

Your Haslemere

The Haslemere Society Newsletter *Spring 2024*

Chairman's welcome



Dear Howard,

Welcome to our Spring 2024 newsletter.

In this edition we lead off with an article by Howard Brown on the extraordinary and inexplicable saga of the Red Court 2 planning enquiry for which the outcome is awaited: no doubt this saga has a lot further still to run.

Sonja Dullaway updates us on other planning matters including the Society's intervention in relation to the disgraceful windows and doors at The Old Police Station: I can only imagine that the recent decision to offer the flats at the station for let will be used as an excuse to ignore any enforcement order to meet the original planning requirements.

We profile three important institutions in the town – the Comrades Club, Food Bank and Banking Hub. Many members have lamented the demise of banks in the town, and I know that the Hub will be a welcome addition to the town. The hub is a great credit to those who have fought for it, not least as there remain less than 10 set up across the UK with the banks citing lack of available premises (former banks?) as the reason for delay in many towns. Simon Mackie's on message cartoon captures the humour of this sudden return of so many banks to our High Street.

Interspersed among these articles, Gareth David takes us on another bus trip and thanks again to Di Keeley for capturing so many planned events in the coming months.

My wife Shirley shares the story of another Lost Son, the story of Herbert Humphrey who was involved in two battles in Gaza having an added poignancy given the current tragedy unfolding there. Shirley's articles are, of necessity, much longer than any other articles in this newsletter, and to save members who are not interested in these stories the need to scroll through the digital version of these articles, we are attaching the article by way of a link that can be followed rather than including the article in the body of the newsletter.

I hope you enjoy the newsletter.

To read *The Lost Sons of Haslemere: Private Herbert Humphrey* by Shirley Harrison, [please click here](#)

[Download here if you would prefer to print the newsletter](#)

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The great Red Court planning scandal

By Howard Brown



Members are aware of the Red Court planning application Phase 2 which requires access to this proposed development of 140 homes from the Midhurst Road. The planning application was initially rejected by Haslemere Town Council, followed by an outright rejection by Waverley BC without the planning Committee, based on protection of the Landscape AONB (now redesignated as National Landscape).

The Developer then lodged an appeal which was notified in October 2023. This article describes the extraordinary events that followed.

Notice was given of a Hybrid Inquiry to take place in January 2024, which was unlike the Phase 1 Appeal. No details of any agenda or public review stage were made available.

As part of the council appeal process, all residents who submitted comments or immediate neighbours must be notified in writing about the appeal. No such notice was given.

Waverley stated they had informed Haslemere Town Council, and in the extraordinary meeting at Waverley held after the Appeal closed, the planning portfolio holder stated that on 18th December notification had been given to comment submitters and a dedicated web page made available. Inexplicably this web page, if it ever existed, was taken down before the Inquiry started.

Waverley subsequently stated that, due to an IT error, only 70 residents out of 450 who had commented had been notified of the enquiry. We have been unable to identify any objecting resident who had received notification. Two people attended the public enquiry at Waverley; one who found it by chance; the other was an expected supporter, turned objector. This error biased the democratic process of the enquiry.

Following complaints to the inspector, a public hearing on ZOOM was granted and, after a campaign to publicise this, 243 residents dialled in to the event. Some prominent objectors stood up along with the Haslemere Society, delivering topical subjects such as water supply; protection of the ANOB and process failures all leading to a rather biased review of the site in favour of the appellant.

A second more serious event then took place when it was discovered that both the Waverley Planning Officer and the independent Planning Inspector “liked” a reference to the enquiry by the appellant on social media, LinkedIn. This action served to discredit the independence of the inspector in the eyes of objectors.

In the following days, the inspector deleted the “Like” to the appellant. Waverley issued a formal apology. In the next week, articles appeared in the London Standard and the official Planning Journal. With the loss of perceived independence, the inspector closed his LinkedIn account.

The appeal is still with the planning inspectorate, and we anticipate that it will be determined towards the end of April.

We have no insight into any actions that may have been taken as a result of the two serious breaches of process.

