

Harlow Chorus

Red House,
Sheering Road,
Old Harlow,
Essex.

Dear *Mr. and Mrs. Pochter*

A Public Meeting to discuss the future of St. Johns Church, Old Harlow will be held on Saturday 4th December 1982 at 4pm. at Newfoundland Campus, The Maltings, Market Street, Old Harlow.

At this meeting Harlow Chorus will put forward its ideas for the Building and it is hoped that the procedure for setting up a Community Association will be started.

The Church will be open between 2pm. and 4pm, if you would like to look around it.

We look forward to seeing you.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Quinton

J. Quinton (Mrs)

SAT. 4. DEC. 1982. MEETING AT NEWFOUNDLAND CAMPUS

HARLOW CHORUS RE ST. JOHN'S CHURCH.

Meeting chaired by Ron Richardson, chairman of Harlow Chorus. Purpose of meeting :-

1. To put forward proposals regarding development and use of church.
2. To invite views of those present.
3. To form a steering committee to progress proposals.

The idea was first considered two years ago, Chorus needed a permanent base, at present were spending £2500 - £3000 per year renting accommodation for rehearsals and concerts etc.

They now wished to combine with other groups to share costs.

Proposed development would consist of a single storey building along north boundary, the length of the church, to consist of foyer, storage, refreshment and toilet facilities. In the future the space between new development and church to be roofed over with transparent material. A 99 year lease was available at peppercorn rent, lease available in a matter of weeks. The church, circa 1840 now Grade II listed building.

Proposed development would be in four phases

- 1st. repairs to roof and gutters (roof now leaking badly) est. cost £10,000
- 2nd. provide essential services, electricity water etc, est. cost £10,000.
- 3rd. proposed new block on N. boundary est. £100,000.
- 4th. build* balcony in church, provide curtains seats etc. est. cost £50,000.

* This would increase seating capacity to 350.

Total estimated cost £170,000 against £350,000 to £400,000. for new building.

A loan would be available from Harlow Council for 1st & 2nd phases. Other grants would be available.

There were several people, mostly very local residents, with objections. They were mainly worried about car parking and the possibilities of licensed premises. The question of the building being needed as a ~~church~~ church again by future generations.

A steering committee of nine persons representing the Chorus, other interested organisations and local residents was set up. The committee to collate information from questionnaires filled in by persons attending meetings and look into terms of operation.

I filled my questionnaire in to the effect that

I had attended as secretary of the O.H.C. pointing out we had a historic interest but that at this stage I had no idea how the O.H.C could help.



ST. JOHN'S ARTS AND RECREATION CENTRE APPEAL

Chairman: Dr. Erica Higgens
Appeal Director: Bill Ralph

St. John's Arts & Recreation Centre,
Market Street,
Old Harlow,
Essex CM17 0AJ.
Tel: (0279) 442447

December, 1985

As a member of the Old Harlovians Club, you may be interested to hear about a scheme to convert St. John's Church, Old Harlow into an Arts and Community Centre.

The Church, which was formerly the College Chapel, was made redundant in 1979, and had deteriorated considerably.

The building has now been restored, with the help of the local authority and a great deal of voluntary labour, but much work remains to be done and in October an appeal was launched by the Lord Lieutenant of Essex, Sir Andrew Lewis, to raise the money to build an extension.

Mr. Robert West, the Secretary of the Old Harlovians Club mentioned the scheme at last year's annual dinner, and it is with the agreement of the members present that I am writing to you. We very much hope that your future annual meetings may be held at the new centre.

I do hope that you will find the enclosed brochure interesting, and that you will consider the project worthy of support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Erica Higgens'.

