



HARPENDEN & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



Eric Morecambe Centre
Rothamsted Park
Harpenden
Herts. AL5 2FR

11 March 2024

Press Release – Immediate

Harpenden Museum visit by St Albans Mayor – 7 March 2024

Councillor Anthony Rowlands, Mayor of St Albans City & District, visited the new Museum at the Eric Morecambe Centre, Rothamsted Park, Harpenden.

He was welcomed by **Councillor Fiona Gaskell**, Mayor of Harpenden and Honorary President of the Society, **Kate Barton**, Theatre General Manager - Alban Arena & Eric Morecambe Centre and **Roger Butterworth**, Chairman of the Society. **David Keen**, Curator, gave the Mayor a guided tour of the Museum and **Rosemary Ross**, Archivist, gave the Mayor a guided tour of the Archive.

At the end of the visit, Councillor Rowlands said, "Promoting an interest in our local history and encouraging intergenerational initiatives are the two themes of our Mayoral year. It was exciting to visit the new headquarters of Harpenden & District Local History Society. The thoughtfully arranged displays provide a vivid insight into Harpenden's fascinating history and will appeal to young and old and all those in between. Good luck with the major event on 20 April celebrating the Society's half century."

Roger Butterworth thanked the Mayor for his enthusiasm and encouragement and presented him with a copy of the Society's history, "**The First 50 Years.**"

Councillor Gaskell said that the Harpenden community is looking forward to the Local History Day, marking both the Society's 50th anniversary and the official opening of the new Museum, on Saturday 20 April.

Harpenden & District Local History Society is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered with limited liability in England and Wales under the Charities Act 2011 with charity number 1183526 whose principal office is at Eric Morecambe Centre, Rothamsted Park, Harpenden, Herts. AL5 2FR. www.harpenden-history.org.uk

Member of The National Council for Voluntary Organisations and we have adopted the Code of Ethics for Museums of the Museums Association.

EDITOR'S NOTES

Les Casey, a local history enthusiast and stalwart of the Society, left a significant bequest to the Society, which enabled us to take out a lease on part of the lower floor of the Eric Morecambe Centre and fit it out as a Museum and archive. The Museum opened to the public without fanfare in December 2023.

The Mayor has two Mayoral themes for 2023-24: one is ***All Ages Together***, encouraging inter-generational initiatives, and the other is recognising the important work done by St Albans City and District ***Museum Service*** and by a number of local groups in promoting interest in our history. ***Harpenden & District Local History Society*** and its new Museum is one such.

Website and Contacts:

<https://www.harpenden-history.org.uk>

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See further pages for images

Images:



Councillor Anthony Rowlands, Councillor Fiona Gaskell and Roger Butterworth at the entrance to the Eric Morecambe Centre



Councillor Anthony Rowlands and Councillor Gaskell with David Keen in the Museum



Councillor Anthony Rowlands and Councillor Gaskell with Rosemary Ross and David Keen in the Archive



Councillor Anthony Rowlands being presented by Roger Butterworth with a copy of “The First 50 Years.”