



FORTHCOMING EVENTS 2015

Spring Meeting	Friday 17th April	Haslemere Hall
Summer Party	Friday 19th June	St Christopher's Church
Outing by Coach	Wednesday 29th July	Canine Partners for the Disabled, and Guided Tour of Chichester City Walls (over 8s welcome)
AGM	Friday 20th November	Haslemere Hall

Dear Members

As you know, the Haslemere Society is a member of Civic Voice, a National Charity with 75,000 members which has been joined by 290 civic societies such as ours. They are particularly concerned at the moment with the fact that 41% of local authorities do not have an adopted local plan, exposing their communities to the threat of unwanted developments which they are powerless to prevent. This wholly unsatisfactory situation is addressed by Civic Voice in its manifesto "Localism For Real". They will continue to campaign for significant changes to the NPPF and Permitted Development Rights. Civic Voice encourages strong active communities in which people accept personal social responsibility for what happens in their area.

The Haslemere Society recognises the problems our community faces with our infrastructure already being at, or beyond, capacity. We are particularly concerned about the potential loss of the Youth Campus at Wey Hill, which has provided a central location for many different, superbly run youth groups for decades past. Yet more housing would produce more young people who need clubs and activity groups, and there appears to be no definite accessible alternative venue on offer.

We were pleased to take a stand at the Charities Fair held at Haslemere Hall in November which resulted in some new members. Our display of aerial photographs and development plans of the town stimulated much discussion and interest. The Society is being represented at the forthcoming Haslemere Festival by Robert Serman leading historical /architectural town walks, and Chris Harrison talking on 18th century politics with reference to the Haslemere scene.

We are hoping for a good response for Diana Serman's Summer Outing on July 29th which is, as ever, taking us to unusual local places, and which will be of interest to all the family. You will find the details in the newsletter and on our new website.

It is with pleasure that we welcome Catherine Eyre [of Peasant Arts fame] to the committee. She brings a younger perspective of life in Haslemere, an interest in local research, and a willingness to manage our new website – www.haslemeresociety.org .

(cont'd on page 2)

We were very sorry that Joe Macdonald decided to retire from the committee recently, due to other pressures and interests. We shall miss his considered opinions and questions. We thank him for his valued support in recent years.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Spring meeting on 17th April, when the speaker will talk about the effect of the Great War on our notable British Gardens, and to the Summer Party on 19th June, to be held this year in the newly refurbished St Christopher's Church, a beautiful Arts and Crafts building in Wey Hill.

In the meantime we await the outcomes of planning applications for development of Barfold Farm and Undershaw. In the case of Undershaw, we hope that the Council approves the worthwhile change of use to the Stepping Stones School and the admirable restoration planned.

Jane Stopford Russell
Society chairman

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Website Upgrade

Don't forget to look at our re-designed website: www.haslemeresociety.org This has been updated by Catherine Eyre, and provides not only information about the Society and its activities, but advice in connection with planning applications and details of the Society's Blue Plaque Scheme, complete with maps and photographs. We would appreciate your comments.

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Visit To The Edward Barnsley Workshops and Petersfield, 3rd September 2014

Following his talk at the Spring Meeting, James Ryan and a colleague escorted Haslemere Society members around the Edward Barnsley Workshops at Steep, near Petersfield.

James, a former Edward Barnsley apprentice, is now the Workshop Manager and has responsibility for all the designs produced there. He explained the types of timber used, the selection and seasoning processes, and the progress in cabinet-making since Geoffrey Lupton first started the business at the end of the 19th century. Even now only the very early stages of the work are done by machine – all the intricacies of cabinet-making are handcrafted.

In 1923 Edward Barnsley, who had been tutored as an apprentice by Geoffrey Lupton, took over the management of the workshops. Two apprentices are currently selected annually for further training, from about 60 applicants. We were then taken into the showrooms in the cottage that Geoffrey Lupton had built to see the most exquisite craftsmanship in bespoke furniture.

Members then visited Bedales School for a conducted tour of the Hall and magnificent Library, both designed and built by Geoffrey Lupton. After a tour of the grounds the coach took us to Petersfield where after lunch we met at St Peter's Church for a talk by members of the Petersfield Society about the history of Petersfield and especially of the partly Norman church. This was followed by an interesting guided walk around Petersfield with explanations given of the timber-framed structures of the old buildings and the existence of many pubs and hostelries in earlier centuries. Our tour ended with a visit to the Physic Garden, which is to be found at the rear, north side of the High Street - one of the very few in existence in the UK.

Our day was absolutely fascinating and enjoyable and many thanks must go to Diana Serman for her excellent organisation to give us a most memorable summer outing.

