

# Your Haslemere

The Newsletter of The Haslemere Society  
Spring 2025

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## Chairman's Welcome

Chris Harrison



Welcome to our Spring 2025 newsletter.

At last, we are enjoying some fine spring weather, and I hope this will give you the opportunity to read our latest newsletter in the sunshine.

The newsletter leads off with an article by Gareth David, summarising the discussion at our 2024 annual general meeting at which I chaired a lively discussion on food waste in Haslemere which was well received by the members present. It was particularly pleasing for The Society to have facilitated a connection between amazing national charity Fareshare, Haslemere Food Bank and Love Haslemere, Hate Waste who have recently launched the community fridge which is accessible to all. As members will know, we have worked hard in recent years to improve collaboration with other organisations across the community and this is a great example of the fruits of that effort.

As members know, the repeat of the Red Court planning appeal for procedural reasons was a source of great disappointment and the repeat process kicks off on 8th April. Society trustee Howard Brown who also chairs the Haslemere South Residents Association which is leading for the community on the appeal shares an update.

This is followed by two articles on the forthcoming Haslemere Festival which this year coincides with and includes centenary events for the Dolmetsch Festival which did so much to enrich the cultural life of Haslemere. Dolmetsch family member Brian Blood shares his reflections.

Celebrating another anniversary, we include an article on the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Haslemere's thriving U3A, in which many of our members participate.

Our intrepid editor, Gareth David shares another bus journey and, of course we have another chapter in my wife, Shirley's series, The Lost Sons of Haslemere.

As ever, my thanks to Di Keeley for summarising the many events that are coming up in Haslemere and to Simon Mackie for yet another wonderful cartoon.

Enjoy the newsletter and the sunshine.

## Harnessing food waste in Haslemere

*By Gareth David*



**LOVE HASLEMERE.  
HATE WASTE.**

*At the Society's AGM last November there was a lively discussion with representatives from three local organisations dedicated to tackling the related problems of food waste and families suffering from food poverty. For those who were unable to be at the meeting, here is a selection of comments from the speakers:*

**DAN SLATTER is Manager of the Surrey & Sussex Branch of Fareshare, the UK's national network of charitable food redistributors, moving quality surplus food from across the food industry to nearly 8,500 frontline charities and community groups.**

"Each year approximately 11 million tonnes of food is wasted in the UK. We work as an organisation with the food industry, the hospitality sector, retailing, agriculture and manufacturing to try and reduce food waste. It is an environmental disaster globally and here in the UK, where 20% of carbon emissions come from the food industry, so every time food is wasted that is carbon that has been emitted for no benefit.

"Of the 11m tonnes of wasted food each year, about 5m tonnes is perfectly edible food, not food that has gone off or past its use by date. What we try to do at Fareshare is stand in the gap between all parts of the food industry and we work with a network of charities across the three counties, supplying them with food at a much discounted rate.

"We charge a small membership fee which is paid by the 144 charities we work with – there are currently 20 of that total in Surrey, but more are joining us. We opened a warehouse in Guildford in May 2024, so that we could serve residents in Surrey along with our coverage of East and West Sussex, which we have served for the past 23 years.

"The other sociological disaster that is going on is what the Joseph Rowntree Trust has estimated as being one in five people in the UK who are living with food insecurity, a number which gets even worse when it is one in four children. In some towns and cities the picture is even worse, and in Bolton, for example the number is reckoned to be one in two people.

"Fareshare covers the whole of England through a network of 34 warehouses handling a total of 60,000 tonnes of food a year. This is a great deal, but 5 million tonnes of food is wasted each year, so even though we are the largest food redistribution charity in the UK, we are only scraping the barrel. There are about 8,500 charities across the UK receiving a weekly food delivery from us each year.

"We distributed 2 million meals in Sussex and Surrey last year, amounting to around 1,200 tonnes of food, and we estimate that equates to around £2.8m worth of food that we redistributed to the 144 charities. It means those charities can spend money on core services rather than food."

**JENNIFER EDWARDS works in our local library and is a founder of "Love Haslemere, Hate Waste" a community-based organisation which has recently opened a Community Fridge and operates our local repair shop.**

"Our charity was launched in 2019 and the repair café was its first venture. Every month we are at the Swan Inn from 10.00am to 1.00pm and people can bring in broken items for repair, such as bicycles and electronic gadgets such as vacuum cleaners and clothing. "When something breaks down, the first thought for many people is simply to throw it away and much of this waste will then end up in landfill.

"We want to achieve a reduction in waste in Haslemere by changing people's attitudes, by repairing rather than throwing away and promoting sustainable lifestyle habits. There are a number of waste streams including food, reusables, clothing, and plastics and our goal is to have a campaign for each of these waste streams.

"So in the case of reusables, we have the repair café and we have also opened a library of things, based in Haslemere Library. The idea behind this is to have things like ladders, power drills and garden equipment that are often barely used, but end up in your garage. So instead of buying those things, you can hire them for a fee of between £3.00 and £5.00 plus a refundable deposit, have the item for two weeks then return it.

"In clothing we are planning a campaign called 'Love style, hate waste' and are looking for volunteers to join us with their ideas. We also hire out for free litter picking kits from the information hub at the station, so you can call in and take out a kit for 2-3 hours and then when you are out for a walk you can just pick up litter.

"Our latest campaign is the community fridge, based as a gym studio on the Unicorn Industrial Estate behind the station, where we have just signed a five year contract with Fareshare, which will initially be supplying the bulk of the food that we will be giving away,

along with a couple of local businesses. But once we are fully established we will start accepting donations from the public.”

**DAVID RICE was joint founder 12 years ago of Haslemere Food Bank, which operates from Haslemere Methodist Church and provides essential food to local families in need.**

“12 years ago Citizens’ Advice rang around a few local churches to ask if anyone was likely to set up a food bank in Haslemere. People from the various churches met and decided that this was something they could do. At the time I was a volunteer at the food bank in Bordon and was the only person in the room who knew anything about it!

“We formed a small group of people who worked out what we wanted, and where was the best place to locate it. A traditional parish church was not really suitable for a food bank, so we ended up at the Methodist church, which has a number of particular advantages.

“It is a modernish building, which also has a café that is open from Tuesday to Saturday, which means people can come in without indicating to others that they are going to a food bank. What it also means is that when they do come in, they can stay for as long as they like and can have a tea or coffee.

“One thing I learned early on is that food is never the issue. It is always something else that leaves you without enough money to buy the food you need. Some people come to us over long periods – one of the things at the time we set up was that food banks were telling people that you could visit three times.

“But we quickly discovered that if you were in dispute with the Department for Work and Pensions, your benefits would be stopped and it would take 8-10 weeks to get your benefits restored, so only being able to visit a food bank three times was not a lot of help to people.

“We also discovered that because many people have other issues they would need other help so we insist that people are referred to us by another agency – social workers, health centre, a school or a local church – all sorts of agencies that are helping people with their problems. We don’t give advice, but point people to places that might help them, and try to ensure they are getting help with things like debts and other financial issues which are causing them to need a food bank.

“Most people don’t visit for all that long, but some people have been coming to us for quite a long time and these are people with mental ill-health, with chronic physical illnesses and often families with children who have some sort of impairment, where the child has to go to clinics or have special equipment in the home, all of which is enormously expensive and which makes life difficult.

“When any family is referred to us, we aim to give them a pack of food which we believe will last them for a week, comprising breakfast, snack lunch and a dinner. It is not wildly generous, but it is enough and does help people supplement what they get for themselves. We are run entirely by volunteers, some of whom have been with us since the early days, while some have moved on, inspired by their work with the food bank.

