

# Newsletter 2017

THE  
**HASLEMERE**  
SOCIETY



## FORTHCOMING EVENTS 2017

<b>Spring Meeting</b>	<b>Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April 7.30.pm</b>	<b>Haslemere Hall</b>
<b>Summer Party</b>	<b>Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June 6.30 – 8.30 p.m</b>	<b>Undershaw (£10 ticket)</b>
<b>AGM</b>	<b>Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November 7.30 pm</b>	<b>Haslemere Hall</b>

Dear Members,

Welcome once again to our Spring Newsletter. Thank you all for continuing to support the Haslemere Society, and a warm welcome to all those who have joined during the past year. You will be pleased to know that our membership now stands at 554, which is a good number for a relatively small town.

Since our annual report was written six months ago, the Society has been engaged in various activities, which we hope are for the benefit of the town. It is interesting to note how many people turn to a Civic Society, such as ours, when help is needed in resolving an injustice. We were very pleased, for example, to help the Half Moon Estate Residents' Association to support them at the Public Inquiry into the legality of the closure of the footpath that runs beside Lloyds Bank to the High Street. Although the footpath had not previously been registered as such, it is hoped, as a result of a successful outcome from the Inquiry, that this will now be possible. The footpath was finally re-opened in mid-January. We were also delighted to be involved with the restoration of the green Penfold letter box situated near the Georgian Hotel in the High Street, which was returned to its former glory in December, as a result of our communications with Royal Mail. Penfold was a distinguished Haslemere resident in the later part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and designed, among other things, the original Royal Mail letter box.

In early October a group of members was given an interesting tour of Petworth town by the Chairman of the Petworth Society, Peter Jerrome. The walking tour of the historic streets and buildings in the town, on a glorious autumn day, culminated in a visit to the Petworth Cottage Museum.

We had the pleasure of another Blue Plaque unveiling, this time at Undershaw, the former home of Conan Doyle, which coincided with the opening of Stepping Stones School. We had a most fascinating talk at the AGM, focusing on the Marshall family who built Tweenways in 1889, now the Hindhead Music Centre. The Marshalls were part of a group who founded the Commons Preservation Trust, the precursor of the Haslemere Society.

Our website and face book pages are well established. We hope to find someone to replace Catherine Eyre as webmaster before long, as this is such an important part of communication in modern society. To quote an American President, "Be ready to engage with your community". Civic societies, such as ours, can do so much to help us all be proud of where we live. So please step forward and engage with us.

*Jane Stopford Russell*  
**Society Chairman**

## **Haslemere Community Land Trust**

The result of a local consultation by Haslemere Vision, Haslemere Community Land Trust (HCLT) was set up last year to address the area's shortage of affordable housing and the erosion of employment opportunities. The hope of the founding group is that in time the trust will be able to help in any situation where there is a gap between public and private provision.

Community land trusts are unique in many ways: they have cross-party political support, having come into being through serial legislation from 2008 to 2014; they must be accountable to their communities and non-profit-making; and they can ensure that the housing they build is affordable in perpetuity.

The motto of the HCLT is: "In the community, for the community, by the community". We believe that as far as possible all of the trust's activities should be rooted in the locality, and we want to get the whole community involved – whether in providing help, support, skills and ideas, or offering trade or professional expertise. And, of course, we are looking for land and funding, as well as for those we can help with the affordable housing. Eventually we hope to offer "community shares", another unique feature of organisations such as CLTs.

But first of all we need members and help, so that we can register the HCLT and really get it moving. We have now received our first grant, and so are looking for anyone who can assist this worthwhile project who has enthusiasm and skills in charity finance, community engagement, housing development, websites/social media or fundraising – or just wants to chip in and help!

By the time you read this we will have launched our website ([www.haslemerecit.org.uk](http://www.haslemerecit.org.uk)). It will tell our story to date, detail our principles and activities and explain more about CLTs and their potential. Please register your interest on the website. Together we can help our community grow even stronger.