Many residents have been in contact, stating a judicial review would be required if the appeal went against Haslemere, and the protection of the National Landscape.

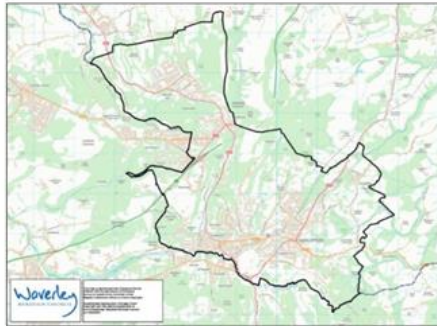
Jeremy Hunt MP was contacted as our local MP, but unfortunately he has not been available for comment.

Planning update

By Sonja Dullaway

Waverley Local Plan(s)

The Plan Area



This feels rather like the Forth Bridge project – and if it feels like that to us we can only sympathise with the local planning officers. The current position is that we have an up-to-date *Local Plan Part 2: Site Allocations and Development Management Policies* (adopted 21 March 2023) but the *Local Plan Part 1: Strategic Policies and Sites* dates from 2018.

Waverley Borough Council (WBC) decided in February 2023 that this needed to be updated and in July it decided that this should be a comprehensive update covering both strategic and non-strategic policies.

WBC is currently in the 'early engagement' phase regarding the scope and content of the plan, and will move to 'identification and assessment of spatial options' later this year. The required public consultation will happen in summer 2025, on the current plan and the expectation is that the new plan will be adopted in late 2027.

However, the fact that the the LPP1 is more than five years old has two important implications. First, Waverley is not released from the requirement to continuously demonstrate a 5 year housing land supply and the standard method must be used to calculate the housing requirement.

Waverley's most recent statement on this dates from October 2023 and concludes that there is currently a significant shortfall and that the requirement is now 719 dwellings pa, an increase on the previous calculation, which was already challenging. Secondly, 'tilted balance' (from paragraph 11(d) of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)) will be engaged, making it harder to refuse developments unless there are clear grounds for refusal in the NPPF itself.

It is not hard to see the potential for damage to the character of the town and the local environment from this combination. Members will be aware that residents in other parts of the borough are similarly

concerned.

Neighbourhood Plan

It feels like only yesterday that we were urging members to take part in the consultation and the referendum on the local Neighbourhood Plan but in fact it came into force on 12 November 2021. However, although the Plan formally covers the period to 2032, Neighbourhood Plans are meant to be reviewed and, if necessary updated, every five years.

Given that it took the better part of a decade to produce the first one, Haslemere Town Council, which owns the Neighbourhood Plan, is now considering how best to start a review. This is complicated by the ongoing review of the Local Plan, since the Neighbourhood Plan has to align with the Local Plan, not vice versa.

Since the update of the Local Plan Part 1 is not due to be completed until late 2027 (assuming no slippage), this may make a review of the Neighbourhood Plan unhelpfully complicated. We await the Town Council's decision.

WBC Planning Committee

WBC has now moved to having only a single Planning Committee to cover the entire area, from having four separate committees only a few years ago. It has also introduced a change in policy so that committee members may not vote on applications for sites in their wards. This has the advantage of reducing possible bias, but the disadvantage of meaning that the councillor who is likely to be best informed about the application is unable to vote on it. More applications are also expected to be decided by the Planning Officers.

Road name at Red Court 1

Following representations from a member, our Chairman contacted Elivia Homes to suggest that their proposed name for the main road on their site, 'Hunters Close', was rather inappropriate since the original Hunter family, founder members of the National Trust, had put so much effort into preserving green spaces for the nation. Elivia quickly responded to say that they had not intended to cause any upset and graciously agreed to use a different name to respect community feeling.

The Old Police Station

Some members may have noticed that the doors and windows put into the Old Police Station are somewhat out of keeping with the conservation area and in fact they do not meet the terms of the conditions set when permission to develop the site was granted back in 2015. The Society brought this to the attention of WBC planning department in October 2021(!) and last November we received a communication saying that they expected to serve an enforcement notice early in 2024.

