

OUR SOCIETY EVENTS FOR 2016

SPRING MEETING Friday 15th April 7.30 pm: Haslemere Hall, Bridge Road

The Experiences of Women during the First World War

As part of the Haslemere Society's commemoration of WW1, Lynne Taylor-Gooby, former Principal of the Royal School, will give an illustrated talk about the experiences of Women during WW1. She will focus on a range of women, from the least to the most privileged, in varied social and domestic situations, and will draw specifically on the work of Vera Brittain, Sylvia Pankhurst and on private correspondence.

As usual the talk will be followed by a glass or two of wine and a few canapés. Please telephone Diana Serman: 01428-654 681 for a member's badge, if you do not have one already

SUMMER DRINKS PARTY Friday 24th June 6.30 pm – 8.30 pm

To be held in the lovely garden of the Haslemere Educational Museum, weather permitting; indoors if wet. This relaxed evening is a good opportunity to meet other members of the Society in delightful surroundings. Drinks and canapes will be served.

Tickets are £10.00 per person. Guests are welcome.
Please cut out and fill in the form below and send it to the Treasurer with a Cheque and SAE by Thursday 17th June.



2016 SUMMER DRINKS PARTY AT HASLEMERE MUSEUM

Friday 24th June 6.30pm – 8.30 pm

Guests welcome

Please send me.....ticket(s) @ £10.00 each. Total £.....

Surnames & first names:

.....
Tel. No(s):.....Email(s):.....

I enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope and cheque, payable to the **Haslemere Society**

Cheque with SAE please, by Friday 17th June, to the Treasurer:
Mr. Brian Deller, Weald View, Petworth Road, Haslemere, GU27 3AU

Spring Newsletter 2016

THE
HASLEMERE
SOCIETY



FORTHCOMING EVENTS 2016

Spring Meeting	Friday 15 th April	Haslemere Hall
Summer Party	Friday 24 th June	Haslemere Museum
AGM	Friday 18 th November	Haslemere Hall

Dear Members,

I am sure many of you are enjoying being kept up to date with Society news through our website www.haslemeresociety.org which is managed by our excellent webmaster Catherine Eyre, but we also feel that a Spring Newsletter, Annual Report and invitations in hard copy add to everyone's feeling of engagement with their society.

Catherine has also established a facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/haslemeresociety> which has attracted 278 "likes". We have used this facility, in addition to emails, to ask for volunteers to assist in the Haslemere Travel Plan consultation which has been set up as a joint venture between Surrey County Council, Haslemere Vision and independent consultants. This gives us the opportunity to be in partnership with other local bodies, whose aims of maintaining and improving the quality of life in the town are similar to ours.

As ever the planning team is following, with keen interest, the developments relating to reaching the Government's housing targets in an area with no approved local plan in place. The Government has announced a short consultation period on proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework, which is designed to encourage housebuilding and to allow more time to seek views on these various aspects of the policy. Civic Voice, to which we belong, will be submitting evidence to this consultation. They have also launched their manifesto "Localism for Real" in response to the disappointing outcome to the Government's Localism initiative. Its President Griff Rhys Jones says, "We face a crisis of civic engagement and need to give all citizens opportunities to actively shape the future of their place and improve the quality of the public realm in our towns and villages". At a local level we could encourage new people to join our society, particularly those of a younger generation, who will be most affected by present changes.

We are pleased to be involved with the re-appraisal of the Conservation Area and the establishment of Lists of Buildings of Merit. We know that there is a tremendous interest among the public for heritage. Local landmarks rooted in the community are places valued because of the sense that they will endure across the generations. I am also happy to tell you that we have two more blue plaques in the pipeline for this year.

I should like to end with a reflection on the High Street. People love High Streets! How lucky we are to have such an attractive and interesting High Street here in Haslemere. According to recent research carried out by Southampton University, the decline in the High Street in the South East has halted and Haslemere is better placed than many towns, especially in comparison to other parts of the country. This not only gives us convenience, but a wonderful sense of community and an opportunity to engage with others, so do carry on supporting your town's High Street as much as possible.

Jane Stopford Russell
Society Chairman

Planning Matters

Hill Road

A planning application to erect another house in the garden next to 31 Hill Road has been refused by WBC. The Society had objected on the basis of overdevelopment and adverse effect on the amenity of the local area.