"We are deeply grateful to the people of Haslemere, who have supported the food bank from the beginning. I am a great believer in people taking the trouble to go and buy food, with the purpose of handing it on, and a lot of people in Haslemere do that."

## Red Court goes to a second Appeal

*By Howard Brown*



The pursuit for permission to develop on the National Landscape (formerly AONB) to the South of Haslemere has commenced again with a second Appeal. Following a judicial review the Red Court planning dispute is to start all over again on Tuesday, 8 April.

The original Inspector dismissed the original appeal stating that there were insufficient benefits of developing on the National Landscape which would outweigh the demonstrable damage caused by such a development. This new appeal requires the destruction of the Midhurst Road tree line to allow access onto the green fields to the south of Haslemere.

Sadly just before Christmas, despite the efforts of the Surrey Tree Wardens, Surrey Highways decided to completely fell a historic ancient beech tree on safety grounds. The trees were highlighted by the developer's arborist as a potential safety threat.

At this point the trees became a commodity and were simply in the way for the developer's access onto the protected National Landscape. The Tree Wardens pushed for Tree Protection Orders (TPO) on all the remaining trees which has now being fully granted. This should stop further nefarious damage the amenity tree line.

The public appeal day is at midday on **Tuesday, 8th April** at the Burys, Godalming for anyone who wishes to attend. You can also follow the live feed here <https://www.youtube.com/@WaverleyBorough/streams> and your participation will be recorded.

With three failed attempts at a planning application, it is hoped that the Inspector sees the value of the local National Landscape over the damage which will be inflicted on Haslemere. As Waverley stated it has a duty of care, The National Landscape has a defined protection and whereas we need housing, these are the wrong houses in the wrong place.

## Looking back 100 years: the 1925 Haslemere Festival

*By Brian Blood*



*The Dolmetsch Family*

To many of those living in Haslemere in 1925, the first Haslemere Festival must have seemed somewhat exotic even if not entirely out of place. Haslemere, only an hour's train journey from London, had become an attractive residence for artists and writers who yearned for a country life.

### ***Jonathan Meades writing in *The London Review of Books* sets the scene:***

"The smocked children with hoops sprang from kitsch canvases into a sort of life under the guidance of, inter alia, the Peasant Arts Guild and Peasant Arts Fellowship, whose propagandists, among them the painter and potter Godfrey Blount, railed against the usual targets: cities, mechanised agriculture, 'materialism', mass production.

"Blount championed folk music of questionable provenance played on 'original' instruments, 'traditional' dance, carving and chamfering handmade wooden toys at the John Ruskin School in Haslemere. He hailed 'the dawning of nobler conceptions of the charm of labour and the unity of life', which actually meant that you couldn't move for looms, spinners and weavers and houses with names like Honeyhanger, Honey Hill, Stotley Rough, Coneybury, Coneyhurst on the Hill."

### ***This diatribe drew a rejoinder from composer and author, Michael Maxwell Steer:***

"Yet if it weren't for the pioneering Arts and Crafts antiquarianism of the instrument-maker Arnold Dolmetsch and the Haslemere Festival, historically informed performance practice wouldn't have become so significant in international music."

In 1917 the Dolmetsch family, based temporarily in Thursley, were seeking a permanent home to get away from the bombing in London. The 1899 London Arts & Crafts Exhibition had included Dolmetsch keyboard instruments and examples of work produced by Godfrey Blount and the Haslemere Weaving Industry. Dolmetsch had memories of a visit to George Bernard Shaw in Hindhead twelve years previously and more recent contact with Joseph King at a London concert organised by The Peasant Arts Society.

The arrival at 'Jesses' in December 1917 has been delightfully recreated in a BBC Secret Surrey episode entitled "Haslemere's musical gift."

Dolmetsch, now approaching his sixtieth birthday, re-established his workshop making early musical instruments and travelled widely to give lectures and concerts. He continued to travel to London to maintain instruments and to teach. He gave music lessons at the small school based over the road from 'Jesses' in St George's Wood which led to an invitation to do the same at Bedales' junior school Dunhurst.

It was about this time that Cyril Goldie, a family friend now teaching art in Liverpool, introduced Marco Pallis who wanted to study with Dolmetsch. Pallis was independently wealthy and keen to support and expand Dolmetsch's activities. In 1920 he financed the building of a self-contained workshop (now called 'The Studio') adjacent to 'Jesses'. In 1922 Pallis organised a 'Festival of Music of the 16th, 17th & 18th Centuries' at the Rushworth Hall in Liverpool.

Spread over 11 days (8-18 May), it combined a static exhibition of Dolmetsch-made and antique musical instruments with four concerts featuring Arnold, Mabel, Cécile, Nathalie and Rudolph Dolmetsch and many Liverpool-based colleagues among them Mr & Mrs Cyril Goldie, William Doran, Tom Goodey and Marco Pallis.

Pallis was involved also in planning for the 1925 Haslemere Festival which modelled itself on the Liverpool Festival. The effort involved in transporting people and products from Haslemere to Liverpool had taken its toll on Dolmetsch. It was agreed that rather than moving themselves around the country, it would be preferable for the audiences to come to them.

***Margaret Campbell, Dolmetsch's biographer, writes:***

"Although Dolmetsch welcomed controversy, he was shrewd enough to know that a festival would attract more attention if he could persuade a celebrity to open the proceedings with a few friendly words.

"It was to (George Bernard) Shaw, who had helped him so much in the past, that he wrote, but the request was rejected with characteristic wit and good advice." Shaw argued that a speech would distract from the music, and attract those who would not attend "for the love of music" but "'idiots' who come to gape and never return."

"Nonetheless Dolmetsch insisted that a speaker was needed, Campbell reports that "at the first concert (25 August 1925) Joseph King, a businessman, and ex-MP with a love for music, made the introductory speech."

***Mabel Dolmetsch, in her book 'Personal Recollections of Arnold Dolmetsch', recounts much of the 'behind-the-scenes' detail:***

"I made arrangements with the Burgess Café of those days to remain open in the evenings. Consequently, members of the audience, with many of the performers and representatives of the Press, used to foregather there and finish off the evening in sociable fashion."

She records that the audiences included Sir Henry Wood, Dr W.G. Whittaker and Sir Adrian Boult, while members of the press included H.E. Wortham (of the Morning Post), Basil Maine (of The Daily Telegraph - who stayed for the whole two weeks), A.H. Fox Strangways (of The Observer) and the musicologist and cellist Edmund Van Der Straeten (of The Musical Times).

And as they say, the rest is history. The Festival took place again the following year and apart from limited concerts to raise funds for War charities between 1940 and 1944 continued into the twenty-first century bringing audiences from around the world to what the American harpsichord-maker Frank Hubbard, remembering his training in the immediate post-war Dolmetsch workshops, called 'a fairy village'.

## Haslemere Festival returns

*By Adrian Stent*



In May 2025 Haslemere Festival returns with a programme of over 50 events, once again celebrating and showcasing the remarkable depth of local talent, with invited guests from further afield. The programme includes classical, jazz and folk concerts, family and weekend events, as well as a series of 20 talks.

The Festival in its current incarnation has been running since 2004, but 2025 marks the centenary of the founding of the original Haslemere Festival of Early Music, which holds a distinguished place in musical history and was at the heart of the early music revival in Britain and internationally.

### **The Haslemere Festival of Early Music**

The story of the original Haslemere Festival begins with the pioneering work of Arnold Dolmetsch, a French-born musician and instrument maker who emigrated to England in the early 1880s to study at the Royal College of Music. It was here that he first came across music for viol consort and began restoring surviving original instruments. Within a decade he had made his first lute and clavichord.

