



FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN 2010

Spring Meeting	Friday 16th April	Haslemere Hall
Town Walk	Sunday 18th April	10.30 am - Front of Museum
Summer Party	Friday 18th June	Haslemere Museum
Annual Outing by Coach	Wednesday 25th August	Portsmouth - Then & Now
AGM	Friday 26th November	Haslemere Hall

Spring Newsletter 2010

The Chairman writes

Haslemere is widely acknowledged as being a delightful place in which to both live and work, but towns don't just become attractive spontaneously. A vibrant and cherished community requires constant watchfulness to ensure that the best of its heritage is preserved and that new development sits sympathetically with the old. The more attractive a town becomes, the greater the pressure for new development and consequently, the greater the need for vigilance. It is this cycle that continues to prove the work and value of the Society. That value is clearly recognised as our membership now numbers nearly six hundred.

Towards the end of last year, the committee appointed Nigel Quick as Vice Chairman with a view to his eventually taking over as Chairman when my term expires at the next AGM. Many of you will know Nigel, but for those members who don't, he has composed a short résumé, outlining his background and experience. He is well equipped to take on the role, and his energy and enthusiasm make him an ideal nominee.

In the 2008 Newsletter I mentioned the first subject of our blue plaques, since their reintroduction by the Society: Sir Archibald Geikie. In fact it was the Society which erected one of the very first blue plaques, on Broad Dene, Hill Road, in 1984. The new series is both more attractive and more detailed and the Broad Dene example is to be re-worked to conform to the new standard we have set. I feel great satisfaction that our new scheme has been re-established on my watch and is making an impact on the town. Each of the five plaques now erected commemorates the life of a distinguished individual who was a former resident. The unveilings have invariably attracted great interest from the local press. They form a permanent and conspicuous record of the town's heritage and will represent points of interest to locals and visitors alike. We have identified other properties at which we plan to put up new plaques in the months ahead.

The Society website contains information about our activities, the committee, recent annual reports, newsletters, projects and publications including the comprehensive presentation "125 years of the Society" which was just one of our 125th birthday celebrations. Despite its age the Society thrives.

David Smith

The Spring Meeting

Our speaker at this year's Spring Meeting is to be David A H McG Smith CBE, Director of Markets for the City of London Corporation. Please see the back page of this newsletter for more details. An invitation is enclosed in this mailing. The Spring Meeting is at 7.30 on Friday 16th April in Haslemere Hall.

The Vice-Chairman of the Society

As the prospective Chairman of the Society, Mr Nigel Quick has been invited to add a few words about himself. He was appointed Vice Chairman prior to the AGM in November.

My wife Mary and I have lived in Midhurst Road, Haslemere for 24 years and have many interests which include tennis, walking and bridge.

During my career as a Civil Engineer I managed major projects mostly in the U.K. but with short spells overseas. These projects included motorways and power stations, though more relevant to Haslemere were the years spent managing urban development: offices, shopping centres, hospitals, museums and public buildings. I am now retired and feel I could use my personal experiences of working with planners, architects, developers and the public sector for the benefit of the Haslemere Society. I look forward to working with the committee to this end.

I felt very privileged to be invited to be Vice-Chairman of the Haslemere Society, following in the footsteps of other worthy guardians of the town's heritage. Like them I am keen to preserve the essential character of Haslemere, Hindhead and the areas around while doing what I can to influence the positive aspects of change.

Nigel Quick

Planning Cases Recently there have been few significant planning applications on which the Society has commented. Three are however worthy of bringing to members' attention. They are:

New Station Car Park *This two deck car park would be the largest structure in Haslemere and though planning permission has been granted, the applicant, Southwest Trains, is currently unable to proceed with construction because of financial constraints. The Society commented on some aesthetic aspects of the scheme but supported its approval on the basis that it would be a considerable benefit in removing commuter parking from the roads in the vicinity of the station.*

Office & Flats Development, Wey Hill *This planning application to redevelop the site of the motorcycle shop and Clements factory was refused. The Society objected on the basis of overdevelopment of the site, loss of employment facilities and resulting congestion on this main artery through the town. Demolition of the existing building is currently being carried out by the developer who we understand should be submitting a revised scheme for approval soon. We have written to the planning authority highlighting our primary concerns.*

Wispers School Redevelopment *The application to create a care home on this site while maintaining the original Victorian House has been approved by Waverley Borough Council. The Society supported the application in principle but highlighted the need for improvements to local road junctions and to improve access and egress to and from the site. The conditions of the approval have not yet been published by the borough council.*

John Greer

Membership Matters

Looking back it is gratifying to see how our membership has grown over recent years. Of course we find it hard to understand why anyone who appreciates living here should *not* want to join an organisation which has, at its heart, the aim of protecting Haslemere from the excesses of what modern life can throw at a community such as ours.