Haslemere's historic Comrades' Club

By Gareth David



Walk down the west side of Haslemere High Street from the corner opposite the Town Hall and, after passing the currently-closed pet shop and The Swan Inn you will reach one of the finest Arts & Crafts buildings in the town, but a place that few members will probably know or have ever ventured inside.

Haslemere & District Comrades' Club has been a feature of the town centre for almost 150 years, yet few of us will know much about its story, so being curious to know more I spent an evening at the club in the company of Vice Chairman Michael Kent, who has an encyclopaedic knowledge of its history and those behind its establishment.

At the start of his authoritative book on the club, Kent notes a plaque in its entrance hall which reads "Workman Club House – built by [James] Stewart Hodgson of Lythe Hill 1886". He notes that Haslemere Workman's Institute (later to become the Comrades' Club) was founded in December 1880, not by Hodgson, but by a "lowly newsagent and cobbler, John Clark".



While Hodgson, who was a wealthy banker working at Barings, paid for design and construction of the

Club, he did not donate it to anyone and it became part of his portfolio of Haslemere properties. On his death its ownership passed to his Irish heirs and it was many years later (in 1919) that the building was donated to the Club.

John Clark was the real inspiration for what is now the Comrades' Club. In a document discovered during renovations to the club in 1963 and dated 28 February 1880, Clark wrote: "In December 1880 I started a Liberal Association and the same night afterwards I went from the Swan Inn to the Town Hall and started the Workingmen's Institute".

So why did Clark feel it necessary for the "working men" of Haslemere to congregate? In his history of the club, Kent suggests that it was to serve an educational need – possibly modelled on the successful Guildford Institute – and as somewhere for local men to relax after a hard day's work – most living at the time in small and over-crowded cottages.

The Workmen's Institute became the Comrades' Club in October 1917, with females being admitted for the first time (as guests). Two years later (September 1919) the club building was put on the market by its then owner, the Marchioness of Sligo, and it was secured for the Comrades of the Great War by a generous benefactor, William Edward Muir, at a price of £2,500.

Throughout the 1920s and 1930s the Comrades' club thrived, with plenty of ex-servicemen choosing to be members of a club dedicated to them. In 1933 the first "Amusement machine" was installed and generated a profit for the club and in 1937 it was decided to allow women to be admitted on Sunday evenings to a former committee room.

Just as the Women's Institute does not allow male members, so the Comrades' remains a bastion of male membership. Allowing women members would require a vote in favour at an AGM and, after being decisively voted against when proposed in the 1930s and again in the 1950s, Kent believes any further vote would be unlikely to get passed.

In his detailed history of the Comrades' Club, Kent notes that Minutes for the 1940s make relatively little mention of war, despite shortages of goods such as beer and whisky that continued until well after 1945. Remarkably a second-hand television set was bought for the club in 1948, the year which also saw the death of its benefactor and President, William Muir.

