



HARPENDEN & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



Eric Morecambe Centre
Rothamsted Park
Harpenden
Herts. AL5 2FR

4 March 2024

Press Release – Immediate

Harpenden History Society Announces Harpenden Local History Day 20 April 2024

With kind permission of the Eric Morecambe Centre, Harpenden, the Harpenden & District Local History Society, a charity, will be utilising the entire EMC for the day as Harpenden Local History Day, on Saturday 20 April, marking both the Society's 50th anniversary and the official opening of our new Museum.

The event will be presided by Annie Brewster, High Sheriff of Hertfordshire 2024-25 (in Nomination). Highlights to include exhibitions on the history of Harpenden and district, other local society exhibitions, a special children's competition, and history talks throughout the day. Further details will be released in due course.

2023 was the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Harpenden & District Local History Society. It also, in December, witnessed the first opening to the public of our new Museum, amazingly with roots going back 100 years. The first proper history of our Town was written, in conjunction with that of Wheathampstead, about 50 years ago and prompted the pioneers at the time to set up the Society, and later first Museum. That Museum came to an end in 2003, testing the resilience of the small band of enthusiasts.

The continuing commitment and dedication of those enthusiasts, then without a publicly accessible repository for artefacts and archives, is most remarkable. We benefited from the generosity of Les Casey, a local history enthusiast and stalwart of the Society. He 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.

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.

This is not only significant in its own right, but gives us a platform to relaunch the Society in recognition of its wide charitable remit to educate the public on the local history of Harpenden and district. It can again, after artefacts and documents having been nurtured for 50 years, share with residents of Harpenden and surrounding communities the Museum and archive of which the Town can be proud.

Roger Butterworth
Chairman

Website and Contacts:

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

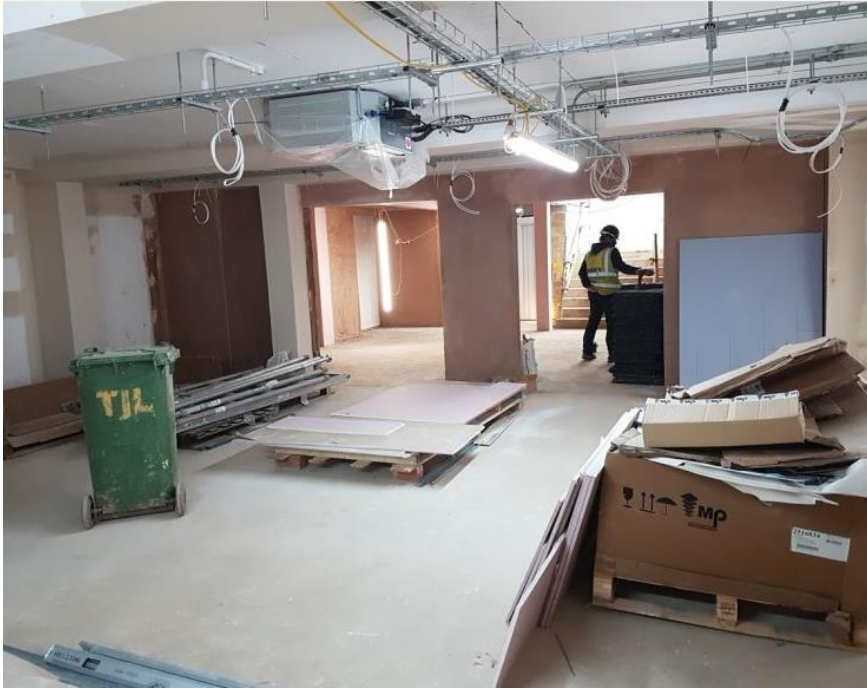
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Images:



Eric Morecambe Centre, converted from previous Sports Hall and replacing the Public Halls. Opened October 2021.



Museum space under construction – April 2021.



Roger Butterworth at Entrance to Museum – February 2024



Les Casey Archive – February 2024