In 1917 the Dolmetsch family moved from Hampstead in London to Surrey, setting up home at Jesses, an Arts and Crafts house in Grayswood Road, Haslemere. Arnold established an instrument-making workshop at Jesses and proceeded to make copies of instruments dating from the 15th to 18th centuries including viols, lutes and keyboard instruments.

In 1919, after losing his antique treble recorder on a platform at Waterloo station, and following months of experimentation, Arnold successfully produced the first recorder of modern times. Thus began the Dolmetsch family association with recorders for which they are most famous.

Arnold encouraged the members of his family to learn the skills of instrument-making and musicianship, and the family frequently appeared together in concerts, playing instruments made in the Dolmetsch workshops. In 1925 he established the Haslemere Festival of Early Music, which became an internationally recognised meeting point for musicians, scholars, and enthusiasts of early music.

Held at Haslemere Hall, with events at other venues including St Christopher's Church and Haslemere Educational Museum, the Festival featured concerts, lectures, and demonstrations of instruments, often with contributions from prominent performers and researchers in the field. What set the Festival apart was its commitment not only to the music itself but to the means of performance.

The musicians played on carefully reconstructed period instruments and observed historical performance practices, an approach that would be widely adopted by early music ensembles across the world.

After Arnold Dolmetsch's death in 1940 the Festival continued under the stewardship of his son Carl, who had taken part in the family music-making from the age of 4, and who made his debut on the recorder during the second Haslemere Festival in 1926. Following the success of this concert Arnold handed over the entire responsibility for recorders production to Carl, even though he was only 15 at the time.

From this moment on, Carl dedicated his life to the recorder, and through his skill as a designer, craftsman and virtuoso performer he elevated the status of the instrument, so that it was once more regarded seriously by the musical world, as it had been in the 18th century.

During the Second World War the workshop at Jesses was used to manufacture precision plastic parts for the Military. Carl saw the potential of this technology for recorder production, and the result was an affordable plastic recorder that revolutionised musical education and made 'recorder' a household word.

After his first performance at the Festival in 1926 Carl performed in every Festival up to the 72nd in 1996 at the age of 86, and directed every Festival from 1940, the year his father died.

During his tenure as Festival Director Carl fulfilled the role with imagination and flair, broadening the scope of the Festival and introducing concerts for schools, entertaining and educating many generations of children. Following his death in 1997, Carl's daughter Jeanne assumed the role of Festival Director through to its final appearance in 2001.

In all, the Haslemere Festival of Early Music ran for 77 years without interruption, leaving a rich legacy in the fields of music history, performance practice, and instrument making.

### **A New Haslemere Festival**

In 2003 Hamish Donaldson approached the Dolmetsch family to ask for permission to use the name "Haslemere Festival" for a new biennial arts festival in Haslemere. The family readily agreed and the new Haslemere Festival ran for the first time in 2004. It has since run every other year, alternating with the Haslemere Fringe Festival from 2014.

#### ***For May 2025 the 11th Haslemere Festival will include:***

- VE Day celebrations on Lion Green on Saturday 10 May,
- Evening and weekend concerts including Classical, Jazz, Folk, Opera and Choral. Special guests include internationally renowned concert pianist Angela Hewitt and Classic FM Rising Star Jeneba Kanneh-Mason. Local favourites include Haslemere Musical Society, Harlequin Chamber Choir and Mates & Godfree
- London Mozart Players with the joint winners of Haslemere International String Competition 2025
- Weekend and family events including Little Lumpy Cycling Sportive, RSPCA Dog Show and Haslemere Classic Car Show
- Weekday talks on a wide variety of topics including Jane Austen, Gustav Holst, Artificial Intelligence, Benjamin Britten, Crossing the Atlantic at 89, The Meaning of Music, The Great Escape, Composing for the Movies, Wham, The Geology of Wine, What Music Means, JMW Turner and much more.

On the weekend of 17/18 May, Haslemere Festival will pay tribute to its illustrious predecessor and to the remarkable Dolmetsch family, celebrating the centenary of the founding of the Haslemere Festival of Early Music with a programme of workshops and recitals.

To join in the celebration we are delighted to welcome early music musicians Palisander, Chris Orton, and Slava Sidorenko, with special guests Marguerite Dolmetsch, Brian Blood and Philip Thorby.

***For full details of the Dolmetsch centenary celebrations and Haslemere Festival 2025 visit [haslemerefestival.org.uk](http://haslemerefestival.org.uk), or search "Haslemere Festival 2025".***



The poster features a dark green background with a white silhouette of a building on the left. Below the silhouette, the text reads "HASLEMERE FESTIVAL MAY 2025". To the right, there are several small images: a large crowd, a woman playing a harpsichord, a woman playing a guitar, a classic car show, three women sitting on a yellow sofa, and a cyclist. At the bottom left, there is a QR code and social media icons for Facebook and Instagram, with the website "haslemerefestival.org.uk" below them. On the right side, there are three main sections of text: "MUSIC" listing genres like Classical, Jazz, Opera, Choral, Folk, and various artists; "EVENTS" listing activities like VE Day 80th Celebrations, Classic Car Show, Little Lumpy Cycling, and RSPCA Dog Show; and "...TALKS" listing topics like Jane Austen, Examining A Gustav Holst, The Great Escape, JMW Turner, and Benjamin Britten.

**MUSIC**  
CLASSICAL  
JAZZ OPERA  
CHORAL FOLK  
ANGELA HEWITT  
LONDON MOZART  
PLAYERS JENEBA  
KANNEH-MASON  
HASLEMERE MUSICAL  
SOCIETY HARLEQUIN  
CHAMBER CHOIR  
*and much more..*

**EVENTS**  
VE DAY 80TH  
CELEBRATIONS  
CLASSIC CAR  
SHOW LITTLE  
LUMPY CYCLING  
RSPCA DOG SHOW  
DOLMETSCH  
CENTENARY..  
*and much more..*

**...TALKS**  
JANE AUSTEN  
EXAMINING A  
GUSTAV HOLST  
THE GREAT ESCAPE  
JMW TURNER  
BENJAMIN BRITTEN  
*and much more..*

haslemerefestival.org.uk

## Haslemere U3A Celebrates 30 Years

*By Richard Mason*



How did seventeen culinary challenged men create a cookbook that's sold around the world, its back cover a photo inspired by Calendar Girls? Well, it's just one of many dishes served up by Cooking for Men, aka Gourmet Geezers, one of about 70 groups run by Haslemere U3A. Not everyone knows of the U3A, and even fewer of its French roots, incidentally that didn't inspire the cooking.

It may surprise you to know that U3A is one of the most successful educational movements for older adults in the UK, currently 440,000 members. Actually there's no age limit and it's more than learning. Much more, its fostering intellectual stimulation, social engagement, and community involvement.

Potentially there's no limit to the number of group activities because it's all down to the members. Now celebrating its 30th anniversary Haslemere U3A goes from strength to strength. But to understand its UK development one must first look to its French beginnings and the philosophies that shaped its foundation.

### **Origins of U3A: France's Université du Troisième Âge**

In 1973 Professor Pierre Vellas established the first Université du Troisième Âge at the University of Toulouse. His concept of lifelong learning for retirees was academically driven, operating within traditional universities offering older adults structured courses and lectures provided by professional educators.

This approach sought to keep senior citizens engaged in intellectual pursuits, allowing them to continue learning in a structured environment. The French model quickly inspired similar initiatives in Belgium, Switzerland, and Spain. However, when the concept reached the UK the rules radically changed in a way that would define its success and longevity.

