

Summer, and all's well with the world



by **John Steele**
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Society

WALKING through the town centre in one of this summer's rare moments of sunshine I thought how lucky we are to live and work in Horsham.

So this week, instead of discussing the many concerns facing the town, I thought for a change we should reflect on some of the things that we should be proud about.

Let's start with our wonderful park. Horsham Park is frequently called the jewel in

Horsham's crown. In the heart of the town, it is a short walk or cycle ride from home for many of us, filled with a tremendous range of attractions for all ages.

Within its 60 acres there is ample space for formal sports facilities, children's play, and a skate park as well as the extensive parkland vistas which make the park seem so much bigger than it is.

There is always a tranquil spot to relax and everything is well cared for by the parks staff. It recently received the coveted Green Flag award for excellence and the ten year park management plan will ensure that it will still be here for succeeding generations.

Hanging baskets and other floral displays are an accepted

feature of our summer townscape and it is easy to take them for granted.

It is largely thanks to the constant efforts and encouragement of Horsham in Bloom that the same high standard is maintained year after year and their work extends well beyond the town centre with a record of innovative landscaping and conservation projects throughout the town.

It brings individuals, businesses, and the council together and is a success story of which we should all be proud.

Have you ever stopped to notice how clean and litter free our town centre is compared with other towns? Yes, people do thoughtlessly drop litter but

the street sweeping regime is both frequent and efficient. It is often the simple things that make the most difference.

Older residents often bemoan the loss of our markets but the Saturday local market in Carfax, the stalls around the Shelley fountain, and more recently Piries Place, are still a great success. They bring life and colour, an opportunity to stop and chat, and a welcome seasonal alternative to the year-round cornucopia of the supermarkets.

Finally, a positive mention for a change for Swan Walk. Horsham is very fortunate to have such a high quality shopping mall with big name stores offering an attractive and safe shopping experience.

The Horsham Society is

keen to see more small niche businesses but the continued success of Swan Walk, and the shoppers it attracts to the town, is crucial to that aspiration.

As I write this the sun has disappeared again and no doubt next time I will once again be reflecting on our concerns about the future. But it is good occasionally to stop and realise how privileged we are to live in this bit of England.

The Horsham Society is concerned about the town's past, present and future and seeks to promote good planning and design for the built environment and open spaces. For more information and details on how to join visit our website
www.horshamsociety.org