

Your Haslemere

The Newsletter of The Haslemere Society
Spring 2022

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Chairman's Welcome

Chris Harrison



Welcome to our spring 2022 newsletter.

As a Society we are committed to engaging with members on topics that affect the quality of life in our town. As the town comes under increasing pressure fueled by population growth, many issues we engage in are becoming increasingly controversial. This is particularly true in the planning arena where certain recent decisions have pitted one part of our community against another. This amongst other issues have encouraged increasingly intemperate exchanges in the Haslemere Herald and across social media: sadly a feature of our times.

Your trustees have been considering how best to position ourselves on controversial matters, mindful that our members will not always share our view. The conclusion we have come to is that we should continue to draw members' attention to ideas and proposals that significantly affect the town and invite your participation. As already mentioned, planning is an area of concern to The Society and in our opening article, Sonja Dullaway outlines the approach taken by our planning group and the framework within which we are operating.

We have decided that in future we should make a clearer distinction between issues that we are promoting and on which the trustees have a shared view and those where we are simply seeking to draw attention to the matter.

A good example of this is the idea of Haslemere becoming a 20mph area, one aspect discussed by our panel on 'Making Haslemere safer for pedestrians and cyclists' at our AGM and one the suggestions included in our second article. I have made it clear that this is something that I support, but at this time this is not – although it may be in the future - the Society's formal position. We will make a clearer distinction in the future.

Returning to the newsletter we include a further update on the Valewood beavers which appear to be thriving. This is followed by a further story in my wife's series 'The Lost Sons of Haslemere'.

In every newsletter we aim to feature another Haslemere organisation and this time we include a report by Kate Snow on our town band.

With the Queen's platinum jubilee celebrations, the calendar of events taking place is longer than ever and, as ever, thanks are due to Di Keeley for compiling this. We end with another topical cartoon from Simon Mackie.

Please do share your feedback on the newsletter and we welcome ideas for future contributions.

What is the Society's Planning Group?

By Sonja Dullaway



There has been quite a lot going on around planning issues recently so we thought it might be helpful to provide a short round-up of what we have been doing and the background against which we work.

Who are the Planning Group?

We are a small group of local people with an interest in planning matters but no specific qualifications in the area – though we do have a member with expertise in heritage, who informs our responses to Listed Building Consent applications. As it is now, we believe that Haslemere has achieved a good balance of provision of modern facilities like the range of independent shops and supermarkets and the health centre while maintaining the things that give the town its special character like the sense of countryside coming right into the centre and the visibility of its history in heritage buildings.

Our aim is to see the town maintain its character while remaining a vibrant and sustainable place to live. In other words, we want to find the right balance between development and conservation.

So what does that mean in practical terms?

We monitor new applications weekly and also keep an eye on the relevant committee proceedings both at Haslemere Town Council and at Waverley Borough Council, where the planning decisions are actually made. Since there are only a few of us, we try to focus our effort on applications that we think will have a significant impact either in themselves or by setting an unhelpful precedent.

That means, generally speaking, that we don't look at applications relating to single dwellings or to extensions/garages/tree works etc. but focus instead on larger developments. We will shortly be updating our website to include a summary of what we do and a useful guide for commenting on and challenging planning applications.

The planning framework

All local authorities have been set a number of houses to build before 2032 by central government and there are penalties for failure to maintain progress on this target. That means not just permissions granted, but buildings actually completed, which lies at least partly outside the gift of the local authority – WBC can't force developers to build once permission is granted.

If the local authority falls behind the target (the so-called 5 year housing and land supply or 5YHLS) certain rules are engaged which make it easier for developers to gain permission to build. In particular, it reduces the weight given to the requirements of the Neighbourhood Plan and also to any damage to the environment. That is what is

happening in Waverley now and was a significant factor in the recent decision by the Planning Inspector to grant the Red Court application on appeal.

The decision to grant or deny an application for planning permission in Haslemere lies with Waverley Borough Council's Western Planning Committee. The members are all elected councillors – you can find the membership at (<https://modgov.waverley.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=390>).

You may note that there are only four councillors for Haslemere (including one for Hindhead) on the 15-member committee, but we understand from one of the Haslemere members that the committee works in a very co-operative way and applications for the Haslemere area are properly debated and considered.

