

Spring Newsletter 2014

THE
HASLEMERE
SOCIETY



FORTHCOMING EVENTS 2014

Spring Meeting
Summer Party
Outing by Coach

Friday 11th April
Friday 20th June
Wednesday 3rd September

Haslemere Hall
Haslemere Museum
Furniture Workshop,
Bedales School & Petersfield
Haslemere Hall

AGM

Friday 14th November

Dear Members

At the start of a new year one naturally looks forward and, given the pressures which the town faces, there will no doubt be some significant challenges to be confronted. However you will be glad to know that the Haslemere Society thrives with an impressive membership, providing a forum for debate on the many and varied activities and proposals for our town.

I am sure that you will join me in congratulating Robert Serman, our president, for his award of an MBE in the New Year's Honours list. The award is for services to conservation but of course he has done much for the town besides that. He points out that it really is a joint award, given the part played by his wife Diana.

Our planning team has been very busy addressing, among other matters, the complexities which accompany the prospect of large quantities of housing being proposed for this area, which in turn will produce extra volumes of traffic streaming into the town. Try as we might to restrict these developments, often we can only hope to influence their scale and appearance in a positive way. The committee, as ever, monitors the differing views on key local issues. The car parking problems continue and at this moment we await the eventual outcome of the application for funds from the Department of Transport. We are very concerned about congestion at the railway station forecourt and would ideally like to see a holistic approach to cater for the parking needs of the town, as it expands. However, funding is key to all this. Should there be further applications for an MSCP, we will comment, taking into account all the issues.

In terms of applications for building on designated Green Belt and AONB land, we support the protection which exists at the moment and consider that the infrastructure in this town is insufficient for large developments. Although the Government aims for sustainable development, the future seems full of uncertainties. Civic Voice, a body to whom we belong, is collecting comments from members at the moment on this issue to present to Parliament. If you would like to take part in this lobbying please contact Civic Voice by email: info@civicvoice.org.uk.

We are also aware of the many concerns about the potential fracking exploration in Fernhurst. We have consequently booked Professor Cartwright from Oxford University, an expert on fracking, to speak at our AGM. We are closely monitoring all these developments in order that we can contribute to the debate and keep our members informed.

(Cont'd on page 2)

We look forward to seeing you at the events we have planned for this year. Dates are listed on the front page and full details are on the back page of this newsletter. Our summer evening party is to be held at our wonderful museum this year. Our hope is to hold our party there in its beautiful garden alternate years while using different venues for the years in between.

As Tennyson House, Lower Street, Haslemere, neared completion, the society was delighted to be asked to choose some of Alfred Lord Tennyson's poetry and to provide pictures for the large display board to be situated beside the path between the High Street car park and the Lower Street pedestrian crossing. Our thanks particularly go to society members, Marion Dell, and Robert and Diana Serman who spent many constructive hours liaising with James Agace, the developer, deciding on the verses, the photographs and the layout. The finished result is outstanding and should be included in the town trail. We are pleased to welcome James as a member of the Haslemere Society.

As those members with email were notified, BBC's 'Countryfile' broadcast an excellent programme on 12th January covering highlights from the Haslemere area. The principal themes were Hindhead, the Common and the Devil's Punch Bowl, Conan Doyle and his home at Undershaw and of course Sir Robert Hunter. The issues of residential development in the countryside following the introduction of the new National Planning Policy Framework were discussed. We can all identify with the concern expressed over the lack of a Core Strategy by WBC which could be a Trojan Horse for unrestrained development around these parts.

The Society, along with others, sponsored the Waverley Design Awards which were presented in the autumn. Sadly there were no Haslemere winners this time.

We are very pleased to be contributing to the replacement of a very special lime tree in Haslemere. The notable lime tree on the corner of Lower Street and Shepherd's Hill has become unsafe owing to a cleft which has developed in the trunk making it prone to disease. This tree was planted at the instigation of Michael Foster, then Chairman of the Haslemere Society, in memory of Olive Belchamber, an architect who was noted for her excellence in converting some of the old and more modest properties in Haslemere.

The autumn was a busy time for us with the commemoration dinner for the 100th anniversary of the death of Sir Robert Hunter, our founder. This fully subscribed event was held at the Georgian House Hotel and was a most enjoyable occasion with guests being entertained to music and song by The Mazaiko Duo. The Children's Writing Competition on Open Spaces, also to honour Sir Robert Hunter, attracted 344 entries from 6 local schools and was much appreciated by their teachers.