### **U3A in the UK: a new approach**

Michael Young, Eric Midwinter and Peter Laslett, all well-known social reformers and educationalists were involved in the founding of the U3A in the UK. They shared a belief in self-help and mutual aid, and especially ordinary people running their own affairs. The UK model emphasised a peer-to-peer learning structure, in which members taught and learned from one another, without the need for academic oversight or professional educators.

This shift from an institution-led approach to a community driven one was groundbreaking and designed to be self-sufficient, with each local group setting its own curriculum and organising learning activities, without university affiliation. This flexibility made the U3A more accessible and sustainable, ensuring it reached a wider audience without the constraints of academic bureaucracy.

It's an interesting example of exponential growth because as more people join potentially the more can be done. One new person offering a group attracts maybe 10 members & then one of them can offer a group and so it goes on.

### **Growth and expansion**

From its modest beginnings in 1982, the U3A movement in the UK grew rapidly. By the early 1990s, there were hundreds of groups and membership numbers climbed as more retirees recognized the benefits of intellectual and social engagement.

Members could learn new skills, explore hobbies, or deepen their knowledge in areas of personal interest. Subjects offered ranged from history, literature, and science to languages, music, and computing. Not forgetting in Haslemere, Cooking For Men.

Importantly, the structure allows members to become both teachers and learners, creating a unique sense of empowerment and community. The absence of exams and qualifications also contributes to its appeal, as members enjoy learning purely for personal enrichment rather than assessment.

With such expansion the need for a national coordinating body became evident. In response, the Third Age Trust was established. The Trust provides guidance, resources, and training creating a sense of cohesion while allowing each local U3A the freedom to tailor its activities to its members' needs.

### **Formation of Haslemere U3A in 1995**

Memories and indeed members are sparse given the passage of time but some recollections exist. Apparently Farnham had a thriving U3A drawing people from far and wide. Being a victim of their own success they needed to ease the pressure on Farnham. Hence they put posters up around Haslemere inviting people to a meeting to create an Haslemere U3A.

The meeting was in Haslemere Hall which became the 'home' of the local U3A. Fast forward to today and there are 800 members and nigh on 70 different groups. A new addition is the Classic Car group which quickly grew to 24 members.

### ***Leslie Wilson (member no 91)***

"My recollections of the beginning of the U3A in Haslemere are rather sparse. I saw a notice in the museum and went to the well-attended meeting. There were calls for volunteers to form a committee which met with the usual reluctance. To my surprise the lady sitting next to me, who I did not know, suggested to the chairman that I would be a suitable person and he assuming her to be my wife suggested she join as well so we both became founding committee members. I have forgotten her name but I remember she played the cello or was it the harp? "

Jeff Wise, member no 93, became its founding Chairman. Haslemere Hall has a small but well equipped kitchen and a spacious adjoining annex. These facilities tempted Jeff to start a new group for men (probably encouraged by their wives) to pick up some cooking skills. And this brings us back to where we started, yes, Cooking for Men and Jeff was its first

group leader. He continued to be a much valued member of the group until he retired from the group in 2021. It's now in the capable hands of Mike Foster.

### **The Digital Age and U3A s Adaptation**

As society evolved, so too did the U3A. The rise of the digital age presented both challenges and opportunities for the organization. While some older adults initially found technology daunting, the U3A actively encouraged digital literacy among its members. Many local groups introduced courses on computing, internet use, and social media, helping older learners bridge the digital divide.

The COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 further accelerated this digital shift. With in-person meetings restricted, U3A groups swiftly adapted to online learning. Video conferencing platforms such as Zoom became essential tools, allowing members to continue engaging in educational activities and social interactions. The resilience of the U3A during this period highlighted its flexibility and its members' willingness to embrace new methods of learning. Zoom groups still exist extending the U3A's reach to a level never dreamt of before.

### **U3A's impact and legacy in the UK**

Today, the U3A is one of the largest and most successful educational movements for older adults in the UK. With over 1,000 local groups and more than 440,000 members, its impact is far-reaching.

The organisation has not only enriched the lives of countless individuals but has also contributed to a broader societal shift in how aging is perceived. No longer seen as a period of decline, the third age is now recognised as a time of opportunity, growth, and engagement.

Success of the U3A model has inspired similar movements in other countries, and its ethos continues to evolve to meet the needs of future generations. The principle that learning is a lifelong pursuit remains at the heart of its mission, ensuring that intellectual curiosity and community spirit endure well into later life.



*The Haslemere Latin group celebrate end of term with a toga party*

## Exploring West Sussex by bus from Haslemere

*By Gareth David*



Fine Spring weather on Monday, 10 March 2025 meant another excuse to flex my concessionary bus pass and enjoy a circular trip that took me through some fine West Sussex villages and scenery. My journey this time gave me the chance to try a new route, with a trip on the 54 Petersfield-Chichester bus, on which I was the only passenger for most of its very scenic rural journey.

<i>Haslemere Town Hall</i>	-	<i>10.28 Stagecoach 70</i>	
<i>Midhurst Bus Stand</i>	<i>10.55</i>	<i>11.15 Stagecoach 92</i>	
<i>Rogate Post Office</i>	<i>11.30</i>	<i>11.59 Stagecoach 54</i>	-
<i>Chichester Bus Station</i>	<i>12.46</i>	-	
<i>Chichester Cathedral</i>	-	<i>13.41 Stagecoach 60</i>	
<i>Midhurst Bus Stand</i>	<i>14.27</i>	<i>15.00 Stagecoach 70</i>	
<i>Haslemere High Street</i>	<i>15.30</i>	-	

Beginning once again at Haslemere Town Hall, I took one of the hourly 70 buses to Midhurst, from where there was a reasonable 20 minute wait for the 92 midi-bus, which provides an irregular (seven round trips daily) link to Petersfield and took me as far as Rogate Post Office.

Rogate is a pleasant spot on the A272 that is equidistant from Midhurst and Petersfield and a place where I had a relaxing 25 minute wait in the bus shelter before crossing the road and boarding another midi-bus and the even more irregular (four round trips a day) 54 link from Petersfield to Chichester.

The 92 bus had a respectable 12 on board as we left Midhurst, but there was only one other passenger aboard the 54 as we left Rogate and when he had alighted only five minutes later at Nyewood I was then the only passenger on board until we reached Chichester Cathedral 40 minutes later.

This is a rather delightful route that takes you down narrow country lanes and through the delightful villages of South Harting, Compton, Hambrook and Funtington, before returning to civilisation and passing through the centre of Chichester to terminate at the bus station.

After a lunch-time break in bustling Chichester and a walk up from the bus station to the Cathedral, my return to Haslemere began with an always-enjoyable ride on the top deck of the half-hourly 60 bus to Midhurst, where on a clear Spring afternoon there are some great panoramic views of the South Downs.

As I wrote last time, anyone tempted to plan an itinerary such as this one should be aware that buses often get delayed, so connections may be missed, and in particular I deliberately gave myself 33 minutes at Midhurst to connect into the hourly 70 bus back to Haslemere, not wanting to risk the alternative of just 3 minutes.

For those who could be tempted to go green and sample our local bus network, daytime services from Haslemere are hourly to Farnham and Aldershot (19), hourly to Guildford on both routes 70 and 71 (the latter via Chiddingfold) and route 70 services to Midhurst. There are also a handful of route 23 services to Lindford and Whitehill, with onward connections to Alton.