If the initial decision by the WBC committee is to refuse permission, applicants can try again or they can appeal. If they appeal, the decision is referred to a government Planning Inspector. Further appeals can be made through the courts if that decision is also a refusal. In contrast, if the WBC committee grants an application, there is no right of appeal for local residents.

Grounds for objection to an application

When we write on behalf of the Haslemere Society, either to comment on an application or to object, we write on behalf of 500 members and that carries some weight. But we are engaging with the planning framework in exactly the same way as any other member of the public – there is no special treatment for civic societies – and our letter counts as one objection.

We should note here that the sheer number of objections is not in itself grounds for refusal of an application. That is reasonable – we can't have a position where an unpopular resident gets their planning applications refused because all the neighbours write in to protest! So objections must raise some material point that is relevant to the planning process and which has either been missed by the Planning Officer at WBC or not given sufficient weight.

The WBC committee can and sometimes does overrule the Planning Officer's recommendation and the number and substance of letters of objection undoubtedly play some part in that. But the grounds given for refusal will form the basis of any appeal, so this must be grounds relevant to planning. After all, if an appeal is granted, the applicant can ask for costs, which are paid out of local taxpayers money. We have recently updated our note on how to object to a planning application if you should wish to do so on a personal basis. It will be uploaded on our website soon and we will notify members when it is available.

The cards are stacked

It is our view that the national planning process is unfit for purpose and stacked against local residents. The system is unwieldy; impossibly bureaucratic for individuals trying to get an extension built but rather easier for large developers to manage. This is unhelpful for everyone since it pushes up costs for developers too and we all waste a lot of time in bureaucracy.

The white paper circulated in 2020 made it very clear that the current government is focussed on getting a lot of housing built in the south-east and not very interested in protecting the character of the towns already there – nor in actually achieving the kind of levelling up which would provide attractive jobs in other parts of the country.

This has been shelved for the moment at least but we see no sign of a real change of heart, and since WBC has been unable to get a plan of allocated sites (the Local Plan

Part 2) agreed so far, there remains a risk that planning decisions will be taken even further out of local hands. Councillors on the WBC Planning Committee are making their decisions against this backdrop, which may help explain why they sometimes approve applications that their constituents would rather they didn't.

All of that sounds very pessimistic and we do sometimes find ourselves wondering why we bother. But we believe very strongly in local democracy and we can't expect local Councillors to take our views into account if we don't express them. And sometimes applications are refused or improved as a result of engagement with the planning system. We can't claim specific credit for that of course, but if we can play a small part in it then we feel that is worth doing.

Having said all of that, we are very conscious that we are operating on behalf of the wider membership. All the letters we write and any other engagement we have on planning matters are provided on the website so you can always see what we are doing. We would be very happy to discuss the positions we take and to hear your views, whether on planning generally or on specific applications and we'd also be delighted to hear from you if you are interested in joining the Planning Group – please do get in touch via info@haslemeresociety.org.

Making Haslemere safer for pedestrians and cyclists

By Gareth David

At the Society's 2021 AGM on 12 November, a lively discussion on how to make our town safer and more pleasant for pedestrians and cyclists was moderated by former Chairman DAVID SMITH. For those who missed the meeting, here are the key points made by the three panellists:

CLIVE DAVIDSON



Clive has lived and worked in Haslemere for 25 years and recently retired from a career as a freelance journalist. He helped found Transition Haslemere in 2008 and is currently its chair and also chairs Haslemere Active Travel Group.

"Over the last couple of years we have been looking at cycling and pedestrian facilities in the town and how they might be improved and have joined forces with a number of other groups and individuals who share our concerns. At the time of the pandemic outbreak the government also saw the importance of this and developed a policy which is called active travel to encourage people to find alternatives to the car.

"We decided to put our heads together and formed the Haslemere active travel group and we now have representatives from Transition Haslemere, from local churches, from the local U3A cycling for fun group and from Haslemere Vision, the Haslemere Society and schools in the federation of local schools and a number of local councillors. We've been looking at the challenges and looking at ways to develop active travel in the town.

"There are many challenges we face, the most obvious being the topography of our town, meaning you can't go anywhere without encountering a hill. We think e-bikes are a game changer, because they allow you to tackle the hills. Speed of traffic between the two centres of the town along Lower Street can be intimidating unless you are a confident cyclist.

"Looking at ways of separating cyclists from other road users, or giving pedestrians more room is very difficult because there is no much space on pavements and many side streets don't even have pavements."

