



The Haslemere Society

From the Archives:

The History of the Society 1884 – 2009

Debbie Peet

Haslemere Society Committee 2009



Contents

- A disclaimer!!!!
- Why look at the History of the Society
- Sources of information
- Background to Haslemere in the 19th century
 - 1884 - 1914
 - 1939 – 1979
 - 1979 to present day



Timeline

1902 Haslemere Commons
and Footpath Preservation
Society

1971 Haslemere
Environment
Group

2009
and
beyond

1884 Haslemere
Commons
Preservation Society

1935 Haslemere and
District Preservation
Society

1979 Haslemere Society
formed from
amalgamation of 2
previous groups



Resources

- Haslemere Museum Library and photographic archive
- Internet - Surrey History Centre and exploringsurreyspast.org
- Robert Hunter papers, Dorothy Hunter papers and other material in the Surrey History Centre
- Books by Rolston and Winter
- Local historians especially Thelma Ede and John Owen Smith
- Living histories Haslemere Environment Group and current committee
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1832 1st Reform Bill

- Haslemere lost its own member of parliament



Penfold map 1892

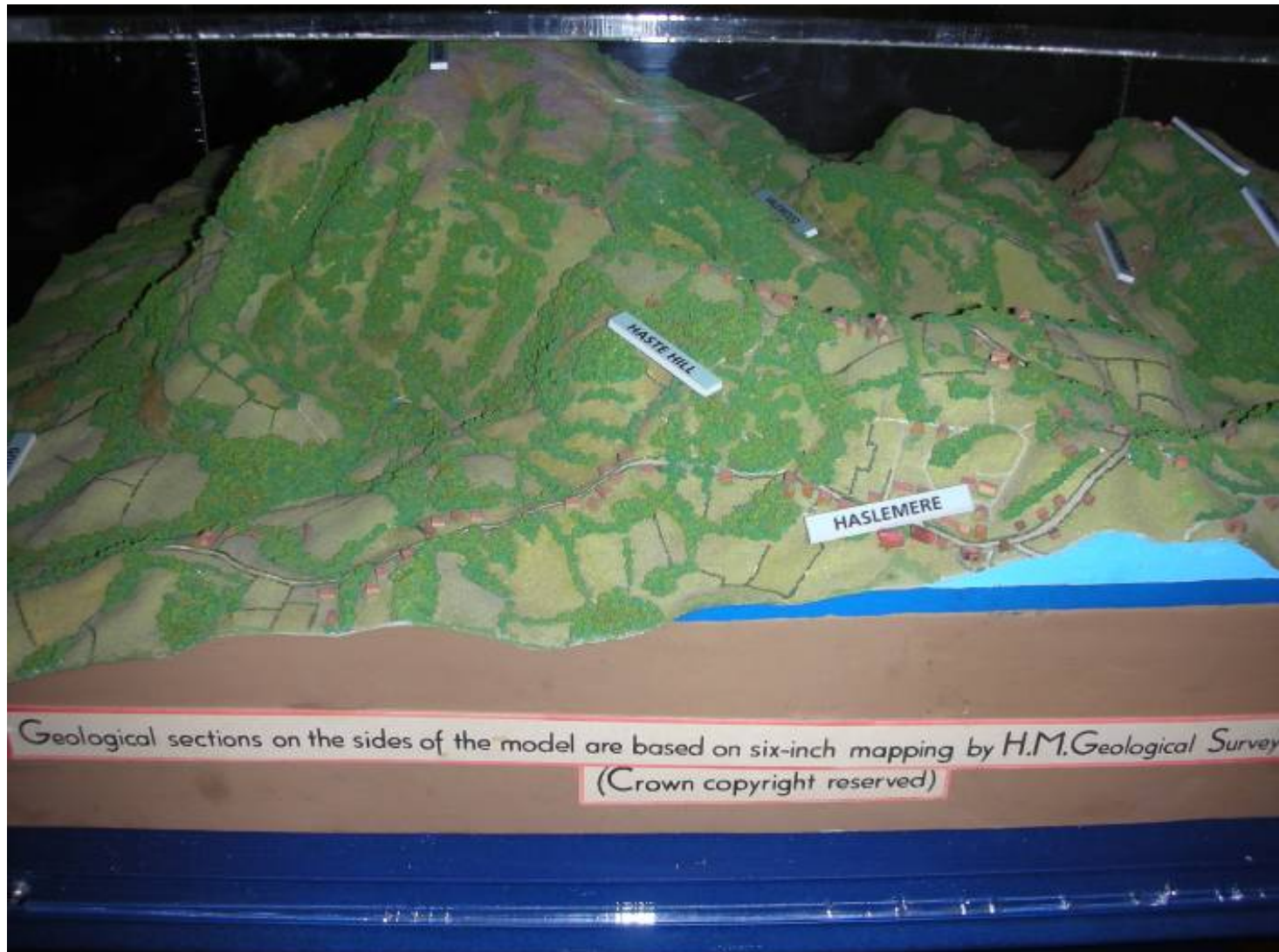


Courtesy of Haslemere
Educational Museum

OS 1st series 19C



A small town surrounded by beautiful countryside and rolling hills (1959/60)



Courtesy of Haslemere
Educational Museum

Haslemere Lower St 1886



Courtesy of Haslemere
Educational Museum

Haslemere East St 1884



Courtesy of Haslemere
Educational Museum

Haslemere High St 1886



Courtesy of Haslemere
Educational Museum

Haslemere 1885



Courtesy of Haslemere
Educational Museum

1859 Railway came to Haslemere



1850's Acts of enclosure

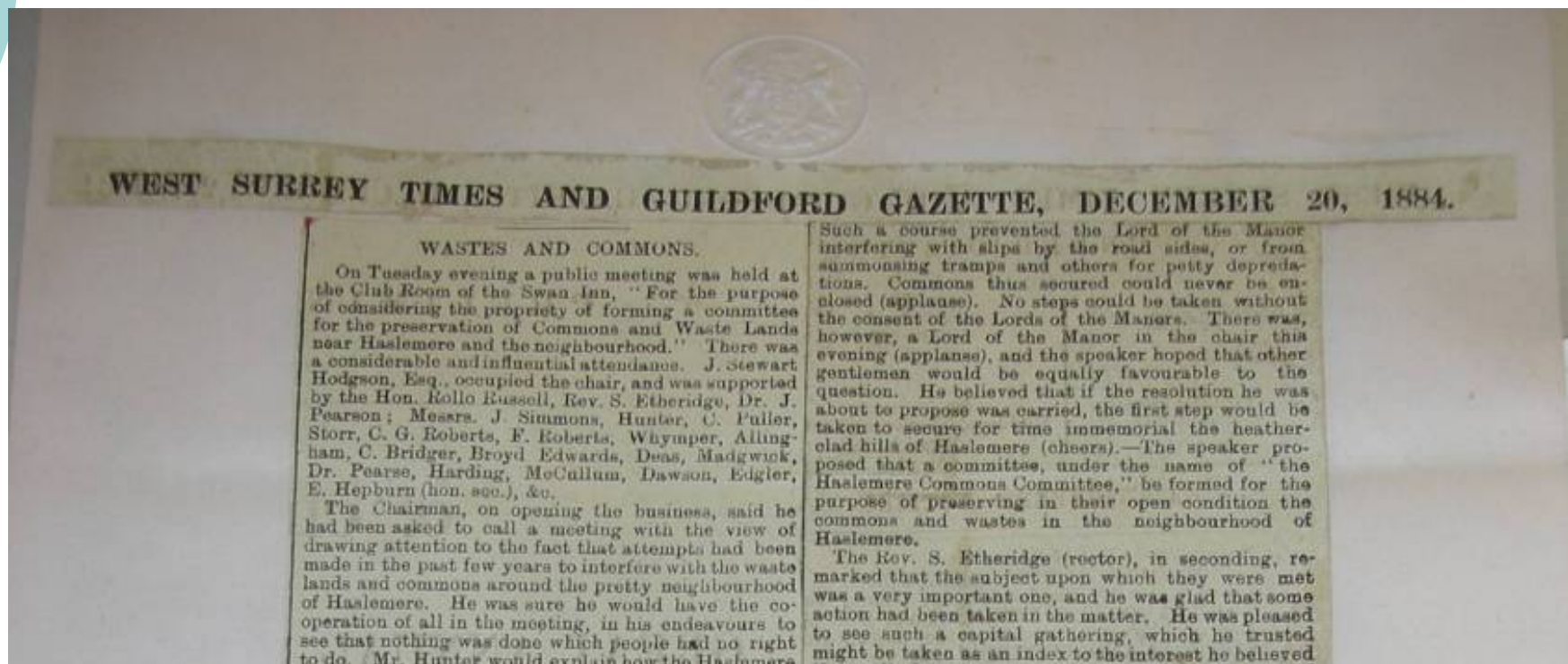
- Land was parcelled up and sold off.
- Punchbowl owned by the Lord of the Manor at Witley



