

The One Hundred and Twenty-Sixth Annual Report

of

THE  
**HASLEMERE**  
SOCIETY



*FOR HASLEMERE  
past, present and future*

**1st July 2010 to 30th June 2011**

Registered charity number 0255287

*The Haslemere Society (registered charity number 0255287)  
is a member of the Civic Voice,  
the Federation of Sussex Amenity Societies  
and the Haslemere Initiative. It is affiliated to the  
Campaign for the Protection of Rural England and the  
Haslemere Educational Museum.*

Our membership grows steadily, and most of our two mailings a year are delivered by hand, courtesy of committee members and non-committee members, in order to cut down on postage costs.

This is not an arduous task, as it is shared among many helpers, and can be an interesting and instructive way of getting to know what might be an otherwise unknown part of Haslemere and Hindhead - as well as including exercise and fresh air and being therefore *a good thing*.

Please let Diana know  
(Tel: 01428-654 681, email: [sermans23@haslemere.com](mailto:sermans23@haslemere.com))  
if you would be willing to help with deliveries.

You would be given a bundle  
of between 4 and 15 envelopes, with plenty of notice  
and a few days to complete the task.

# THE ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT

1st July 2010 to 30th June 2011

**President & Acting Chairman**  
ROBERT SERMAN FRICS\*

**Minutes Secretary**  
JANE STOPFORD RUSSELL

**Treasurer**  
BRIAN DELLER

**Membership Officer**  
DIANA SERMAN

## **Committee**

CHRISTOPHER ASHTON-JONES	MICHAEL DOVER
ANN FITCHETT	JOHN GREER*
CHRISTOPHER HARRISON*	JOE MACDONALD
DEBBIE PEET	ALASTAIR VARTAN

**Hon Auditor**  
CLARE DAVID MA ACA

\*Planning Sub-committee

# **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The 127th Annual General Meeting will be held on  
**Friday November 18th 2011 at 7.30pm**  
in the Haslemere Hall, Bridge Street

## **AGENDA**

1. Welcome by the President
2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 26th November 2010
3. Report by the Acting Chairman
4. Report by the Treasurer
5. Election of the Officers of the Committee
6. Talk by Catherine Eyre: The Haslemere Peasant Arts Movement

## **THE SPEAKER AT THIS YEAR'S AGM**

Shunning industrialisation, the Peasant Arts Movement held ideals which are still relevant today. Catherine Eyre will talk on the hidden history of Haslemere's unique Arts and Crafts Movement. Join her on a visual journey to discover the weaving, tapestries, plasterwork, woodwork, building and writing of the 'Haslemere peasants'.

## **MEMBERS' BADGES**

Please let Diana Serman know (contact details on page 2) if you are not yet in possession of a badge.

The subscriptions of many members who pay annually by cheque are due on 1st December and may be paid to Diana Serman at the AGM if convenient.

## THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This year your chairman's report falls to me as Nigel Quick has been under such pressure of work that he has had to stand down as chairman. We were very sorry to lose him, but recognise that having high powered individuals on the committee (of whom we have several) results in their time being much in demand. At times something has to give.

Nigel made a very strong contribution and in particular to the Heritage Open Days last year. This European Community initiative was a while ago embraced by English Heritage and our own Haslemere Educational Museum. There are many fine houses of note in the area and their owners were kind enough to allow visitors to inspect either the houses or gardens or both. We hope that next year we may again be involved. We require the owners' participation as well as a few highly motivated individuals to drive the scheme forward.

The society is currently addressing several prominent issues. Perhaps the most significant is the vexed matter of car parking. Recent development proposals (I refer to Syngenta and King Edward VII Hospital) over the county boundary in Fernhurst and beyond will, if their plans materialise, have enormous impact on Haslemere, given its frequent rail service to London.

In a telephone call to one of our two Surrey County Councillors I was amazed to be told that SCC has no interest in the provision of a car park nor indeed in dealing pro-actively with car parking in any way. The SCC proposal to install parking meters is solely a way of raising revenue for SCC, alleviation of the problem is no concern of theirs.

