

The one Hundred and Thirty Second Annual Report

of

THE
HASLEMERE
SOCIETY



*FOR HASLEMERE
past, present and future*

1st July 2016 to 30th June 2017

Registered charity number 255287

The Haslemere Society
is a member of Civic Voice and the Open Spaces Society and is
affiliated
to the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England and the
Haslemere Educational Museum.

Most of our two
mailings a year are delivered by hand, courtesy of
committee members and non-committee members, in
order to cut down on postage costs.

This is not an
arduous task, as it is shared among many helpers, and
can be an interesting and instructive way of getting to
know what might be an otherwise unknown part of
Haslemere and Hindhead - as well as including exercise
and fresh air and being therefore a *good thing*.

Please let us know if you are willing able to help with deliveries.

You would be given a bundle
of between 4 and 15 envelopes, with plenty of notice
and a few days to complete the task.

THE ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY SECOND ANNUAL REPORT

1st July 2016 to 30th June 2017

Committee

President

ROBERT SERMAN MBE*

Chairman

JANE STOPFORD RUSSELL

Vice Chairman

JOHN GREER*

Treasurer

BRIAN DELLER

Secretary

ANN FITCHETT

Other Members

CHRISTOPHER HARRISON*.

CERI-JANE O'HARA.

CYNDY LANCASTER.

MIKE O'NEIL.

Hon Auditor

CLARE DAVID MA FCA

*Planning Committee

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 133rd Annual General Meeting will be held on
Friday 17th November 2017 at 7.30pm
In Haslemere Hall, Bridge Road, Haslemere
Surrey GU27 2AS

AGENDA

1. Welcome to members
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the last meeting
4. Chairman's report
5. Treasurer's report and accounts
6. Election of Auditor
7. Election of the Officers of the Committee
8. Speaker Brian Howard

The Speaker at This Year's AGM

Brian Howard, Florist and ex-Town Councillor and former Mayor will talk about; 'The Florist's Tale, a light hearted, provocative talk chronicling his own pilgrimage followed by his perspective on the Haslemere Society logo, 'For Haslemere: Past, Present and Future'.

Wine and canapes in the annexe afterwards

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Thank you all so much for continuing to support the Haslemere Society and a big welcome to those who have joined us during the past year. This report covers the year July 2016 – June 2017 and I am delighted to say that our membership over this period stands at over 550, which makes us one of the biggest organisations in the Town. It also reflects the large number of people who have an interest in maintaining the attractiveness of the place in which we live. There is so much about Haslemere which makes us proud and The Society exists as a kind of ginger group to keep a vigilant watch on changes which may not necessarily enhance our treasured environment.

We have a dedicated planning team who offer balanced comment and opinion to the Town Council and Waverley Borough Council and who are held in high regard. To that end they have reviewed and commented on over 20 of the most significant local planning applications in the past 12 months including the development of the hoarded site in Wey Hill, Sturt Farm, Barfold Farm Polo club, the Lythe Hill Hotel expansion and the Renaissance proposals on Petworth Road, to name but a few.

There is of course a continual flow of planning applications and the Society comments on those which could have a material influence on the character and amenities of the town. Our objective is to get improvements to the schemes submitted, to ensure they fit well into the Town, comply with the Haslemere Design statement, and that the design and materials chosen are of good quality which will not adversely affect the character of our Town, while being realistic about Government pressures.

Additionally our Planning team has strongly opposed proposals to remove the protection that exists on the land to the south of the Holy Cross Hospital, and has responded to consultations on sites for future housing in the town – both in connection with the preparation by Waverley of their new local plan. They have also made proposals for the updating and strengthening of the Haslemere Design Statement, based on its experience of using this document when commenting on many planning applications. We feel that it is important to provide a strong local perspective on planning applications to the Borough Council, which is of course a regular function of most Civic Societies throughout the country.

Your committee has set up a strategic working group, which is considering the issues of recruitment and retention of Trustees within our Society, following the current guidance and legal requirements, published by the Charity Commission code of Governance

Two long standing members of our committee have decided to stand down at the AGM. Robert Serman, feels that the time has come to retire from his position as our President. Robert has served the Society with huge enthusiasm for the last twenty years, having initially become involved at the time when the future of the Georgian Hotel seemed to be in question. More recently he played a leading role in setting up a Public Inquiry into the sudden, unwanted closure of the public footpath running from College Hill to the High Street, which was successfully resolved in favour of the residents. He has been a driving force in the organisation and will be much missed, as will Mike O'Neil, who, with his experience as retired Town Clerk of this town has been such an asset to the Society. He has represented the Society on the community Station Car park forum and the new Station Information hub. We hope that they will both continue to help the work of the Society as members.

We are grateful to Callum Hall who has managed our website and social media presence this year as part of his Duke of Edinburgh's Award volunteering requirement. He has kindly agreed to continue this work for another year. Catherine Eyre has been a much appreciated guiding influence in the background. We appear to have a good presence on Facebook with 1400 viewings last week [mid-August] and 546 followers.