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Sir Robert Hunters papers

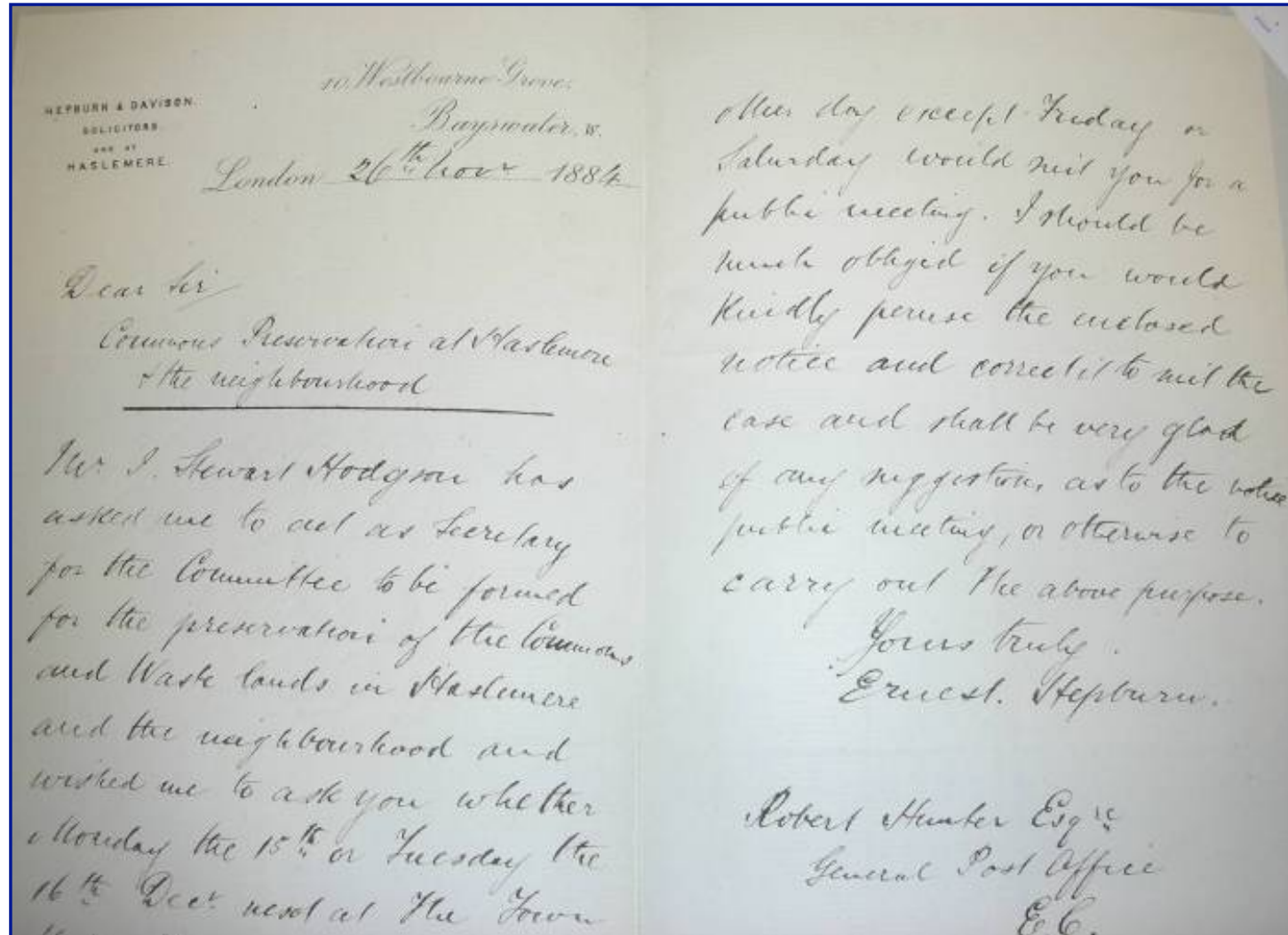
- Surrey History Centre



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On Tue evening (Dec 16th 1884) a public meeting was held at the Club Room of the Swan Inn.

An Invitation





Attendees

- J Stewart Hodgson Esq Chair
- Hon Rollo Russell
- Rev S Etheridge
- Dr J Pearson
- Messrs Simmons, Hunter, Fuller
Storr, Roberts, Whymper, Allingham
et al

Haslemere Commons Committee

THE HASLEMERE COMMONS COMMITTEE.

J. STEWART HODGSON, Esq., *Chairman*.
CHARLES FULLER, Esq.
R. STORR, Esq.
THE REV. S. ETHERIDGE.
ROBERT HUNTER, Esq.

Secretary.

ERNEST HEPBURN, Esq.,
Haslemere, and 10, Westbourne Grove, London, W.

Bankers.

In pursuance of a Resolution passed at a Meeting held at the Swan Inn, Haslemere, on the 16th of December, 1884, a Committee has been formed under the above title, with the object of preserving the Common and waste lands in the neighbourhood of Haslemere, in their present open condition.

The country round Haslemere depends for its attractiveness to a great extent upon its open character. Were Hindhead or Blackdown to be enclosed, or were the picturesque bits of common and roadside waste which abound in all directions to be absorbed into the adjoining fields, the charm of the district as a place of residence would be gone, and the value of enclosed property would eventually be much diminished.

It is not likely that at the present time any large scheme of enclosure requiring the sanction of Parliament will be proposed, but there is great danger, that as Haslemere becomes better known and houses multiply, portions of common land may be appropriated. On Hindhead in particular, where some uncertainty prevails as to the bounds of Manors and the rights which exist over the several portions of the heath, and where an enclosure of considerable size has been made or attempted within the last year or two, there is great risk of large inroads upon the open land, the free use of which the public has hitherto enjoyed.

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The committee (2)

The Committee believe that a timely expression of opinion on the part of the neighbourhood will go far to prevent attempts to enclose. The first object of the Committee is, therefore, to obtain the support of landowners and residents in the district and other persons interested in the preservation of common lands, so that a representative and influential body opposed to enclosure may be constituted. The very existence of such a body will have the most important and beneficial results.

The Committee also propose to obtain exact information as to the legal position of the several Commons in the neighbourhood, and with the assistance of the published Ordnance Survey to prepare a good map, which will be accessible to residents interested in the question.

They also trust that they may in time be able, with the assent of the Lords of Manors, to place some of the more important Commons under statutory regulation, and thus more effectually to prevent nuisances and preserve order thereon.

The Committee trust that you will allow your name to be added to the Committee, and they will be glad, if, in that case, you will fill up and return the enclosed form.

Service on the Committee will entail very slight personal trouble, as a small Executive Committee has been formed, and it is not likely that the necessity of calling together the general Committee will frequently arise.



Application Form

<p>To ERNEST HEPBURN, Esq., Secretary, HASLEMERE COMMONS COMMITTEE, 10, WESTBOURNE GROVE, LONDON, W.</p>	<p>Please place my name on the HASLEMERE COMMONS COMMITTEE.</p> <p>.....Name</p> <p>.....Address</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....Date</p> <p>To ERNEST HEPBURN, Esq., Secretary, Haslemere Commons Committee.</p>
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1885 The Times



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The committee has been joined by nearly all the residents in the adjoining neighbourhood and bids fair to be an influential body



Names and Dates

- 1865 The Commons Preservation Society established. Now the Open Spaces Society.
- 1884 Haslemere Commons Committee
- 1895 National Trust formed (suggested name was The Commons and Garden Trust)



1902 Society revived

COMMON AND FOOTPATH PRESERVATION SOCIETY.

ITS WORK TO BE REVIVED.

The Haslemere Common and Footpath Preservation Society has for some few years past been inactive, and it was with the object of considering the desirability of its revival that a meeting was held at the Institute on Wednesday evening. Sir Robert Hunter presided, and those also present included Sir Frederick Pollock, the Rev. G. H. Aitken, the Rev. T. C. Williams, Dr. Winstanley, Dr. Ardagh, Messrs. A. H. Harman, F. C. Holland, A. Parson, J. King, C.C., Mozley, Hulford, etc.

The Chairman said that during the last two or three years friends of his had continually brought to his notice cases in which some appearance of encroachment upon rights in connection with the footpaths and commons of the district had taken place, and they had asked him what had become of the Haslemere Common and Footpath Association, which existed for some time. He was not chairman or secretary of that society, and the duty did not fall upon him of keeping its meetings going, but he could not but remember that the society originated in a suggestion made by himself to the late Mr. Stewart Hodgson,



1906

HINDHEAD PRESERVATION.
S. Advertiser — Dec 8/06
MEETING OF THE SUBSCRIBERS.

A meeting of the subscribers to the fund for the purchase of the Hindhead Commons was held at the Educational Hall, Haslemere, on Saturday last. Amongst those present were: Sir Robert Hunter (chairman), Lord Farrer, Mr. Crisp, Mr. J. A. Coe, Mr. Alexander Miller, Mr. J. W. Penfold, Mr. F. Muir, Mr. A. M. S. Methuen, Mr. Aneurin Williams, Mr. James Wallace, Miss Hunter, Dr. and Mrs. Lyndon, Mr. and Mrs. Thackeray Turner, Mr. G. T. Redmayne, Mr. E. Nettleship, Mr. Bryan Hock, Mr. Raynor Storr, Mr. A. L. Leon, L.C.C., Mr. J. W. Thacker, and the Hon. Secretaries, Mr. H. R. Owtram (Haslemere Commons and Footpaths Preservation Committee), and Mr. Lawrence W. Chubb (Commons and Footpaths Preservation Society).

THE REPORT.

