



# HVA Review

HAYES VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

Spring 2026 Issue 263  
[www.hkva.org.uk](http://www.hkva.org.uk)

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## Hayes Village Association

### View From The Chair

I am very proud to have been appointed Chair of the Hayes Village Association. I would like to formally thank our past Chair, Chris Wood, for his dedication and hard work. My own memories of Hayes stretch back many years — from nursery at St Mary's, tree climbing in Husseywell Park, and strawberry picking (and eating!) at Hayes Farm, to schooling, living locally, and supporting many of our wonderful restaurants and bars. I am sure Hayes will continue to thrive for years to come — steeped in tradition, supported by a strong committee, and always welcoming new ideas for the future of our association. Over the coming months, I will be working closely with the committee to register the association as a charity, something we are legally required to do. We hope that our new charitable status will encourage more local businesses to advertise and thrive within our community, while continuing to provide vital services for our residents. Our recent AGM was very well attended. Thank you to Reverend Amanda and her team at St. Mary's Church for hosting this event and providing fabulous refreshments. I would also like to thank our residents, sponsors, and committee members for the generosity of your time and your dedication to serving the people of Hayes. During the AGM we were asked to consider additional communication methods to reach members of our community who do not use social media, particularly regarding the Hayes Farm development. Various options are currently being explored. The committee currently has vacancies for people with planning and social media expertise, so please do get in touch if you are able to spare a small amount of time. We have lots to look forward to over the next few months, so please make sure the dates in this edition are added to your calendar.

*Sharon Field Clarke,  
Chair*



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## Annual General Meeting

The 2026 Annual General Meeting of the Hayes Village Association was held on the evening of Thursday 26 March, at St. Mary's Church, and was well attended by residents and local businesses. Members of the HVA Committee were elected for 2026/27. Sharon Field Clarke was elected as Chair, with Elaine Vigor continuing as our Secretary, and Matthew Vigor as Treasurer. The following committee members were also re-elected - Alison Naish, Janette Miller, Ed Tory, Julia Kingston, Oliver Pereira, Stuart Spence, Nick Goddard, Sue Powell, Stan Boardman, Jenny Clout, Andrew Spence, and Gill Jaynes. Thank you to everyone who served on the committee last year, particularly Chris Wood, who stands down as Chair, as he had indicated he would when elected last year, but Chris remains on the committee.

## Road Rep for 40 years

Our HVA Road Reps are a mix of longstanding and new volunteers. For example, Joan Watson moved to Hayes in 1985 and became a Road Rep for Everard Avenue around that time. With the Hayes Review being delivered again, Joan got in touch to say she would love to take up her road rep role for Everard Avenue again and we are delighted for her help! Thank you Joan for 40 years of volunteering as a Road Rep and to all our volunteers.

## Business Networking Events

We held our first Business Network Event of 2026 on 24 February at the recently refurbished New Inn. Thank you to the team at the New Inn for hosting this. These events are free to join and aim to support and connect our local businesses and community groups. If you are running a business from home this includes you too. Thank you also to Pittsmead Grange Care Home, Barchester Healthcare, for hosting our next event on 22 April. If you are interested in joining or hosting future business events then get in touch at [hello@hkva.org.uk](mailto:hello@hkva.org.uk)

## Front Garden Awards

After a wet winter and only a few glimpses of spring so far, I am looking forward to getting back out in the garden. It's time to start thinking about the 2026 Hayes Front Garden Awards. The HVA recognises the contribution made to the street scene by the attractive front gardens that can be found around Hayes; the HVA Front Garden Awards are presented at the Hayes Horticultural Society Autumn Show in September. Every front garden in Hayes could win an award - you don't have to enter – the judges will look at all the front gardens in early July, with the final judging following later in the month. The best garden assessed with the help of the Hayes Horticultural Society wins a garden voucher. Highly commended gardens receive a certificate and an honourable mention in the Hayes Review. Let's get gardening!