Di Keeley and Simon Mackie are involved with the editing and production of our newsletter and Annual Report and many of you help distribute these publications. Diana Serman has kindly continued with her huge task of managing the membership. These, and many others not mentioned here by name, have been a tremendous help and our thanks go to them all. A local outing was arranged last October with the help of the Chairman of the Petworth Society who gave us a guided tour of the Town of Petworth finishing at the Cottage Museum. We were also involved in prompting Royal Mail to restore the Penfold letter box near the Georgian to its former glory. The

Haslemere Society, mindful of the Conservation Appraisal carried out in 2014, has identified, with the help of Cyndy Lancaster, John Greer and Robert Serman, various improvements which are still needed in the town, and are endeavouring to work with the Amenities Committee of the Haslemere Town Council to put them into place. We have kept the pressure up on certain issues which we hope might come to fruition before long.

Our two speakers during the year proved to be most interesting. Mr Robin Stannard, a heritage and conservation specialist, gave a well-researched presentation on the work of a leading Arts and Crafts, local architect Hugh Thackeray Turner. Dr. Marion Dell gave a talk from her new research on the Marshall family called "Our new Cottage in the Country". The house is now the home of The Hindhead School of Music and bears one of our Blue Plaques dedicated to William Marshall. A Blue plaque commemorating Conan Doyle, was unveiled last September at Undershaw, a splendid event coinciding with the opening of Stepping Stones School, attended by 400 guests. Our annual summer party was held at Undershaw at the end of June, which was very well supported. We were entertained by the Chiddingfold Flute Group, heard about the history and development of the school and its buildings from the general manager Norman Stromsoy and had the opportunity to look around. As the Society has had an involvement in saving the building over a ten year period, the end result is most gratifying.

These are some of the highlights of the past year and I should like to take this opportunity to thank everyone on the committee for the part they have played in keeping this revered Civic Society active. We hope that with reorganisation we can keep it flourishing for the benefit of future generations.

Jane Stopford Russell

TREASURER'S REPORT for the year to 30th. June 2017

I am pleased to report that The Haslemere Society made a profit of £714 for the year ending 30th June 2017 compared to a profit of just £53 for the previous year. Total income was somewhat higher at £4,202 partly due to the fact that our subscription income rose encouragingly, thanks to an increase in membership for the first time for a number of years. We also held a very successful summer party at Undershaw which was attended by over 120 people and made a valuable profit.

Expenditure of just under £3500 was about £400 lower than in 2016 and the major reason for this was the "one off" cost last year of the Blue Plaque to commemorate the Haslemere Riot. Other expenditure was broadly in line with previous years and included small donations towards the costs of the improvements at the railway station.

Our cash position has improved somewhat and reflects the improved profitability during the year. We still retain our £10,000 on short term deposit as a contingency fund.

The accounts are set out overleaf and a signed copy, audited by our honorary auditor Mrs. Clare David will be available for members attending the Annual General Meeting.

Brian Deller

THE HASLEMERE SOCIETY

**Annual Accounts
for the year ended 30th. June 2017**

| 2016 | | 2017 |
|--------------|---|--------------|
| £ | <u>INCOME</u> | £ |
| 3515 | Subscriptions & donations (incl.gift aid) | 3620 |
| 43 | Bank interest | 25 |
| 378 | Members activities & events - surplus | 544 |
| 18 | Other | 13 |
| 3954 | Total Income | 4202 |
| | <u>EXPENDITURE</u> | |
| 266 | Insurance | 267 |
| 200 | Donations to local causes | 200 |
| 851 | Printing & stationery | 795 |
| 54 | Postage & telephone | 55 |
| 611 | Amenity societies | 611 |
| 1341 | Meeting expenses - members & committee | 1305 |
| 159 | Marketing and local fairs | 64 |
| 374 | Blue plaques | - |
| 45 | Miscellaneous | 191 |
| 3901 | Total expenditure | 3488 |
| 53 | Net profit for the year | 714 |
| | <u>BALANCE SHEET</u> | |
| 12216 | Opening Balance | 12269 |
| 53 | Net profit for the year | 714 |
| 12269 | Total funds | 12983 |
| | Represented by: | |
| 10000 | Bank deposit bonds | 10000 |
| 1931 | Bank current account | 2247 |
| - | Stock of wine | 238 |
| -218 | Sundry creditors | -340 |
| 556 | Sundry debtors | 838 |
| 12269 | | 12983 |

Signed by : Brian Deller Hon. Treasurer

I certify that the statement set out above corresponds with the books and vouchers presented to me and fairly represents the financial position of the society.

Signed by Clare David MA, FCA (Hon. Auditor)

HASLEMERE SOCIETY DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

2017

AGM Friday 17th November at Haslemere Hall

2018

Spring Meeting Friday 20th April at Haslemere Hall

Summer party Friday 29th June at Haslemere Educational Museum

AGM Friday 16th November at Haslemere Hall

Post for the society may be sent/delivered to
Haslemere Educational Museum:

78 High Street, Haslemere
Surrey GU27 2LA

www.haslemeresociety.org