Dr. Erica Higgens
Appeal Chairman

ST. JOHN'S ARTS AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION



HAPPY EASTER

CHAIRMAN - DEREK ARDERN H 26373
SECRETARY - JANE QUINTON H 30124
TREASURER - BOB WOODS H 413723

NEWSLETTER

NO. 5

Dear Members and Friends,

It has been such a long time since the last Newsletter, that I expect you think the Committee has been hibernating for the Winter. Well, in a sense it has. The Church has been so cold that to attempt to do any work would have been inviting frostbite ! I borrowed a paintbrush, and found the water that they were soaking in was frozen solid !

Nevertheless a lot has been happening behind the scenes. The first bit of good news is that the New Towns Commission has released £20,000 of the £40,000 promised grant for heating, electrics, repair of the windows (No good putting in heating if there are holes in the windows) and plumbing. The Architect is getting prices for this work, and it should start within the next couple of months. Escape doors have got to be built before we can have a licence for public entertainment. That's why we hav'nt been able to have our Pantomime. We should be able to include these doors in with the work to the windows, so the first Old Harlow Panto should shake the foundations next Christmas !

The ARA now has four Trustees. They are : Derek Ardern, Bob Woods , Miss Anita Flateau from the Bookstack, and Dr. Erica Higgens. We are grateful to them all for their help. The ARA is now registered as a Charity, and is also affiliated to the Harlow Council for Voluntary Service, which should be a help in lots of ways.

The next big task is to raise the money to build the extension. As you know this is to provide extra space, kitchen and proper loos, and will cost a lot of money, about £80,000. We, on the Committee felt that we needed professional help, and have engaged a consultant Fund-raiser for a year. His name is Christopher Mann, he comes from Hitchin, and has an excellent record. We went and talked to Richard Whitmore (That was fun) about the job he had done in raising money for the Queen Mother Theatre in Hitchin. Under his guidance, we aim to launch this appeal in September. We have a local Appeal Director, a recently retired teacher, Bill Ralph. There will also be a Chairman, and I hope to have news of him or her, before this goes to press, and a Committee of about 25, with another 25 or so helpers. The Appeal Office will be the Vestry at St. John's, and

Bob Mead has very kindly agreed to let us have space in the window of the Bradford and Bingley Building Society for publicity material, plans progress charts etc. Two kind people have offered to help staff the office, which will be open each morning during the Appeal Campaign for information, offers of help (hopefully) and of course - Coffee . If anyone else would like to spend a couple of hours a week, in a friendly if hectic office, doing a bit of filing and answering the phone, they would be welcomed with open arms. In fact there is still a lot of work to be done before the Appeal can be launched, mostly research in the library and in local directories - time consuming but necessary. Any help with this would also be gratefully received by the Secretary.

Anyone of school age may be interested in a Competition which will be held soon. It is to design a symbol for St. John's Arts and Recreation Centre. There will be three age groups, with a prize of Artist's material for each group, though only one symbol will be chosen.(for letter headings and posters) The entry forms will be available from the Bookstack soon after the start of next term.

After Easter we will start having working parties again. There is still some painting to do, some carpentry in the Portaloo, and now that Spring is here - gardening. The dates are :

SATURDAY APRIL 20th *** SUNDAY APRIL 28th *** SAT.18th, & SUN.19th MA

Do come along even if you only have an hour to spare, there is always a cup of tea or coffee going, and the view from the tower is splendid!

Finally, I hoped I would have some news about the Appeal Chairman, and I have : Dr. Erica Higgins has very nobly agreed to take on the task. She is, of course very well known in Old Harlow, both as a G.P. and a J.P. I don't think anyone knows Old Harlow better than she does, or has its interests more at heart. We are very lucky and very grateful.

Although the project does seem to be taking forever, each step brings the Centre closer. It is a Community project; it will be what the members want it to be, so do come along, and bring your ideas and perhaps a few friends to join in.

Best Wishes to The Wood Family, who have moved to Bexhill to convert a neglected Victorian House - Out of the Frying pan etc. Thank you Ron, Eileen, Peter and Matthew for all your hard work.

Thankyou also to Chris Hand for designing our Christmas Card.

HAVE A LOVELY EASTER !