Our membership is hovering very near the 600 mark and we should like it to pass that. Our mobile populace results in many of our members moving on and we therefore need to recruit in order to remain representative. So, if you have friends who are not yet members, please give them a form (you will find one or two in with this mailing) and encourage them to join. It is word of mouth from friends which is far the most effective promotional tool in recruiting members.

Diana Serman

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A few notes from the President - Robert Serman

Name badges. Have you received yours yet?

The new elegantly printed name badges have been very well-received, the idea being that all active members have a badge which they keep to wear at all Haslemere Society events. If you have not received a badge yet, tell Diana (01428-654 681 or r-d-serman@haslemere.com) that you are coming to a meeting, and if you have not had one before she will create one and hand it to you on arrival. For a small bribe she might make you a new badge if you have lost your first one!

A Town Walk - 18th April 2010

Several members have asked about having another Society guided town walk. This event is now fixed for Sunday 18th April (leaving at 10.30 am from outside the museum). For about 1 ½ hours we shall look at the architecture and broad history of the town. Numbers are limited to about twelve or so. Please contact me if you are interested (01428-654 681 or r-d-serman@haslemere.com).

Charter Fair Monday May 3rd 2010

Committee Members Christopher Ashton-Jones and Nigel Quick have joined this year's Charter Fair Committee and we have pledged Society help to support this great tradition. However we need our members to help too please, as there is a lot involved. Do have a look at the enclosed flyer and see if you can help. Being more closely involved is fun, gives a great feeling of community and you do not necessarily have to wear a fluorescent yellow jacket (unless Health and Safety dictates of course!).

'Images of Haslemere'

Hugh Turrall-Clarke, one of our members and a volunteer at the museum, has devoted many hours and much care to creating a fascinating screen-based historical and architectural guide to the old town centre. Called 'Images of Haslemere', it is simple to use, even for those who are not very computer literate, and contains a wealth of information. It is in one of the museum galleries and is well worth looking at. Hugh has included photos of many old maps and archive material from the museum and it is fascinating to see how our town has evolved and the recorded changes that have taken place, even in recent time.

Personal

I have been very touched by the number of our members who have kindly enquired about my health after my recent heart surgery. I am delighted to report that I have made a tremendous recovery and I am full of praise for the Royal Brompton Hospital where my mitral valve was so skilfully repaired.

OUR SOCIETY EVENTS FOR 2010

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SPRING MEETING Friday 16th April 7.30 pm Haslemere Hall, Bridge Road

We are very fortunate to have as our speaker the Director of Markets for the City of London Corporation. The three great markets of the City (Billingsgate, Smithfield, and New Spitalfields) have a fascinating history and a vibrant future. As a resident of Haslemere, David A H McG Smith CBE will be known to many. Sharing the same name as our Chairman, he has been the unwitting recipient of emails addressed to David and so feels he knows the Society quite well!

The Director's illustrated talk is entitled: 'Food for Thought: Why do we need Wholesale Food Markets?' It will cover some of the colourful history of the City's Markets and then consider their current activities, their relevance to the London Food Strategy, and the national dietary/health agenda.

The talk is eminently digestible and provides insight into some of our key institutions. As usual the talk will be followed by a glass or two of wine and a few canapés in the Hall annexe.

SUMMER DRINKS & CANAPÉS Friday 18th June 7.00 pm – 9.00 pm

To be held as always 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. Guests are welcome.

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

The Treasurer, John Stark (01428-656 000) by Wednesday 2nd June.



ANNUAL OUTING BY COACH: Wednesday 25th August

Portsmouth - Then and Now - Sorry nearly full



Leave Haslemere at 8.45 am and Portsmouth for home at 5.00 pm. First a 10 minute talk on FISH at a fish wholesaler (buy some fish if you want to - it will be kept cool until we fetch it on the way home), then an hour or so GUIDED WALK (two guides) of Old Portsmouth covering both military history and tales of the infamous Spice Islands. LUNCH (included) of fish & chips or vegetarian option at pub with eyelevel views of the ferries. Then a HARBOUR CRUISE with commentary (refreshments available on board). The day is planned to appeal to most ages and we look forward to welcoming members, non-members, and children aged 6 years and over. Tickets are £26.00 for adults and £21.00 for children (6-16), to include coach, talk, guided walk, lunch, gratuities and harbour tour. Please detach the form from the enclosed flyer and send it with a cheque and SAE to Diana C Serman (01428-654 681).