

## Haslemere Society 134<sup>th</sup> AGM

The 134<sup>th</sup> AGM of the Haslemere Society was held on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2018 in Haslemere Hall. The Society had originally been founded by Sir Robert Hunter, who lived here in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century, and went on to found the National Trust.

The retiring Chairman, Mrs Jane Stopford Russell, welcomed members of the Society and visitors, before commenting on the events of the past year in her annual report. She was delighted that the membership numbers remained constant at around 540, making it one of the biggest voluntary societies in the town, and providing an influential body when commenting on town and planning issues. She said that following a Strategic Review two years ago the Society, had been modernised in terms of its organisation and digital communications. Interesting newsletters entitled "Your Haslemere" have been circulated to members this year covering a wider variety of topics and the website has been constantly updated with copies of the comments on planning applications and letters to Waverley Borough Council. The Society has liaised with the other Civic Societies in Waverley to share challenges and interests. Although two committee members were retiring she was pleased that 5 new people had expressed an interest in helping to run the Society. Following an election of a new Chairman, she handed the meeting over to Chris Harrison who explained the new constitution, which was duly adopted. The Vice Chairman, John Greer, then presented Jane Stopford Russell with a token of appreciation from the Society for her hard work in chairing the Society for the last six years and presiding over its modernisation, having been on the committee for 13 years. The Town Mayor, David Round was then invited to give an update of Town Council matters and local issues. After the formality of the AGM, members of the public were then invited to join the membership for a talk on the "Lost Sons of Haslemere" featuring biographies of 5 of the men named on our town war memorials. This was the Societies' contribution to the WW1 commemorations in Haslemere. The topic had been researched by Shirley Harrison and was presented by Chris Harrison, her husband, and now the new Chairman of the Society. Everyone enjoyed wine and plentiful canapes to end the evening in a most convivial atmosphere.