The committee in their report state that the commons have been vested in the National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty, of which H. R. O. the Princess Louise is the pre-

Courtesy of Haslemere
Educational Museum



Society mentioned in Rolston's book (1)

- 1908 Gift of 3 drinking fountains by an enthusiastic society
- Keen to keep an eye on building –
- 1911 Bridge Rd and Fieldway
- 1903 Grayswood Rd
- 1905 Derby Rd, Weydown, Half Moon, Courts Mount, Petworth Rd and Three Gates Lane

Early years

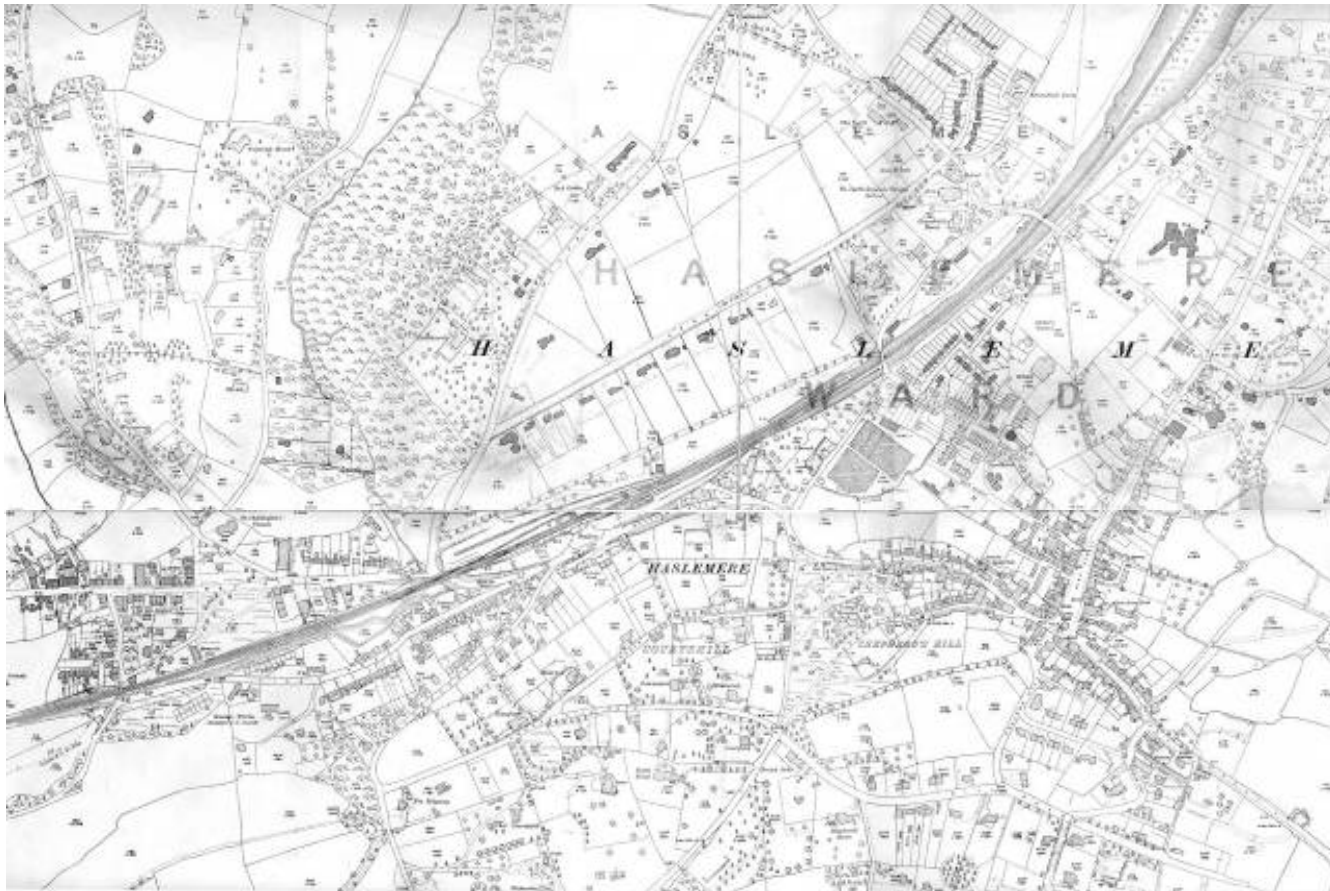
Year	Material	Source
1865	Commons Preservation Society established now the Open Spaces Society. Oldest conservation group in UK	open spaces website
	Enclosures at Hindhead Described in John Owen Smith document starting the railway arrives on internet	John Owen Smith
1884	August 1884 meeting at Lythe Hill House - Stewart Hodgson? Discussion of setting up group Robert Hunter suggests it was his suggestion later in 1902	John Owen Smith
	Letter to Robert Hunter setting meeting date	Surrey History Centre
	Haslemere commons committee set up 16th Dec club room swan inn chaired by S Hodgson report in newspaper. 1886 Times article describing success. Letter from Allingham raising question of footpaths	Surrey History Centre
1886	1886 Times article describing success.	Surrey History Centre
1888	NT file mentions renaming of Commons Preservation society to Commons and Footpath Preservation Society	Thelma Edes LD 8 495
1895	NT set up Octavia Hill wanted to call it the Commons and Garden Trust - wouldn't have caught on!!!	NT website
1902	Article describing revival Haslemere Commons and Footpath preservation society	Museum library LD8.458
1905	Fund set up to purchase Hindhead Common from Lord of the Manor at Witley	LD8.458 p25
1906	Article describing handover of Hindhead Commons to NT Haslemere Commons and Footpath Society represented	LD8.458
1908	Enthusiasm of the newly formed society led to the gift of 3 drinking fountains	Rosilton p59



Society mentioned in Rolston's book (2)

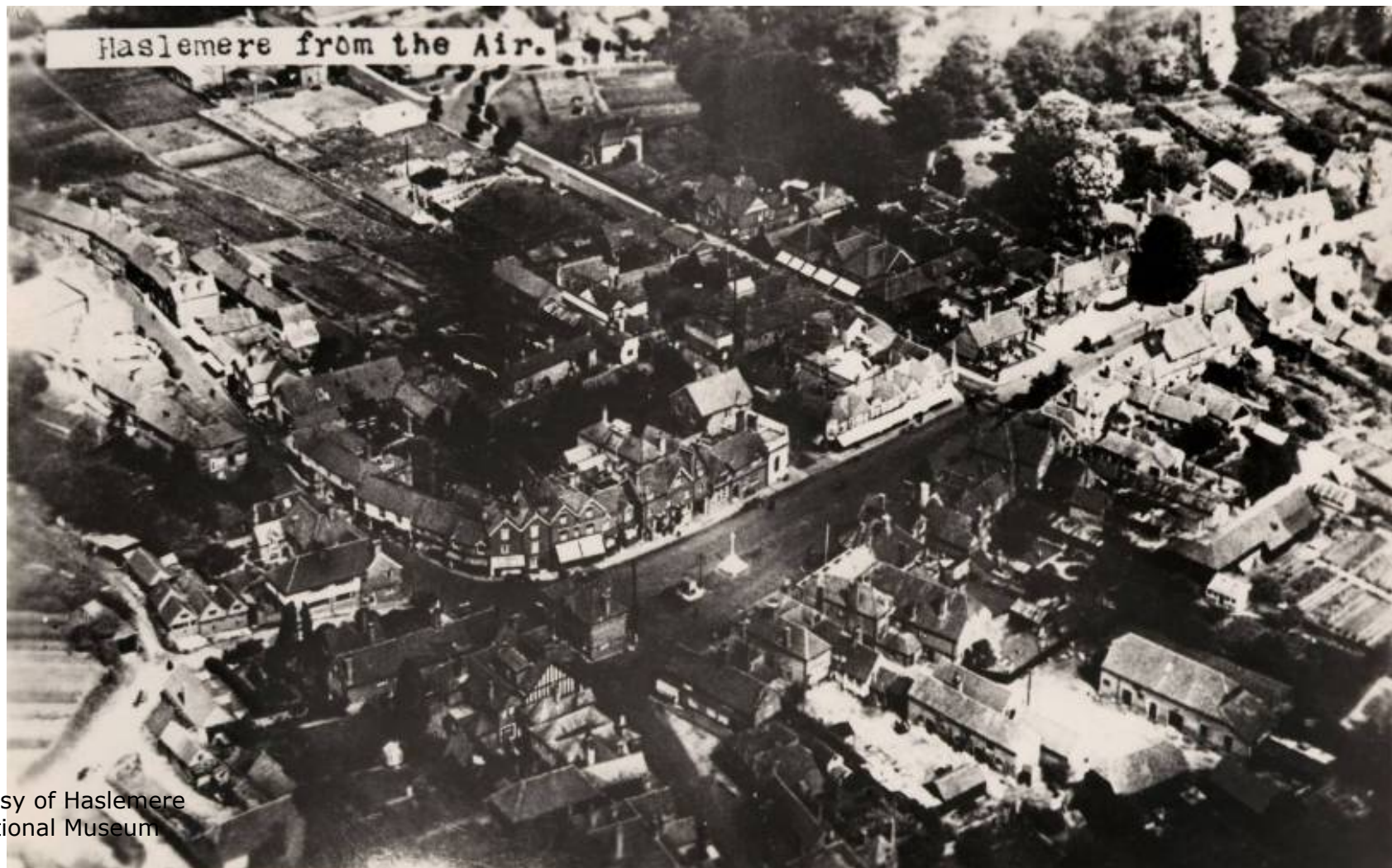
- 1914-1918 society went into abeyance
- Post war Homes needed – High Lane 52 homes built.