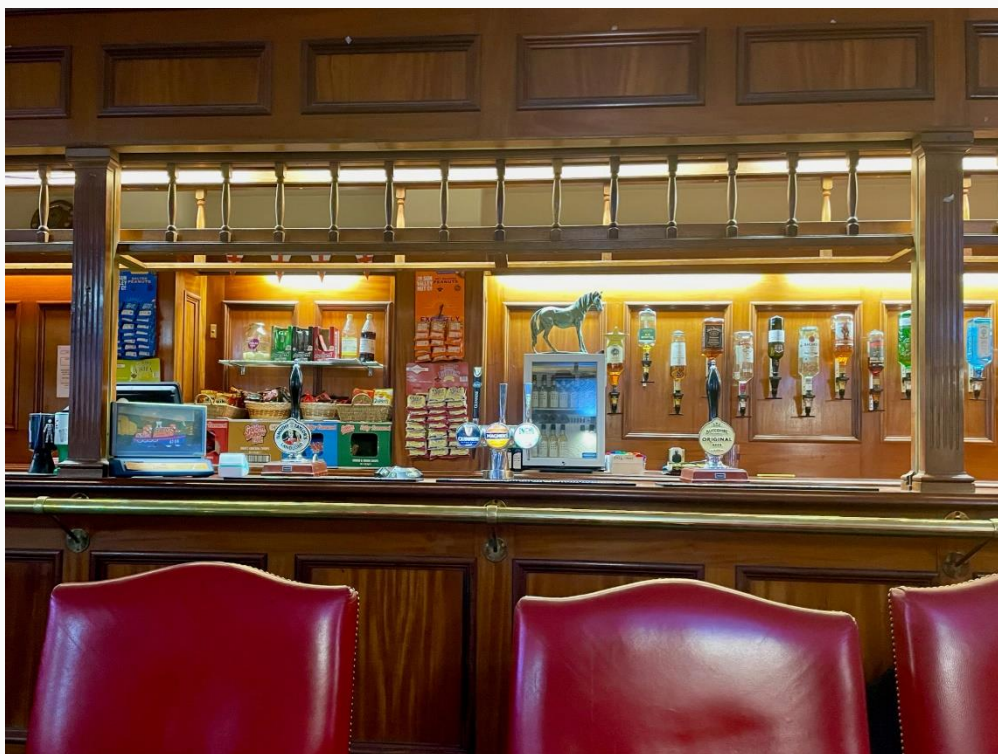
That television set continued to cause difficulties during the 1950s, when there was a return to reasonable prosperity, though the club struggled and failed to make a profit. Kent notes many blatant conflicts of interest that would be unacceptable today, as committee members remained suppliers of services to the club.

Fruit machines helped transform the fortunes of the Comrades' club during the 1960s, when, after sustaining cumulative losses of almost £600 during the 1950s, the club became a major benefactor to the town, while a significant part of its profit was spent on improvements to the club-house and subsidising social events.

But the lucrative fruit machines were to become a source of dispute in the early 1970s, when the club stewardess, Mrs. Collins, was repeatedly accused of playing the machines, having worked out when they were about to pay out through her regular presence in the club. She had first been accused of this in 1967 and again in 1971 and 1972, and after numerous disputes with the committee, she and her husband resigned in June 1975.

Despite this controversy, income from fruit machines continued to grow and reached £20,000 a year by 1977, enabling a £45,000 enlargement and modernisation of the club to be carried out in 1973 when a snooker room with two full-sized snooker tables was built to the rear of bar area.

By 1983 a new maximum of 900 members was approved and that total was reached two years later, while on 10 November 1986 the Comrades' Club celebrated its centenary. Today the Comrades' Club has a rather more modest membership of around 220, who pay £40.00 a year for use of a comfortable club house, where an excellent pint of Butcombe Original bitter costs £4.20, and is open daily from 12.00 noon until 10.00pm (8.00pm on Sundays).



Activities in the club include poker and quiz nights, with the Comrades' also fielding teams that compete locally in snooker, darts and pool. While it remains a membership club, and welcomes new members (call 01428 642771), the Comrades' also fulfils useful social function in the town centre, hosting prostate cancer testing twice a year and being open to all on Remembrance Sunday and on Charter Fair days.

A conversation with Jo Mackay: lead volunteer at the Haslemere Food Bank

By Chris Harrison



I visited Haslemere food bank in its home at the Haslemere Methodist Church to learn more about how it operates and the need for its work in Haslemere. I almost turned back as a funeral was just about to begin, but happily the pallbearers informed me that other activities continue in the church during funerals- a novelty to someone with a Church of England Heritage.

Having overcome the initial challenges, I met with Jo, in the vibrant coffee shop inside the Church and was immediately struck by her infectious enthusiasm. Jo explained that the Food Bank started 10 years ago and was founded by Dave & Alison Rice. Jo herself has volunteered for six years, and stepped up her involvement during the pandemic, as the villa letting business that she runs was understandably unable to operate during lockdown.

For the team at the Food Bank, this was incredibly fortunate, as inevitably demand increased dramatically at this time. Previously the Food Bank would see at most six families a week, but now that is more like 30 to 35 families per week, a number that has remained constant despite improving circumstances for most of us.