Once again, for those who don't yet qualify for a concessionary bus pass, it is worth remembering that bus fares are now capped at £3.00, so this five-bus itinerary would £15.00 had you bought a single fare for each journey. But as every bus was operated by Stagecoach, a far cheaper option would have been a *Stagecoach Gold Day Rider*, which now costs £8.50, or a bargain £17.00 for a group of up to four adults, and covers all the operator's services in Surrey, Hampshire and West Sussex.



*Rogate bus stop en-route on the A272*



When Owen's sister Elizabeth left school she went into domestic service, and by 1901 she was working as a stillroom maid at Compton Verney Hall in Warwickshire. Her next job was probably in the Haslemere area, as on the 6<sup>th</sup> June 1908 she married William Montague Madgwick, a house painter, at St Bartholomew's Church. They settled down to live at 1 West Grove, Kings Road in Haslemere, and lived there throughout the First World War, later moving to Lower Street, then Greycross in College Hill, hence Owen's inclusion on the war memorial.

Owen left school at the age of ten, and worked locally in Dolgelly as a gardener and then a farm labourer. In October 1893, aged 17, he joined the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Royal Welch Fusiliers, a militia battalion of part time, amateur soldiers, similar to the later Territorials. Two years later, in October 1895, he decided to make soldiering his fulltime occupation, and signed on for twelve years with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, seven years of which were spent mostly abroad in places that a boy from rural Wales would never normally have dreamed of visiting.

There is no available photograph of Owen, but his enlistment papers describe him as 5 feet seven inches tall, slim build, fresh complexioned with grey eyes and light brown hair. Despite having had a good character reference from the militia, it cannot be said that Owen proved to be a model soldier.

In fact, his disciplinary record was dire, and his service notes have no fewer than nine pages of minor infractions and peccadillos. He was initially stationed at the Infantry Barracks, Regent's Road, Salford, and the trouble started almost from the moment he arrived when he was admonished for being "drunk and improperly dressed" at 10.50pm in the street outside.

Over the next eight months he was punished by being confined to barracks five times for being either dirty or late on parade, or both. Things didn't improve when the battalion were sent to Malta for six months in July 1896, with four more infractions. The battalion next took part in the British occupation of Crete in 1897, which was a response to the Greek invasion of the island during the Greco-Ottoman War, and they also had a brief stay in Cairo.



*British forces in Crete 1897*

Both operations appear to have been spent out of trouble by Owen. In 1899 the battalion was sent to Hong Kong during the Boxer Rebellion (an anti-imperialist, anti-foreign, anti-Christian uprising) in China. They took part in the Relief of Tientsin and the Relief of Peking to rescue besieged foreigners in 1900.

It was during February of that tumultuous year that Owen received the sad news that both his parents had died within four days of each other from complications of bronchitis. His bad behaviour reached a new height in China, his capacity for annoying his superiors seeming almost endless, with multiple occasions of: disobeying orders, dirty on parade, neglect of duty, drunk, committing a nuisance in the barrack room, reporting sick without cause, absent from parade, improperly dressed, drinking beer while on sentry duty, breaking out of barracks, telling a lie to an NCO, and even "wearing pyjamas after 6am".

Despite his complete inability to conform to military discipline there is no suggestion that he fell short when it came to courage or skill in combat. He was awarded his service medal for the China campaign, with a clasp for the relief of Peking.

When he had completed seven years' service, in 1902, Owen was discharged to the Reserves for the next five years. Even that didn't go smoothly. He got into trouble for not returning the required paperwork in 1904, and was classified as having deserted. He was court martialled at Lichfield, but only for having been absent without leave, and spent 28 days in a military prison.

It cannot be determined with absolute certainty what happened to Owen when he was released, not least because of the large number of men named Owen Owen or Owen Owens. It is very likely that he was the Owen Owens, born in Dolgelly, who worked as a coal miner in Maerdy, in the Rhondda Valley at the time of the 1911 census. Maerdy is only thirty miles from Abergavenny where he is known to have re-enlisted in the army on the outbreak of war in August 1914.

Unfortunately his 1914 service record was one of those lost during the Blitz on London in 1940. He signed on with the 1<sup>st</sup> South Wales Borderers, and it might not have been a coincidence that he chose a battalion that was stationed at Bordon in Hampshire, close to his sister Elizabeth Madgwick in Haslemere. It's certainly surprising that a man in his late thirties, who got himself into so much trouble during his first stint of military service, should be so enthusiastic to repeat the experience.

Maybe civilian life had proved lonely and unfulfilling after the comradeship and excitement of overseas service. Also, as a single man with no children, and with both parents dead, he had no domestic responsibilities or ties to hold him back. Whatever his motivation, which might have been purely patriotic, the recruiting officer welcomed an experienced old soldier into the regiment.

The 1<sup>st</sup> South Wales Borders were part of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade of the 1<sup>st</sup> Division, in I Corps, and were sent to France on 13<sup>th</sup> August 1914. Owen, however, was part of a third reinforcement of 190 men who arrived a month later, on 13<sup>th</sup> September. Owen reached the front line near Vendresse on 19<sup>th</sup> September.

In the previous five weeks the battalion had endured the retreat from Mons and the subsequent struggle to drive the Germans back across the Marne. They had fought gallantly at the Battle of the Aisne, and were now in trenches prior to the "Race to the Sea" as the battle line moved northwards towards the vitally important Channel ports.



Map showing the course of the "Race to the Sea" during 1914 following the Battle of the Aisne. Allied front line and movement is shown in red, German front line and movement shown in blue. Based on a map from *A Short Military History of World War I - Atlas*, edited by T. Dodson Stamps and Vincent J. Esposito, 1950. From Wikipedia

The Germans were dug into trenches on high ground with far superior high-calibre guns to the British. This was the first time that British soldiers were to experience this type of fire power. On the day that Owen arrived at the front, it is no exaggeration to say that he had a baptism of fire. The adjutant Captain Charles James Paterson wrote in his diary:

*"We still sit in our trenches, being heavily shelled by enfilade fire from enemy's guns. Every now and then a man knocked out and nothing to shoot at. One does not mind losing men when one is doing something, but to sit still and be knocked over one by one without seeing a soul is trying. At last CO went to see the General. We were allowed to withdraw on to the ridge on the left of Gloucester's. Thank God."*

On the 26<sup>th</sup> September the battalion was on the receiving end of a fierce attack by about 2,500 Germans, again vividly described by Captain Paterson:

*"The most ghastly day of my life and yet one of the proudest because my Regiment did its job and held on against heavy odds. At 4.15am Germans attacked. Main attack apparently against my regiment, which is the left of our line. D and A Companies in the trenches. B and*

*C hustled up to support, and soon the whole place alive with bullets. News comes that they are trying to work round our left. The CO asked the Welsh Regiment to deal with this, which it did. Poor D Company had to face the music more than anyone else.*

*Presently the news comes that the Germans are in a quarry in the middle of our line, i.e. that our line was pierced. C Company drove them clean out. About 3pm, things began to quieten down, D and A companies had done their share of the work on the right and left. We were able to reorganise more or less, except for D Company's far advanced trenches, and those we searched at night and found James wounded, Sills and Welby killed.*

*Total casualties. Killed Welby, Simonds, Coker, Sills and 86 men; wounded – Pritchard, James and Gwynn slightly, and 95 men; and missing 12. These 12 were of D Company, and apparently surrendered. May they be spared to reach England again and be tried by court martial and get what they deserve. Never has the 24th surrendered yet, and in spite of casualties the rest of the Regiment stuck to it and fought as Englishmen and 24th men could fight.*

[The 1st Battalion often called itself by its pre-1881 name of the "24th Foot". In the heat of the moment Captain Paterson seems to have forgotten that most of the men were Welshmen, not Englishmen.]