LIZ BURTON



Liz joined Haslemere Vision in 2014 and, after a career in communications, became Editor of the Haslemere Neighbourhood Plan. She is now Vice-Chair and continues to pursue issues raised by the Plan, particularly bio-diversity and active travel.

"Active travel was one of the issues that emerged from developing the Neighbourhood Plan as people wanted to see what could be done about congestion in the town and our legendary parking issues. It became clear to us that other groups had the same issues. My personal interest is in the street-scape and I have come to cycling rather late in life.

"Streetscapes are a bit like landscapes, but of the street and one of the positive things to have come out of lockdown was walking into our town and noticing how nice it was that I didn't have to yell at my children to keep clear of the curbs and I want to re-create some of that sense of the town centre being a nice place to hang out in.

"I want to make the air cleaner for my children – there is an awful statistic that Surrey County Council published in 2018 that 5.7% of Surrey's mortality is linked to particulate emissions, which is quite high. Of those particulate emissions, 46% are from transport, yet we think of Surrey as leafy and rural, but its roads are carrying 60% more traffic than those in the rest of the country. Mass is the key – everybody needs to do a little to reduce their car use - and it does need to be all of us."

ALASTAIR BAYLISS



*Alastair has a background in environmental sciences and IT and has contributed to various community groups, most notably the Active Travel Group. He is involved in the national **20 is plenty** campaign and is currently its political liaison for Surrey.*

"I'm a relative newcomer to Haslemere, having only been living here for eight years, but I have thrown myself into a number of groups and met Clive through Transition Haslemere and also joined Haslemere Vision. I've always been someone who has walked and cycled and during lockdown I taught my daughter, who is now 11, how to cycle on the road and we had a great time cycling around the town.

"That all stopped when lockdown ended and I am not going to let here cycle on the local roads, because I think it is too dangerous. That is quite sad – I cycled on roads as a child and went to school by bike from the age of 11 – but now we don't allow it because it is seen as dangerous. [8.29] The reasons people don't cycle are complex – it might be lack of confidence, it might be reluctance to put on all the lycra gear.

"This led me to get involved with the "20 is plenty" national campaign to introduce 20mph speed limits across the country, and I am now the campaign's political liaison officer for Surrey. We are working to persuade the county council to introduce more friendly policy on 20mph so that communities can choose for themselves if they wish to introduce them.

"The '20 is plenty' campaign doesn't advocate speed bumps and other traffic calming measures, what it is pushing for is wide-area limits that are signed-only. There are other measures that can be taken like removing the centre white line in a road and putting white lines along each side, which gives the impression that the road is narrower and encourages people to slow down.

"People say that such a limit would never be enforced, but the evidence shows that where you do put in 20mph limits that traffic speeds do drop. There are 25m people in the UK who are now living in an area which either has or is adopting 20mph limits so we are not breaking new ground by advocating it.

"If you look at West Street, the average speed is not going to be 30mph along it, so imposing a 20mph limit won't make a great difference. But if you go to the top of the High Street, opposite the museum, you will see people accelerating out of town and it is places like that where speed reduction would mean greater road safety. For every 1mph reduction in speed you can achieve you get 6% fewer casualties."

Beavers now thriving at Valewood

By Bob Daniels, Chair - Black Down & Haslemere National Trust Supporters



We are delighted with the dramatic impact that the beavers are continuing to make. A new young male has been successfully installed and we live in hope that he will pair with the now well-established female in due course.

The production of dams, large and small, continues and as pond sizes grow some of those created by smaller dams become incorporated into the new larger ones. The size of trees used in creating the dams increases with pond size and the beavers clearly have big plans for the future as they have started to gnaw on some very large trees indeed!

If you walk along the public footpath which goes through the site you can see a number of trees that have been felled by the beavers which have fallen onto the fence towards the footpath. You can easily see the classic bite marks at the base of these trees.



(While the images of beavers above are not the Haslemere beavers, these are images of their activity in Valewood)

The female continues to be a more active dam builder than the male. We hope that he is planning to share her efforts but only time will tell.

The project team is very keen to monitor changes in biodiversity on the site. If you are interested in bird watching, butterflies, insects, etc. and you occasionally walk on the public footpaths, you can help us by recording what you see on your walks. If you would like to do this please contact me and I will send you details of how we would like to collect the data.