1916 map



Courtesy of Haslemere
Educational Museum

1922 aerial shots



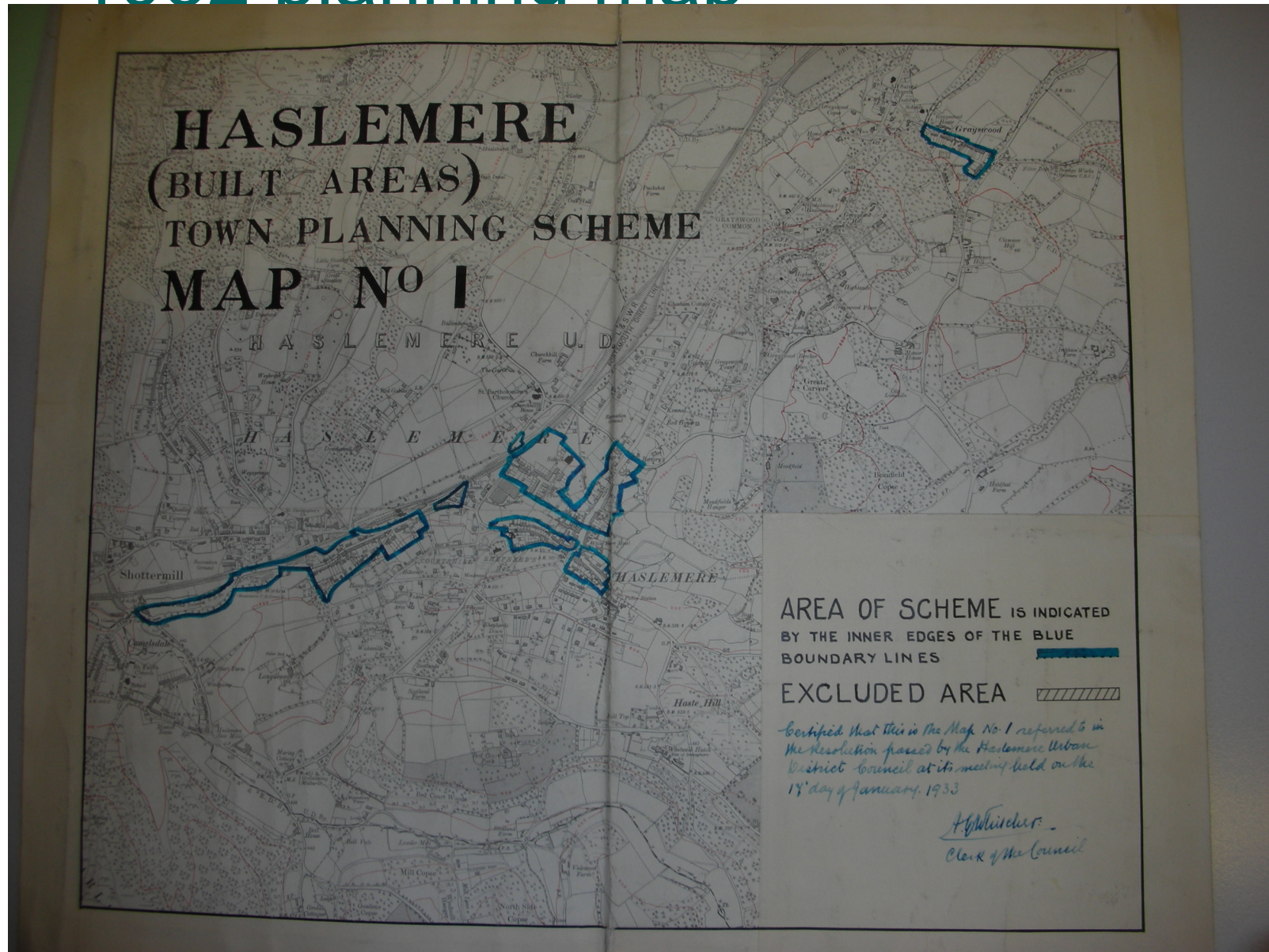
Courtesy of Haslemere
Educational Museum