Some come every week, but there is a surprisingly high turnover, as families and individuals enter hardship and find their way through it. Many families who have previously benefited from support have subsequently become generous donors.

To use the services of the food bank, customers need to be referred. Principal referring agencies are the Citizens Advice Bureau, Three Counties Money Advice Service, all of the churches in the community, and

GPs at the Haslemere Health Centre. Schools are also important in the referral process, often identifying families who need an extra helping hand and referring them to the food bank for support.

I asked if the food bank needed volunteers. In a great tribute to our community, Jo explained that there is actually a waiting list of people who would like to volunteer. There are about 40 current volunteers, who operate on a rota basis. The time commitment is flexible to allow for a volunteer's other commitments.

The principal drop-off points for the food bank can be found at Tesco's, Waitrose, the Haslemere Bookshop, R Miles and Apothecary 27 in Wey Hill, the last three of which became drop-off points during the pandemic. However there is a more extensive list of collection points from which collections are made on the Tuesday and these [can be found here](#).

Waitrose delivers to the food bank once a week, whilst the food bank has a team of volunteers to collect from the other donation points on a weekly basis. The food bank also purchase fresh fruit and vegetables from Waitrose each week thanks to monetary from the local community which again, Waitrose kindly deliver to the food bank every Wednesday morning.

In addition to food, the food bank also provides essential toiletries and other household items when possible such as cleaning products, feminine hygiene products, nappies and baby formula.

It was very evident as I toured the food bank that it is incredibly well organised. Food is divided into different categories with clear indications of use by dates and from these a generic bag of product is created for the food bank customers.



Car-free touring from Haslemere with a bus pass

By Gareth David



Five years ago I wrote a feature for the Newsletter (Spring 2019) following a day out on our local buses when I made a lengthy circular tour to Winchester by taking a top-deck trip on the newly-launched Stagecoach route 13 bus that ran all the way from Haslemere via Alton to Basingstoke in around two hours. From there I continued on via Whitchurch to Winchester and then came back via Alresford and Alton.

Alas, route 13 proved unlucky and the section between Whitehill and Haslemere was withdrawn four years later in April 2023, meaning the loss of a useful direct bus link between Haslemere and Alton, and so not repeatable when I came to planning a first day out from home using my newly-acquired English Concessionary Bus Pass.

Despite loss of that Alton link, there is still a reasonable network of routes radiating from Haslemere, which on weekdays comprises an hourly service (19) to Farnham and Aldershot, hourly services to Guildford on both routes 70 and 71 (the latter via Chiddingfold) and route 70 services to Midhurst. What remains of the former route 13 is a handful of route 23 services to Lindford and Whitehill, from where there are onward connections to Alton.

<i>Haslemere station</i>	-	<i>09.30 Stagecoach 70</i>
<i>Midhurst Bus Stand</i>	<i>09.55</i>	<i>10.30 Stagecoach 1</i>
<i>Worthing South Street</i>	<i>11.58</i>	-
<i>Worthing Marine Parade</i>	-	<i>12.15 Stagecoach 700</i>
<i>Littlehampton</i>	<i>13.12</i>	<i>13.20 Stagecoach 700</i>
<i>Chichester Bus Station</i>	<i>14.22</i>	-
<i>Chichester South Street</i>	-	<i>14.45 Stagecoach 60</i>

<i>Midhurst Bus Stand</i>	15.32	16.05	<i>Stagecoach 70</i>
<i>Haslemere High Street</i>	16.35	-	

Deciding to head in a different direction this time, I noted that a Midhurst-bound 70 is timed to depart Haslemere Station at 09.30, the time that bus passes become valid, so an obvious starting point for my first bus pass outing (Friday, 8 March 2024), with Midhurst offering connections in to half-hourly services towards Chichester (route 60) and hourly services to Worthing (route 1).

Picking the latter option meant a half-hour wait in the spring sunshine at the Midhurst bus stand close to the attractive Cowdray Park before the delayed arrival and 20-minute late departure. The route 1 bus struggled to get around the narrow one-way system in Petworth, but then hit the open road, making up lost time as we passed extensive flooding on the way to Pulborough, before calling at sizeable Storrington then on to South Street in Worthing.



