



FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN 2013

Spring Meeting	Friday 19 th April at 7.30 pm	Haslemere Hall
Outing by Coach	Sunday 9 th June Daytime	Ambrose Place Back Gardens
Summer Party & Therapy Unit Tour ...	Friday 21 st June 6.30 pm – 8.30 pm (Guided Tours 5.30 pm)	Shottermill Hall & Holy Cross Centre
Celebration Dinner	Saturday 9 th November, 7.00 pm	Georgian House Hotel
AGM	Friday 15 th November 7.30 pm	Haslemere Hall

Chairman

Dear Members

We are very pleased to have had a constant flow of new members during the year to add weight to our campaigns in the town and its surroundings. Thank you to all who have participated in our activities and supported our efforts to preserve the quality of life here and thank you for taking the time to get involved. We are also fortunate to have good liaison with the Haslemere Herald which frequently publishes our viewpoints.

As you know we are members of Civic Voice who ask us to take part in their campaigns. The most recent request was for support against the Government's changes to the planning system. Across the country members contacted 350 MPs, and 200 Civic Societies had a letter printed in a local newspaper opposing the Government's changes which are felt to be full of dangers to our environment. Civic Voice has established an annual Civic Day which this year is set for 22nd June and gives an opportunity for members to shout out, "We are proud of where we live ". To link in with this, we have arranged for our Summer Party to be held on June 21st in a new venue, to give you the opportunity to see the state of the art Physiotherapy and Hydrotherapy facility at Holy Cross Hospital, followed by a party at the nearby Shottermill Hall, with harp music by Verity Foster. You may remember that the Centre at Holy Cross won three Waverley Design awards in 2009, and that our Society had made a contribution to those awards. The Centre incorporates the most eco-friendly structural systems in its construction and I am sure you will find it most interesting. It is a short walk through the grounds to the contrasting late Victorian Shottermill Hall, built as a family home, but acquired in 1917 by the Congregation of the Daughters of the Cross of Liège. We can take refuge inside this splendid Victorian House if the weather is against us, and otherwise enjoy the terrace and lawns.

While on the subject of changes, some of you may not know that Branksome Place on the Hindhead Road has been sold and Jamia Ahmadiyya, an international Islamic Seminary and Educational Institute has been established there. It is a University with campuses all over the world to train Muslim scholars and missionaries.

This year we remember the 100 year anniversary of the death of two great Haslemere benefactors: Hutchinson and Hunter, but in particular we intend to remember Sir Robert Hunter, who founded our Society. We are planning a dinner on November 9th at the Georgian House Hotel when we shall celebrate all that he did for the enjoyment of following generations. We shall be entertained with music and song by the Mazaiko Duo who are a Russian/English couple bursting with vitality, fun and talent. We are also planning a writing competition for the children of the town to encourage them to value the open spaces set up for the general public by Sir Robert Hunter.

As a Society we try to inform residents of the town about what is going on with present day opportunities and challenges. Some people think we have a conflict of interest with the Town Council, but we welcome any involvement with them over aesthetic and heritage matters. We hope to be critical friends of the authorities and play a part in shaping the future of the town we love.

Jane Stopford Russell

The Waverley Borough Council informal public consultation on proposals for refurbishment of the Wey Hill car park and the introduction of Pay & Display, has been concluded. WBC's report on the exercise indicates little support for its proposals. Prominent concerns were opposition to charging, concern on their impact on street parking, the need to allow time for the Local Planning Forum to develop alternative plans and the recognition that WBC should be considering a multi-storey car park/additional parking elsewhere. It remains to be seen whether or not WBC will decide to proceed to the next step which is to apply for Government consent to develop Common Land. We feel that the majority of our members are with us in seeking to keep this important piece of land for the community. WBC appear determined to raise revenue from parking charges on this land and we have corresponded with WBC over the propriety of their using parking revenue to support their budget as there are questions about conforming with the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. We are seeking clarification from the Borough Treasurer.

Two appeals have been lodged following planning refusals for commercial polo developments on land to the south of Petworth Road. Also a further planning application has been made to construct 32 loose boxes on this site. The Society has opposed these.

While new buildings are currently under construction at the Rosemary Park Care Home on Marley Common, a planning application for further development is currently the subject of a planning appeal. This site is only a mile from the town centre but it lies within Chichester District Council and the SDNP (South Downs National Park) planning jurisdiction and there was no cross border notification to Waverley. Had it not been brought to our attention by a Haslemere Society member we would not have known about it. Rosemary Park is a considerable complex of buildings within an area of outstanding natural beauty (AONB) at Kingsley Green. The complex is serviced only by a narrow country lane and the Society feels that it should not be allowed to continue expanding indefinitely and has accordingly registered its opposition to the Appeal Inspector.

A revised planning application to build 9 flats at 34 King's Road is pending to which we have again registered objections, due to overdevelopment in this already congested road. We are pleased that an application to squeeze yet another house onto land adjacent to 31 Hill Road in front of a listed building has been refused.

The Society has been active in opposing many aspects of Surrey County Council's parking proposals but supportive of proposals to alleviate as soon as possible the more serious problems caused by commuter/all day parking in certain residential roads (phase 1). SCC's recently issued revised proposals and, while some are more acceptable, many still included parking restrictions which would adversely affect commercial viability, amenity and the way the town functions. A special meeting of the SCC Local Area Committee was held on 24th January 2013 to consider these revised proposals and thanks to considerable pressure by the Haslemere Parking Action Group, of which the Society is a member, some of the unacceptable proposals were abandoned or modified and the Action Group is challenging others. The Society is convinced that decisions should be made locally by people who understand local problems and the commuter parking problem can only be properly resolved by the construction of a high capacity off-street car park.