*Julia Kingston,  
HVA Front Garden  
Awards Co-ordinator*



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## Hayes Street Farm Development

A 'Response to community feedback' was published in February 2026, prepared by Cavendish for Berkeley Homes regarding Hayes Street Farm. In March, Berkeley invited residents to take part in their second public consultation for Ravensbourne Place. This was available, at short notice, from 12 March to 27 March, with a live webinar held on 19 March. A recording of the hour long webinar can be viewed on the Ravensbourne Place website here <https://ravensbourneplace.co.uk/webinar-march2026/>

We understand their planning application may be submitted in May. If planning is approved, Berkeley Homes expect to start work on site in Q2 2027, and this long term phased development is expected to take 15 years to complete. A Community Campaign Walk, organised by Keep Bromley Green, took place on Sunday 22 March, starting at Bromley FC and it finished at Hayes Street. It was well supported by around 500 people, including Peter Fortune, MP for Bromley & Biggin Hill, Cllr Colin Smith, Leader of London Borough Bromley, and local councillors. Details of all relevant contact points for this proposed development are published online on the HVA website, facebook page and in the Hayes Review Winter Edition that can be found online here;

<https://www.hkva.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Hayes-Review-Winter-2026.pdf>

## Regarding the proposed development on Hayes Farm and Bromley Common...



Hayes Village Association was founded in 1933, with a stated objective to protect the interests of residents and preserve the local amenities. We exist to support our village community.



We **object** to the proposed development on the basis of our commitment to protect the Green Belt land of Hayes.



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We DESPERATELY need a volunteer(s) to support the HVA Committee to comment on our behalf on local planning issues.

We are looking for a professional surveyor, architect, or town planner who can work alongside the committee to support, object, or advise on all aspects of planning that impact our local community. There is no commitment required to attend our monthly meetings.

If you can help in anyway or would like further information on this important voluntary role, please contact us:

[hello@hkva.org](mailto:hello@hkva.org)

## Hayes Community and History



### Hayes Community Council

The Annual General Meeting of the Hayes Community Council is at 8pm on Thursday 30 April at the Hayes Village Hall, Hayes Street. The Village Hall will be 100 years old in 2027. It is owned by the people of Hayes and managed by a team of volunteer trustees, who give their time to maintain the hall and look after the hirers. The Hayes Village Hall Management Committee will report on their activities and outline their plans for 2026. You are invited to come along to the AGM, ask questions and share your ideas.

*Jenny Miah*

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## Hayes Kent Trust

The Hayes (Kent) Trust is a local charity based here in Hayes and established in its current form in 1992, although its foundations have much earlier historical charitable roots. The HKT has an endowment, the income of which is used to give grants for the benefit of current residents of Hayes. The charity also owns two properties which are rented to local people in need. The history of one of Hayes's oldest organisations is interesting. In 1992 The Charity Commissioners agreed to the merging of three charities operating in Hayes. They were The Poor's Land Cottage Charity (est. 1932), The Poor's Land Eleemosynary Charity (est. 1932), and The Hayes (Kent) Educational Foundation (est.1939). These charities were themselves formed out of even earlier charities. Firstly, Elizabeth Lloyd charity. This charity was established by the will of Mrs Elizabeth Lloyd dated 5th January 1693. It made funds available (£2 0s 0d per annum derived from rent on land) to enable children from poor families in Hayes to attend school and become apprentices. Elizabeth Lloyd lived at Baston Manor and her husband's grandfather was Cuthbert Burbage who owned the Globe Theatre in Shakespeare's time. Secondly, Elizabeth Harrison Charity. This charity was established by the will of Mrs Elizabeth Harrison dated 25th October 1738. It also made available funds (£3 0s 0d per annum, derived from the income on a £100 investment) to enable children from poor families in Hayes to attend school. She also left 10s to be given on Good Friday to the child who could best read the catechism. Little more is known about Elizabeth Harrison. Finally, the Poor's Land Charity. The origins of this charity are less clear. It appears that in 1797, a man called Sir Vicary Gibbs wished to enclose some parts of Hayes Common which were around his house (in the Hayes Close area). To be allowed to do this he gave some other land of approximately 2 acres in the parish between Five Elms Road and Barnet Wood Road. Two thirds of the income from the land was to be used to support and maintain schools in Hayes with the remaining third being used to support the poor in Hayes. Vicary Gibbs was a very interesting character. He was a lawyer with an acerbic tongue and was known as "Vinegar" Gibbs, and his family called him "Gibberish Vicks"! His career included time as Attorney General, Chief Justice, and MP for Totnes in Devon. There is a large memorial to him above the bell tower door in St. Mary's Church. It was his donation of land that proved the most valuable of the assets that became the responsibility of the Hayes (Kent) Trust. By 1932, the land was occupied by two large family houses that were built in the early 19th century (the White House and Brackendene), also a row of four cottages known as "Simpson's Cottages" which were there when Vicary Gibbs donated the land and for probably a considerable amount of time beforehand. Some of the land including the two large houses were sold in the 1970s and 80s; Simpson's Cottages were sold and then redeveloped in the 1990s. They were in a very bad state of repair, had limited plumbing, no central heating and two of them only had outside toilets, and were very expensive for the charity to maintain.