Critchmere Lane

The Society has objected to two applications to erect four houses following the demolition of Coombe Lea, both of which were refused by WBC. The applicant has lodged an appeal against the latest refusal.

Lion Lane

In our support for the alterations that M&S are proposing for the old Cooperative supermarket, we also expressed concern about the adequacy of the car park and the increase in traffic that the new store will create in an already very congested Wey Hill. We suggested the need for a traffic assessment. WBC have approved the planning application without reference to such problems.

Wey Hill

The application to construct 55 apartments at 5 – 21 Wey Hill (the hoarded site) in three four -storey blocks would be the largest development to be carried out in Haslemere and thus demands careful consideration. The Society, whilst registering its support for getting this derelict site developed, has made strong objections based on over development and inadequate parking provision. We also pointed out that the scale and appearance (too high and dominating) are out of character with Haslemere and in particular with adjacent buildings. They do not comply with the Haslemere Design Statement and are more in keeping with a city location.

The proposals are for an exclusively residential development and while we appreciate the need for more residential accommodation, we have expressed concern at the loss of the previous commercial and employment facilities on this site and in Haslemere generally. The contribution such a large development will make to the current serious traffic congestion (queueing from the station to Lion Green) was also highlighted.

The Society strongly urged WBC to consider this application as part of an area development plan embracing plans to develop nearby land to the north owned by WBC; development of the Wey Hill car park; the need to enhance Wey Hill generally and improve its connection with Haslemere town centre; station alterations; a commuters' multi storey car park; increased commuting use of the station, and the serious current traffic congestion.

There are clearly many planning issues needing urgent and careful consideration in this area.

John Greer

Society Vice-Chairman and Planning Committee Chairman

Haslemere Vision

In November 2015 Haslemere Vision completed its second and final community wide consultation on housing and land use. Over 900 responses were received. The results will be released on January 28th at a presentation at 8.00 pm at the Museum and they will then available at www.haslemerevision.org.uk.

Guided by these results and those from its earlier consultations, Haslemere Vision volunteers and a working group of the Town Council are collaborating to draft the policy proposals for inclusion in the final Neighbourhood Plan. The aim is to have agreed a full draft of the plan with HTC, ready for a final public consultation, by July 2016. It is hoped that the timescale for the final external approval process and the subsequent referendum will only take a few months thereafter, but this could be delayed if Waverley Borough Council encounters further delays in completing its Local Plan for the Borough.

*Stewart Brown
Haslemere Vision*

HASLEMERE TOWN CENTRE CONSERVATION AREA

Haslemere Town Centre was first designated as Conservation Area - an area of special architectural and historical interest worthy of preservation and enhancement - in 1974.

In Haslemere the Conservation area consists of:

- (1) High Street, Lower Street, Petworth Road and West Street
- (2) Town Meadow, Shepherds Hill and Sandrock
- (3) Church Lane and Church Green

Following an appraisal in 2013, in which the Haslemere Society was involved, a Management Plan for the Conservation Area was published in 2015.

One important recommendation was that additional buildings that add to the character and history of the Borough of Waverley should be identified. As a consequence, the Haslemere Society is requesting that any residents who consider that their property might qualify should contact a committee member.

Other recommendations included:

- Improvements affecting street furniture, road markings, heritage waste bins, signage, lighting, planters.
- Nomination for WBC design awards for new and outstanding development; annual awards for shop fronts and floral displays
- Consideration given to the installation of public art
- Improvements to the access between West Street and Lower Street, and between Swan Barn Car Park and National Trust land.
- Efforts made to work with landowners to improve badly maintained property
- Development of an ornamental 'pocket park' at the bottom of Shepherds Hill, with seats, trees, sculpture etc.

Responsibility for implementation of the recommendations variously lies with the Haslemere Society, Surrey County Council, Waverley Borough Council , and Haslemere Town Council. Full details can be found on the website of Waverley Borough Council under Conservation Area Appraisal.

(With thanks to Cyndy Lancaster - abridged by the editor due to lack of space)

HASLEMERE SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2016

*Planning team

President: Robert Serman* MBE

Chairman: Jane Stopford-Russell

Vice Chairman/ Planning Team Chairman: John Greer*

Secretary: Ann Fitchett

Treasurer: Brian Deller

Website: Catherine Eyre

Committee

Tony Bennett*

Chris Harrison

Cyndy Lancaster*

Ceri O'Hara

Mike O'Neil