Michael Dover, who is both a town councillor and a member of our committee, is a man of great drive and an infinite capacity for getting things done. These qualities, when allied with John Greer's knowledge and passion for detail and 'getting it right' mean that they are a formidable duo. We recently held a meeting with Waverley BC at which John gave a powerful presentation making the case for the car park and providing all the details for a solution: the building of a 3-storey car park at Wey Hill.

I referred above to the King Edward VII Hospital planning application. We attended the planning meeting of the South Downs National Park and put our arguments to support a refusal of consent, which we were pleased was the decision that the SDNP committee came to. However, we await further information. An interesting aside is that our MP is also the Minister responsible for English Heritage, the body responsible for the Listing of the hospital as Grade 2\*. He cannot use his position as Culture Minister to overrule the Listing, only to make representations to English Heritage as our MP. The developers are laying huge store by the fact that the building has listed status. Without this they would stand no chance of acceptance of their 400 + homes in return for preserving the old hospital.

The pressures upon Haslemere continue and we, the Society and all its members need to be vigilant and robust in resisting changes which seem to be inappropriate or excessive. We are delighted to welcome three new members to our committee. Bringing in new blood, new ideas and different approaches has been our policy for many years; it rejuvenates and stimulates. All of this is positive, but it is our membership which provides the support and legitimacy for our work, so please do all you can to spread the word. It never ceases to surprise me how many have never heard of what the Haslemere Herald calls the 'Town's Watchdog'.

**Robert Serman**

## HOW WE COMMUNICATE WITH OUR MEMBERS

We have email addresses for about half our members, which provides us with about 200 of the 400 or so home addresses. These are used for a 'mass mailing' only if there is a single urgent but not essential communication which is directly related to the Haslemere Society and would be of benefit to the recipients. (Neither email nor home addresses are passed to any other organisation, ever.)

People often suggest that our regular mailings could be emailed and, up to a point, they could, but there are items such as invitations to insert (which could be dispensed with) and individual letters to attach (which would be possible using email), as well as a variety of compliment slips to insert with personal hand written notes. However the different style of the annual report in A5 and the newsletter in A4 are also part of their interest and I feel they add, dare I say, to the character of the society. And in addition they arrive ready printed for perusal at leisure and in comfort! I hope that also makes it more likely that they will even be read ...

In fact a large number of these emails are returned eventually as undeliverable, and it would be administratively horrible to list these rejected emails, then print them and their attachments, make address labels and put them in envelopes. As annual report and newsletter deadlines are tight, by the time this had been done most of the non-emailed 200 would already have been delivered by post or by hand. And we would not know how many of each to order from the printer at the outset.

These difficulties will no doubt in due course be discounted and overcome, but at the moment I feel it is best to continue as we are for a while longer, with the personal touch being generally very much a part of how we communicate.

*Diana Serman*

## THE TOWN POLICE STATION

The committee has been endeavouring to have the Haslemere police station 'Listed' by English Heritage. We have just heard, as we go to press, that their considered opinion is that it does not merit statutory listing although its fine Arts and Crafts qualities are recognised and they have suggested to Waverley BC that it should be the subject of local listing.

This decision is something of a blow, as the abortive work involved has been considerable. Our local MP is of course the Minister responsible for EH but as he pointed out at a meeting specifically to discuss the proposal, he can do no more than make representations to EH on our behalf.

The WBC Historic Buildings Officer has said that he feels that local listing should afford some measure of protection but as developers appear currently to have the upper hand, we are not greatly reassured. The Surrey Police Authority has not said when the police station will be sold but their disposal programme is in hand. We can now only wait and see what happens.

## **BLUE PLAQUE SCHEME**

Our eighth and latest blue plaque was unveiled on Saturday 9th April at Jesses in the Grayswood Road to celebrate the lives of father and son, Arnold and Carl Dolmetsch. Both lived at Jesses which remains the family home to this day. Guests for the unveiling included members of the Dolmetsch family many of whom had travelled a great distance to attend. The guest of honour was Greta Dolmetsch, Carl's widow, who currently lives at Headley Down.