The HVA voiced its objections to the sale of the cottages, loss of heritage buildings and concerns for the two residents who were considered vulnerable members of the community, but the HKT trustees rehomed both residents in new properties purchased from the sale of the cottages, and which are still being used by families who need shelter today. When the new Trust was formed from these historic entities in 1992 it combined all the assets that they had separately owned and took on the charitable purposes that they had served. Today there are six trustees who meet regularly to consider grant applications and are responsible for managing the Trust's financial and property assets. Current Trustees have experience of business finance, school leadership in pre-school, primary and secondary settings, social work, and family support as well as being residents themselves and living and working in the Hayes community. The main charitable purpose of the HKT is to give grants to Hayes residents. For relief in Need, Sickness and for the promotion of Education and Advancement in Life. The key restriction is that successful applicants must live in Hayes. The Trustees work within the set boundaries of their Terms of Reference (laid out in the Charity Scheme) and do have to decline to give grants that fall outside the strict remit. When this happens, we aim to direct the applicant to other organisations that may be able to help them with their requirements. Since 1992 the Trust has given over 1300 grants, amounting to a value of over £690k. This is a combination of grants to individuals, larger grants to our local schools and additional grants to organisations that support Hayes residents in other ways. Currently the HKT doesn't actively fundraise, primarily because of the endowment and generous donations from local organisations like the Hayes Players and the Hayes Fair, but recently the Trust was left a legacy from a widow of the parish which has increased the endowment fund and serves as a reminder of the humble origins of this invaluable, local charity. For further information please contact the Secretary of the Hayes (Kent) Trust at [hayes.kent.trust@gmail.com](mailto:hayes.kent.trust@gmail.com)

*Alison Naish*



**Trustees of the Hayes (Kent) Trust**



The Trust has funds available to support people who live in Hayes and who are in some kind of need.

The Trust makes grants to individuals as well as charities and other voluntary organisations based or operating in Hayes.

The Trustees, who are all local people, meet on a regular basis to discuss applications for grants.

**If you would like to make an application, please email the Hon. Secretary.**

The Trust makes grants in support of people living in Hayes for the following purposes:

- Support for people who are suffering hardship or distress
- Support for people who are sick, convalescent, disabled or infirm
- Support for the aged
- Support for people who need financial assistance to support their education
- Support for advancement in life; people needing financial assistance to help enter into or develop their role in a trade, profession, occupation or service

**hayes.kent.trust@gmail.com**

Registered Charity No. 221098

## New Defibrillator

Members of West Wickham Rotary were delighted to support the recent installation of a defibrillator at Hayes Free Church, 111 Pickhurst Lane, an example of how the funds they raise are benefitting our local community. Former HVA Chair, Chris Wood, was on hand to accept this on behalf of Hayes Free Church.

There are defibrillators at key sites across Hayes, and the HVA are considering other possible locations. See here for all registered locations: [www.defibfinder.uk](http://www.defibfinder.uk)



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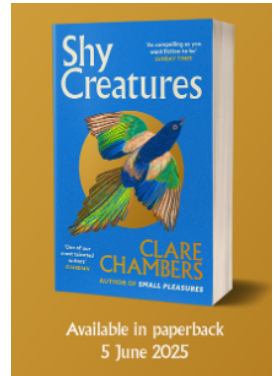
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### Living with a writer: Small Pleasures and Shy Creatures

Being married to a successful novelist certainly makes life interesting. Clare Chambers is happy if she writes one good page a day, and gradually over about two years a 350 page book is produced. It is a very exciting experience as I read each page which comes off the home printer on A4 sheets. Clare has now written ten books and each one I have read in its first print stage and every time I have been astounded, moved, tearful and laughed out loud at what my friend and partner has been able to create from her own imagination. The first eight books were very well received and had great reviews or won awards but unfathomably never quite took off. I could sense Clare