Janet Johnston

ST. JOHN'S ARTS AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION

The Red House,
Champions Lane,
Sheering Rd. Old Harlow
CM17 0LJ

May 10th 1985

Mr. Robert West,
Secretary, Old Harlovians Association,
18, Old Rd. Old Harlow

Dear Mr. West,

Following our recent telephone conversations, I am writing to tell you about our forthcoming Appeal Campaign for St. John's Arts and Recreation Centre, formerly St. John's Church, and I enclose some copies of our recent Newsletter, and also some copies of an article which appeared in the Harlow Gazette. I hope that these may be of interest to your members at your Annual Dinner, which I understand takes place on May 11th

As you know St. John's Church is now the base for St. John's Arts and Recreation Association, and will be run by the Association as an Arts and Community Centre for Old Harlow. Much work has already been done to the building, to restore the fabric, with the financial help of the Commission for the New Towns, Harlow District Council, and the Department of the Environment. Members of the Association, and of Harlow Chorus, who initiated the project have done a great deal of the work themselves, and with a temporary building providing toilet and refreshment facilities and with heating installed, the building should be in limited use from September, this year.

However permanent facilities are needed, and will be housed in an extension, which it is proposed will be added to the north side of the Church. It is to provide funds for this work that we will launch a public Appeal in September. We aim to raise approximately £80,000, and we will be approaching local industry and commerce as well as the various Trusts, and grant-aiding bodies that the project may appeal to.

We will also be approaching members of interested organisations, and as your Association has a close historical connection with the Church, I would very much hope that we might engage your sympathy.

There may be a specific item of equipment, or of restoration work that

might interest, and we could easily show you a " shopping list ", with approximate costings, and would be happy to meet and discuss this.

You very kindly agreed to make your membership list available to me, and I would be very grateful to you for that in due course.

You may have wondered at the lack of headed notepaper. A Logo or symbol for the new Centre is currently the subject of a Competition for local children, and I enclose an Entry form, which might interest you.

Finally, may I thank you for your interest and help, and wish your members a Happy and Successful Annual Dinner on Saturday. I hope that at the conclusion of our Appeal we may be able to offer you a suitable, and comfortable venue for future such events.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Quinton

Mrs. Jane Quinton, Secretary to St. John's Arts and Recreation Ass.



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Feb. 14th. 1986

Dear Mr. West,

At long last - here is your list. It has been a great help. Thank you so much. We have written to them all, and have had some donations as a result. I enclose the letter that we sent. The name attached is of an old boy, who came to St. John's recently and would like to be a member of the Old Harlowians Club.

We could manage to be ready in time for Dinner by May? - I think. We would have to have outside caterers though. We should have chairs & tables by then! How about a large banner with a design of the College on it? hanging from the roof beam?

N^o 45

25.2.1986

Received from Mr. R.A. West (Old Harlovians) **ON CENTRE APPEAL**
the sum of One hundred pounds

St. John's Arts & Recreation Centre,
Market Street,
Old Harlow,
Essex CM17 0AJ.
Tel: (0279) 442447

£ 100	—
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Jane Puniton
(Secretary)

February 28th, 1986

Mr. Robert West,
The Old Harlovians Club,
18, Old Rd.
Old Harlow

Dear Mr. West,

I am writing to thank you very much indeed for the Old Harlovians Club's very generous donation to the St. John's Arts and Recreation Centre Appeal. It is very kind, and very much appreciated.

I know that the Church had a great significance for the members of Club, as the only tangible reminder of the old Harlow College, and I can assure you that we will do whatever we can to help to keep the memories alive. We hope to have some sort of permanent visual feature in the Centre, and will make some suggestions in time for your next Annual Meeting.

We would be very happy to have your Meeting here next year, and will be happy to provide whatever you need.