1922 aerial shots



Courtesy of Haslemere
Educational Museum

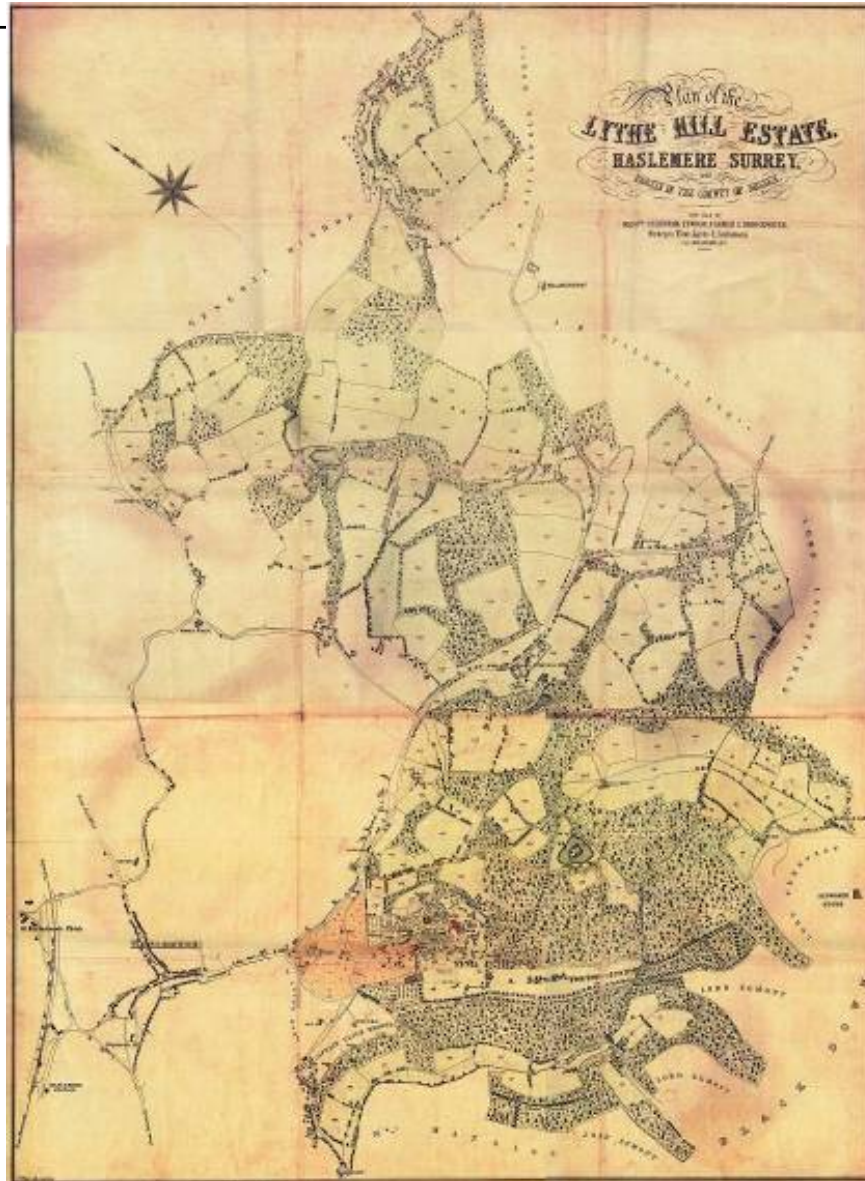
1932 planning map



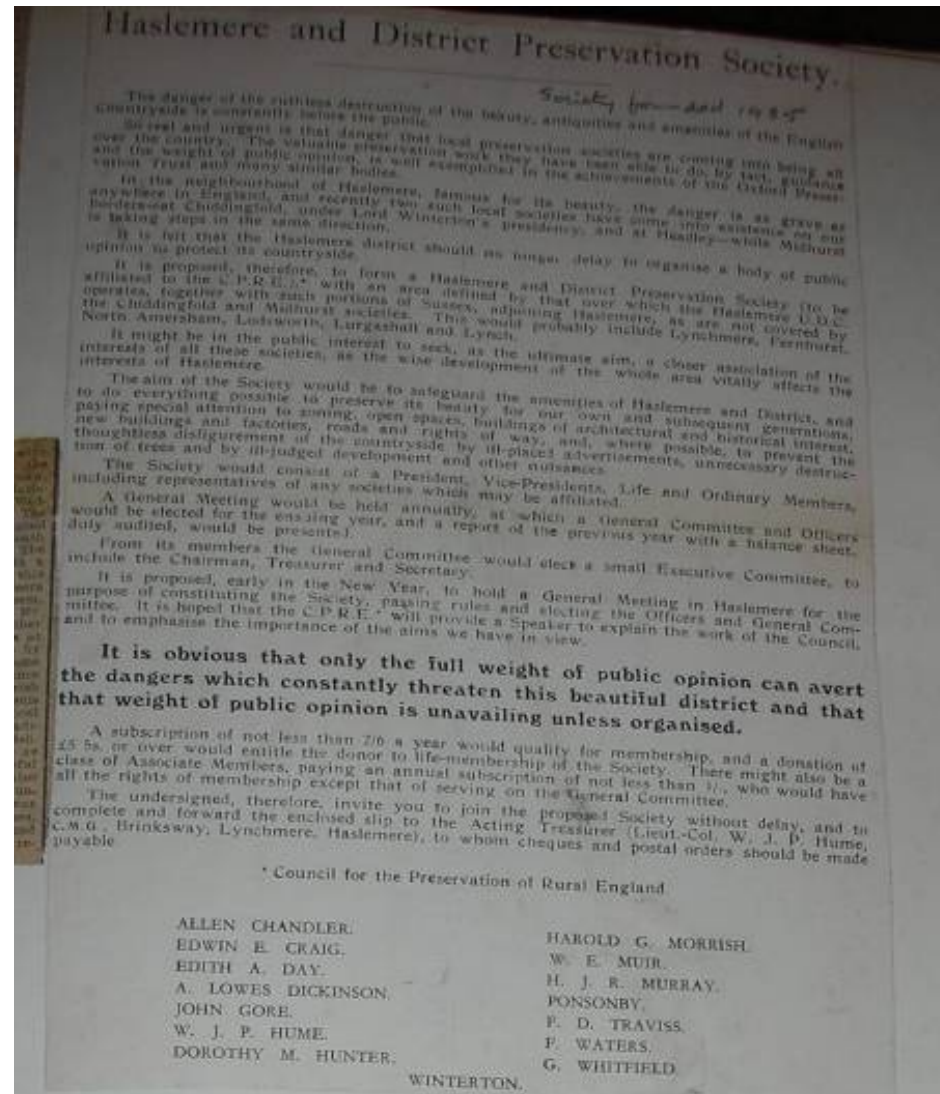
1932 planning map



1934 land for sale



Invitation to join



Haslemere District Preservation Society established 1935

HASLEMERE & DISTRICT PRESERVATION SOCIETY



*Established in 1935. Successor to the
Commons Committee 1884 and the
Commons & Footpath Preservation Society 1902*



Secretary's report 1936

Haslemere & District Preservation Society.

SECRETARY'S REPORT for 1935.

The Haslemere and District Preservation Society was inaugurated at a Public Meeting held in the Haslemere Hall on the 22nd February, 1935, and was at the same time affiliated to the Council for the Preservation of Rural England. Lord Ponsbury was in the chair, and an address was given by Mr. E. Guy Dawber, Chairman of the Council. Lord Ponsbury was elected Chairman and Lieut.-Colonel W. J. P. Hume, Treasurer and Hon. Secretary, while 11 other gentlemen and 3 ladies were elected on to the Committee. 211 members joined the Society during 1935. The receipts amounted to £111 12s., and the expenditure to £37, although at least 50 per cent. of the latter was incurred in respect of the Tennyson's Lane appeal and is recoverable from that fund. Ten meetings of the Committee were held, and among the subjects considered were (1) the acquisition of Whitmore Vale, (2) the amenities of Friday Hill, (3) Town Planning and Nutcombe Lane, (4) the elevation of buildings in Haslemere and (5) the formation of a Public Utility Company under the auspices of the West Surrey Society, formed to acquire properties of interest or beauty before they come into the hands of building developers. The principal business of the Committee, however, concerned Tennyson's Lane and Blackdown. Immediately after the formation of the Society, the Secretary entered into negotiations with Mr. G. W. Rhodes, Messrs. John D. Woods and others with a view to saving from building development as much as possible of Tennyson's Lane and the land adjoining. As a result, he was able at the end of March, to place two alternative offers before the National Trust:—(1) to acquire for £15,000 the whole of Mr. Rhodes' land, some 195 acres, or (2) to purchase for £7,000 about three-fifths of Tennyson's Lane with some 30 acres adjoining. The National Trust were sympathetic, but, in view of their existing commitments, unable to issue a national appeal for this purpose. Consequently, as there was no hope of raising either of these amounts locally, it became necessary to undertake further negotiations. Owing to the various difficulties encountered, these negotiations were protracted and were not concluded until the end of October, when Mr. Rhodes granted a three months' option to purchase the second of the two areas above mentioned for the much reduced sum of £5,000. Forthwith, on the 1st November, the Society launched their appeal, commencing with a letter to *The Times* and the despatch of some 1800 forms of appeal throughout the district and beyond it. This appeal was supplemented by letters and/or articles in *Country Life*, *The Sphere*, *The Field*, *The Morning Post*, *The Daily Mail*, (northern edition), *The Herald*, *The Surrey Advertiser*, *The Surrey Times*, *The West Sussex Gazette* and *The Haslemere Times*, to all of whom the thanks of the Society are tendered, as well as by other personal letters and further copies of the appeal. In the event of the Society acquiring this land, the Haslemere Urban District Council has kindly undertaken to take over the liability for that portion of Tennyson's Lane on which the land abuts, and the National Trust has agreed to accept the land as a free gift, on the above understanding, if it can be managed by the Hindhead Committee, so as not to be a liability on the funds of headquarters.

In addition to the £5,000 required for the purchase of the land, it has been necessary to ask for another £1,000 to cover the expenses involved. These include, besides the actual costs of the appeal and legal expenses, the cost of a post and wire fence between the land purchased and Mr. Rhodes' land adjoining and a sum of £150, which the Hindhead Committee require to be paid them, if they are to undertake the upkeep of the property for the National Trust. It is very unfortunate that this appeal clashed with one made on behalf of the Hospital. Although the £5,000 asked for was not obtained within the three months allowed, a most generous response has been made and, to date, the total amount collected or promised is £5,199, while, having regard to the according their warmest thanks to those who have so generously contributed and regretting that it is not possible to give public recognition to the generosity of the various anonymous donors, the Society hope that those who have not yet contributed will, in view of the full details furnished by this report, see their way to make up the comparatively small sum outstanding, in order that the purchase may be completed and another beauty spot preserved for the nation.

W. J. P. HUME,

Lieut.-Colonel.

Hon. Secretary.

28th February, 1936.

Shottermill Ponds



Courtesy of Haslemere
Educational Museum

Ponds saved



Courtesy of Haslemere
Educational Museum



1944 review 10 years after appeal

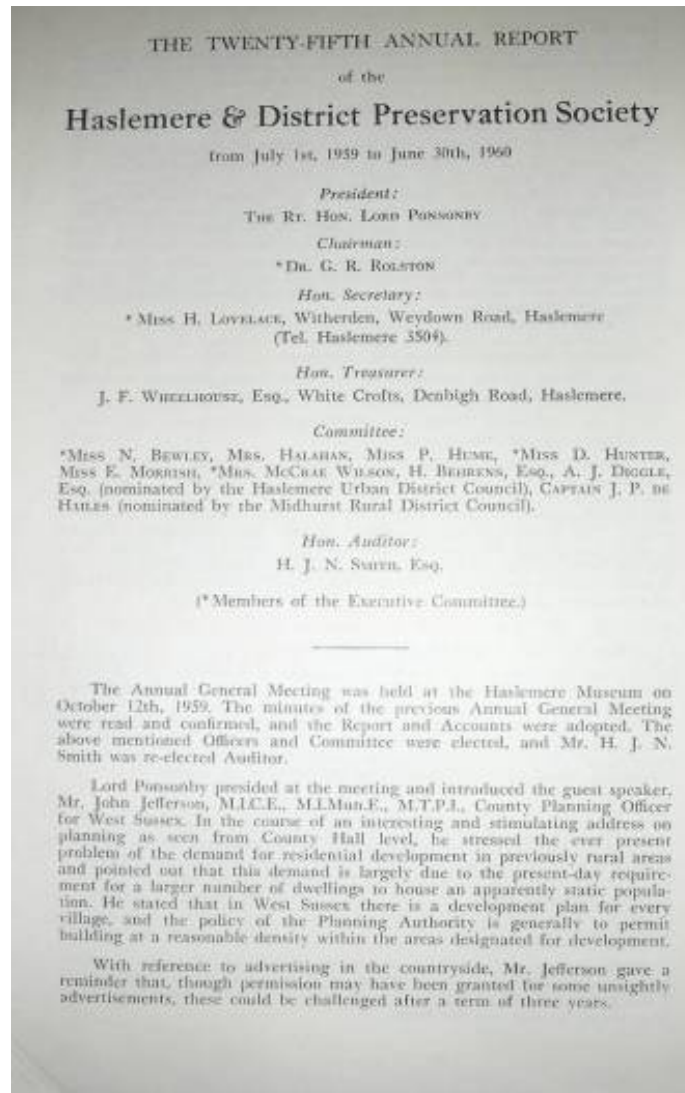
- 6k raised for 30 acres on Tennysons Lane
- Anonymous gift of Boarden Door Bottom adjacent to this land
- Blackdown given to NT
- 46 acres in Marley Wood to NT
- Shottermill Ponds
- Saved the Town Hall
- Failed to preserve and improve Tanners Lane
- Started a tree planting scheme



AGM 1959

- Speaker John Betjeman!!!!
- Talked on Victorian buildings
- Senior member of the Victorian Society

25th annual report 1960



Courtesy of Haslemere
Educational Museum

1961 planning map





Middle years and reinvention

1934	Sir Richard Garton dies (Lythe Hill Estate) Estate is put on market	
1935	Haslemere Preservation Society is reformed Lt Col and Mrs Hume Fund set up and money raised to purchase land along Tennysons Lane then passed to NT	Rolsoton p83 and Library documents LD 7.766
	secretary's report and invitation to join	LD 7 766
	annual reports for most years in museum	
1950	annual report in cuttings book call for new members + membership list 1951	LD 7 766
1959	John Betjeman talked at AGM	
1960	President Lord Ponsonby Chair Rolston	
	called Haslemere and District Preservation Society	

1970 and living memory

105

"WATCHDOG" SOCIETY HAVE GUARDED AMENITIES

THE HERALD
August 14th, 1970

EUROPEAN Conservation Year is an appropriate time to recall what Haslemere owes to those people who believed in the importance of preservation before it became fashionable. Haslemere and District Preservation Society have been the town's "watchdogs" since the society was founded in 1935. The importance and scope of the society's work is not well known because its members work quietly in conjunction with local authorities and other amenity organisations to preserve and improve amenities in this district.