The daily checking of the fence line for badger incursions was taking up an inordinate amount of the Rangers' time so we set up a rota of volunteers. We have been delighted with the response and now have 22 people on the rota and to date we have, between us, filled in 85 holes!

Dr Stewart Clarke, National Specialist – Freshwater, Catchments & Estuaries and Convenor of the Natural Environment Advisory Group for the National Trust, has obtained internal funding for a project being carried out in cooperation with Prof Guy Woodward at Imperial College. The initial study of new bioassay arrays for measuring ecosystem processes is being carried out, at Valewood, by Lucy Somekh, a Masters student at Imperial College.

In preparation for the associated national study Lucy is preparing to send out the kits for people to deploy across a range of NT and other sites with and without beavers. This will give us a useful understanding of how beavers change key ecosystem processes across the UK. All of this will help at Valewood by providing context for the changes we see there. We are being asked to fund the Valewood elements of the project

Stewart is also co-supervisor of Sarah Fairbrother, a Ph.D. student at Birmingham University. The most recent part of her work at Valewood has been measuring the fluxes of the greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide and methane) from tree stems across the site. This will be done on a seasonal basis to see if the beavers have any impact on these fluxes.

The English Longhorn cattle are now back on the site as part of the extensive grazing programme that is an integral part of the plan for both the beaver enclosure and the remainder of the Valewood site. The whole site is also grazed by the resident Roe deer.

We are very pleased that the profile of the site with the general public has remained low. Most people respect the notices asking them to stick to the public footpaths and keep dogs on a lead. There have sadly been some exceptions with one serious incident, caught on the trail cameras used to monitor the beavers, of someone allowing their dog to swim in the pool where the male beaver lives, forcing him out of his lodge.

**Lost Sons of Haslemere:
Driver Edmund Charles Bartlett (19 Jan 1895 – 12 Feb 1918)**

By Shirley Harrison



Ted Bartlett was born in Northchapel in 1895 to George and Jane Bartlett. His father was an agricultural labourer and dairyman, and the family lived in Fisher Street. He was their second child, and a further six were to be born over the next ten years. A contemporary postcard shows just how quiet Northchapel was at that time: so quiet that the photographer added the two children in the foreground to make it look a bit busier.



When he was about two years old the family moved to Haste Hill in Haslemere, to a small, four-roomed cottage. There is a lovely photo of the extended family, taken a few years later in about 1901:



The matriarch of the family, his 80 year old great grandmother Catherine Combes is sitting in the middle. His mother, Jane is sitting holding his baby sister Letsy, with his father George standing behind her. This was the second sister to be named Letsy, the first having lived only a few months, dying in 1899. Ted is sitting in the front row between his older sister Annie and younger brothers Frederick (standing) and George. (His brother Leonard and sister Nora were born after the photo was taken.)

The rather stern lady sitting next to Catherine is his maternal grandmother, born Charlotte Boxall. Paternal grandparents Edmund Bartlett senior and Elizabeth Bartlett (nee Coombes) are standing in the back row behind her, with uncle Alfred Bartlett.

Ted's father got a job as a milk carrier (delivery man) in Haslemere, and the family moved to a recently built house in the centre of town, 4 Popes Mead. After leaving school, at about the age of 12, Ted became a gardener, probably at a house locally.

When the war broke out in August 1914, Ted was not one of those who rushed to volunteer immediately, but neither did he wait to be conscripted in 1916. His service record is one of those that survived the fire at the War Office repository in 1940 during the Blitz, so we know that he enlisted on 4th November 1915 at Guildford, aged 20, and was mobilised four days later at Aldershot.

He was slightly built: his medical report shows that he was only 5ft 5ins tall and weighed 9st 10lbs. He joined the Royal Engineers as a driver, with the 67th Field Company, part of the 11th Division. In the context of the Great War this almost certainly did not mean a motor driver. A driver was associated with horses or mules, and would ride the animal pulling a wagon or gun.

After almost six months training at Aldershot he embarked on a troopship bound for Egypt on 4th May 1916 as part of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force. The 11th Division had taken over a section of the Suez Canal defences. Ted and his company had only just reached Egypt, when on 17th June 1916 the Division received orders to sail back to France. The Battle of the Somme was about to start, and more Royal Engineers were needed.