Please pass on to your members our gratitude and very best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

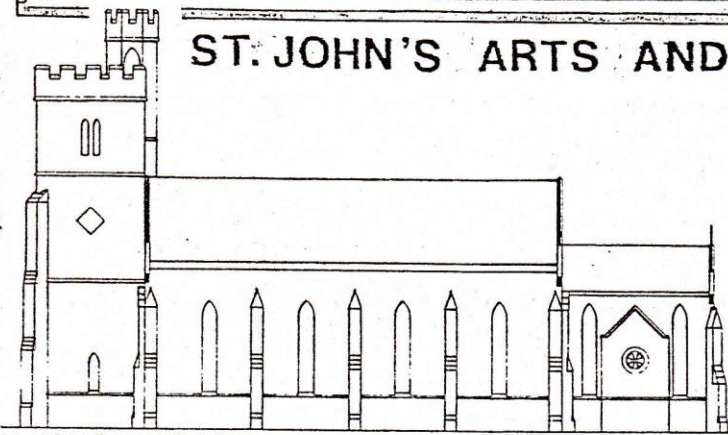
Erica Higgens

Dr. Erica Higgens, Appeal Chairman

CALLING ALL ARTISTS from 5 to 18

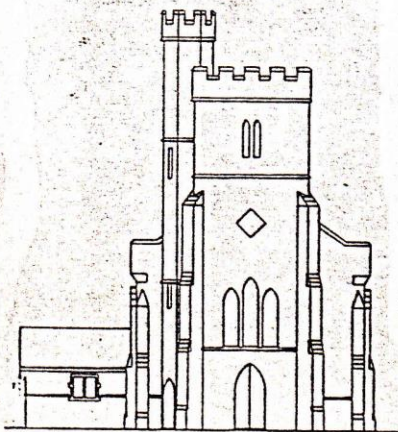
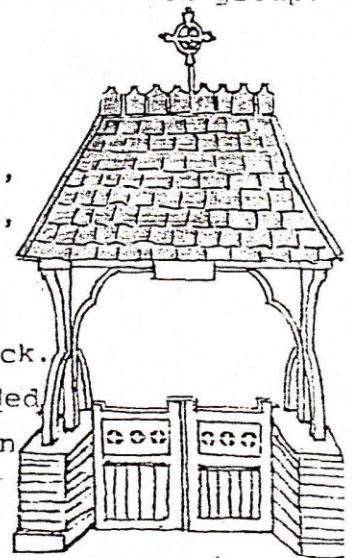
ST. JOHN'S ARTS AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION

is holding a **COMPETITION** to design a **SYMBOL** for the new **Arts and Community Centre** at St. John's Church, off Market St. The symbol will be used for letter headings, posters, and notices.



Rules for Entry

1. Entrants must either live in Old Harlow, or Churchgate St. or attend School here.
2. Entrants must be aged between 5 and 18 years. There will be three age groups : 5-7, 8-12, 13-18 with a prize of Artists Materials for each group. ONE OF THESE DESIGNS WILL BE CHOSEN FOR THE SYMBOL.
3. You could use the Building or the Lychgate if you like, or your design could be based on the idea of Community friendship. There are drawings of the Church to help you, and the Church will be open on Sat.18th and Sun.19th May, if you would like to come and sketch or ask questions. YOU NEED NOT INCLUDE ANY LETTERING.
4. Your design should be in one colour only, preferably black. You can use pencil, pen, or paint on white paper, unfolded no larger than A4(This sheet is A4) You can do several on one sheet if you like, but remember that printing processes are limited - so keep it simple !
5. All entries must be handed into the Bookstack by Saturday, June 22nd, and must have the form below attached to it and signed by a parent or Teacher. If you have any queries please phone Harlow 30124, GOOD LUCK !



Entry Form

Please hand in to The Bookstack

NAME -----

ADDRESS -----

Tel No. ----- AGE -----

SCHOOL -----

This Design is all my own work, and has not been copied.

Signature of Parent or Teacher -----

The ARA Committee reserves the right to reduce or to enlarge the design, and to choose the colour.