After the trip through rural West Sussex, it is remarkable to see the extent of urbanisation along the South Coast, with Worthing being a huge area of housing that then extends west all the way along the line of my third bus ride through places like Goring and Rustington to Littlehampton.

One of the highlights of the circuit I had chosen for my first bus pass day out was being able to ride on the top deck of double-decker buses all the way from Worthing to Littlehampton then on to Chichester and finally from there back to Midhurst, with virtually all *Coastliner 700* and *South Downs Link 60* services being operated by double-deckers.

Coastliner 700 is a frequent service along the South Coast that used to run all the way from Brighton to Portsmouth, but has now been split into three separate parts. So walking around the corner from South Street in Worthing to Marine Parade, my first top deck ride was on a bus running from Brighton to Littlehampton, where I had a ten minute wait before boarding another 700 service operating from Littlehampton to Chichester.

For anyone sharing my interest in railways and semaphore signals, the Littlehampton-Chichester route takes you past both Littlehampton and Bognor Regis railway stations, both of which currently retain semaphore signals. There is even a stop beyond the station in Bognor that is called "Signal Box" as it is right behind the notable art deco Southern Railway signal box.

Once in charming Chichester you are faced with another short (300 yard) walk from the rather dismal bus station to a stop on the west side of South Street, from where *South Downs Link* 60 buses depart for Midhurst every half hour, taking you past the Cathedral as you exit the town.

Patronage of these buses varies considerably and many will have seen near-empty services passing through Haslemere and wondered why they are running. While it is true that a route like the 1 will only have a few passengers on board as it leaves Midhurst, numbers build up considerably at places like Storrington and, having left Midhurst with just five of us aboard, the bus I was on was full by the time it arrived in Worthing.

Anyone tempted to plan an itinerary such as this one should be aware that buses often get delayed, so connections may be missed. There are real-time updates available on the Stagecoach app, but connections are still not guaranteed. While I noted that a route 1 service waited at Midhurst for the slightly delayed arrival of a bus from Chichester, my delayed service from Midhurst to Haslemere did not await arrival of an equally-delayed 60 bus from Chichester, meaning an hour's wait for anyone wanting that connection.

For those who don't yet qualify for a concessionary bus pass, it is worth remembering that bus fares are currently capped at £2.00, so the six-bus itinerary I picked would only have cost £12.00 had you bought a single fare for each journey. But as every bus was operated by Stagecoach, an even cheaper option would have been a *Stagecoach Gold Day Rider*, which costs £8.00 and covers all the operator's services in Surrey, Hampshire and West Sussex.



Introducing Haslemere's banking hub

By Ying Shi, Manager



After prolonged anticipation akin for a long-overdue bus, our community has witnessed the establishment of a significant facility that marks a new chapter for Haslemere: the banking hub, which is located in the former Lloyds Bank and promises to bring a new era of banking accessibility and convenience to Haslemere.

The banking hub operates on a unique model where, each week, representatives from different banks provide comprehensive banking services on designated days. The schedule is Monday: Barclays; Tuesday: NatWest; Wednesday: Lloyds Bank; Thursday: HSBC and Friday: Santander (9.00am-1.00pm)

Additionally, the Post Office enhances this service by offering a banking cash counter for residents and businesses, enabling them to deposit and withdraw cash, deposit cheques and pay bills, available from Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm.

This facility not only caters to our immediate banking needs but also contributes significantly to the economic vitality and convenience of our local community.

In light of this, the underlying message we wish to convey is one of solidarity and support. The banking hub is here for everyone in Haslemere and the wider area, aiming to be a sustainable resource that adds value to our daily lives.

However, its success and longevity depend on our collective use and endorsement. It is a clear case of "use us or lose us", where the extent of our engagement will directly influence the hub's continued relevance and operation. I urge members of the Haslemere Society, to support this initiative. Your support can make a difference in reinforcing the communal bond and ensuring that Haslemere continues to thrive. Together, let's ensure the banking hub becomes a pillar of our community's strength and sustainability.