The following account of the society's aims, its past record and what it hopes to achieve in the immediate future has been contributed by their newly-appointed press officer Mrs. Ruth Nicholson of Beech Cottage, Camelsdale.

Trust and its beauty preserved for all time, but it might have become part of a housing estate. To prevent this happening, the Haslemere Preservation Society launched a national appeal in 1935, raised enough money to buy the land which it then handed over to the National Trust.

And then there were Shottermill Ponds. In 1938 developers had their eyes on them. They were threatened with destruction. Only the generosity of two members of the Society saved them. They were bought and handed over to the National Trust together with an endowment of £200 raised by the Society.

So it went on through the years. Members were quick to learn when danger threatened beauty and the Society with generous help from benefactors bought land and gave it to the National Trust. In this way

Realising that, even in Haslemere, some change is inevitable, particularly in the shopping area, the Society tries to influence such changes in order to maintain the attractive character of the town. For this reason the Society always opposes obtrusive fascia boards and unsuitable shopfronts.

When possible the Society creates new amenities in Haslemere. Trees in Tanners Lane, the yew tree and the liquidambar in the High Street, have been given by the Society, as has the split-board fence in the station yard. The Society has helped with the upkeep of Tennyson's Lane and Shottermill Ponds and given a grant towards the newly-planted garden at Half Moon House.

The amenities of the district are continually threatened and although today local authorities are keenly aware of their responsibilities in many cases, there is still much work for the voluntary societies to do. A society such as the Haslemere Preservation can arouse public opinion and, if backed by a powerful membership, can bring pressure to bear when needed. Numerical support is essential when pressure has to be applied. How many Haslemere residents support their society? The beauty of Haslemere, its preservation, depends in great measure, on the efforts of the residents. The battle for beauty should not be left to the few. The struggle concerns us all.



Blossom Cottage, Shottermill.

Courtesy of Haslemere
Educational Museum



1971 The Haslemere Environment Group

- Tree survey
- Kings Rd gasometer
- Swan Barn Well Lane Walk
- Town Walk
- Conservation Area
- The Health Centre

The Tree Campaign



Another Exhibition 1976



MR David Patch (left), who gave the lecture on the opening day, with Mr. E. Orchard, chairman of the joint committee responsible for organising the exhibition, Miss Mary Lovelace, secretary, Haslemere Preservation Society and Mrs. M. Finlay, secretary, Haslemere Environment Group.

12.3.76.

Trees.

Flying start to tree exhibition

THE Tree Exhibition organised jointly by Haslemere Environment Group and Haslemere and District Preservation Society and held in Haslemere Educational Centre have been all over the town taking photographs to illustrate their appeal.

"We had quite a bit of trouble," Mrs. Finlay said, "because the weather was persistently foggy."

But their efforts have been rewarded as we can see from the voluntary efforts to improve the town.

"There is no planned replacement of trees in Haslemere," Mrs. Finlay explained "so we need as much help from residents as we can get to help the

Kings Rd and the gasometer

'Tidy up Kings Road' challenge accepted

HASLEMERE Environment Group this week took up the challenge of a Kings Road resident who last week appealed to the Group to tidy up efforts from the High Street to Kings Road.

The chairman of the Haslemere Environment Group, Mrs. Olive Hutchinson, said this week: "We are currently taking up the challenge and will be trying to get the Kings Road area tidied up. I am hoping that some of the residents will assist us in this task."

Last week, Mr. T. Fry, whose letter is at 114 Kings Road, in a letter to the "Herald" described Kings Road as "one of the ugliest spaces in the Haslemere area."

"DANGEROUS"

He suggested that the pavement and roadway in Kings Road were in a dangerous condition and were being considered for the "improvement" lane.

Mr. Fry mentioned the gasometer in Kings Road as "a major eyesore" and suggested that it was necessary for it to be removed some time. Mrs. Fry had been informed.

Mrs. Hutchinson said that the Environment Group had at their recent annual meeting received a resolution to "tidy up" the whole of Haslemere and that they had decided to do this. They had decided to do this by having a committee to look at the roads and make suggestions. Mr. Fry's letter was one of the first to be received by the group.

The gasometer in Kings Road, which has been under construction for some time, is being removed. A decision has been made to have it removed and replaced by a gasometer. The gasometer is being removed and replaced by a gasometer. The gasometer is being removed and replaced by a gasometer.

A resident said: "It is time that Kings Road is generally tidied up. The road is in a state of disrepair and the gasometer is a major eyesore. It is time that the road is tidied up and the gasometer is removed."

Letter to the Editor

From Mrs. H. W. Fry

GROUP'S MAMMOTH TASK

Sir,—May I refer to the letter from Mr. Fry to your editor last week?

The Environment Group has received a resolution to tidy up the whole of Haslemere and that they have decided to do this by having a committee to look at the roads and make suggestions. Mr. Fry's letter was one of the first to be received by the group.

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MOTRA W. FINLAY
Chair, Environment Group

Haslemere, Surrey



Swan Barn Well Lane Walk

C+H. 19/11/76 THE HERALD FRIDAY Scenic walk with magnificent views is Jubilee Year aim of Preservationists

TO mark Jubilee Year, the Swansea and Gower Preservation Society hope to provide a new scenic walk for the townpeople. The route will be along land directly behind the High Street shops beginning at High Lane and providing walkers with a magnificent southerly view over the meadows.

This was announced at the society's annual meeting held at the Museum on Friday night, by chairman Mr. J. I. Nott, who said he hoped it was something that would "richly fit the occasion of the Jubilee Year".

In a crowded meeting he outlined the details of the proposed project after he welcomed the guests, the Mayor Mr. Bob Truett and his wife, Mr. C. J. Webb, chief executive officer of Swansea Council and Mr. M. McIlraith, the chief architect.

The society, with the Gower Environment Group, had done a great deal of work on the scheme and discussed it with the National Trust who owned the land.

The proposal was that land at Swan River Valley of about six acres would be, by agreement with the Trust and the Gower Council, used as an open space so that the view could be enjoyed by people, most of whom probably didn't realize it was there.

They had talked with Swansea officials about taking over the open space. The society felt that as it was the Queen's Jubilee next year, it might be a way of marking it by giving this picturesque position off the ground and providing a permanent walk for the townpeople.

The Society along the new walk would run from Well Lane behind the shops up towards Carbis Lane.

The society had been left a fragment of 130 by their late chairman, Mr. G. R. Roberts, and they had also received a donation from a member Mr. P. Thomas. This if the members agreed, could be used for the purpose of creating the new walk.

It was also proposed to erect a small obelisk in memory of Mr. G. R. Roberts, and the Museum Librarian (Miss Mary Lawrence) in memory of all the society had wanted to erect a small obelisk in memory of their late chairman, Mr. G. R. Roberts.

Chairman Mr. Nott had earlier paid tribute to their late president, Lord Penrhyn. "We are like no other in a way. It was a joy to work with him and he did far more for this society than anyone would realize," he said. "He was always a working president."

He proposed that they should send a message of sympathy to Lady Penrhyn from the meeting. And they arranged to send a letter to their Vice-president, Miss Dorothy Hunter, now in her 90s, who took a great interest in the society.

He went on to talk about the history of the society and the problems that confronted it. It was, he said, to represent the townpeople as a whole, not a minority group. The society realized that leaving and employment must be provided for the new workers. They would all be proud of Swansea, it was an attractive town and they had the land situation in their favour.

He could not understand people who criticised the group but who continued to live in and enjoy a beautiful town which the society had worked hard to preserve over the years. Indeed, he hoped, 5000 people would help with raising money for the scheme.

PLANNING

The society had been very glad that the proposal to build a footpath in the valley had been accepted. The whole project had been quite out of order for the area and the traffic problem. It would have caused much more trouble than it was worth.

On the subject of Llyn Hylt, Mr. Nott said it was a very important problem but the main issue was a simple one. That the walking path was intended to be used as a place for people to walk and to enjoy the view. It was not intended for light traffic.

At the moment the water was treated by a stream which, a new house and a public house would have set up a public house. "No one in their right mind would have set up a public house at Llyn Hylt and we had the law right to be done."

The M.P. for Fawcett, Mr. Maurice Macmillan, had said that the society was not prepared to pass their case further. They will do that, planning, certainly, should provide a suitable environment for everyone and they would fight the case to the end, to ensure that the scheme was done.

The National Trust had taken a firm line in the matter but the society were not sure how far the Trust were prepared to go. The society had a private house in the area so before they had bought land, they had to ensure that the scheme was done.

Mr. Nott emphasized that the society was not opposing the plan to build a house, but Llyn Hylt was not the place for it. A house would be a disgrace to the area.

TUNNEL ROUTE

The National Trust had now started on its plan to build the proposed tunnel route on the Llyn Hylt. The society were not sure how far the Trust were prepared to go. The society had a private house in the area so before they had bought land, they had to ensure that the scheme was done.

He was pleased to report that the society had the record for the highest attendance out of the Gower, at meetings to discuss the Society's plans.

He concluded by congratulating the Domestic Building Research Group on the successful work they were doing and added that if anyone wanted to know that house was built, they should go in touch with Mrs. C. J. Webb, Council, Swansea, Swansea Lane.