beginning to show signs of giving up what she is so very good at. I felt I needed to encourage her not to admit defeat but to keep trying, have faith and believe - so she tried one more time. Then, as some of you may know, Small Pleasures was published just at the time of lockdown. This book took off to become a bestseller with TV rights and 13 foreign translations (including Russian and South Korean!). It struck me as incredible how readers in such far-flung places would interpret a novel set in Hayes in 1957. But things did not stop there. Clare's next book, Shy Creatures, set in Croydon in 1964, came out in 2024 and was described as 'even better than Small Pleasures'. Last year, though, the pleasures for me turned into wonderful experiences, as I was able to accompany Clare all over the UK to Edinburgh, Manchester, Appledore, Budleigh Salterton and Hastings Book Festivals and many more (28 in total) where I could sit in the audience and listen with astonishment and pride at how she could hold an audience with erudite, pithy comments, advice to writers and funny anecdotes. The highlight of all these was the Cheltenham Festival at Sea, a seven-day voyage on the Queen Mary 2 from Southampton to New York. While I sat around enjoying the ambience of a luxury life at sea, Clare had to 'work' each day by speaking about her books or interviewing other writers in one of the two 500-seat theatres on the ship. The other guest speakers included Ruth Jones, John Sergeant, Robert Moore, Patrick Gale, Louise Minchin, Mark Billingham plus many others, and each evening we would sit down to a fine meal in the beautiful restaurant and chat to these funny and interesting people. We all became close as a group. An amazing and life-enhancing experience. Shy Creatures has been selling very well in paperback, and I am delighted that Hayes, Bromley, Croydon and Kent feature so prominently in her books. Over 30 years Clare has been writing and waiting with patience dedication and a lot of disappointment, and it has finally paid off and now she is recognised as 'one of our most talented writers' (The Guardian) and a new chapter has commenced in our lives. So, if you ever feel that your efforts are in vain, rejected or unrecognised, never give up. Everyone has a time and a place, and you need to have faith and patience; your time will come. Clare's books are available from Amazon, Waterstones and independent bookshops.



*Peter Wickert*



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## Hayes Community Minibus

You may have spotted our liveried minibus driving around Hayes and wondered what it was all about. We are a small friendly team who manage a charitable Trust that owns and operates a self-drive minibus that is available for the use of our local community. The minibus is used regularly by several local groups such as churches, cubs, scouts and explorers but has also been used by local families for day trips such as taking groups of children to birthday parties. The minibus seats 17 people including the driver and has a lift at the rear for passengers with mobility issues. A D1 minibus licence is not necessary as the minibus is driveable on a regular car licence. We are a not-for-profit organisation run for the benefit of the local community so the minibus is available at rates that are far cheaper than you would find from a commercial minibus rental company with prices starting at £60 for a single day up to £250 for a full week. If you'd like to find out more please contact us at [hayescommunityminibus@outlook.com](mailto:hayescommunityminibus@outlook.com) or you can find more details at [www.hayescommunityminibus.com](http://www.hayescommunityminibus.com)

*Stuart Spence*



## RNLI Hayes (Kent) Branch

Yes, Hayes now has our own RNLI Branch! Thank you to all who visited our stand at Hayes Fair last year, and we aim to be there this year too. Also, thanks to everyone who supported our Coffee Morning at St. Mary's Church. These events each raised almost £300. Our next event is a Flower Arranging Demo by well-known florist and Chelsea Gold Medal Winner, Graham Harmer, at Hayes Free Church, Pickhurst Lane, on Monday 18 May 2026, doors open from 1.30pm. All arrangements will be raffled. Tickets at £10 are available from 20 April from our supporter Richard Hodge at Motique A1 Motor Stores, on Station Approach. Also, on Saturday 11 July there will be an evening with the London Concert Chorus, details to follow. We are still looking for a Treasurer, and if anyone would like to join us, please call Jenny Peel, Chair, on 07484 794144.

*Jenny Peel*



## Hayes & Coney Hall Ward Councillors

The key issue in Hayes continues to be the proposed development for 2,200 homes on the Green Belt site at Hayes Farm. Many residents have already expressed very strong concerns and not just about the principle of building in the Green Belt. There is also the lack of infrastructure to support future occupants (although plans now include a medical centre), additional traffic on an already congested main road and the fact that Hayes Lane is prone to flooding. This does not bode well after a very wet winter. The planning application isn't expected until May. Until then, residents cannot object formally but should take advantage of Berkeley Homes' online consultation and let local Councillors know their views.

Following pressure from Cllr Alexa Michael, a dropped kerb crossing, together with some hardstanding, were installed on both sides of the road at the junction of Bourne Vale and Mead Way in February. The purpose is to help pedestrians to cross safely at this busy location. Cllr Thomas Turrell, who also represents Bexley and Bromley on the London Assembly, presented a petition signed by hundreds of residents calling for the introduction of speed cameras in Baston Road, Bourne Vale and Pickhurst Lane to the Mayor of London in early February. The Mayor has four months to respond. Thank you to everybody who signed the petition.



Many residents are concerned about plans to turn two dilapidated tennis courts at The Warren into padel/pickleball courts. The main issues are noise, increased traffic and highway safety. Cllr Alexa Michael attended a public meeting at The Warren on 9 March and asked a number of questions. At time of writing, the proposals are at pre-application stage, with no formal application yet submitted. Cllr Michael has asked the management of The Warren to close the rear entrance in Holland Way to car traffic so that all vehicles enter using the main entrance in Croydon Road.