The Society took a stall at the Christmas Fair in Haslemere where our stand was much enhanced by the display of our old aerial photographs of the town. Local photographer, Peter Searight of The Remarkable Studio, Lynchmere, very kindly offered to photograph the originals and from these new laminated versions have been produced for public display. These photographs always attract a great deal of attention, particularly from the younger generation and their children.

We have had a plea from one of our members who would like us to spearhead a campaign for much needed seats in the town. The lack of places to rest for a while in the town prevents many residents from enjoying shopping. More residents out and about in the town would not only benefit the local businesses, but would provide enjoyable social contact for those with limited mobility. Please contact us if you would be interested in this idea.

In the meantime your comments and views on local issues are most welcome and valued.

Jane Stopford Russell
Society chairman

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION INCREASE

The annual report gave notice of this proposed modest increase, and the new subscription amounts were voted in at the AGM in November.

All members who are not life members will find a new standing order form with this newsletter. We should be grateful if you would fill this in and post it c/o 23 Courts Mount Road, Haslemere, GU27 2PR, or leave it at the museum in an envelope clearly marked for the Haslemere Society.

Standing orders will now be due on 1st September. Annual payments by cheque or in cash will be due on 1st December as before. Members who currently pay manually will also receive a standing order form in case they feel inclined to change to the standing order method of payment.

MEMBERS' EMAIL ADDRESSES

We seldom contact our members by email, but occasionally, if something urgent or interesting (or both) crops up, it is the undoubtedly best way to contact you. So that we have your up-to-date email,

please send your name (s) by email to:

RGandDC@haslemere.com to confirm your email address.

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Planning Matters

Planning issues in the town are continually changing, and the current issues as we go to print are:-

The Planning Inspector's rulings on two appeals awaited on a proposal to replace a garage with a new house at 115 Kings Road and to build a further house adjacent to 31 Hill Road.

Waverley BC are due to consider on 24th January two more applications in the AONB at Barfold Farm to build 72 loose boxes for polo ponies.

WBC has effectively refused the application for a bandstand on Lion Green due to inadequate information. We do not know whether Haslemere TC will take steps to provide the necessary information and make another application.

While the society has registered its reasoned objections to all the above applications it is ready to support applications which improve the character and amenity of the town. We made strong objections to the proposal to bus over 300 London pupils through Haslemere (around the Town Hall and up Shepherds Hill) on their weekly journeys to and from Stedham in lieu of a more direct A3 route. However the SDNP planning authority has refused the whole scheme to enlarge the St. Cuthman's School. An appeal is a possibility.

WBC is currently dealing with a revised Core Strategy which will include confirming how many and what type of houses have to be built in Waverley and more importantly to us just how many in Haslemere. Pertinent to this is the suggestion (not yet a planning application) to build houses on AONB land adjacent to Sturt Road. The pros and cons of this and the proposal for a multi-storey car park at the station which is currently receiving attention from our MP and the government will be on the society's planning agenda in the coming months, as well as the public inquiry on 8th -10th April into WBC's plans for Pay & Display development of the Wey Hill car park.

John Greer
Society vice-chairman and planning committee chairman

OUR SOCIETY EVENTS FOR 2014

SPRING MEETING Friday 11th April 7.30 pm Haslemere Hall, Bridge Road

The speaker will be Alastair Langlands, a natural follow-up to James Ryan from the Edward Barnsley Workshop who addressed us in November. He is an expert in the Arts and Crafts movement and will talk about its impact on Steep, Froxfield and adjacent areas. As a teacher at Bedales School for some time, he had a number of professional connections with The Barnsley Workshop. This will be a fascinating talk, whether or not members are planning to join our outing in September (see below).

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 20th June 7.00 pm - 9.00 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. Our musician this year is Ben Copeman from Haslemere who is studying for a higher degree in Flute music at Trinity College in London.



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 (01428-642 636) by Friday 6th June.

ANNUAL OUTING BY COACH: Wednesday September 3rd

Edward Barnsley Workshop, Bedales School, guided tour of Petersfield



Begin with a tour of the workshops where wood is worked into beautiful and individually designed furniture, follow this with a tour of Bedales School where we can see fine examples of these skills in the library, and also visit the barns, the fine Arts & Crafts Lupton Hall and the modern theatre. On to Petersfield where there will be free time for lunch before a guided walk of the town by members of the Petersfield Society. More details on the enclosed application form, but note that the workshops are 200 metres from the coach drop-off point and that there will be nowhere to buy coffee (!) until lunchtime. You are of course welcome to bring your own.

Tickets (at cost) £16 to include the visits and tours, coach and tip for driver. Please fill in the enclosed form and send it with a cheque and SAE by 14th July to:

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