Ted sailed from Alexandria a week later, arriving in Marseilles on 2nd July, the day after the start of the battle. He had spent the first two months of his active service sailing backwards and forwards between Europe and Egypt.

By 27th July the whole Division had returned and taken over part of the front in the Third Army sector. Ted's company spent the next few weeks on construction work in the trenches, making deep dugouts for protection from shelling, new observation posts, and improving water supplies.

In early September 1916, his company was attached to the 32nd Brigade, which took over the trenches between Thiepval and Mouquet Farm. The official war diary says that they were employed in improving the communications in the new frontline, and the clearing of dugouts that had been captured from the Germans. This latter task sounds like it might have been a grisly one.

On the 14th September 1916 they took part in an attack on the "Wunderwerk" (or Wonder Work), an extremely strong system of German trenches. During the action they did not have to "go over the top" first, but followed up the initial attack, and consolidated points in the captured line. Even so, 2 men were killed and 20 injured.

During the Battles of Flers-Courcelette and Thiepval, later phases of the Battle of the Somme, Ted's company was kept in Reserve, and were employed in repairing the roads and rest billets, constructing a dressing station, and "splinter proofing" an ammunition dump. One of the Royal Engineers' jobs was to construct "duckboard" roads across the mud so that guns and supplies could reach the men who had gained ground.

During 1917 the company continued its work of construction and repair whenever and wherever needed. It could be a perilous occupation, and frequently carried out under fire. At the Battle of Messines in June, they were marched to the assembly area to be used as infantry in reserve, but fortunately not needed in the fighting.



For their work in August 1917, during a phase of the Third Battle of Ypres, two officers of the company were awarded the Military Cross, and four "other ranks" the Military Medal. The company had built new temporary foot bridges across the River Steenbeek, covered with canvas to muffle footsteps, and had repaired remaining old bridges under extremely hazardous conditions.

It is not possible to know how much of the above activity Ted took part in, because the records do not give that level of detail. It is clear however, that by the end of his life he had been assigned as "batman" to an officer. This was effectively a personal servant, who was responsible, amongst other things, for the maintenance of the officer's uniform and personal effects, running messages, and acting as bodyguard in action. This could be described as a bit like being a valet, but with the added danger of being killed in action.

In January 1918, Ted and his officer were temporarily sent to the First Army School of Instruction, at Etaples, well behind the lines, and safe from enemy fire. It was here, by a terrible stroke of misfortune, that after more than eighteen months in France without a scratch, Ted met with a fatal accident. On the morning of the 23rd he was in the billet where he and the other batmen were lodging.

One of them, Private Robert Parry, was cleaning his officer's revolver. For reasons that were never made clear at the subsequent inquiry, the soldier loaded it with a round of ammunition. He then accidentally dropped it, and as it knocked against the table it fired.

Ted was shot in the right side of the chest. He was rushed to the military hospital at Harelot in a serious condition, having lost a great deal of blood. He was found to be paralysed in both legs. A telegram was sent to his parents, and the War Office arranged for his mother to travel to France to visit him in at Harelot.

Ted's own statement from his bed a week later didn't attempt to lay blame on anyone: "*Sir, On the morning of the 23rd January 1918 I had just finished my morning fatigue after which I went to my billet to talk in the usual way. Not noticing what the other*

batmen were doing I sat down on the table when a report of firearm rang out, and I felt a pain in my right breast. This is a true and correct statement of the occurrence."

The 25th General Hospital as it was officially called, just south of Boulogne, was pleasantly situated with the sand dunes and beach on one side, and a forest on the other. Unfortunately, however, most of it was under canvas, and subjected to freezing, sandstorms in the winter. The tents were dark and badly ventilated, and the heating was inadequate.

Ted's mother arrived two days after the accident and stayed in the area for two weeks, by which time he appeared to be making slow progress, and was expected to recover. Tragically, only a few days after her return to Haslemere, Ted died on 12th February, aged 23. He was buried in the church yard of the nearby Neufchatel-Hardelot Church.

Amongst the local graves it contains 23 Commonwealth burials of the First World War.



1918 continued to be a heart-breaking year for the Bartlett family, for in October, Ted's younger sister Norah also died, of pulmonary tuberculosis, aged just 13. They continued to live at 4 Pope's Mead for many years.

His father George, who was widowed in 1937, was still living there in 1939. Ted's nephew Keith Bartlett, son of brother George, was headmaster of St Bartholomew's School in the 1970s. There is a family story that he was unaware of his family's link with Haslemere until he found his father's name in the "naughty book."