*We are now left with three Officers each in three companies, and only two in the fourth, instead of six in each. A sad, sad business, but everyone played up, and as the French say, "Qui perd, gagne". We have lost men and officers, but have again won a name for doing what it is our duty to do and in this case we held a very important line without giving a yard."*

Lt.-General Sir Douglas Haig, who was at that time their Corps Commander, visited the battalion to thank them in person, and wrote "*The conduct of the South Wales Borderers in driving back the strong attack made on them is particularly deserving of praise.*" The battalion continued to suffer under the almost continuous bombardments until 15 October, when the French took over their part of the line.

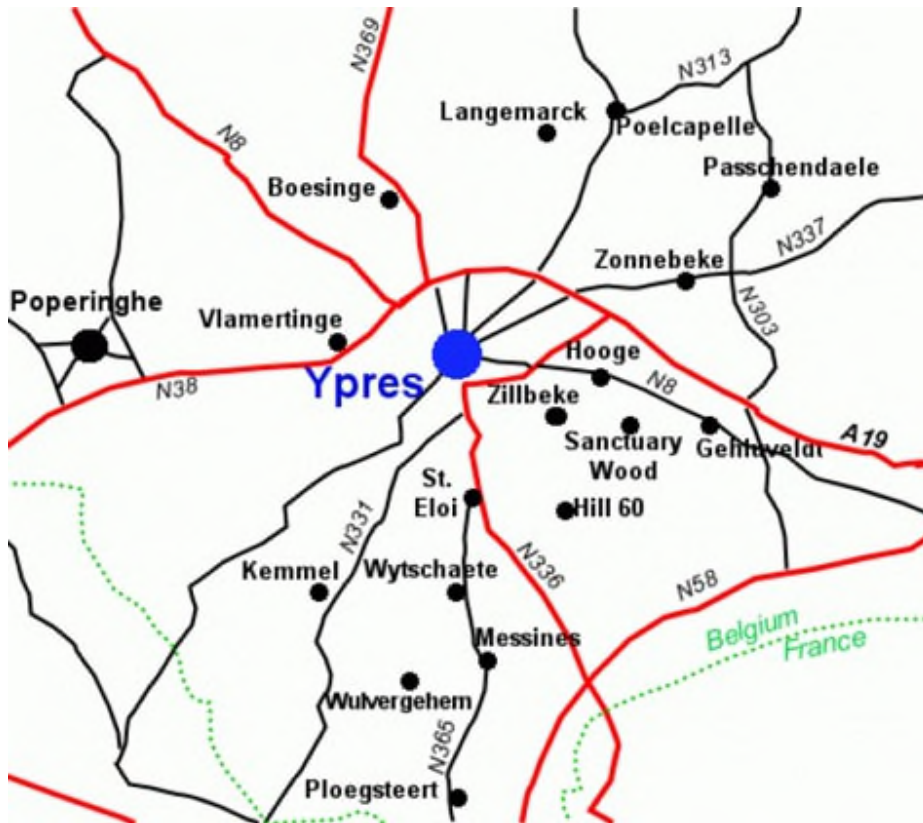
Orders were received to march overnight to the railway station at Fere-en-Tardenois where they boarded the train for Cassel in the north east corner of France. Over the next few days they marched across the Belgian border towards Ypres, meeting thousands of Belgian refugees fleeing in the opposite direction.

The noise of the distant guns grew ever louder, and it was obvious that the battalion was about to get involved in something very big; in fact they were to play a major role in the First Battle of Ypres, which was actually a series of bloody encounters in the vicinity of Ypres between 19<sup>th</sup> October and 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1914.

Strong German forces were moving west on a wide front in an attempt to smash through the Allied lines and on to the Channel ports. Ypres, an important road and rail hub, was the last major Belgian centre unoccupied. On arrival at Langemarck on 21 October the South Wales Borderers received orders to attack the village of Poelcappelle, eight miles NE of Ypres, with the Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment, and came very quickly into contact with the Germans who shelled them with "coal boxes", a type of howitzer shell that emitted dense black smoke.

Captain Paterson described them as "*almost more than flesh and blood can bear.*" The battalion managed to push the enemy back only a small distance, and then dug themselves

into new trenches. The next roll call revealed that 149 had been either killed or wounded. From their new vantage-point the battalion watched the almost total destruction of the village by German shells over the next two days, before being relieved by French Territorials and marching to billets at Hooze, east of Ypres.



The area around Ypres, with modern roads marked. From [www.ww1battlefields.co.uk](http://www.ww1battlefields.co.uk)

### Gheluvelt



Gheluvelt Chateau 1914 after the battle.

[http://www.worcestershireregiment.com/h\\_gheluvelt.php](http://www.worcestershireregiment.com/h_gheluvelt.php)

The day that marked the greatest achievement of the war in France for the 1<sup>st</sup> South Wales Borderers was fast approaching. It was also the day that the fate of Private Owen Owen became briefly entwined with that of Arthur Hawkins from Haslemere, who died during the defence of Gheluvelt with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Kings' Own Hussars. The village was situated strategically on the Ypres to Menin road, and its capture was a key German objective. The British were equally determined to stop them.

At dawn on 31 October 1914, the South Wales Borderers were part of the thinly stretched line in trenches in front of Gheluvelt Chateau to the east of the village. All morning they were subjected to heavy shell fire and rifle fire from the nearby woods to the south. At midday it was reported that the Welsh Regiment on their right were in a desperate situation, and that the Gloucester Regiment were coming up in support.

Unfortunately, it was too late for the Welsh, who were overwhelmed by the powerful assault force of the Germans who swarmed over the battered trenches. The majority of "C" company of the South Wales Borderers were also killed, going down fighting almost to the last man. Several other points in the line were also broken.

The Germans surged forward to take the village, and the situation was critical. "B" company and what was left of "C" company fled through the chateau grounds and sheltered temporarily in trenches by an adjacent railway. Meanwhile "A" and "D" company were sent to attempt to check the enemy's advance on the chateau and clear the grounds, and thus they prepared to make a heroic last stand. Apparently, the Germans were so elated with their success in taking the village, that they stayed on to deal with the survivors at the chateau, mostly South Wales Borderers, rather than pressing on to Ypres.

This gave the British breathing space to bring up the 2<sup>nd</sup> Worcesters from the north east, who had been in reserve, and to organise a counterattack to retake the village. The arrival of two companies of Worcesters at the chateau must have seemed like a miracle to the surviving South Wales Borderers. The meeting was entirely unexpected to the Worcesters who had not expected anyone to be left alive.



*Map of counterattack by 2<sup>nd</sup> Worcesters from worcestershiregiment.com*

There is a famous, rather idealised, painting by J.P. Beadle of the Worcesters' arrival: A Private of the South Wales Borderers kneels at the front right. The four figures in the background behind him are, left to right, Major Hankey commanding the Worcesters; Major Reddie SWB, Lt. Col. Leach commanding SWB, Regimental Sergeant Major SWB.



By the end of the day, the village had been retaken, stopping the German advance towards Ypres. It is not an exaggeration to say that this was the tipping point of the First Battle of Ypres, and that for a while only the 1<sup>st</sup> South Wales Borderers and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Worcesters stood in the Germans' way.

The 1st South Wales Borderers were justified in remembering the day with enormous pride, but the cost had been high. The commander of "C" company, Major Lawrence, was killed. The commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Leach was so badly wounded that he had to give up command permanently. Four other officers and about 280 men, including most of "C" company, were also casualties.