He also expressed his thanks to Miss Lawrence and the treasurer Mr. J. E. Williams for the hard work they did and to Mrs. G. Jones, their treasurer, for the work they did.

P.T.O.



The Stations always been a worry!

1973
(p)

Haslemere Herald

Farnham Herald • Alton Herald • Bordon Herald • Liphook & Liss News • North Sussex Advertiser

NEW STATION PLANS ARE CRITICISED

PLANS for a new-look Haslemere Station have been received by Haslemere Urban Council, and were discussed this week by the planning committee. Because of the impact this project will have on the town, the discussion has been deferred until the next planning committee meeting in August.

Existing buildings are to be pulled down, and British Rail want to replace them with a modern system of building to include a ticket office, heated waiting area, toilet and staff accommodation. Next to these will be a few new shops. The design is comparable to methods used to rebuild 22 other stations in the Southern Region.

Detailed copies of the plans can be seen at the urban council offices in Museum Hill.

Mrs. Olive Reichamber, chairman of the Haslemere Environment Group, inspected them this week, and said: "I thought the whole idea of re-building the station was to make use of the cleared holdings to the north of the track to improve access and parking. Instead of which a marginal increase in area of the existing forecourt with exit and entrance from Lower Street, as now, will do nothing to solve the congestion that occurs every night."

The Haslemere Preservation Society is also considering the plans.

A spokesman for British Rail said that it was not usual to display plans at railway stations until a few months before re-building is scheduled to start. By this time, planning permissions will have been notified.

The forecourt is to be extended in both directions and its present layout will be changed. "We are very sensitive to the congestion, and the situation will be very much improved," said British Rail's B.W. region press officer, Miss Gloria Pearson.

She stated that the project has gone out to tender, and the cost has not yet been estimated.

The plan includes provision for taxis in roughly the same place as at present, and next to them spaces for cars, short-term waiting for night cars is to be provided on the southern side.

ings. You get a queue, and the cars in the middle can't get out while the ones at the back can't get in. In the winter it's worse, because of the dark."

Mrs. S. Barton, of Swan Barn Road, Haslemere, refuses to go into the station forecourt at that time of night. "Because it

Cars choking the entrance to Haslemere railway station at 6.45 p.m.

A fellow taxi driver Mr. R. H. Dixon said: "Private cars ought to be banned."

Neither taxi driver had seen the proposed alterations. They pointed out that they paid for their allocated spaces in the

The overbridge linking the two platforms, and the buildings and the platforms for trains towards London will remain and be renovated and painted. "There's nothing wrong with the bridge, it's structurally sound," said the



Development too....

Council chief architect meets residents af

HASLEMERE and district residents got together with Waverley's chief architect and town of his staff last week as a result of anxiety expressed by people concerned about the changing face of the environment. The outcome of discussions about several development plans in and around the district proved a great success.

After a meeting Mr. Michael Molloy and his colleagues met representatives of the Haslemere Environment Group, Haslemere Preservation Society and Haslemere District Association and talked about the proposals to build several houses.

REPRESENTATIVE OF LAND FOR DISCUSSION

Mr. Molloy went to meet them following his satisfaction with the planning committee's decision regarding the development.

The meeting discussed the general principles of planning, the layout of the site and the proposed building lines, and discussed

FEARS OF EXCESSIVE DEVELOPMENT AROUND TOWN

Mr. Molloy and his colleagues met representatives of the Haslemere Environment Group, Haslemere Preservation Society and Haslemere District Association and talked about the proposals to build several houses.

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Enough land for 44,500 homes

WEST Sussex has sufficient land for at least 44,500 homes, an official in charge of planning stated Mr. Peter Stirling.

There are 4,500 acres of land in the county, with 1,000 acres of land at the present rate of building it should last for 10 years.

Mr. Stirling said that in a recent study the Government had found that the country had more than enough land to build 44,500 homes.

And below, the old council offices that are to be replaced with houses.



ler - P.G. 6.2.76

on the old cemetery land.

Mrs. Mary Price, secretary of the Haslemere Environment Group, said after the meeting that the group was very pleased to have the opportunity to look at the plans and to have their views taken into consideration.

"We will be discussing the plans and they will be coming out of them," she added.

Mr. H. Loxton, secretary of the Greenpeace group, said his group had felt it was a most helpful and successful meeting.

"VERY HELPFUL"

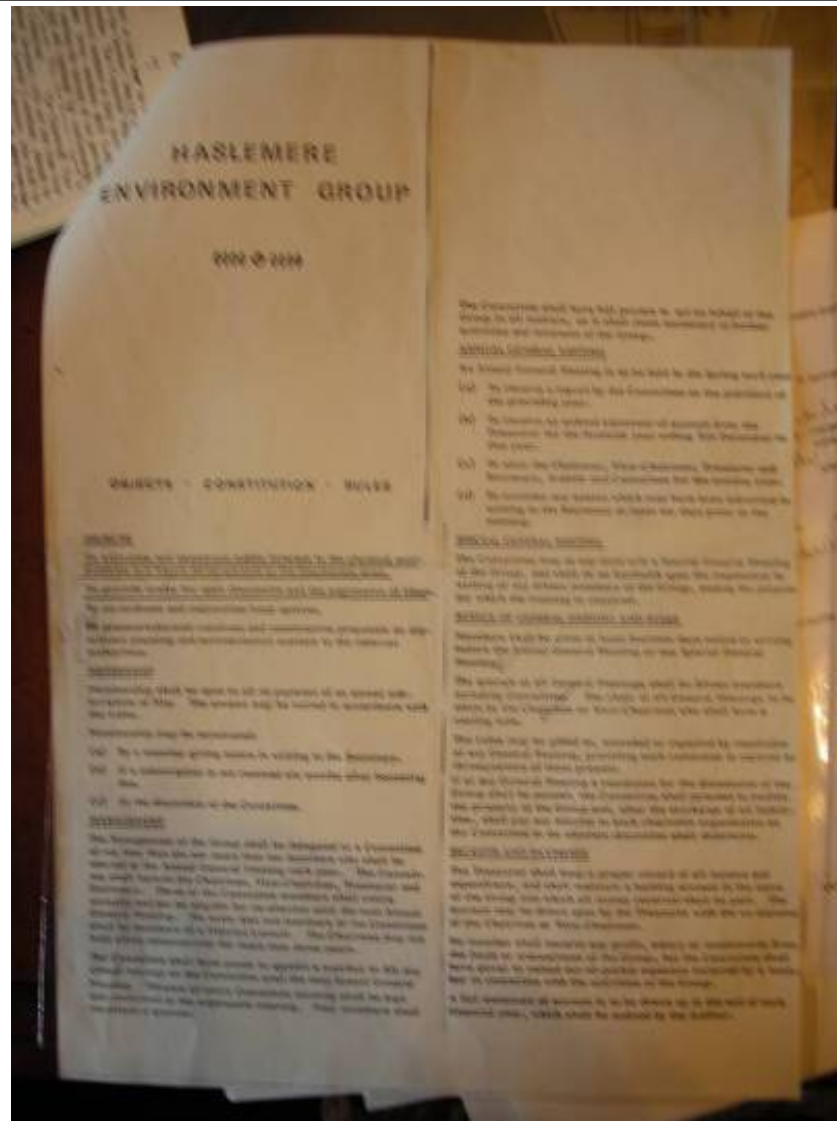
MR. MCGILLAN

He added that the meeting was very helpful on housing development in the area.

Mr. McGilgan said that he had the staff very much pleased to attend meetings of this kind — any approach from the public is most welcome.

"It is very helpful to have local views of the various possible plans," he added.

1979 more mergers



1992

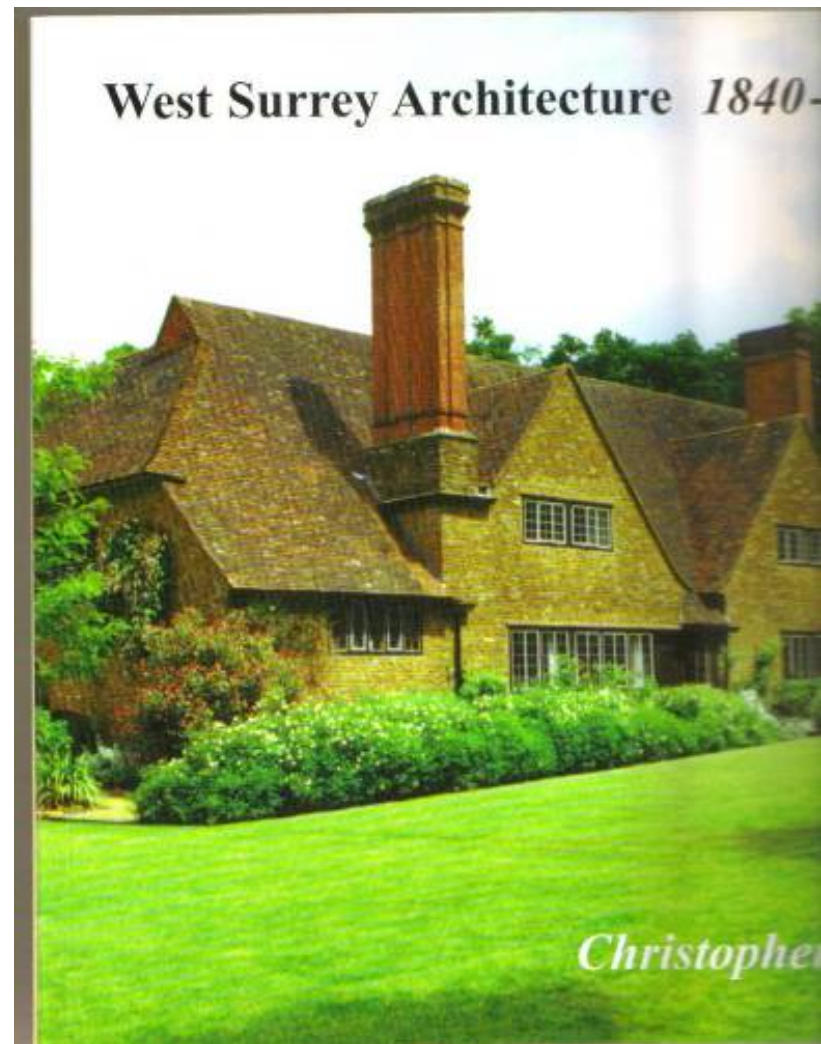




Recent successes

- The Town Trail revisited
- W Surrey Architecture book
- Blue plaques
- Clement Corner
- The Georgian
- Extension of the conservation area.