All the stories in this series are tragic, and all end in a premature death, but Ted's tale is a particularly unlucky one. The fate of Private Parry who shot him is not known, other than that he was tried and convicted of the offence of "negligently shooting a comrade". I hope he wasn't too severely punished, for the War had put that gun in his hand and I am sure that the knowledge of what he had done was punishment enough.

Introducing Haslemere Town Band

By Kate Snow



The year of 1837 was a busy time – Queen Victoria ascended to the throne and reigned until 1901 while Roland Hill had the idea of ‘a bit of paper’ that could be affixed to a letter to say an item’s postage had been paid (hence stamps became part of millions of items posted every day) and smallpox broke out. Charles Dickens’ novel *Oliver Twist* appeared first as a serial, John Constable the painter died and the London Hippodrome opened in Bayswater.

Haslemere at the time was a small town with about 1,500 people (at the last count, it was around 16,000). Haslemere is thought to have originated as a planned town in the 12th century and was awarded a market charter (which is still run, very successfully, today).

In 1834 William Bridger and his brother Charles formed a small band together with their friends. This is what we believe has become Haslemere Town Band and may well be the oldest in the country.

The band consisted of both brass and woodwind. William had seven sons and they all played in the band in later years. Soon after 1834 a second band was started in Haslemere by two other brothers, Edward and William Berry. The two bands became one under the leadership of William Bridger and they decided to play in public for the first time: it was on Queen Victoria’s Coronation Day in 1837, which is what the band calls the ‘official’ founding of the band 188 years ago.

Nothing much is known about the band until about 45 years later in 1882 when a cricket match was played on Lythe Hill cricket ground between the volunteer fire brigade and the band. Representing the band were no less than nine Bridgers, including William who by this time was 72, his seven sons and a cousin, Turner Bridger, who later became president of the band and it was no wonder the band was known as Bridgers Band for the remainder of the century!

Haslemere Town Band has had more than its fair share of scrapes. On one occasion, after the band had played at Hindhead, the journey home was made by two horses on their brake (a horse drawn carriage), who stopped near Shottermill Church to let the drummer get off and go home.

In those days there was a large bank close to the corner and, rounding the corner, the carriage toppled over and sent the whole band and their instruments flying to the ground. Luckily, everyone was OK.

Haslemere Town Band has been proud to win many band competitions. Sir Harry Waechter who lived at Ramsnest, near Chiddingfold, instigated the Ramsnest Band Competition Silver Cup for non-professional bands in 1907.

The cup could be called the property of the band as it won it three years in succession. In fact, it now resides at the Haslemere Museum. Four bands competed in the competition including another Haslemere band which had started, the Institute Band.

In 1964, the band got an amazing six trophies in the Southern Counties Association. In 1986 the band went to Bernay in France for three days playing. The band ended their concert with their favourite piece, Hootenanny, and another call from the big audience for a reprisal of the can can!

Haslemere Town Band meets at the Beacon Hill United Reformed Church every Wednesday at 7.45. People of all ages are welcome to come and play an instrument with us and can contact the band's secretary, Sandra Margetts on 07708 334179 or by email: secretary@haslemeretownband.co.uk

The Band will be playing at the Haslemere Society garden party on 17 June.

Events in Haslemere for Summer 2022 (from April to September)

Compiled by Di Keeley

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. The events detailed below include only those that were listed at the beginning of March 2022. Further information can be obtained from the respective websites.

Haslemere Charter Fair: www.haslemere.com/charterfair

Many events, stalls. Themes celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

11am – 5 pm June 3rd

Haslemere Festival: www.haslemerefestival.org.uk

Wide range of events. 2 – 5th June

Haslemere Fringe Festival: www.haslemerefringe.co.uk

Main Festival: music; dance; comedy. 1-3 July

Fringe Sessions: live events. First Saturday every month

Haslemere Food Festival: www.haslemere.com/foodfestival/

Food and drink stalls; live entertainment; activities for children. Lion Green. Free entry. 17th September

Haslemere Museum www.haslemereuseum.co.uk/whatson/whatson.html

Most events need to be booked in advance and there is generally a small entrance fee.