The circumstances of Owen's death are a mystery. The tattered remnants of the 1<sup>st</sup> South Wales Borderers fought on for at least another two days, but unfortunately the war diaries for 3<sup>rd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> November are missing. The battalion was obviously in some disarray, having suffered so many casualties. On 2<sup>nd</sup> November they had lost another 2 officers and 30 men in a skirmish on the Menin Road near Veldhock where the Germans were threatening to break through again.

On 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> November they were shelled heavily in trenches at Zillebeke, and two officers were killed. On 16<sup>th</sup> November they began a difficult march from Ypres to Outterstene on overcrowded muddy roads, a distance of 14 miles, which they completed on 17<sup>th</sup> November without casualties. The following day, 18<sup>th</sup> November, the day on which Owen was officially recorded as missing, killed in action, was spent quietly in billets.

It seems to me that this date must be wrong, and that he was far more likely to have been killed in the chaos of the action at Gheluvelt on 31<sup>st</sup> October, where many bodies would not have been recovered. Accurate record keeping between that day and 18<sup>th</sup> November may simply not have been possible. Owen was 38 years old when he lost his life.

Whatever the truth may be, he has no known grave, and his name appears on the Ypres Menin Gate Memorial, one of 54,605. As well as being remembered on the Haslemere memorial, as Owen Owens, his name is also on the Dolgelly (now Dolgellau) memorial, as Owen Owen.



#### Postscript

Owen's sister Elizabeth and her husband William Montague Madgwick continued to live in Haslemere for many years. In 1921 they were living in Lower Street and running an Ironmonger's shop in Station Road. By 1939 they had retired to Wimbledon, where their daughter Mary worked as a schoolteacher. Elizabeth died in Wimbledon in 1974.



*Elizabeth Madgwick*

#### Sources

Official war diaries of the 1<sup>st</sup> South Wales Borderers, 1 Aug 1914 – 30 Jun 1919, WO95/1280/3, National Archives, Kew

The Recapture of Gheuvvelt, 31 October 1914; by Dr Spencer Jones, University of Wolverhampton, [www.voicesofwarandpeace](http://www.voicesofwarandpeace)

The Worcestershire Regiment website, [www.worcestershireregiment.com](http://www.worcestershireregiment.com)

Cambrian News, 26 Januar

## Forthcoming events in Haslemere

We are fortunate in Haslemere to have an extremely wide and varied range of clubs, societies and other activities. We have briefly listed forthcoming events of just some of these. We have included those that are listed on websites at the beginning of March 2025. Further information can be obtained from the respective websites.

**Haslemere Museum** [www.haslemeremuseum.co.uk/whatson/whatson.html](http://www.haslemeremuseum.co.uk/whatson/whatson.html)

Some, but not all events have an entrance fee and need to be booked in advance.

- **Exhibitions**: Tue- Sat, 10 am – 4.30 pm  
**Gallery spotlight exhibition**: Haslemere Society of Artists Poster. Until 26<sup>th</sup> April.  
**Drawn from Nature**: Orchids in Bloom. Until 3 May  
**Raptors in Focus**: The Power of Birds of Prey. Until 14<sup>th</sup> June  
**Creative & Wellbeing Workshop**: Botanical Watercolours. Thurs. 24<sup>th</sup> April 7-9 pm

### **Family Events & Workshops**:

- **Early Birds**: Special opening for families with a child who has additional needs such as an Autistic Spectrum Condition. Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April 10 am-12 pm; Wed 28<sup>th</sup> May 9-10 am
- **Easter Egg-citement**: Thurs 10<sup>th</sup> April 10.30 am- 1 pm
- **Mini Masters**: Tues. 15<sup>th</sup> April 10.30 am- 1 pm
- **Earth Day**: Free family event. Sat.26<sup>th</sup> April 10.30 am-4 pm
- **The Herds**: Free family event 27- 29<sup>th</sup> May. Check session times
- **Mill Cottage Farm Experience**: Thurs 29<sup>th</sup> May 11 am- 3pm

### **Early years Activities** (under 5 years).

- **Harry and the Dinosaurs at the Museum**: Fri 25<sup>th</sup> April 10.30-11.30 am
- **Swallow Tale**: Fri. 9<sup>th</sup> May 1.30- 2.30 pm
- **Pond Dipping**. Fri. 23<sup>rd</sup> May 10.30- 11.30 am

### **Museum Explorers** (ages 5-11)

- **Feathered Friends Drawing**: Tues 8<sup>th</sup> April 10.30 – 12.00 pm
- **Batty About Bats**: Thurs. 17<sup>th</sup> April 10.30 am – 12.00 pm
- **Pond Dipping**: Tues. 27<sup>th</sup> May 10.30-12.00pm

### • **Fundraising Event**:

- **Annual Plant Sale** . Sat. 10<sup>th</sup> May 11.00 am – 1.00 pm

**Haslemere Natural History Society** [www.haslemerenaturalhistorysociety.org.uk](http://www.haslemerenaturalhistorysociety.org.uk)

- **AGM at Haslemere Museum**: Followed by an illustrated talk: Greater Horseshoe Bat project. 12<sup>th</sup> April 2.15 pm
- **Field Meetings**:  
Spring Birds at Ebernoe Common. 26<sup>th</sup> April 10.00 am

**Haslemere Town Council** [www.haslemeretc.org](http://www.haslemeretc.org)

- **Full Council meetings**: 15<sup>th</sup> May; 17<sup>th</sup> July;11<sup>th</sup> Sept
- **Amenities**: 10<sup>th</sup> April;8<sup>th</sup> may; 7<sup>th</sup> Aug.
- **Planning**: 3<sup>rd</sup> April; 1<sup>st</sup> May; 29<sup>th</sup> May;26<sup>th</sup> June;24<sup>th</sup> July;21<sup>st</sup> Aug.
- **Finance**: 17<sup>th</sup> June
- **Climate & Biodiversity Emergency**: 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

**The Arts Society Haslemere** [www.theartsocietyhaslemere.org](http://www.theartsocietyhaslemere.org)

Meetings take place in the Haslemere Hall at 1.45 for 2.00 pm

- **The Nation's Mantlepiece:** A History of the National Gallery in Ten Paintings: 22 April
- **John Singer Sargent:** The Private Radical. 20<sup>th</sup> May
- **Becoming Jane Austen:** The Making of a Literary Super Star. 17<sup>th</sup> June
- **The Grit and Glamour:** Art in the Jazz Age 4<sup>th</sup> July

**Haslemere Musical Society** [www.hmsoc.org.uk](http://www.hmsoc.org.uk) Amateur Orchestral and Choral Society

- **Concerts with Chorus and Orchestra** take place in the Haslemere Hall, 7.30 pm  
3<sup>rd</sup> May; 11<sup>th</sup> Oct.

**Haslemere Gardening Society:** [www.haslemere-gardening-society.co.uk](http://www.haslemere-gardening-society.co.uk)

**Talks**

- **Herbaceous Borders:** Wed. 7.45 pm, 23<sup>rd</sup> April
- **Ornamental Alliums:** How to grow them successfully and in succession. 7.45, 24<sup>th</sup> Sept
- **The Story of the Rose.:** 7.45 pm , 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct.
- **Garden Birds:** 7.45 pm, 26<sup>th</sup> Nov.

