

Mayor's Report 14th March 2024

The last couple of months have been relatively uneventful as Haslemere recovers from Christmas and the New Year. I attended the AGM of the Royal Society of St George when I was invited to join them on their annual St George's Day trip to lay a wreath at the Cenotaph with children from a couple of our junior schools. Concert events have restarted: the Haslemere Musical Society continues its round of excellent concerts. I was delighted to attend a HHH (Haslemere Hindhead and Headley) performance in St Christopher's Church; HHH put on professional chamber concerts and invite gratis final year junior school children from Haslemere – what a wonderful way to introduce youngsters into the world of music.

You may well have noticed the balloons outside Leightons opticians where I was invited to open their refurbished premises. I with customers were offered cakes and Prosecco (zero alcohol!). I was glad to see that there is still good attendance for Prostate Cancer testing at the Hunter Centre – a monthly event with April's clinic on Thursday 14th.

There is much to celebrate this year: the 80th D-Day anniversary will be a special occasion with events planned for 6th June. Earlier this month the RNLI celebrated the 200th year since it was founded (in honour their flag was raised outside the Town Hall). I congratulate Wey Hill-in-Bloom's registration with the RHS's "Its Your Neighbourhood" scheme – contact Ken Griffiths if you would like to help blooming Wey Hill.

Scotland Lane phase two development application appeal has absorbed much of members' attention since the New Year with disappointment over the manner of the appeal enquiry – I sense all members hope that the appeal will fail. We also have a substantial development by WBC planned for Wey Hill; after much chasing by the Town Clerk and Mayor a presentation has been arranged giving a preliminary look at what is being proposed.