- **Exhibitions:**

British Museum Spotlight Loan: Troy: Beaty and Heroism. 10 February to 7 May

Drawings, Painting & Sculpture: Exploration of our connection to the landscape by Local artist, Diana Burch. 29 March – 22 April

An Artistic Eye on Haslemere: A variety of artworks from the Museum's permanent collection. 5 March – 23 April

Flight Lines: Artwork created from a joint project by British Trust for Ornithology and the Society of Wildlife Artists. 7 May – 25 June

- **Early Years** :stories and craft activities for under 5s; book in advance

- **Twit Twoo:** Owl related session with stories and activities. Friday 22 April 1.30 – 2.30pm

- **Pond Dipping:** At the Museum. Friday 6 May 10.30-11.30 am

- **Animal Safari:** Spotting animals in the Museum; animal craft activities. Friday 20 May 1.30 – 2.30 pm

- **Noah's Ark:** Friday 10 June 1.30 – 2.30 pm

- **Busy Buzzy Bees:** visit the Museum beehive to learn about bees. Friday 24 June 10.30 – 11.30 am

- **Museum Explorers** (5-11 years) - monthly Saturdays and during school holidays. Activities based on the collections and **exhibitions** of the museum, or on seasonal or national events

- **Shield Designs:** Making miniature clay shields, taking inspiration from the Greek black and red pottery techniques, with Ceramicist Jan Hite. April 5; 10-30 am – 12.00pm
 - **Nature Spirits:** Join artist Diana Burch to make some magical Spirit creatures using natural materials. 14 April 10.30 am – 12.00 pm
 - **History of Haslemere:** Learn about the history of the town through old maps and photographs. Saturday May 7 10.30 am – 12.00
 - **Bird Prints:** experiment with foam printing. Saturday June 4 10.30 am – 12.00
- **Early Birds:** Special opening for families with children who have an Autism Spectrum condition. Monday 11th April 11 am – 1 pm
- **Family Events:**
 - **Ships and Horses:** Making models of Trojan ships and horses. 7 April 10.30 am – 1pm
 - **Easter Egg-citement:** Arts and crafts activities themed around Easter; garden trail. 12 April 10.30 am-1pm
 - **Brilliant Birds:** Flight Lines exhibition and bird – inspired art. 31 May 10.30 am – 1pm
 - **The Whale- Plastic Ocean:** Theatrical experience. Puppets, comedy and music with Circo Rum Ba Ba. Wednesday 13 April. Performances 12.00; 12.30; 2.00; 2.30; 4.00; 4.30.
 - **Falcolnry Display:** Flights; talks; static display with close encounters. 1st June, 1.00 – 4.00 pm. Flights subject to weather, scheduled for 2 pm and 3.30 pm
- **Talks, Lectures and Workshops:**
 - **Creative and Wellbeing Workshop: Creative with Clay:** Creative session for adults with ceramicist Jan Hite, taking inspiration from the Greek black and red pottery techniques. Tuesday April 5 : 2.30 – 4.30 pm and 7.00- 9 pm
 - **Achilles – the Ultimate Flawed Hero:** Talk by Chris Grocock, Classics scholar. 19 April, 7 pm and 24th May at 2.30 pm
 - **Creative Wellbeing Workhops – Keeping Treasures :** with embroiderer Denise Jones to make small embellished cloth containers. 20 April 2.30 – 4.30 pm
 - **Rediscovering Troy:** Dr. Chris Davies to examine Wolfgang Petersen’s Troy (2004) primarily as a filmic text. 28 April 7 pm
 - **Floristry Demonstration:** Melissa King from Marley Flowers, inspiration from the Haslemere Museum exhibit ‘Troy: Beauty and Heroism’ 4th May 7 pm
 - **Creative Wellbeing Workshops: Flights of Fancy:** Considering all things bird-related, with artist Diana Burch. 11 May 2.30 – 4.30
 - **The Life of Flora Thompson:** Jo Owen Smith 28 May 2.30 pm
- **Fundraising Plant Sale:** Saturday 14th May 11am- 1pm
- **Haslemere Derby Day:** Live feed from Epsom; sweepstakes, food & refreshments.
4th June 1pm – 6pm Entry £15
- **Party at the Palace:** Live feed from London. Food and refreshments £15 4th June evening

- **Haslemere Gin Festival in association with RedH:** Saturday 11 June
- **Open Air Theatre: Gods and Dogs.** The Rude Mechanical Theatre Company.
Friday 18th June 7.30pm. Doors open for picnics at 6.30 pm
- **National Cream Tea Day:** Friday 24 June

Haslemere Natural History Society

www.haslemerenaturalhistorysociety.org.uk

Saturday 9th April 10.30 Kingley Vale, West Stoke, National Nature Reserve Leader: Helen Beal (Reserve Volunteer Worker)

This National Reserve encompasses the finest Yew forest in Europe and is one of the most important archaeological sites in southern England.