**Visits**

- **Scotney Castle, Lamberhurst, Kent:** Tues. 17<sup>th</sup> June
- **Godinton Park & Hole Park, Kent:** Wed. 9<sup>th</sup> July

**Farmers' Market:** First Saturday of every month. Haslemere High Street, 10 am – 3pm

**Haslemere Hall**

- **Cinema: varied**
- **Event Cinema:** Screenings from the Royal Opera; Royal Ballet; National Theatre; Exhibition on Screen; Big Screen Musicals
- **Live Music:** Various from rock bands to classics
- **Live Theatre:** Queens of Magic. 23-26<sup>th</sup>; Frozen Jr. 9-10th May; The 24 Hour Musical. 31<sup>st</sup> May, 7.30 pm; The Sound of Music 22-23<sup>rd</sup> August
- **Genesi Visible Touch:** Celebrating the legacy of Genesis. 8pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> May
- **Boogie Days:** Over 30s Daytime Disco 20<sup>th</sup> Sept, 3-8 pm
- **La Boheme:** Live performance by Opera Bravura. 7.30, 21<sup>st</sup> June

***In addition, there will be large and varied programme of musical and theatrical events and talks as part of the Haslemere Festival that are listed on the Haslemere Hall website. See also the link to the Festival elsewhere in this newsletter.***

**HHH Concerts :** [www.HHHconcerts.org.uk](http://www.HHHconcerts.org.uk)

Haslemere's Chamber Music Society. Tickets £16-£24 except for Coffee Concerts. Various venues – check with website for full details

- **Trio Shaham Erez Wallfisch:** 26<sup>th</sup> April 19.30
- **Angela Hewitt:** 24<sup>th</sup> May . 19.00
- **Connaught Brass:** Afternoon concert. 3pm, 20<sup>th</sup> July

**Haslemere Repair Shop** [Repair Café — Love Haslemere Hate Waste](#)

Volunteers repair a range of items, from electrical tools, bikes and clothing. First Saturday of every month, 10am – 1pm, at Swan Inn, Haslemere High Street. No need to book

**Haslemere Art Society** [www.haslemereartsociety.co.uk](http://www.haslemereartsociety.co.uk)

*Most but not all events require booking;; some are free to attend*

**Tuesday group:** At the Museum. An informal, untutored group, all abilities and mediums. £5

**Café Sketching:** Third Thursday of the month at The Lions Den

**Thursday Afternoon Group:** Collaborative art session at Gallery Thirteen, 2-4 pm £5

**Thursday Evening group:** Collaborative art session at Gallery Thirteen, 6- 8 pm £5

**En Plein Air Painting:** For members only, hosted by an established artist.

**Networking Event at Olivers:** Sociable evening for arty chat. 24<sup>th</sup> April; 24<sup>th</sup> July; 23<sup>rd</sup> October

**3 Three Painters Painting:** 3 painters demonstrating their skills. 9<sup>th</sup> May, August tbc

**Paint Haslemere Exhibition:** Featuring all things Haslemere. At Gallery Thirteen. 9<sup>th</sup>- 24<sup>th</sup> May

**Lino Cut Workshop:** All materials supplied. £60 6<sup>th</sup> June

**Annual Exhibition:** At Haslemere Museum. 8-22<sup>nd</sup> September

**Michael Moore Reflections Course:** £120 for 4 sessions April 2<sup>nd</sup> – July 2<sup>nd</sup>

**U3A Haslemere** [www.u3asites.org.uk/haslemere/contact](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/haslemere/contact)

The Haslemere U3A has 60 active groups – check with the website.

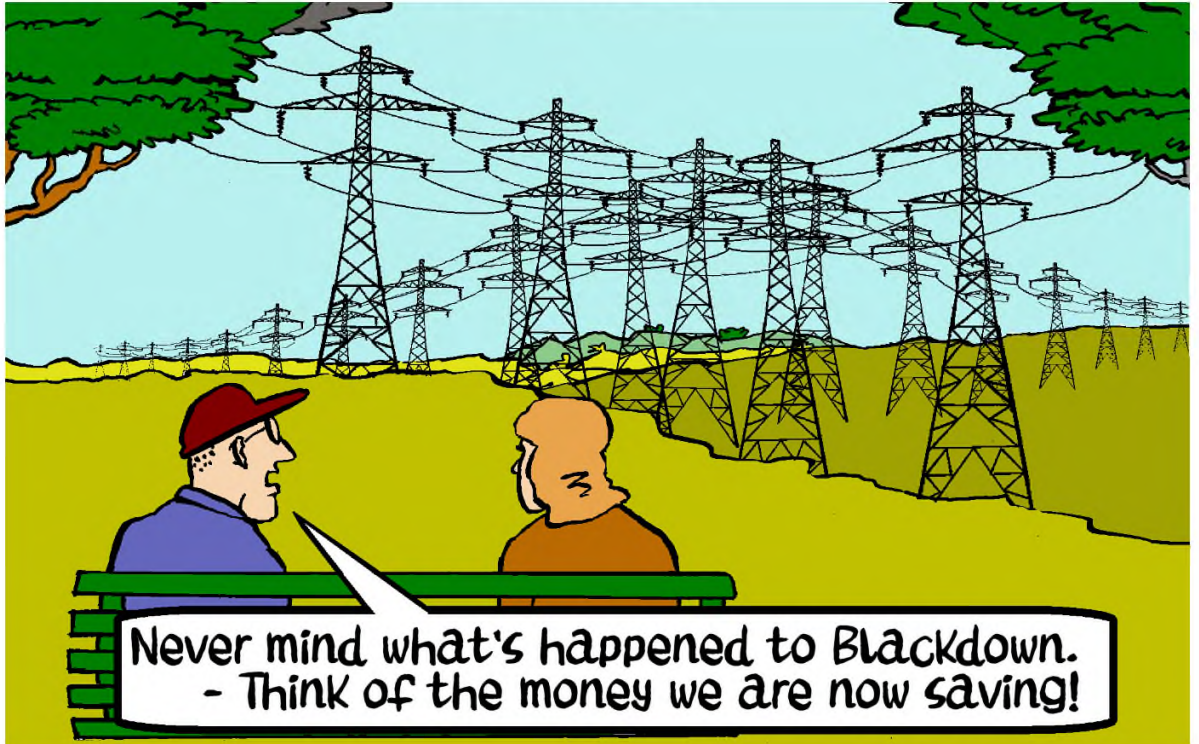
**Haslemere Library** [www.surreycc.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/libraries)

Open 9.30- 5pm Tuesday – Saturday. Booking necessary for most events.

- **Pebble Rhymetime:** For babies and toddlers – sharing nursery rhymes, action songs and percussion music. Wednesdays and Thursdays 10.00-10.30 am
- **Story and Craft time:** Age 2-5. Saturdays 10.30- 11.00 am
- **Stay and Play:** Baby and Toddler Group. Ages 0-3. 10 am – 11 am
- **Reading Groups**  
*Chatterbox:* For children aged from 7. One Saturday a month 11.10 11.50 am . Check with library for dates.  
*Adult Reading Groups:* First Wednesday and Thursday of every month from 2.30 – 3.30 pm
- **Digital Support Volunteer:** Help using the internet; IT related problems etc. Fortnightly on Tuesdays 10 – 12 noon. Book in advance
- **Meet and Make:** Open craft group: work on own handicraft project or use library tools and materials to try a new craft, or help create the Community Blanket. Last Saturday every month 10 am – 12 noon
- **Coffee Morning:** First Saturday every month 10- 11.30 am
- **Sketch Club:** Second Friday of every month, 2 – 3 pm
- **Lego Club:** For children aged 5 years and older. Parents must stay on library premises. £1 per child. Every Wednesday 3.30 – 4.30 pm
- **Haslemere Library of Things:** a range of household items to hire
- **Special Event:** An Afternoon with author Judith Henegan. 16<sup>th</sup> May 2.30 – 3.30 pm

*Compiled by Di Keeley*

The government plans to reduce the energy bills of all those living near pylons.



*Simon Mackie*