The Dolmetsch family plays a particularly important part in the history of Haslemere. Born in 1858 in Le Mans, western France, Arnold Dolmetsch came to London in 1883. Over the following 30 years Arnold became famous as the leading expert in early music, researching and exploring the subject and bringing early music into the international repertoire. In the 1890s his interest extended to the restoration of early musical instruments, which led in due course to his designing and making his own. After a spell of living in America and then France, with war looming in 1914, the family returned to the UK, initially settling in Hampstead and then moving to Haslemere in 1919. In this year, after losing his antique treble recorder on Waterloo station, Arnold produced the first recorder of modern times, after 4 months of patient experiment. This began the family association with recorders for which they are most famous. Arnold handed over the responsibility for the production of recorders to Carl who was only 15. Carl became an accomplished performer, independent designer and craftsman. His love of the recorder brought the instrument to a worldwide audience. During the Second World War, the workshop at Jesses was used for the manufacture of parts for aircraft guns using vulcanised fibre and plastic. Carl realised that the same technology could be used for recorder production and the plastic recorder was born. Because of their affordability, plastic recorders were soon introduced into schools where they revolutionised musical education for generations of children. By the 1950s, recorder had become a household word. 2011 is the centenary of Carl's birth, making this a fitting year to celebrate his achievements with a plaque.

### **Future Blue Plaque Plans**

We are now planning a plaque for the Town House in the High Street which we hope to unveil in May, once the renovations by the current owners have been completed.

We encourage members to go on a plaque trail now that there are eight in the town. All the details and the stories behind the plaques, with a map, can be downloaded from the Haslemere website: [www.haslemere.com/haslemeresociety/achieve.html](http://www.haslemere.com/haslemeresociety/achieve.html). We do have ideas for future plaques, but are always open to suggestions and anyone who would like to make a recommendation can contact Chris Harrison at [chrisharrison@gmail.com](mailto:chrisharrison@gmail.com). The criteria for eligibility can be found on the website. In addition, a plaque does have to be reasonably visible to the public.

***Chris Harrison***

## PLANNING REPORT

As trading conditions are becoming more difficult shops and banks have been making more planning applications for both illuminated and non-illuminated signs and we continue to monitor these, especially in the town centre conservation area.

The current position on the illegal creation of an access at 48 Petworth Road is that two appeals were lodged and both have been refused and it now remains for Waverley BC to enforce the reinstatement of the embankment and planting. Also the same developer's application to build a house on the land to the rear of the plot was withdrawn following a very large number of objections which were submitted. The decision to withdraw was probably also influenced by the outcome of the access off Petworth Road.

Whilst supporting in principle the major redevelopment of 5-12 Wey Hill (the old motor cycle shop), the Society submitted objections to the revised second application on the grounds of overdevelopment, inadequate vehicle parking and servicing arrangements causing increased congestion in the main thoroughfare. Waverley BC refused this application for similar and additional reasons but the applicant appealed against the decision. An appeal hearing (as opposed to an appeal inquiry) was held and the inspector granted the appeal. We remain particularly concerned that the inspector did not recognise the current congestion issues and the need for a service lay-by to alleviate this.

A recent application to develop the car showroom building on West Street was objected to by the Society. We expressed concerns that the proposed extension of the front of the building beyond the present building line was inappropriate in this narrow street and the non-provision of rear servicing access would cause unacceptable congestion in West Street. Waverley BC has refused the application.

The commuter parking in the roads around the station has been an increasing problem for many years. There were no indications that the multilevel car park at the station, given planning approval in 2009 was going to be built. This would only provide 262 additional spaces and there were indications that finance for the scheme could not be secured. The Society therefore decided to investigate alternative ways of addressing the commuter parking problem and concluded that a multilevel car park on the Weyhill car park site could be designed to accommodate the approximately 350 cars currently parked in the roads and be extended to meet the future demands created by expanding populations in and around the Haslemere commuter hub. It would also provide an opportunity to improve one of the least attractive sites in the town whilst retaining the recycling facility. Using Government financing from the Public Works Loan Board the car park could produce a significant annual profit for the benefit of the borough. We have met with representatives of Waverley BC and Haslemere TC to outline our proposals in the hope that they would take a constructive interest.