Saturday 30th April 09.00

Early Spring Heathland Birds on Lavington Common

Leader: Alan Perry (HNHS member)

Alan has had a passion for bird song and identification for many years. An early morning walk. Lavington Common is a SSSI, comprising wet and dry heath, acid grass and woodland. Woodlark, Dartford Warbler and Stonechat recorded here.

Haslemere Town Council

www.haslemeretc.org

- **Amenities:** 7th April; 9th June; 11th August
- **Infrastructure and CIL:** 26th May; 21st July; 15th September
- **Full Council:** 19th May
- **Grants:** 2nd May
- **Planning:** 28th April; 26th May; 23rd June; 21st July; 18th August; 15th September

Haslemere Hall www.haslemerehall.co.uk

- **Cinema screenings:** Regular screenings of current films.
- **Events via satellite:** Live screenings from the Royal Opera; Royal Ballet; National Theatre, etc
- **Live Music**
- **Haslemere Players**
- **Haslemere Thespians**
- **Kids Symphonic Sundays**

Haslemere Players www.haslemereplayers.com

- **Performances:**
70 Years of British Musicals: 9 m- 11 June
Anything Goes: October

Haslemere Thespians www.haslemerethespians.co.uk

- **Play in a Day :**
Auditions 10 July; Start time 15 July; Performance 16 July
- **October Show:** To be announced. 6-8 October

The Arts Society Haslemere www.theartssocietyhaslemere.org

- **Lectures:**
The Greatest Art Patron in the World – Rudolph 11 and his Kunstkammer. 19 April
Marc Chagall – Wandering Jew or Citizen of the World. 17 May
The Battle of Marathon. 21 June
- **Study Days:**
Two Extraordinary Women in the Balkans: Princess Ksenia of Montenegro and Edith Durham, 6 July
Gilbert Sullivan and the Savoy Tradition 22 November
- **Visits and Tours:**
Hever Castle and All Saints Church, Tudeley 27 April
Wrest House, Silsoe, Bedfordshire 16 June
Spencer House, London . 2 November

Haslemere Musical Society www.hmsoc.org.uk

- **Orchestra and Choral Concert:** Mozart – 7.30 pm May 14th

Haslemere Art Society www.haslemere.com/artsoc

- **Life Group:** weekly on Friday afternoons
- **Art at the Museum:** weekly on Tuesday afternoons
- **Plein Air Painting**
- **Informal Sculpture Group**

Haslemere Gardening Society www.haslemere-gardening-society.co.uk/events

- **Talks:**
National Trust Gardens: David Hunt. 27 April
An Almost A-Z of Good Garden Plants: Mark Saunders. 28 September
The Fascinating and Secret Life of the Mole: Chris Stewart. 26 October
Shrubs: the Backbone of Your Garden. Geoff Hawkins. 23 November
- **Visits:**
RHS Malvern Spring Festival. 6 May
Cliveden Gardens; Bledlow Manor. 15 June (fully booked)
Syon House and Gardens. 13 July
Coffee Morning 11 June

Haslemere Fringe Festival www.lionfest.co.uk 1st – 5th July

- **Music:** A range of groups and solo performers
- **Dance:** Showcasing many dance forms
- **Comedy**

Gardens in Haslemere Open to the Public

Farmers Market

Held in Haslemere High Street on the first Sunday of the month, 10 am – 1.30 pm

National Trust Haslemere

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/events

- **Easter Egg Hunt:** Hindhead Commons and Devils Punch Bowl. 15th April and 3 other dates

Haslemere Library

- **Pebble Rhymetime:** Introduction to songs, rhymes and books with Pebble the penguin. Every Wednesday 10-10.30. Limited spaces; booking advised
- **Digital Buddy:** Fortnightly on Tuesdays 10 am – 12

It was inevitable that, after pulling out of Russia, the bigger chains would move into empty High Street premises

