

Phil Miller Town Council Representative on External Bodies. Report 3/5/2024

Hunter Centre

The Hunter Centre is located in The Marjorie Gray Hall in Grayswood Road which also has a large secure garden. The role of the Hunter Centre is to help people suffering from dementia. By meeting others in a secure environment and taking part in a variety of activities, the centre can help people break down what is a very isolating condition and help with their mental well being.

The Hunter Centre is a charity that relies both on the money it raises from people using the facility, and from the money it raises through donations and charity events. The facility is very popular with the support it provides and currently has a growing waiting list of people. The Carers Support Welcome Club is also becoming more well known and more popular, especially the monthly lunch groups. Citizen Advice have a regular presence at the support group on the first Tuesday of each month.

A presentation has been made to the Haslemere Town Council on how to promote Haslemere as a Dementia Friendly town. The mayor was keen to support this venture in making people and shops aware of the difficulties suffered by people with this condition. This task needs to be restarted, hopefully on the back of Dementia Action Week, which is organised by the centre during the week 13th – 19th May.

Haslemere Hall

The Haslemere Hall is a theatre seating around 380 people located in Bridge Street, Haslemere. It is a registered charitable trust that acts as a cinema for both films and events, as a theatre for staging musical and theatrical performances and as a Hall for general use including an annual beer festival. At present they are looking for a new chairman due to the resignation of Guy Davenport on health grounds.

Haslemere Hall has received a grant from the Town Council to improve the thermal insulation of its roof and is currently looking for a contractor to undertake the task.

It also looking to increase the size of the audiences for its events and also increase the number of friends of the Hall through its £35 per annum membership fee. This may need some increased promotion, an upgraded internet site and the showing of fewer but more popular films and events.

Cllr Claire Matthes – Transition Town

Here is my report as both a member and rep for Transition Haslemere. I have checked with Clive that they are happy to have me as a link councillor ongoing, and I am very happy to continue to do so.

Green drinks was well attended throughout the year. We have had many interesting talks and discussions, such as on the impact of climate change on sub-Saharan Africa and the pioneering work on climate by 19th Century Haslemere resident John Tyndall. This culminated in an event run in partnership with the Haslemere Society held at Haslemere Hall in March, a lecture event about Tyndall's life and work, attended by 170 people.

Report on Haslemere Sports Association (HAS) - Bob Monteath

May I remind members of the Council that the HSA was formed when HMRC repaid VAT that had charged for the building of the Pavilion at Woolmer Hill. The money was to support local sports clubs and youngsters in the local area. It has always been presumed that HAS would have a finite life. However due to financial prudence and excellent management, the Association continues to thrive. The current thinking is it will continue for a further 5 years.

In December 2023 at the HSA AGM accounts for year to November 2022 were approved with HAS holding £52772., during that year £7830 were given out as grants and bursaries. £2864 was given in grants. The remaining money was awarded as bursaries of £500 to 10 young athletes from the Haslemere area who have the potential to achieve national recognition as part of the Create a Star initiative.

For year to November 2023 unaudited accounts show grants and bursaries amounted to £9590. Total funds at the end of the year stand at £44690.

HSA have expressed considerable concern about the status of the Edge. Several sports Clubs have been badly affected. The situation is not yet resolved although a short term solution has been found.