*John Greer*

## **THE SPRING MEETING**

At our annual Spring Meeting, members were delighted and privileged to hear Jeanne Dolmetsch, ably aided by her sister Marguerite, pay tribute to their grandfather, Arnold Dolmetsch, a remarkable musician, scholar, designer, craftsman and teacher. The highly professional and fascinating talk, accompanied by photographs and recorded music, brought tales of Arnold's early life in Le Mans and Brussels, to London and finally to Haslemere, where he played on that very same stage at the Haslemere Festival just a short while before he died in 1940. After the talk members enjoyed wine and canapés in the annexe, with time to chat informally to Jeanne and Marguerite. Because of the postponement of the ceremony due to the wrong kind of weather, Jeanne's talk came just before the unveiling of the Blue Plaque to Arnold and his son Carl, at the family home, Jesses, in the Grayswood Road.

*Diana Serman*

## **THE SUMMER PARTY**

The annual summer party was held at the Haslemere Educational Museum on Friday 24th June, on a very wet evening, for the second year in a row. Members and guests were unable to be in the open air, but there was a lively gathering inside the museum able to enjoy the exhibition of photography. Entertained by a pianist and with wine and canapés, the chatter of friends old and new indicated another successful evening.

*Debbie Peet*

## **2011 OUTING: BILLINGSGATE FISH MARKET**

The key to a successful outing might be to start at 5 am, as this year's was so popular that it has had to be run twice. In fact the attraction of the fish market was a tremendous draw and a wonderful opportunity for which we are indebted to a member, David McG Smith, Director of Markets for the City of London. Under the shadow of Canary Wharf, the market is full of colourful and sometimes wriggling specimens and helpful traders who were only too happy to talk and sell some of us their wares. Exotic Asian fish are flown in to Heathrow while some of the more familiar, such as enormous halibut could still astonish us. We were delighted to learn that Waitrose send their staff to the Seafood School for training. After a quick view of the CrossRail site, breakfast called and we were treated to the best kedgeriee ever with the option of bacon sandwiches. On the way home a quick stop at Wisley was a chance to have a coffee, shop or see the newest attraction, the Queen Mother's Rose garden.

*Ann Fitchett*

## **BREAKING NEWS!**

- 1. The Society is to facilitate a public meeting at the end of September to give people a chance to debate SCC's plans for Pay & Display machines & yellow lines around the town.*
- 2. Because of the re-emergence of the station car park scheme, the Committee feels that is the one to support, in favour of the Weyhill proposal.*

## TREASURER'S REPORT

The accounts are set out below. A signed copy, audited by our Honorary Auditor, Mrs Clare David, will be available to members attending the AGM.

*John Stark*

### THE HASLEMERE SOCIETY

Annual Statement of Account and balance sheet for the year ended  
30th June 2010

<b>2010</b>	<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2011</b>
£		£
3204	Subscriptions incl. Gift Aid	3098
14	Donations	40
33	Bank interest	40
275	Members' activities & events surplus	442
<b>3526</b>	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>3620</b>
	<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
104	Surplus/deficit for the year	-428
1323	Printing & stationery	997
34	Postage & telephone	66
643	Amenities Societies	655
0	Projects e.g. planning, Cons Area etc	270
951	Meeting expenses, members & comm.	1225
181	Advertising, Charter Fair & marketing	155
280	Insurance	280
0	WBC Design Awards	250
10	Miscellaneous	150
<b>3526</b>	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>3620</b>
	<b>BALANCE SHEET</b>	
12749	Opening balance	12853
104	Surplus/Deficit	-428
<b>12853</b>		<b>12425</b>
	<b>Total funds represented by balance at bank</b>	
11363	Deposit account & bonds	11394
1651	Current account	1450
-979	Sundry creditors/deferred income	-1237
818	Sundry debtors/accrued income	818
<b>12853</b>		<b>12425</b>

**John Stark (Hon Treasurer)**

## HASLEMERE SOCIETY DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

	<b>2011</b>	
AGM		Friday 18th November
	<b>2012</b>	
Spring Meeting		Friday 27th April
Summer Party		Friday 15th June
AGM		Friday 16th November
	<b>2013</b>	
Spring Meeting		Friday 19th April
AGM		Friday 16th November

*POST FOR THE SOCIETY may be sent/delivered to  
Haslemere Educational Museum, for collection by  
committee members:*

*The Haslemere Society  
C/o Haslemere Educational Museum  
78 High Street, Haslemere  
Surrey GU27 2LA  
[www.haslemere.com/haslemeresociety](http://www.haslemere.com/haslemeresociety)*