

Horsham Society

with John Steele



Stylish solution for fountain site

Well, the globe and stalk of the Shelley Fountain have finally been removed leaving the splash bowl which has been filled with an arrangement of sixteen tall and slender silver birch trees.

This is a stylish solution, providing an attractive canopy of foliage – somewhat reminiscent of the former globe in its shape – without blocking the view from West Street towards Bishopric.

This isn't intended to be the final solution for Lynd Cross. Horsham District Council is considering the long term future for the area as part of its Town Vision and will also need to take account of the impact of a multiplex cinema on the Wilkinson's corner if the current planning application is approved.

Meanwhile, surrounded by a circle of seats, it creates a dramatic landmark and pleasant place to stop and rest whilst shopping. Better still, when the time comes the design allows the trees to be safely moved to new locations.

Elsewhere in the town we have Horsham in Bloom working with the council to



Trees are moved into place after removal of the Shelley Fountain

thank for the reappearance of the much loved floral arrangements which brings a splash of summer colour to our streets. The attractive planting on the central reservation of Albion Way is also looking splendid this year, particularly the beautiful pink roses.

But not everybody is entering into the spirit and in some places civic pride is

decidedly lacking.

Some commercial owners and developers leave their sites in a dreadful state. Perhaps the worst example this year is the east side of North Street. The flower beds outside the Park are the usual riot of creative planting.

But across the road, from the Telephone Exchange to Norfolk Road, the planting areas outside the empty office blocks have been allowed to become overgrown with weeds and brambles and look dreadful.

The beds, alongside the footpath beside Sainsbury's from Blackhorse Way to the Arun, are also in need of weeding and, in parts, replanting. This is an example of a wider problem.

We all like to see our urban street scene softened by trees and foliage, and planners have been successful in creating small planting areas beside paths and outside new developments. The initial planting scheme is approved as part of the planning consent but it is often much less clear who is going to accept responsibility for ongoing maintenance.

This weekend sees the start of our new Horsham Festival, nine days of events showcasing our thriving arts

scene. Full details can be found at www.horshamfestival.co.uk. Highlights include the return of the popular Horsham Artists Open Studios.

This weekend (9th-10th July) and next, a wide variety of disciplines and mediums are on display as artists open their homes, studios and gardens in locations around the town and local villages.

Pick up a leaflet or visit HorshamArtistsOpenStudios.co.uk for more details. And this Sunday (July 10th) there is the annual Sparks in the Park, the popular council organised community showcase.

Please support the Festival. We want to see it grow year by year so that one day it will rank alongside the best of regional arts festivals.

Now all we need is some sunshine.

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 the website www.horshamsociety.org or phone 01403 261905.