(With thanks to Margaret and Frank Walton - abridged by the editor due to lack of space)

Planning Matters

Police station

Following the sale of the Haslemere Police Station by the Surrey Police Force, an application was made in November 2014 for a substantial residential extension at the rear, and conversion of the existing part to residential and offices. The Society expressed its support for the scheme in principle but we were very critical of the appearance of this prominent structure. Because it is in the town centre conservation area we have called for a critical aesthetic appraisal and a radical enhancement of its appearance.

Undershaw

After many years of planning deliberations and arguments, planning applications for a change of use and for extensions and alterations were made in September 2014 by the Stepping Stones School. The Society registered its strong support, on the basis that it would stop the continuing deterioration of the building fabric; the existing buildings were of no great architectural interest or merit (but recognising their historical significance), and that the proposed use was a very worthy one. The planning application has now been approved by WBC (Waverley Borough Council).

Land at Sturt Road

An outline planning application was made in June 2014 to build up to 135 houses on open AONB land adjacent the Sun Brow estate. The Society called for a lot of important information which the applicant failed to provide: on infrastructure, justification to develop AONB land, flooding etc. The grant of consent was made subject to many conditions and councillors were persuaded by the prospect of 40% of the homes being classified as 'affordable'. On that basis the application was approved by WBC, but many people remain concerned about both road access and flooding.

Barfold Farm

Three planning applications were made in May 2014 for more commercial polo development in an AONB within the green belt, to which the Society strongly objected. WBC refused the applications. The applicant's appeals against the refusals were heard in December and the inspector decided to:

- Refuse construction of three new stable blocks
- Grant permission to construct a manège
- Grant permission to convert a barn to accommodate 19 ponies (although previous permission stipulated the barn's removal if it was not used for agricultural purposes).

John Greer

Society Vice-Chairman and Planning Committee Chairman

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Haslemere Vision

Haslemere Vision's second consultation on housing and land use is being held up while WBC finalises housing numbers for inclusion in their Local Plan. Both HV Steering Group and the Town Council take the view that it is important to have WBC's proposals on the table before our consultation takes place. Despite this uncertainty, the drafting of policy proposals, informed by the results of the first consultation, is under way. Dependent on the publication of WBC's proposals, the aim is to have the draft plan ready for community consultation by the end of 2015.

Stewart Brown

Chairman Haslemere Vision

OUR SOCIETY EVENTS FOR 2015

SPRING MEETING Friday 17th April 7.30 pm Haslemere Hall, Bridge Road

'After the Great War to the end of the 20th Century - the changing face of gardens': A garden-oriented talk, with modern aspects, as a good harbinger of spring. View the playgrounds of the 'bright young things' and the colour of the Festival of Britain in Battersea. See the influences of modern architecture, art, space travel and ecology on landscape and formal gardens, and the more recent garden attractions of Alwick in Northumberland and Eden in Cornwall, as well as gardens nearer to home in the south of England.

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 & CANAPÉS Friday 19th June 6.30 pm – 8.30 pm

To be held at St. Christopher's Church, St. Christopher's Green, Wey Hill GU27 1DD.

This unique Arts & Crafts designed church has been splendidly refurbished to provide modern facilities (and new chairs) for a welcoming meeting place. There will be a 10 minute talk about the history of the church

Tickets are £10.00 per person. Guests are welcome. Please fill in the enclosed form and send it with a cheque and SAE to:

The Treasurer, Brian Deller :

Weald View, Petworth Rd.' Haslemere GU27 3AU
(01428-642 636) by Thursday 12th June.



ANNUAL OUTING BY COACH: Wednesday 29th July

Morning: Canine Partners for the Disabled (who supply remarkable dogs to HELP FOR HEROES etc)

Afternoon: guided tour of Chichester City Walls

Begin with refreshments at Canine Partners, Heyshott, before an inspirational presentation and short film, a demonstration by dogs in training, and a talk from a human partner about the difference their canine partner makes to their life. Then on to Chichester, where there will be plenty of time for lunch before a tour (1½ hours/1½ miles) of its fine city walls. This will be led by guides experienced with both adults and children, as this outing has been especially planned for the school holidays and should appeal both to the young (8+) and the rest of us! More details on the application form.



Tickets (at cost) £18, to include the visit, tour, coach and tip for driver. Please fill in the enclosed form and send it with a cheque and SAE by 28th May to:

Diana Serman, 23 Courts Mount Road, Haslemere, GU27 2PR
(Tel/Fax: 01428-654 681 email: RGandDC@haslemere.com)