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mencap

Harpenden

Your Newsletter



Dear _____

Welcome to the **May** edition of Your Newsletter from Harpenden Mencap.

Building a Community

We are pleased to share that 11 of the people we support have completed their move from Stairways and are settling well in their new homes in Batford. We are also delighted to welcome five new tenants to this supportive new 'community within a community' for people with learning disabilities.

Thrilled to have his own garden, one tenant was delighted to mow his lawn independently. Another has been hosting several guests for tea, and housemates at one of the properties enjoyed celebrating a birthday together during their first week in their new home. All have benefited from increased independence and many new friendships are being formed.



One tenant said:

“Two months ago – with the help of Harpenden Mencap - I moved into my new home. I like gardening. I’ve planted sunflower seeds in my new garden and I’d like to put in tomato plants. I like watching cats come in from the neighbours’ gardens.”



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With support from Hertfordshire County Council, we will be building a Hub on an area of land to the rear of one of the properties. This will enable greater privacy and independence for tenants by providing staff with a place to go between providing support. Our recent application to Harpenden Trust’s Community Fund was successful. This grant award will enable us to furnish the Hub and provide assistive technology where needed to safely enable further independence, including automatic lights, safety kettles and door fobs.

“We are proud to have enabled these moves from Stairways to such lovely accommodation in Batford. The staff team have worked tirelessly over the past year, collaborating carefully to ensure a smooth and successful transition as we build this new community.”
Angela Duce, CEO

AGM Wednesday 2nd July

This year's AGM will be held on Wednesday 2nd July 4-6pm at the Harpenden Trust Centre in Southdown (above the Co-op). We hope you can join us to hear more of our news and organisational plans. The AGM is not a ticketed event but in order to help us manage seating and refreshments, please let us know if you're planning to come via the button below.

RSVP here

Congratulations to Julie and Gary Caseberry

We're very proud that our Harpenden Mencap Trustee and ex-Chair Julie Caseberry was invited to the garden party at Buckingham Palace this month, in acknowledgement of 30 years of service to Harpenden Mencap. Julie was accompanied by Trustee Gary Caseberry and we offer our sincere thanks for all they have done over the years.



Harpenden Farmers Market

On 24th August we'll be joining the Harpenden Farmers Market to meet our local community and share our news. We will be offering a very special giveaway! So do pop along between 10-2pm to see us and get your very own Harpenden Mencap limited edition item to take home. If you're interested in helping on our stall on the day do get in touch.

I'd like to help

Charity of the Year Partnerships

We are delighted to be chosen by Harpenden Town Football club as their Charity of the Year. We met many of their supporters in January at their home match playing Dunstable Town. The fundraising auction was a great success raising £1,400 for Harpenden Mencap. Huge thanks to Ben Voss for organising this and Luther Blissett for being such a great auctioneer.



The incoming Presidents of Harpenden Golf Club have chosen Harpenden Mencap as their Charity of the Year, starting in September.

We really look forward to getting to know more of the local golfing community and working with them to raise vital funds to support adults with learning disabilities in the year ahead.

Golf Day 6th June

The 13th Harpenden Mencap Golf Day is fast approaching on 6th June. We are delighted to announce that this event has completely sold out with 22 teams signed up to play on the day! We would like to offer our sincere thanks to all the local businesses who have given raffle prizes and sponsored the holes. Find all these supporters at the end of the newsletter.



Special Thanks

We'd like to acknowledge and thank the local businesses who have kindly supported our Golf Day:

Allsop Estate Agents, Artscape, Austins Funeral Directors, Beat School Uniforms, Booming Pizza, Boots Harpenden, Brad & Dills, Cook, Creature Comforts Pet Shop, Cubed Consultancy, Dor-2-Dor Leaflet Distribution, Fit20 Harpenden, Friends Hair Design, Gail Lazarus, Glyn Griffiths Jewellers, Harpenden Common Golf Club, Harpenden Golf Club, Harpenden Town Football Club, Hicks and Company, J Cavaree Interiors, Johnson Blythe Hairdressing, Losh Turkish Bar & Grill, Loveweds Jewellers, Marchon Gym, Marks & Spencer London Colney, Mountain Warehouse, Naked Nation, Nonna's Café, Oui, Perfect Balance, Pither Landscaping & Construction, Potter Financial Partners, Regenify Health, Serena Hart, Silver Palate Restaurant & Deli, Space Lettings, Taylor Walton, The Edit Home & Garden, The George of Harpenden, The Waffle House, Thorns, Threads of Harpenden Ltd, Travel Four Seasons, Votel Meetings & Events, Wifi Works.

There is just one last hole remaining for a hole sponsor. If you're interested please email christine.goldsmith@harpendenmencap.co.uk

Clubs and Activities

It's been a busy few months at Britannia Club with 44 members enjoying a wide range of activities from pottery and painting to Latino dance, St George's day celebrations and bingo nights. What's clear is how much it means to club members to have the chance to meet up and enjoy a relaxed and fun time together.

“Best night yet!”

“Amazing night!”

“Loved it Clare, can they come again!”

These were just three of the comments from members at the Latin American night where they enjoyed live music, dressing up, Mexican nibbles and dancing!

The Allotment club has taken off for the season with veg trugs installed thanks to Harpenden Town Council and broad bean shoots coming through. Six horticultural sessions have taken place already this year with the people we support and volunteers managing the beds, preparing the soil and nurturing a range of fruit and vegetable plants. The sessions run weekly on a Monday 1-3.30pm. During the summer we will be running additional wildlife activity sessions including creating bug houses and making seed bombs.



If you're interested in finding out more or taking part as a volunteer, do get in touch.

[More information](#)

Future Plans

Harpenden Mencap Trustees and Leadership Team are working closely to review a number of options for the future of Stairways.

Whilst we are working through the plans with the guidance of property consultants, we are hoping to lease Stairways to a local charity. This will help to ensure the building's security and cover regular maintenance costs. As soon as a long-term plan is confirmed we will be pleased to share news with you.



Your Feedback

We'd love to hear your thoughts on this latest edition of Your Newsletter. If you have any comments or would like to make any suggestions for future editions please get in touch with our Head of Fundraising Christine:

Share your thoughts

With grateful thanks for your support,

Angela Duce, CEO
Harpenden Mencap