Your Councillors want local roads to be kept in good repair. Cllr Josh Coldspring-White is pleased to report that Addington Road has recently been resurfaced. Mounthurst Road is in a very poor condition, so we are pushing for it to be treated. The first phase of the 2026/27 planned highway maintenance programme was approved by Councillors back in January. The refurbishment of Mounthurst Road is included in phase two of the programme which is still being finalised. It is intended to carry out the work in summer.

*Cllr Josh Coldspring-White*  
*Cllr Alexa Michael*  
*Cllr Thomas Turrell AM*





# HAYES FAIR

**Sunday 7 June 2026**

**12.00 noon – 4.30 pm**

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## Hayes Groups

### Hayes Men's Fellowship

We are a relaxed and friendly group of retired and semi-retired men who, most months, have a meeting, an outing and a walk. We are thriving with over 60 members but are always open to new members. So, if the things we do are of interest to you, why not try us by coming along to one of our meetings. Or find out more from Graham Marsden, HMF Secretary (07764 153383 or [secretary@hayesmensfellowship.org](mailto:secretary@hayesmensfellowship.org) ). Annual membership costs just £20 (Outings are charged separately to cover costs). Our meetings are at the OCS at 86 Hayes Street, Hayes. We have guest speakers and always end with tea and a chat. Recent talks have included the excellent "Apollo 11 Moon landing: The real story" and the intriguing "Hayes, and our part in the American Revolution or How a man's love of Hayes changed the history of the World". Still to come we are looking forward to "London's hidden gems" and "The cars that changed everything" amongst others. The outings are coach day trips open to members and wives/partners/guests. Recent outings include the high tech BMW Mini Factory in Oxford and the magnificent Kew Gardens. We have plans for the Nene Valley Railway combined with Peterborough and then later the Shuttleworth Collection, Gardens and House near Biggleswade. Another "outing" is our Annual Lunch, this year held again at the Parklangley Club where we welcomed 68 members and guests who enjoyed a superb meal. Walks are either in London – easily accessible with a Freedom Pass – or in the countryside that is so close to us. Recent walks include the Hayes and Keston areas, and the Greenwich Park area. You can see the remaining activities up to our summer recess, and reports on activities we have completed at [www.hayesmensfellowship.org](http://www.hayesmensfellowship.org) .

*Graham Marsden*





*Joanne Brown*  
**Celebrant**



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### Hayes Horticultural Society

May is the 'queen of months' according to John Clare, and I for one agree! Shoots are lush and unspoilt by pests, birds can be seen energetically feeding their young, and weather is (hopefully!) warm, without the intensity of August sun. May is also one of the busiest months for the gardener, so it's as well the days are long. Risk of frost should have passed, allowing tender plants to be safely planted out. Whether colourful bedding or tasty organic home grown vegetables, take your choice. While it may be too late to grow most from seed, no problem, as the Society will be holding our annual big Plant Sale on Saturday 16 May at Hayes Village Hall. Doors open at 10am. We will have a wide range of veg, annuals and perennials, and some crafts. We are always happy to provide friendly advice. Failing that, we will also have a plant stall at Hayes Fair at The Warren on Sunday 7 June. The challenge, though, is keeping up with the weeds. Foolishly, several years ago, I allowed a patch of cleavers (also known as 'sticky bobs' because of their hooked bristles that cling to clothes or fur) to survive as a delicacy for the rabbits we kept at the time. I regret its reappearance every Spring; one year's seed is definitely seven years weed! Much is still to look forward to. For me, a particular pleasure are my dahlias due to their vibrant colour and variety of shapes. They also come with amusing names such as 'Pooh' (a yellow and scarlet collarette variety reminiscent of the bear), and 'Chickadee' (a pink and red pom pom variety). Also, courgettes fresh from the plot, and warm, juicy tomatoes. Our Summer Show, again at the Village Hall, will be on Saturday 11 July. Our Committee hope to see you there.

