

## **MAY 2026 – Representative reports for Council**

### **Report on Haslemere Sports Association (HSA)**

**From: Bob Monteath as representative of Haslemere Town Council**

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 at the turn of the century. The money was to support local sports clubs and youngsters in the local area. It has always been presumed that HSA 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. This is far longer than originally considered possible.

In December 2025 at the HSA AGM, accounts for year to November 2024 were approved with HSA holding £43771. As part of the Create- a- Star initiative, 9 grants totalling £4000 were given to youngsters with exceptional sporting talent who have the potential to achieve national recognition. They represent a broad range of sports including sailing, cricket and trampolining. £2864 in total was given to 4 local Sports bodies.

The Treasurer was able to advise the committee that at November 2025 funds totalled £39158.

HSA are delighted that the status of the Edge is much more secure and are grateful to the Council for their support in this matter as well as their support in giving a Bursary grant to support the Create a Star initiative.

This organisation, under Chair Chris Grimes and his fellow directors, looks forward to continuing supporting Haslemere sports bodies.

### **Reports on Haslemere Hall and The Hunter Centre**

**From: Cllr Phil Miller**

#### **1. Haslemere Hall**

Haslemere Hall has completed the planned upgrade of its annexe, and the results are impressive. The next task is to upgrade the Bar. This will then turn the annexe into a welcoming venue that can be used for meetings, functions etc.

Haslemere Hall is one of Haslemere's heritage buildings and as such has a need for continued maintenance. It is however a unique facility in that it offers a main hall with both a stage and a film screen, recently replaced. Such a facility is seen as a continuing part of Haslemere life and the Town Council helps it financially as the towns population grows.

The Hall has also upgraded its website to make it easier to see what is on at the Hall and to make it easier to book tickets for the events. It has appointed Simon Dear as Chair of the Trustees and he is now working hard with Howard Bicknell to revitalise the hall to make it viable. All they need now is the towns support.

#### **2. The Hunter Centre**

Situated on Grayswood Road, roughly midway between the Church Lane and Beech Road junctions, The Hunter Centre was established in 1994 as a charitable organisation dedicated to supporting individuals living with dementia in Haslemere and the nearby communities. The Centre offers a secure and nurturing environment for early-stage dementia sufferers, maintaining a specialised nurse-to-client ratio of one to three. On average, nine people participate in each session, enjoying both social interaction and gentle exercise activities tailored to their needs.

Recently, there have been significant changes within the Hunter Centre's Board of Trustees. Dr Mark Hurston has retired, with Dr Marcus Panchaud stepping in as his replacement. Additionally, Jon Gudelis has joined the team, bringing valuable expertise in digital transformation for dementia care, using his previous experience in developing cloud-based solutions for the banking and capital markets sectors.

The Hunter Centre continues to advance its mission to make Haslemere a Dementia Friendly community. As part of these efforts, they have produced small visiting cards for dementia sufferers, which contain key contact numbers for the Centre. Should someone find themselves in difficulty, they can hand over this card, enabling the recipient to contact the Centre and arrange assistance. The Dementia Friendly initiative could be further expanded by utilising the Café at the new Link Community Centre as a welcoming space, introducing the work of the Hunter Centre and offering a less threatening 'kindness' facility.

There is ongoing enthusiasm for establishing another Hunter Centre in the Guildford area. However, uncertainty regarding the operation of unitary councils has led to some unavoidable delays. Despite these challenges, there remains strong support for expanding this vital service.

In the meantime, the annual Dementia Action Week is being organised in Haslemere for the 8 - 24 May 2026. The aim of this week is to continue to raise awareness of Dementia, the UK's biggest killer. This week will also include the virtual Dementia tour bus which simulates dementia symptoms, allowing people to gain insight into dementia through self-experience. This really does show how difficult it is to cope with this affliction.

**\*\*Report Ends\*\***