

## Report to Harlton Village Meeting – April 2023

### Gardening Club

Since the end of the pandemic we have had some excellent speakers - some of national recognition, yet we still struggle to get the interest of new members and younger families. The same story is hitting the Haslingfield Village Society, the Rotary Club and many other organisations. The Gardening Club is extending to give more outside visits - expecting more villagers will be interested in seeing some of the many beautiful local gardens. The Annual Plant Sale will go ahead in Harlton VH on Sat 20 May, 10.00 -12.00noon - Please come along and encourage your friends to come. You might find some healthy shrubs to replace the ones which were finished off by last year's drought then severe frost.

### HOST: Harlton Organ Scholarships Trust.

HOST is thriving and this year - for the first time in its 15 years history - 3 of our 4 Scholars are from Comberton VC, the 4<sup>th</sup> being at St Bede's School, Cambridge.

The Trust pays for one hour/week professional tuition by Nigel Kerry, the organist at OLEM, the Catholic Church in Cambridge. This costs the Trust about £9000/year.

We have about £70000 invested and to avoid eating into capital we need to increase the investment by about £35000. Any donations or bequests would always be very welcome. I think it is truly amazing that a small village community like Harlton has been able to create and successfully continue to provide expert training for teenage school pupils. One side issue which benefits the Village is that HOST is able to work with Harlton Church and to use the famous organ installed in 1869 by the equally famous astronomer, Osmond Fisher, who happened also to be vicar of Harlton.

Perhaps we should work harder to make sure that more Harlton residents are made aware of the magnificent old church and its famous organ.

The current 4 Scholars will be giving a **Concert**, in Harlton Church, from 4.30 on the **Sunday of the Coronation weekend, 7 May**. The Scholars each play various instruments in addition to the organ, so the Concert will be of wide appeal.