Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	1	January	2025		31	December	2025

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name	**Hartford Civic Society**
Registered charity number (if any)	**1171256**
Charity's principal address	c/o Honorary Secretary, 'White House',
	23 Walnut Lane, Hartford, Northwich
	Postcode CW8 1QN

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	David Barr	Treasurer	Until 26 January	Elected by Membership
2	Lorna Byrne			Elected by Membership
3	Richard Capper		From 20 October	Appointed by Trustees
4	Rita Hollens		Until 27 November	Elected by Membership
5	Jo Mitton			Elected by Membership
6	Patricia Parkes			Elected by Membership
7	Heather Pinchien		From 18 August	Appointed by Trustees
8	Michael Pinchien			Elected by Membership
9	Jean Pritchett			Elected by Membership
10	Michael Sterry			Elected by Membership
11	John Swaffield	Secretary		Elected by Membership
12	John Szostek	Chair		Elected by Membership
13	Geoffrey Wilde		Until 31 August	Elected by Membership

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document	Constitution
How the charity is constituted	Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
Trustee selection methods	Elected by Members at the AGM, interim appointed by Trustees/Members.

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

In the Parish of Hartford:

i. to promote high standards of planning and architecture,
ii. to educate the public in the geography, history, natural history and architecture of the area,
iii. to secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of the environment and sites or features of historic or public interest in the area,
iv. to provide recreational facilities and/or events for the public and
v. to procure the maintenance, improvement or provision of public amenities.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)	Nearly everything we do is for public benefit and not limited to our Supporters. The charity's trustees had regard to the Commission's public benefit guidance when choosing its projects. In addition to our significant achievements listed in Section D, we continued to maintain the defibrillator, plant up and maintain our six planters and two hanging baskets, organised 7 local walks, 11 well-supported monthly litter picks and two coach trips (Sizergh Castle and Kedleston Hall). Meanwhile we have promoted our work by supporting the Picnic in the Park and Christmas Fayre events and produced a 2026 Hartford Calendar. We helped re-launch Films in Hartford and assisted the organisers of the Christmas Fayre, for both of whom we acted as agent by holding their funds.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

• contribution made by volunteers.	Volunteer and Trustee's effort in 2025, valued at £23,000, was more than our Charitable Expenditure (£22,464). See Accounts and Notes.

Section D Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year	• New, mobile friendly, website, with easily accessible articles educating the public on many aspects of Hartford (meeting our Object ii), plus the ability to receive donations and payments. • Gained 47 new supporters, via combination of the new website, a recruitment trifold delivered with Hartford News and raising our Facebook profile. • The refurbishment and enhancement of the mosaic and its surrounds in the centre of the village (our Object iii). • Funding the provision of a canopy greatly extending the useful area of the Green Field Pavilion (our Object v). • Facilitating a new planter on Vale Road, maintained by the residents who funded it, with the support of 2 grants we obtained for its purchase. • Ongoing delivery of activities listed in C above.

Section E Financial review

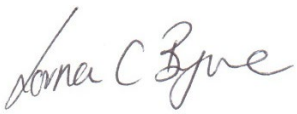
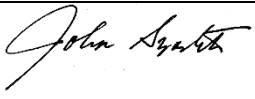
Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves	We have funds well in excess of our £5,000 reserves policy minimum, thanks to a large legacy, received in 2020/2021.

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include: • the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);	Subscriptions and their Gift Aid, two one-off grants, bank interest and the lottery surplus contributed to our net income. We aim to break even on our coach trips and our calendars, both organised to promote ourselves and to encourage community engagement in what we do.

Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.
Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Lorna Byrne	John Szostek
Position	Chair	Treasurer

Date 2 March 2026

HARTFORD CIVIC SOCIETY

Charity Commission Registered Number 1171256

Receipts and Payments Accounts for Year ending 31 December 2025

	Note	Current Year	Previous Year
Income		**£**	**£**
Subscriptions	2	2,305	2,231
Donations		435	178
Gift Aid Refund	3	431	443
Grants	4	600	1,000
Interest less bank charges		749	805
Lottery Income	6	1,416	1,416
Sale of Merchandise	6	496	828
Sale of Coach Trips	6	1,972	1,511
Overpayments		57	12
From HPC re Village Clock		0	6,000
		8,460	14,424
Expenditure			
Communications Cost		427	279
Meeting Expenses		279	230
Insurance		134	134
Civic Voice		564	500
Charitable Expenditure	5	22,464	2,174
Lottery Prizes & costs	6	747	740
Cost of Merchandise	6	434	553
Cost of Coach Trips	6	1,916	1,516
2023 Overpayment reversed		0	15
		26,966	6,141
-Deficit/Surplus for Year		-18,506	8,283

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2025

Net Worth			
At 1 January 2025		61,452	53,169
-Deficit/Surplus for Year		-18,506	8,283
Creditor (agency)	8	777	0
At 31 December 2025		43,724	61,452
Made up of:			
Barclays Bank - Business Premium Account		43,222	60,629
Community Account		502	824
		43,724	61,452

John Szostek

Acting Treasurer

HARTFORD CIVIC SOCIETY

Charity Commission registered number 1171256

Receipts and Payments Accounts for the Year ended 31st December 2025
Notes to the Accounts

1 Accounts: These Accounts are prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis allowed for small charities. All numbers (including the totals) are rounded to the nearest £.

2 Supporters: Subscriptions of £2,305 represent 410 Adult and 11 Junior supporters in 257 households, plus 1 corporate supporter. Previous period: £2,231 represent 403 Adult and 16 Junior supporters in 245 households, plus 1 corporate supporter.

3 Gift Aid: As a CIO we now have valid declarations from 86% of our supporters.

4 Two grants were received: £500 from Cheshire West & Chester and £100 from Hartford Parish Council, both towards the cost of the Vale Road Planter.

5 Charitable Expenditure

	2025 (£)	2024 (£)
Pavilion canopy	11,132	0
Mosaic project (ongoing)	6,629	0
Plants, planters and upkeep	1,558	829
Drinking fountain	950	0
Vale Road planter*	796	0
Information	740	0
Marshalls Arm finger post	596	0
Litter Picking equipment	64	0
Hodge Lane planter	0	504
Competition prizes etc	0	140
Exhibition costs	0	38
Defibrillator	0	664
	22,464	2,174

* The Vale Road planter was fully funded by the two grants and a donation from the Vale Road residents, who plant and maintain it.

6 Lottery, Calendar, Hartford I Spy booklet and Coach Trips

	2025 Sales	2025 Cost	2025 Surplus/-Loss	2024 Surplus/-Loss
	£	£	£	£
Lottery	1,416	747	669	676
Calendar, cards, booklet	496	434	61	275
Coach trips	1,972	1,916	57	-5
	3,884	3,097	787	946

We aim to cover costs on our merchandising and coach trip activities, not to use them for fundraising. Booklets and cards sold in 2025 had zero cost, having been paid for in prior years.

7 Voluntary Time
We estimate that some 1,000 hours of effort was given by Trustees, Supporters and volunteers, valued at £23,000. (2024, 700 hours, worth £8,000). The value of voluntary time and effort far exceeds our total income from all sources. The biggest component of voluntary effort in 2025 was development of the new website (valued at £10,000), avoiding the need to pay for the professional help, which we needed.

8 Agency and Liabilities
On occasions, the Society is asked to collect funds and then act as paying agents, with no discretion. At year end (2025) we are holding £504 on behalf of Films in Hartford and £274 on behalf of the Christmas Fayre. Our accounts adopt the SORP recommendation that: '….*the receipt of funds as agent is not recognised as income nor is its distribution recognised as the agent's expenditure'*.