*Lucy Dolbear*



### Event Dates

- Saturday 16th May: Plant sale opening 10.00am
- Saturday 11th July: Summer Show: opening 2.30 pm
- Saturday 12th September: Autumn Show: opening 2.30pm
- Saturday 14th November: Winter Show: opening 2.00pm

All events are held in Hayes Village Hall, BR2 7LH

## 🦋 Step Into Spring 🦋

### **Guided Wellbeing Walks to Help You Slow Down, Think Clearly & Feel Like Yourself Again**

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*Give yourself the space to pause, breathe and reset this Spring*

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### Friends of Hayes Common

2025 was year of progress for the Group as we continued to clear invasive holly and laurel from dense woodland areas whilst also managing the heathland areas through gorse and bracken control. As we moved into 2026 there were no less than four sites around the Common where FoHC had work in progress. The Group celebrated 25 years of operations at the AGM held in June at the Victory Social Club. Members enjoyed a BBQ and a talk by Bob Harrop, a local ecologist. Ian Wright of idverde, the Hayes Common Manager, explained why the Group performs its various activities around the Common and how they are vital to improving local biodiversity. Invited representatives of local organisations with whom the Group has always had strong links also attended. The last major Group work session before the summer break was in early July, however the small Habitat Management team continued to meet weekly and carried out a lot of stump removals on sites previously worked on interspersed with the usual summer battle with bracken. Studies show that if bracken is pulled annually the plant weakens over time which should eventually stop it outcompeting the heather in the heathland areas for light and rain. In July the annual Green Flag Awards were announced and Hayes Common retained the Award for the sixth consecutive year. The 2025 assessment was carried out on a 'mystery shopper' (no prior warning and unaccompanied) basis. All interested parties were gratified when the Report was published, in all assessment categories the Common rated 'met or exceeded the standard', there was particular mention of the area seeming 'safe and welcoming' and compliments to local users for the lack of excessive litter and lack of evidence of dog fouling. The Report concluded that Hayes Common 'felt very like a genuine natural Green Flag Award site'. Winter clearance work resumed at the beginning of September in a site between West Common Road and Prestons Road. Whilst there are a few small clearings within the overall site the surrounding foliage was such that it was very difficult to access. Having cut our way in we began as usual by hollowing out the interior before clearing the outer holly and laurel to link with a nearby glade that was cleared during the winter of 24/25. The next few winters will be devoted to removing divisions between cleared glades and linking such newly opened spaces together. For info contact [admin@fohayescommon.com](mailto:admin@fohayescommon.com) or [ithomas12@compuserve.com](mailto:ithomas12@compuserve.com)

*Ian Thomas, Secretary, FoHC*



### Friends of Hayes Parks

Whilst having a mild winter and spring, we had plenty of rain resulting in cancellation of some of our work sessions. Nevertheless, the group have made up time up by working hard on jobs such as litter picking, leaf raking, bamboo cutting and removal of dead branches and fallen trees from both grassy areas and from ponds. Also removed from the ponds are large accumulations of autumn leaves both in the Knoll and Husseywell. Dirty work but appreciated both by the wild life and those using the parks. The spring bulbs are in flower, the days are longer and the parks prettier. Please enjoy them.

*Debbie Palmer*

### Friends of Pickhurst Park

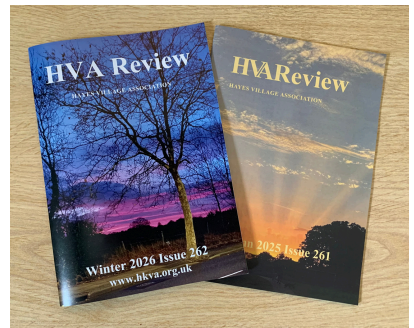
With both very wet paths and grass, work sessions have proved difficult, but as always there are jobs to do. Cutting down and tidying up of dead trees and removal of those fallen across the well-worn woodland paths. The continual opening of paths both on Pickhurst Green and in the park, cutting back brambles and the clearing of ditches which drain the area. Litter picking has continued, a job that always needs doing. In March, the blossom trees were in colour and spring flowers abound, with daffodils and bluebells. Enjoy all that spring has to offer and visit Pickhurst Park.

*Debbie Palmer*

## Young Hayes

### Front Cover Competition

We are running a competition for Under 18's to design the front cover of our Summer edition of the Hayes Review. Your design should be in portrait and suitable for A5 size. It should be a drawing, painting or photograph of somewhere or something in Hayes, appropriate for the Summer season. The deadline for the Summer edition is 15 June. Please submit your entry by e-mail to [hello@hkva.org.uk](mailto:hello@hkva.org.uk) clearly stating your full name, road, school (if appropriate) and confirming you have the permission of your parent or guardian. All age groups are encouraged to enter. The winner will be selected by the editorial team, and their image will be delivered to 4,000 residences across Hayes.





