

Phil Miller Town Council Representative on External Bodies. Report 13/01/2026

Hunter Centre

The Hunter Centre located in The Marjorie Gray Hall in Grayswood Road is concerned with helping people with 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. During the last year the centre has updated its website, and it is now very approachable. This website can be found at <https://www.thehuntercentre.co.uk> and it contains a lot of very useful information for people wishing to use the facility.

Dementia is not an easy illness to deal with either for people with the condition or for people who are caring for those people. Because people with Dementia are frightened of being in situations where they cannot cope, it is often difficult just to get them through the door. This is where understanding and reassuring discussions are useful. The Hunter Centre, wanting to help with these situations, organises a families and carers' support group every Tuesday from 1.30 to 3.30pm that is open to all.

It is still an aim of the Hunter Centre to make Haslemere a Dementia Friendly town. This is not always as easy to achieve as it sounds as a lot of people do not know what dementia is, how to recognise it, or how to provide support when confronted by someone with the problem. Showing people what dementia is like is one of the aims of the Dementia Awareness Days which is held from May 19 - May 24 in 2026. Part of this week involves the Dementia Tour Bus which simulates what dementia is like and allows people to step into the shoes of someone with dementia. Leaflets are available for shops and help cards with contact numbers for sufferers to help with situations as they arise.

The Town Council is also supportive of the Hunter Centre and is willing to help where it can.

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. They are very happy that Simon Dear has taken over the Chairmanship of the Trustees group and has been very active in updating the facilities and increasing use of the hall in conjunction with its manager Howard Bicknell.

Haslemere Hall has redecorated the annexe with help from a grant from the Town Council and its next plans are to improve the bar in that area. They have also installed a new screen in the main hall as a maintenance requirement.

It also looking to increase the size of the audiences for its events and introduce a graded membership scheme for the hall to allow people to realise improved benefits through membership.

The Haslemere Hall, as with a lot of facilities, in the town will need maintenance and updates in the future. This is being kept under surveillance.