

Registered Charity: registered in England and Wales No. 255287

The Haslemere Society

**REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED
30 June 2018**

The Haslemere Society

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 June 2018

Charity registration number: 255287

Registered office: Weald View,
Petworth Road,
Haslemere,
Surrey,
GU27 3AU

Trustees:	Jane Stopford Russell	Chairman
	Brian Deller	Treasurer
	Chris Harrison	

Secretary: Ann Fitchett

Independent examiner: Clare David

The Haslemere Society

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 133rd Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday 16th November 2018 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. Trustees' report and accounts
6. Election of incoming Chairman and Trustees
7. Election of Independent Examiner
8. Adoption of new constitution
9. Appreciation for outgoing Chairman

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CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 June 2018

I have pleasure in presenting my annual report for the year ending 30th June 2018. First of all, may I thank you all for your continued support of the Haslemere Society during this last year. I am happy to say that we have gained new members to replace those lost and our membership stands at 532 which includes several life members, which is a great advantage to all. The size of our membership reinforces our position as one of the largest and, as many of you know, one of the oldest organisations in the town, having its origins in the late nineteenth century as the brain child of Sir Robert Hunter, who went on to become a founding member of the National Trust. As such there is the potential to have great influence over the developments and preservation of our unique town and its lively community.

I have been very concerned about the future of this Society with the well documented lack of volunteers in the voluntary sector of society at large. A couple of years ago, we set up a Strategic Review under the guidance of David Smith and the changes we decided to instigate are slowly taking shape. We had a successful new members' event in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall in January, when we presented the work and aims of the Society and recruited help to establish the teams which will run the Society. This will be an ongoing dynamic process. Our first digital newsletter called Your Haslemere was sent out to members in March this year. The vast majority of members can now receive our communications electronically and we hope to introduce further internet banking facilities soon. We feel we have generated more communication with members through the half yearly updates, and the occasional messages issued by the committee.

During the last year we have enjoyed two interesting speakers at our meetings. Firstly, Brian Howard, talking about his involvement in all the interesting events established here in Haslemere, in recent years. Secondly, Ken Bare, Vice Chairman of the Surrey Hills Society, who gave a beautifully illustrated talk about their work. We enjoyed our summer party at the end of June in the gardens of the Museum with copious amounts of wine and canapes made by members. We have usually been lucky with the weather, but this time it was exceptional!

We have taken an active interest in the Community Rail partnership project and loaned them our aerial photographs of the town, now displayed on the walls of the Information Hub at the Station. We also tried to find volunteers to man the Hub. A stand was taken at the Charities Fair held in Haslemere Hall last November aiming to

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promote the Society and we shall do the same this year. We have kept in touch with other local Civic Societies in Waverley to share our challenges and interests.

As ever, our superb planning team has been very busy analysing and commenting on the various planning application put before the public. It is very encouraging that this team has expanded since our strategic review last year. Financially we are lucky enough to be in a robust position, thanks to our very efficient, loyal treasurer, Brian Deller. Our website has been ably updated for the past two years by Callum Hall who has now stepped back to concentrate on his A levels. More generally, our digital transformation is underway and last but not least, we are really delighted to welcome 3 new committee members, Gareth David, Howard Brown and Dawn Brown. We are very grateful to Cyndy Lancaster for her involvement over the last five years, but she has decided that the time has come to retire from the committee. The Society has benefitted from her enthusiasm for the Conservation area, the Local Buildings of Merit scheme, and her caring for the general appearance of the town.

I have very much enjoyed my involvement with the Haslemere Society, and over the last six years, as Chairman. We have had fun with the Blue Plaques and their unveilings, the wonderful formal dinner to commemorate Sir Robert Hunter and the interesting venues used to hold our summer parties. It was pleasing to be able to offer young musicians an opportunity to perform their instruments at many of these summer events. The setting up of the Children's Writing Competition for local school children to celebrate Sir Robert Hunter's influence in this locality, was also an important contribution to the community, of which the Society is a part. On a personal level, being on this committee has given me the opportunity of getting to know so many interesting people whom I would never otherwise have met and seeing buildings I would never otherwise have seen. The committee of course has been wonderful to work with, and we are all so happy that Chris Harrison will now be taking over the role of Chairman and will continue guiding the Society into the modern digital world. Chris is a very long-standing resident of Haslemere, having brought up his family here, and has a good understanding of both the opportunities and the challenges we face here in Haslemere.

As a parting thought, why not take every opportunity yourselves, to get involved in supporting the preservation of all that gives pleasure in this lovely town, a town we have chosen to invest in and make our home. As our new logo says

“Love the Town we Live in”

Jane Stopford Russell
17 September 2018

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TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 June 2018

Governing Document

The governing document of the society is a constitution adopted on 11 April 2003. At the forthcoming AGM, a proposal will be put to members to adopt a new constitution primarily for the purposes of coming in line with the model provisions of such documents as put forward by the Charities Commission.

Aims of the Organisation

The object of the society is to organise concerted action for the improvement, protection and preservation of rural scenery or features of local interest in the town and villages within the Haslemere area.