**Paul Bagshaw**

## **New Station Car Park & Forecourt**

One of the biggest projects in recent years for Haslemere is the development of the Railway Station car park opened in December 2016, the brain child of past Haslemere Mayor Michael Dover

SW Trains, as a statutory undertaker, does not need to obtain planning consent. Rail users having expressed concern about the proposals, I was asked, as a Haslemere Society Committee member, to be the link person and quickly sought meetings with those involved.

May I acknowledge the significant involvement of our County Councillor in pressing SW Trains to consider beneficial variations to their proposals, and the work of Ken Griffiths, who was instrumental in acquisition of the station visitor centre and planting, much of which is being progressed at the time of writing this report.

At site meetings with the SW Trains design manager, concerns were expressed about the forecourt plans for parking and single file exiting. They agreed to give consideration to 'chevron' parking to allow cars to reverse into the bays in readiness to quickly get away at rush hour. It was made very clear that having a single car exit from the station forecourt would result in grid lock with traffic being unable to enter the forecourt during rush hour. Long queues from traffic unable to enter the forecourt would develop if traffic was unable to quickly leave the area. Consideration is being given to allowing cars to quickly vacate the forecourt by allowing two lanes for left and right exiting.

The old concrete posts and chain link fencing have been replaced with wooden posts and dense hedging to mask much of the green car park sheeting. The corner entrance to the car park has been landscaped.

Additional funding has enabled recruitment of a local contractor to revamp the forecourt raised boundary area with the highway, and to replant the two platform three flower beds.

**Mike O'Neil** *(abridged by the editor)*

## **Planning Matters**

### Andrews Site, Hindhead (37 flats)

We have submitted strong objections, primarily based on: over development; unattractive design; dominating effect and drainage issues. HTC have also objected. Although the decision target date was 9<sup>th</sup> December 2016, this application is still 'pending'.

### Sturt Farm revised entrance / Longdene House (hybrid application)

We have registered strong objections, some of which have been reported in The Herald and these (several) applications have yet to be determined by WBC.

### WBC Pre Submission Local Plan Part 1 Strategy Policies & Sites

We have made numerous comments, as have many others throughout the Borough, which resulted in a special WBC meeting to discuss. In particular we objected strongly to the proposal to remove the Area of Special Visual Importance (ASVI) protection from the area south of Holy Cross Hospital, despite the Haslemere Design Statement emphasising the importance of this protection. This proposal has since been removed from Part 1 but it seems that it will be considered again later this year under Part 2. It is understood that following some revisions, Part 1 has been submitted to the Inspector for approval. The proposals/approvals for the development of the Dunsfold Airport site will have a significant influence on the final content of this document.

### 18-22 St. Christophers Road (five houses)

Following a previous refusal, a further application was made, with a slightly reduced roof height. We considered that it was still an overdevelopment; it has again been refused by WBC.

### Black Spots in Haslemere (dilapidated areas needing attention)

Following a meeting with a HTC Councillor to discuss our list of town black spots, there has been an encouraging verbal reaction, but as yet we await actions to be taken.

### Oak Hall (previously Wispers school)

The Society registered objections to an application for further extensions, due to its overlooking an existing adjacent residence. It is noted that the application has since been withdrawn.

***John Greer - Society Vice Chairman and Planning Committee Chairman***

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## **'Our New Cottage in Hindhead'**

Marion Dell's talk for the 2016 AGM was about the social and domestic life of the Marshall family who built Tweenways, now the Hindhead Music Centre, and who lived there from 1889-1921. William Marshall was an architect and runner up in the first lawn tennis final in 1887. Mrs. Marshall was an active suffragette and an accomplished pianist. They were friendly with Tennyson and with most of the eminent Victorians who had moved to Hindhead. Both became energetically involved with local affairs, especially those to do with Commons Preservation, music, sport, science and education. They hosted many dinner parties and social gatherings including lively amateur theatricals, with guests including Arthur Conan Doyle. They invited Canadian officers, billeted nearby in makeshift huts at the beginning of WW1, to come to musical afternoons that included tea as well as the opportunity for a bath and to have their socks washed by the maids.

The Haslemere Society placed a blue plaque on the house on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2008.

Marion's talk was based on extracts from Mrs. Marshall's unpublished Journal, and was illustrated by family photographs and other archive material.