Haslemere Banking Hub, 12 High Street, Haslemere GU27 2JG

Forthcoming events in Haslemere

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. Further information can be obtained from the respective websites. Details are those listed in March 2024

Haslemere Museum

Some, but not all events have an entrance fee and need to be booked in advance. The Museum is open 10.00 – 17.00 Tuesday - Saturday

Exhibitions:

- **An Historic Childhood:** Historic objects relating to childhood. 12th March – 20th April
- **D-Day 80th Anniversary:** Research of names from the Haslemere War Memorial. 14th May – 15th June
- **The Art of Buildings-** Herbert Hutchinson. Original artworks relating to buildings in and around Haslemere. 1st May – 29th June

Events:

Fundraising Talk: Country Life – the British Love affair with the countryside. 19.00 for 19.30, 11th April. £18

- **Dementia Day:** A special opening for people living with dementia. 10.30 – 12.30, 11th May
- **Plant Sale:** A wide range of plants for sale. All proceeds to the Museum. 11th May, 11.00 – 13.00
- **Tea and Talk:** Homes in the Past. Objects from the handling collection. 14.30, 21st May
- **Fundraising Skittles Evening:** bar skittles, bagatelle and shove ha'penny. Book as a team. 31st May, 19.00 for 19.30 start.
- **Creative & Wellbeing Workshop: Architectural Collage:** Make sketches and collages of architectural features of the Museum. 11th June 19.00-21.00. £15

Family Events

- **Early Birds:** Special opening for families with children on the autistic spectrum. The galleries will be open; opportunity to handle special objects. Booking essential 29th May 09.00 – 10.00

- **Earth Day Celebrations:** sharing information; children's activities; preloved clothes sale. 20th April 10.30 – 16.00
- **Get Creative:** Try out different media: paint, charcoal, collage etc 30th May 10.30 – 13.00
- **Skittles:** Indoor skittle alley; bar skittles; bagatelle; shove ha'penny. Book as a team 31st May 14.00 – 16.00
- **Handling Session: WW11 Home Front.** Explore artifacts from the home front. Suitable for all ages. 15th June – 11.00- 12.00 and 14.30 – 15.30.

Museum Explorers (Activities for children aged 5-11)

- **Pond Dipping:** Investigate creatures living in the Museum's pond and then see them up close using the digital microscope. 28th May 10.30- 12.00
- **Traditional Games:** have a go at the bagatelle and shove ha'penny boards and then make a simple version to take home. 1st June 10.30 – 12.00

Early Years Activities

Under 5s can listen to a story and get hands-on with a craft activity. Children must be accompanied by an adult

- **Twit Twoo:** Owl-related session with stories and activities. 19th April 13.30 – 14.30
- **Pond Dipping:** At the Museum pond. 3rd May, 10.30 – 11.30
- **Animal Safari:** Spot animals in the gallery, followed by animal activities. 17th May 13.30-14.30
- **Noah's Ark:** Find the animals in the galleries. Story and colouring 7th June 13.30 – 14.30
- **Busy Buzzy Bees:** The Museum beehive the bees who live there. 21st June 10.30 – 11.30

Haslemere Natural History Society

- **AGM & Illustrated Talk: "Wildlife Projects in Haslemere and Beyond"** : 27th April

Field Meetings:

- **Early Spring Heathland Birds on Lavington Common:** 20th April
- **Bird Song With Nightingales in Tugley Wood, Chiddingfold Forest:** 4th May
- **Fauna and Flora on Chapel Common, near Liphook:** 15th June

Haslemere Town Council

- **Full Council meetings:** 16th May; 11th July; 12th September
- **Amenities meeting:** 11th April; 20th June; 29th August; 24th October
- **Planning and Highways:** 25th April; 23rd May; 13th June; 18th July; 8th August; 5th Sept
- **Grants:** 18th June; 8th October
- **Infrastructure & CIL:** 20th June; 29th August; 24th October
- **Finance & Governance:** 18th June; 8th October