To fulfil these objects, the society organises itself into three working groups, covering planning, heritage and the environment. Each of these groups works with other community groups, to further their individual objectives. In addition, two meetings are held each year, which are both a social opportunity for members, and an opportunity to hear a speaker on a topic of local interest.

Members are also invited to an annual social gathering, each summer.

Public Benefit

The Trustees consider their activities operate in the public benefit, in accordance with the duty imposed by section 4 of the 2006 Charities Act. The Trustees have also had regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charities Commission. Membership is open to all residents of Haslemere.

Review of Financial Activities and Affairs

The Society achieved a surplus of £745 for the year to 30 June 2018, compared to a profit of £714 in the previous year.

Our subscription income fell slightly, due to a small reduction in membership numbers. However, the continuing popularity of the summer party, held this year at the museum once again, enabled us to maintain our total income very close to last year's figure.

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Expenditure was also slightly lower in 2017/18 compared with the previous year. The major reduction was savings on printing costs due to our introduction of communication via the internet for the distribution of newsletters. We hope to continue this trend further in the future.

The cost of meetings (for both members and the committee) rose somewhat, due partly to the creation of a meeting for new members in the spring. This seems to have been appreciated and may well be continued in the future. Other expenditure is much in line with previous years.

Our bank balance of £3481 reflects the impact of our surplus for the year and the £10000 that is held on deposit remains a reserve fund for any exceptional costs that may arise. All in all, The Society's finances are in a healthy state.

Risk Management

The Trustees consider the principal risks of operating the society to be the loss of funds and the risk of litigation because of the society's actions. Both risks are considered to be relatively low. The investment policy set out below addresses the risk to funds. Any significant actions taken by the society are discussed by the Trustees as a group, with consideration given to the likely consequences.

Reserves

The company has reserves of £13,728 at the end of the financial year. The Trustees consider that it is appropriate to maintain a reserve of at least £10,000 to cover the possibility that it needs to mobilise resources to address a particular issue of local concern.

Investment Policy

The investment policy of the Trustees is to hold any surplus funds in low risk, accessible, interest bearing accounts.

Trustees

The Trustees during the year were those listed on page 2 of the report and financial statements. All offer themselves for election at the annual general meeting. The new governing document offered for adoption at the annual general meeting confers on the Trustees the powers previously conferred upon what was known as the general committee. In view of this, it is proposed that the other members of the earlier general committee be appointed as Trustees, and accordingly they put themselves forward for election at the annual general meeting. The proposed Trustees who offer themselves for election are Howard and Dawn Brown, Ann Fitchett and John Greer.

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None of the Trustees receive any remuneration for their services.

The Trustees meet regularly, typically around 6 times each year.

From time to time, the Trustees will incur necessary expenses, for which they are reimbursed.

Trustees' Responsibilities for the Financial Statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities published on 16 July 2014.

Signed for and on behalf of the Trustees on 17 September 2018.

Jane Stopford

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INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

I report on the Financial Statements for the period ended 30 June 2018 which are set out on pages 9 to 13.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). At the request of the Trustees, I have conducted an independent examination.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the next statement.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- i. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Acthave not been met; or
- ii. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Clare David

17 September 2018

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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 June 2018

	2018	2017
	£	£
	Unrestricted general fund	Unrestricted general fund
Incoming Resources		
Subscriptions & donations (including gift aid)	3510	3620
Bank interest	32	25
Activities for generating funds	534	544
Other	-	13
Total Incoming Resources	£4,076	£4,202
 Resources Expended		
Insurance	272	267
Donations to local causes	130	200
Printing & stationery	408	795
Postage & telephone	140	55
Amenity societies	641	611
Meeting expenses - members & committee	1609	1305
Marketing and local fairs	40	64
Miscellaneous	91	191
Total Resources Expended	£3,331	£3,488
 Net Incoming Resources	 £745	 £714

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BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 June 2018

	Notes	2018	2017
		£	£
CURRENT ASSETS			
Bank deposit bonds		10000	10000
Bank current account		3481	2247
Sundry debtors		520	838
Stock of wine			238
		<u>£14,001</u>	<u>£13,323</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Sundry creditors		273	340
		<u>£13,728</u>	<u>£12,983</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS			
		<u>£13,728</u>	<u>£12,983</u>
TOTAL ASSETS			
		<u>£13,728</u>	<u>£12,983</u>
RESERVES			
Unrestricted general fund		<u>£13,728</u>	<u>£12,983</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 19 September 2018.

Brian Deller
Treasurer

The Haslemere Society

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 June 2018

1. Going Concern

The accounts are prepared on a going concern basis as, in the opinion of the Trustees, regular donations received and receivable, together with funds that can reasonably be expected from our periodic fundraising initiatives will be sufficient to meet planned expenditure for a period of at least twelve months from the date of signing these accounts.

2. Accounting Policies

Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

The principal accounting policies of the charity are set out below.

Basis of Preparation

The accounts are prepared on a cash basis

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted General Funds are membership subscriptions and other incoming resources received or generated for expenditure on the general objectives of the charity at the discretion of the Trustees.

3. Fund Movements

	At 30 June 2017 £	Income £	Expenses £	At 30 June 2018 £
Unrestricted General fund	12,983	4,076	3,321	13,728

