction project which is currently taking place directly in front of the hall. The new housing itself will be welcome but the practicalities of living cheek by jowl with new neighbours are likely to take some getting used to, especially in terms of how we deal with noise. But if that's all we have to worry about for now, we can't really complain.

Ken Jollans, May 2023