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GIFT AID

by Brian Deller, Treasurer

*Those of you who attended the AGM in November may recall that I made the point that our subscription income, together with the modest fundraising from our Summer Party, just about covered the day to day expenses of the Society but did not provide any margin for "one off" costs. As you will know, any subscription income that we receive can be increased by the standard rate of income tax if a Gift Aid form is completed and this is a tremendous help to us. Although most of our members have returned these forms, it would be a great help if we could persuade those who have not yet done so to complete one and, to this end, **we are enclosing blank forms only for those members who fall into this category.***

SIR ROBERT HUNTER (1844 - 1913)

This year is the centenary of the death of Sir Robert Hunter, the founder of the fore-runner of the Haslemere Society, The Haslemere Commons Preservation Society. While the Haslemere Society is justifiably proud of Sir Robert's local achievements, it is really his importance in later co-founding the National Trust, with Octavia Hill and Canon Rawnsley, for which he is more widely remembered. The NT is therefore somewhat younger but, and it has to be admitted, somewhat larger.

For our spring meeting we are fortunate in having secured an eminent speaker, Ben Cowell, the National Trust's Regional Director - East of England, who has been researching this great and modest man. Details about this on the back page of newsletter. On November 9th this year we have a celebration dinner in Sir Robert's honour, see below. We also have a writing competition for children (details to follow).

Other organisations will also be celebrating Sir Robert this year. Sir Robert has a memorial in St Bartholomew's Church and the Friends of the Parish of Haslemere are organising an event at the Museum on November 6th at 7.30 pm, with speaker John Owen Smith. Doubtless there will be other celebrations and events.

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HASLEMERE SOCIETY CELEBRATION DINNER at the Georgian House Hotel to honour our founder, Sir Robert Hunter

Three-course dinner, with welcome drink, on Saturday 9th November at 7.00 pm. Black tie. £38.00 pp. Form for tickets enclosed. Please reply by 9th October.

We are delighted to offer music from the MAZAIKA DUO, an unconventional marriage of violin, accordion and voice, with an evening of highlights from their classical, Russian and gypsy performances, and other favourites from around the world.

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Haslemere Vision Update

by Stewart Brown, Chairman HV

At a public meeting held at the Museum in September last year a group of local residents, supported by Haslemere Town Council, proposed the formation of a neighbourhood forum to enable residents of Haslemere to take advantage of the new community rights established in the 2012 Localism Act. The meeting was attended by approximately 100 people and 75 signed to support the proposal.

Since then thirty residents who volunteered at that meeting have been working up detailed proposals that will shortly be put to the communities of Haslemere, Hindhead, Beacon Hill, Grayswood, Shottermill, Critchmere and Camelsdale. The proposals envisage the formation of a non-political, community-led organisation which will work in partnership with the Town Council. Its mission will be to enable the people, businesses and organisations of Haslemere and adjacent villages to pool ideas and resources to create a vision and a plan of how we wish the town and the villages to develop in the future. It will undertake and deliver projects that preserve and enhance the wellbeing of the town and the villages for the benefit of all who live, work and play here.

A community awareness campaign to publicise and seek support for these proposals will start at the end of February. This will lead up to the launch of the consultation and planning process on 27th April. Completion of consultation and drafting of the plan will then take approximately twelve months.

The Haslemere Society is pleased to participate in this important initiative.

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SPRING MEETING Friday 19th April 7.30 pm Haslemere Hall, Bridge Road

For our spring meeting we are pleased to have the eminent speaker, Ben Cowell, the National Trust's Regional Director - East of England, who has been researching the background of our founder, Sir Robert Hunter.

We shall be inviting 2 local NT organisations to join us. As usual the talk will be followed by a glass or two of wine and some canapés. Please wear your Haslemere Society name badges, as we shall charge non-members a small fee for the refreshments. Telephone 01428-654 681 for a member's badge, if you do not have one already.

SUMMER PARTY - DRINKS & CANAPES - Friday 21st June 6.30 pm – 8.30 pm

To be held at Shottermill Hall, this is a good opportunity to meet other Haslemere Society members in these attractive and little-known surroundings. Guests are welcome. We shall also have the benefit of guided tours, before the party, of the innovative Holy Cross Physiotherapy Unit, for those who are interested. For a guided tour, please arrive at 5.30 pm.

Tickets are £10.00 per person. Please fill in the enclosed form and send it with a cheque and SAE to: The Treasurer: Brian Deller,
Weald View, Petworth Road, Haslemere GU27 3AU (01428-642 636) by Friday 31st May.

ANNUAL OUTING BY COACH: Sunday 9th June

Ambrose Place Back Gardens (Worthing) and East Beach Café, Littlehampton



A visit to the 14 small and highly acclaimed back gardens of Ambrose Place, open for National Gardens Week. Behind their Regency Terrace, these gardens draw inspiration from such exotic diversity as Morocco, Provence and the Alhambra, to the more traditional sources of the English Cottage and Victorian gardens. There are numerous places for lunch just a step or two away, and the sea front is just a little further. After lunch, return to the gardens or stay in the town centre, which has retained many of its old and attractive buildings. Later we shall leave for the renowned East Beach Café. Designed to look like driftwood, the building makes a bold statement which appeals to architects, while at the same time providing residents with a local cafe to call their own.

Tickets (at cost) £21 to include gardens, afternoon tea & cake, coach and tip for driver. Please fill in the enclosed form and send it with a cheque and SAE by 21st April to: Diana Serman, 23 Courts Mount Road, Haslemere, GU27 2PR
(Tel/Fax: 01428-654 681 email: RGandDC@haslemere.com)