The Arts Society Haslemere

- **Frans Hals – a look behind the joviality and spontaneity:** 16th April
- **Study Day: Artists and the British Landscape:** 23rd April
- **Penshurst Place Visit:** 8th May
- **The City of Faith, Art and Empire:** 21st May
- **Gustav Holst – the Planets and Beyond:** 18th June
- **Holiday: Vienna – The Art, History and Palaces of Vienna and the Danube Valley.**

5 days from 26th September

Haslemere Musical Society

- **May Concert:** 11th May 2024

Haslemere Gardening Society

- **Talk: “How I grow dahlias – (and learn from my mistakes!)”:** 24th April
- **Visit: Waterperry Gardens and Rousham Gardens, Oxfordshire:** 19th June
- **Visit: RHS Hyde Hall, and Gibberd Garden, Essex:** 10th July
- **Talk: The History of Hampton Court Palace gardens:** 25th September
- **Talk: Climbers:** 23rd October
- **Talk: Super Seasonal Displays:** 27th November

Farmers’ Market: First Saturday of every month. Haslemere High Street, 10 am – 2pm

Concerts at St. Christopher’s Church:

Lunchtime, afternoon and evening concerts

- **Philip Berg (organ):** 27th April 2024 7.30 pm
- **London Handel Players:** 3rd May 19.30

Haslemere Hall

- **Cinema screenings**
- **Events via satellite:** Live screenings from the Royal Opera; Royal Ballet; Sadlers Wells.
- **Live Music:** Various from rock bands to classical
- **Live Theatre:** Beauty and the Beast: 27th April 7pm; 28th April 11am & 2.00pm

The King's Speech: 16th – 18th May 7.30 pm

Wizard of Oz: 22 Aug 7.30pm; 23 & 24 August 2.30 pm & 7.30pm;

Haslemere Repair Shop

Volunteers repair a range of items, from electrical tools, bikes and clothing. Book on website

U3A Haslemere

The Haslemere U3A has 60 active groups – check with the website

Haslemere Art Society

- **Tuesday Group:** at the Museum: drawing and painting in a variety of styles and mediums 2-4
- **Café Sketching:** Lion's Den Cafe, Haslemere. Third Thursday of the month, 10-11 am.
- **Plein Air Painting:** Spring and Summer
- **Private Tour of Newlands House Gallery, Petworth:** Nick Brandt Exhibition 18th April
- **Maria Yadegar Demonstration:** Highfield School. 2nd May 19.00-21.00
- **Demonstration & Workshop with Maggie Cochran:** Via Zoom 4th July 19.00 – 21.00
- **Its More Than Paint:** The wellbeing benefits of creativity. 5th Sept 19.00 – 21.00
- **Annual Exhibition:** 2-12th October, Haslemere Museum

Haslemere Library

Open 9.30- 5pm Tuesday – Saturday. Booking necessary for most events

- **Library Direct Home Library Service** for vulnerable members of the community.
- **Pebble Rhymetime:** For babies and toddlers – sharing nursery rhymes, action songs and percussion music. Wednesdays 10-10.30 am

- **Storytime:** Age 2-5. Fridays from 10 -10.30 am
- **Reading Groups**

Chatterbox: For children aged from 7. One Saturday a month 11.10 11.50 am . Check with library for dates.

Adult Reading Group: Group 1: First Wednesday of every month from 2.30 – 3.30 pm

Group 2: First Thursday of the month from 2.30 – 3.30 pm

- **Digital Buddy:** Help using the internet; IT related problems etc. Fortnightly on Tuesdays 10 – 12 noon. Book in advance
- **Art Club:** A space to sketch, share, and connect with fellow creatives. First Friday of every month 14.00-15.00
- **Craft Circle:** Learn a new craft, share skills and ideas. Last Saturday of every month 10.00-12.00

Haslemere Fringe Festival

July 5-7

Live music, comedy, children's entertainment, poetry and stalls at Lion Green, Shottermill Club

Haslemere Beer festival

A celebration of over 40 real ales, craft beers and ciders, a wide range of live music, food. 6th and 7th September, Haslemere Hall

Banks are like buses.

You wait ages for one to turn up and then several come along all at the same time.



Simon Mackie March 2024



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