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### Hayes School: Excellence through Endeavour

I feel immensely privileged to have taken over as Headteacher of Hayes School. Prior to this, I served as Headteacher of Harris Academy South Norwood for six years, and I was proud to see the school become the highest achieving mixed state school in Croydon last year. I believe deeply in the power of state education to open doors, transform lives, and create genuine moments of joy for young people. My wife, our two children, and I have lived in West Wickham for the past eight years, and in that time, we have been truly grateful for the warmth, generosity, and community spirit that characterise Hayes. It is an honour to serve a school at the heart of such a special community, and I feel very fortunate to have joined an inspirational group - the Impact Trust. We are exceptionally proud of our school and its wonderful community. At Hayes we are guided by a simple question: “Would this be good enough for our child?” It shapes our decisions, our expectations and our culture. Here, young people learn the importance of hard work — and experience moments of genuine joy. Hayes School is proudly placed among the top 20% of schools nationally for achievement. But we are definitely not an exams factory. Our students flourish in music, sport, the creative arts and enrichment, building character alongside academic success. Our values underpin everything we do. At Hayes, we ask our young people to Show Up, Own It, stand Stronger Together, and above all, Be Kind. These are not slogans on posters; they are lived daily in the stories, achievements and vibrant life of our community — a community that has never felt more alive.

**Learning Beyond the Four Classroom Walls** Walk through the school gates on any given day and you will find something extraordinary happening. This autumn alone, students embarked on 31 enrichment trips — from Vienna and the Somme battlefields to leading universities and London’s West End. These experiences broaden horizons and deepen learning in ways no textbook can replicate. From Berlin’s winter streets to the energy of live theatre, Hayes students learn not just in classrooms, but in the world. Across subjects, curiosity is constantly ignited. Design & Technology students explored automation and robotics at the MINI Plant in Oxford. Psychology students examined the history of mental health at Bethlem Royal Hospital. Music students experienced unforgettable performances and shared their own talents with the community — including uplifting sessions at Connections Café, where the Hayes Ukulele Band brought joy to dementia-friendly groups through song. At Hayes, learning is lived as much as it is taught.

**A Culture of Sporting Excellence** Sport is woven into the fabric of Hayes life, and the past year has been among our strongest ever. Our teams compete — and win — against prestigious grammar and independent schools, demonstrating not only talent but remarkable teamwork and resilience. A superb 34–15 victory against Eastbourne College under the Friday Night Lights stands as just one memorable moment.

Beyond team success, individual achievements have been extraordinary. A Hayes student, Paige, became Junior World Champion in darts, securing major international titles. Sebastian was selected to represent England U15 in football, competing against Cyprus and the USA. Ben (YR12) Quietly and determinedly trained behind the scenes and became a national-level cross-country champion, exemplifying dedication. Girls' sport continues to flourish, from U15 netball success to a thriving Year 7 squad with over 50 girls regularly attending training sessions. Trampolining has enjoyed its most successful year ever, with 21 students qualifying for National Finals, including multiple individual champions — a remarkable testament to perseverance and ambition. Here, students demonstrate every day what it means to be Stronger Together.

**A Thriving Musical Heartbeat** Music pulses at the centre of Hayes School life. With two students in the National Youth Orchestra, Emma and Will, and Emma even shortlisted for BBC Young Musician of the Year, Hayes stands proudly among the country's most exciting schools for musical talent. Concerts throughout the year — from the Winter Concert to MusicFest — showcase not only exceptional skill, but confidence, creativity and generosity of spirit. One particularly memorable moment saw a Year 13 student conduct a jazz ensemble she had composed herself, leading her peers with poise and authority — a young person truly willing to Own It. Yet music at Hayes is not solely about excellence; it is about joy. This Christmas, students gathered spontaneously in the restaurant to sing together, filling the school with harmony, laughter and a deep sense of belonging.

**Academic Ambition at Every Level** Achievement and aspiration walk hand in hand at Hayes. Last year, over 80% of students progressed to university, including several to Oxford and Cambridge, while others embarked on highly competitive degree apprenticeships. Our Sixth Form remains one of the region's most sought-after, with over 700 external applications and more than 180 Hayes students choosing to continue their journey with us. It is an academic community young people are proud to belong to.

**A Community United by Kindness and Purpose** Whether it is sixth formers volunteering as reading mentors, Year 8 geographers exploring Hayes Common with curiosity, or students lifting one another in performance and competition, Hayes is a place where kindness and ambition coexist. In a time when education faces significant national challenges, what sustains us is this shared belief in young people — and in one another. The partnership between students, families and staff is the foundation of everything we achieve. Hayes is a school rooted in the local community. As Headteacher, I feel deeply privileged to work alongside such an exceptional staff team and such a remarkable group of young people. We are proud of what our students achieve. But even more than that, we are proud of who they are becoming.