W Surrey Architecture



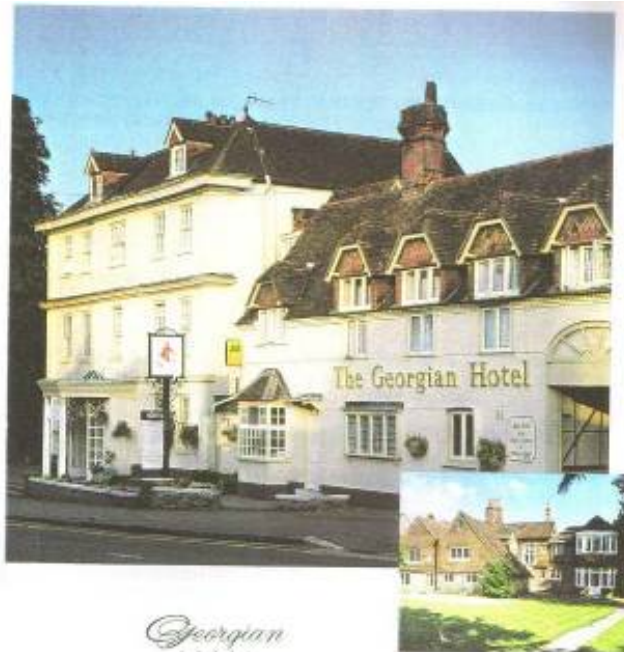
Conservation Area

Proposal to Extend Haslemere Conservation Area



The impressive thing around Haslemere is the extreme subtlety with which late c19 houses are fitted in to the hilly, romantic landscape.
Pevsner & Nairn. Buildings of England: Surrey. Penguin

The Georgian



Georgian
HOTEL



Georgian decision a 'triumph' for town

A RULING by the Department of the Environment against the conversion of the Georgian Hotel into luxury apartments was described as a "great triumph" for the people of Haslemere this week.

The appeals by property developers Longford Securities and Equities, which bought the hotel in October 1997, were dismissed by the planning inspector following a six-day public inquiry after he found sufficient evidence to show there was a "reasonable likelihood of the hotel being reopened as a viable operation".

Planning inspector Peter Jolly also felt the loss of the hotel facilities would "under-

mine the vitality and viability" of Haslemere town centre.

A vigorous £4,000 campaign mounted by the Haslemere Society helped to secure the outcome of the appeals, launched by Longford Securities and Equities last April after Waverley Borough Council remained undecided about the applications, despite being given more than two months to make up its mind.

Society chairman Robert Serman said this week:

"This exciting news is a great triumph for the people of Haslemere, almost all of whom were opposed to the plan.

"The Haslemere Society has demonstrated that with determination and hard work, it is possible for damaging proposals by property developers to be thwarted."

Mr Serman said that initially, many people had believed the hotel was being sold because it

was failing to make a profit, but this was not the case.

"The suggestion by the developers, Longford Securities and Equities Ltd, that 20 flats would bring more trade and prosperity, and add more to the vitality of Haslemere than would a hotel was unconvincing. Their case lacked credibility and the planning inspector did not accept many of their arguments," Mr Serman said.

He added: "We hope that Longford's Barry Anaradeh, quoted in The Herald on April 17, 1998 as saying 'we want to be fair and just, and we are trying to do something right and appropriate for the town', will now do so by selling the hotel for its market price."

Mr Jolly said the town was "not heaving with activity" and could "ill afford any loss of vitality".

"The conversion to residential use would have a deadening effect on the activities in this commercial part of town compared to the coming and going associated with hotel use, particularly during the evenings," he said.

Mr Jolly pointed out there was evidence from companies in the Haslemere area that there is a shortage of hotel accommodation and disagreed with the views expressed by the appellants that there would be significant problems in rebuilding trade.

He also felt there was evidence to suggest that most of the lost business would return to the hotel if it was reopened.

Although the inspector felt the core of the Georgian's business would be from local firms and businesses, he argued that with the "attractiveness of the town and the surrounding countryside", there was potential for attracting other visitors to the area.

Continued on Page 3



Celebrating this week (from left), Anne Downing, Nick Downing and Ann Mugford from the Haslemere Society, Michael Smyrk of the Town House, Verardo Ricci from Haslemere Chamber of Trade, and Michael Barnes, Michael Foster and Robert Serman of Haslemere Society.

Planning

The Herald 3rd February 2004 Haslemere Society joins opposition to farm plan

By Sue Carter

AS opposition mounts to an outline planning application to build key workers' homes on land at Sturt Farm, Sturt Road, The Haslemere Society, the watchdog group - which comments on new developments in the town, has come out strongly against any development on the land on the outskirts of Haslemere.

The views of the society came after Haslemere Town Council unanimously agreed to object to the outline plans at its highways and planning meeting last week.

It also follows opposition from owners of properties on the former Sturt Farm and residents of houses which would overlook the proposed 36 homes for key workers.

"We are not persuaded that the scheme for affordable housing would withstand careful

analysis, but we are particularly concerned that any development in this area would represent an unacceptable incursion into the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)," says David Smith, chairman of the society.

"We are writing to Waverley Borough Council to object to the outline planning proposals," he added.

And Mr Smith said: "Our worst fears are that it could set a precedent."

Mr Smith said the society was also concerned about how the affordable housing would be allocated.

"If the developer was truly philanthropic, he would hand the land over to a housing association," he added. Mr Smith, who also felt that the idea of setting up a trust "would be a fuzzy idea into the unknown."

of lost appeals is driving the Society on into the fray. The group looks to put the overdevelopment in the

06, members were involved in several planning applications in the town, including the loss of Haslemere's central estate and the fight to save Conan Doyle's house at

agreed opposition from the town's key proposals, it has lost its appeal.

alshouse Yard, the town's last all estate, will make way for a new house for Christopher Adkins.

a family home set within a area, will be knocked down with up to seven flats.

road and Court Hill Road will knock extra houses respectively knocked down.

we have had positives, with two in Doyle's house Underdown is the dumbly-down last

bottoms of a large house is a at Red Gables - another corner-grabbing that local MP

Jeremy Hunt often lobbies against - was also rejected.

And the new year will see decisions

made on the planned demolition of a family home (Wyndcroft), which could be replaced with one or more blocks of flats,

and the demolition of Shepherd's Dove Cottage - rent to two small buildings - and its proposed replacement by flats.

The group also has long-running campaigns concerning a new library in the town, saving hospital beds and resisting overdevelopment at Sturt Farm - the proposed site of 36 key worker houses.

Now chairman David Smith is sending out a message to residents highlighting the importance of the group, and its role in maintaining Haslemere's character - and prompting more members to join the 500-strong society.

He said: "Our town is undergoing rapid change as new residential developments appear."

"Not all change is welcome, but some change must be accepted as the price of progress from which we all benefit."

"The challenge we face is to consider how we want our town to develop and grow."

"We have chosen to live in one of the most attractive towns in the South East. I'm quite sure everyone living here would like it to stay that way. We don't have to accept second-rate design, even where development is approved."

"My message at this time is that we must all express our opinion on the way our town is changing and our voices are heard."

"Your elected representatives are bound

to listen to what you have to say. If you haven't time to get involved, do join The Haslemere Society and your committee will represent your views."

Anyone wanting to join the society should visit www.haslemere.com/haslemere-society and click on the "Join Now" link.

Society facing more battles in the new year



Despite protests from many quarters, including The Haslemere Society, developers won permission to demolish Old Bakehouse Yard and replace the industrial buildings with five houses.



Underdown was the subject of two planning applications, both of which were rejected by Waverley councillors at the end of December. Its future, however, is uncertain.



An artist's impression of the new development at Sturt Farm.



Timeline

1902 Haslemere Commons
and Footpath Preservation
Society

1971 Haslemere
Environment
Group

2009
and
beyond

1884 Haslemere
Commons
Preservation Society

1935 Haslemere and
District Preservation
Society

1979 Haslemere Society
formed from
amalgamation of 2
previous groups



Summary

- Action and fundraising when land close to the town is threatened (then handing it over to the NT)
- Influence on local councils and authorities to the benefit of the town and its surroundings
- Improvement of amenities – fountains, trees and planting
- Currently ready for action when required - membership healthy and nos are higher than ever
- The town and surroundings are still recognisable from 1884 and thanks are due to those Victorian and the later philanthropists