

# Whatever happened in 2010? Quo vadis in 2011?

THE YEAR 2010 was another hectic one in Horsham and it's worth looking back to see what happened. By the end of the year snow was causing difficulties but other underfoot problems arose during the year.

Work eventually started to replace the surface of the Forum, albeit at a relatively slow pace.

The pedestrianisation of East Street was completed but it continued to be a thoroughfare for traffic. Hopefully, both these projects will be successfully brought to a conclusion before the end of 2011.

The appearance of the town also suffered some blows. The Shelley Fountain



by **David Moore**  
chairman of the  
Horsham  
Society

worked for a short period of time before another problem arose and it lapsed into disuse once more. A final, cost effective decision on the future of this sculpture needs to be made during 2011.

On the positive side, the Swans sprang back into life in Swan Walk shopping centre and it was lovely to see the water flowing during the run-up to Christmas.

It was sad to hear that some

leakage occurred on Boxing Day and the water was switched off.

Hopefully, the necessary repairs will be soon undertaken so as to ensure that it will be business as usual.

The old town hall remained a contentious issue even when the litigious issues had been resolved. The plan to turn it into a commercial venture collapsed due to the delay and we all hope that some viable use is found for the building during 2011.

Housing remains an issue and there are many questions still to be answered.

There seems little doubt that new housing will need to be constructed in Horsham

district but the contentious issues remain unresolved.

How many houses will be needed? Where will they be built? How many will be in the affordable housing category for local people?

Building the wrong buildings in the wrong place is the easiest way in which to destroy a community.

The next report concerning short term plans will be available from HDC for public consultation in January 2011.

Closely linked to the subject of housing needs was the Landscape Assessment, which was produced by Roy Worskett towards the end of the year.

This assessment shows that any expansion of

Horsham beyond its current boundaries is likely to have an adverse effect on the town.

This conclusion cannot be ignored in any future consideration of housing needs.

Clutter remains an issue that has to be addressed but which has received too little attention in the past.

We have too many signs in and around the town, ranging from direction signs, information signs, warning signs and advertising signs, many in the form of the ubiquitous A-boards.

There is also the problem of the out-of-date signs that are, if nothing else, misleading. These are issues, which if tackled correctly,

can improve the image of the town.

Whatever the outcome of all this unfinished business, you can be sure that The Horsham Society will be doing its best to ensure that the town of Horsham remains the place that we all chose to live in.

*The Horsham Society is concerned about the past, present and future of the town. It seeks to promote good planning and design for the built environment and open spaces. Membership of The Horsham Society is open to anyone, who shares these concerns. For more information, visit our website [www.horshamsociety.org](http://www.horshamsociety.org) or telephone 01403 263870.*