*Rob Hitch  
Headteacher*

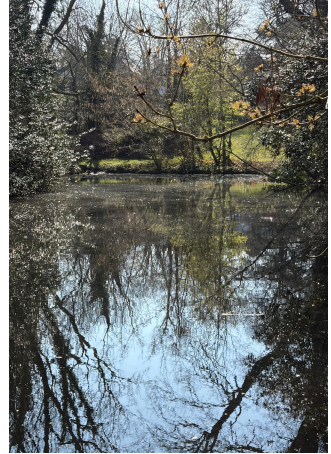


## Notices

The front cover photo for this edition was taken in March at The Knoll, by Hayes resident Mark Bennett. Thank you Mark.

We are very grateful to all our contributors and our Road Rep volunteers. Big thanks also to the HVA Hayes Review and distribution team, including Chris Wood, Sharon Field Clarke, Oliver Pereira, Alison Naish, Janette Miller, Elaine Vigor, Gill Jaynes, Julia Kingston, and editor Nick Goddard.

If you run a community group in Hayes, we may be able to feature you in a future edition of the Hayes Review. Please contact us at [hello@hkva.org.uk](mailto:hello@hkva.org.uk). Also, feel free to post details on our Facebook page.



### How you can contribute

We are able to produce the Hayes Review and help local projects thanks to the support of our volunteers, sponsors and advertisers. We do not collect membership fees, but you can contribute if you wish to. Our thanks to all residents who have made a voluntary contribution and to the following patrons for your generous support.

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## What's On

### Regular Events

<b>Group 88</b> (Social Group for the over 60s)	Every Monday 8.00pm – 10.00pm at Rosary Church Hall (with weekend events)
<b>Barnet Wood Short Mat Bowls Club</b>	Every Tuesday 1.30pm – 4.30pm at Warman Sports Club.
<b>Hayes Men's Fellowship</b>	1st Wednesday of the month 2.45pm at Old Church Schools
<b>Sitting Keep Fit</b>	Every Thursday 10.30am – 11.45am at Old Church Schools
<b>Hayes (Kent) Flower Club</b>	2nd Friday of the month (not Aug & Dec) at 2.00 pm at Hayes Village Hall
<b>Ladies Lunch Group</b>	First Monday of every month at Hayes Free Church
<b>Men's Group</b>	Usually the evening of the third Thursday of each month at Hayes Free Church
<b>Friendship Group</b>	Tuesdays in term-time at 2.00pm at Hayes Free Church
<b>Welcome Space</b>	Every Wednesday 12.30pm - 3.00pm at St. Mary's Church, Meeting Room
<b>Warm Space</b>	Every Thursday at 12.00 noon at Hayes Free Church
<b>Hayes Library Opening Hours</b>	Tuesdays & Thursdays 9.30am – 1.00pm and 2.00pm – 5.30pm Saturdays 9.30am – 1.00pm and 2.00pm – 5.00pm



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**Other Events** *Please check all dates and timings nearer the event.*

Date	Group	Event	Time
Sat 16 May	Hayes Horticultural Society	Plant & Craft Sale at Hayes Village Hall	10am
Sun 7 June	Hayes Fair	at The Warren	12.00 noon to 4.30pm
Fri 3 July	Pickhurst Junior Academy PTA	Pickfest Summer Fair at Pickhurst Junior School	3.20pm to 6.30pm
Sat 11 July	Hayes Horticultural Society	Summer Show at Hayes Village Hall	2.30pm
Sat 12 September	Hayes Horticultural Society	Autumn Show at Hayes Village Hall	2.30pm
Sat 14 November	Hayes Horticultural Society	Winter Show at Hayes Village Hall	2.00pm

The next edition of the Hayes Review is planned for Summer 2026.

**Hayes Review Key Dates**

- Summer Edition submissions by 15<sup>th</sup> June for delivery from mid-July.
- Autumn Edition submissions by 15<sup>th</sup> September for delivery from mid-October.
- Winter Edition submissions by 15<sup>th</sup> December for delivery from mid-January.
- Spring Edition submissions by 15<sup>th</sup> March for delivery from mid-April.

**Principal Officers 2025-2026 & Hayes Review Contacts**

- Chair - Sharon Field Clarke 07824 188060.
- Secretary - Elaine Vigor 07815 856051.
- Treasurer - Matthew Vigor 07815 856050.
- Review Editor - Nick Goddard 07399 620554.
- Road Rep Co-ordinator - Julia Kingston 07900 242504.
- Hayes Village Association e-mail address - hello@hkva.org.uk
- The Hayes Village Association website address is [www.hkva.org.uk](http://www.hkva.org.uk)

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