

Haslemere Hall, Cllr Simon Dear.

The start of this year for the Hall was rather better than the end of last, with the Haslemere Thespians' pantomime 'Jack and the Beanstalk' selling 2201 tickets for their 8 performances.

Only 50 tickets went unsold.

The new film, West Side Story, was also a great kick start to 2022 audiences, seeing many people return to cinema.

After many years of booking fees being held at 50 pence per ticket, the Hall is increasing this to £1 per ticket. Members who pay the annual fee of £35 will not need to pay booking fees. Like many venues, booking fees are shown separately to the ticket price so that the venue benefits from the full amount whereas net ticket values are usually split as a percentage between the artist, the promotor and the venue.

There have been new daytime activities on site including life drawing which was well supported, an RNLI bridge playing day with 104 players and the UK's top player Andrew Robson OBE in attendance.

Toyah Wilcox performed in February and thought the Hall was a splendid venue!

Trustees are about to replace very old and vulnerable IT equipment. This was planned pre-pandemic but only thought to be a sensible investment once they knew the Hall would survive – of course in part due to the consideration and generosity shown to it by Haslemere Town Council.

Transition Town Haslemere, Cllr Claire Matthes

News from Transition Haslemere (TH) are that they continue to meet back at The Mill, Shottermill Road, for green drinks. Find them in the Garden Room or Snug at the pub from 7.30pm first Thursday of each month. Here's more....

Green drinks

In the early March meet up there was a talk and discussion about planting approaches. There are quite a few to choose from: permaculture, organic, biodynamic, no till, veganic, etc. with varied pros and cons and appropriateness for our gardens and allotments. There was also a general catch up chat about local green issues and members' input to the Active Transport Group. Plans for spring/summer events were also touched upon.

Get it fixed

The repairers were back in action from 10am to 1pm in Haslemere Town Hall in the High Street on Saturday 5 March. They will try to fix almost any household item, including electrical appliances, toys, clothing, upholstery, garden tools, kitchen utensils, bikes and electronic items

like phones and computers. You can book your repair in here or just turn up with your item on the day.

I can highly recommend – I have had a catering thermos and two bikes repaired since the project started. The team are friendly, helpful, keen to share their skills and saving so much from potentially being wasted and going into landfill.

Getting back on the allotment

TH volunteers are preparing the beds and deciding what to plant at the allotment in the coming weeks. They would welcome more help as activities pick up in the Spring. You don't need to have gardening experience or equipment – just enthusiasm for growing vegetables for your table. There will be a regular Saturday session once a month, plus afternoon and evening sessions during the growing season that you can attend whenever suits you. They are off to a good start with the broadbeans they planted in the autumn doing well and we regular harvests of lamb's lettuce since Christmas.

Community orchard planted

Volunteers and town councillors planted five apple trees on Lion Green on Friday 25 February in a project initiated, funded and facilitated by the town council. Throughout the morning more than 20 people pitched in to help with passers-by who stopped to ask what was going on impressed by this initiative. The trees are heritage varieties and will take a few years to bear fruit. Wildflowers will be allowed to grow beneath the community orchard and a bench is due to be installed in the near future.

If you'd like to know more, get involved or receive the monthly newsletter, email info@transitionhaslemere.org

TRANSITION HASLEMERE – a brief reminder... Transition Haslemere is a local voluntary group taking action on climate change and the long-term sustainability of our environment for ourselves, our children and the generations to come.

We are part of the international Transition Town movement that encourages communities to come together to develop local practical solutions to the challenges of climate change and sustainability. The key characteristic of a transition town initiative is that it comes from the community.