**GUIDE TO THE CHANGES AND EVENTS IN HAZLEMERE SINCE THE FORMATION OF THE PARISH COUNCIL IN 1987 TO THE CORONAVIRUS LOCKDOWN IN 2020**

INTRODUCTION Since the publication of my book on Hazlemere in 1988 a number of changes and events have taken place. This publication is simply a guide as to what has happened in Hazlemere since that time. My thanks go to those who advised and commented on draft copies.

It is not intended to be exhaustive and any errors or additions may be added. Apart from my own personal notes the following references were used for anyone to peruse for further detail.

DAVID H. GANTZEL

REF: BCC = BUCKS COUNTY COUNCIL

BFP = BUCKS FREE PRESS

GAG = GRANGE ACTION GROUP

GAT = GRANGE AREA TRUST

HGA = HAZLEMERE GARDENING ASSOCIATION

HPC = HAZLEMERE PARISH COUNCIL

HRA = HAZLEMERE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

HSA = HAZLEMERE SPORTS ASSOCIATION

H7 = A BCC PLAN TO BUILD ON FOUR FARMS - GRANGE, TERRIERS, WIDMER AND ROCKHALLS WITH A404 DIVERSION ROAD

HW = HIGH WYCOMBE

Rec = AMERSHAM ROAD RECREATION GROUND

SWR = SIR WILLIAM RAMSAY SCHOOL

**1987**

HPC formed under chairmanship of Vic Gee

Manor Farm First School regional winners and national runners-up in Industry Year competition.

Future of HRA in balance.

Mayflower pub reopens after refurbishment with plans to combat noise and nuisance.

Manor Farm school win treble musical prizes.

Reggae and R&B singer Judy Boucher is second only to Madonna in charts.

Carnival Parade from Community Centre to rec.

Poppy collection suffers from lack of collectors

**1988**

April. Public open meeting at Park School attended by 300+ to discuss A404 diversion. BCC still insisted on keeping the line and ruled out lay-byes for buses.

Former Youth Club leader Patrick Hazell awarded MBE

Hazlemere Branch Secretary Arthur Brown awarded life membership of Royal British Legion.

Shell garage refurbished but reopens with signs spelt Halsemere

Fears expressed over supermarket at Park Parade

Hazlemere Golf Club hosts celebrity match

David Gantzel signs book on Hazlemere at the library.

HPC draws up environmental plan for Hazlemere and produces its first Newsletter

**1989**

Plans drawn up for alterations to mini roundabouts at Crossroads. Early plans flawed.

Future of HRA discussed and votes to continue under joint chairmanship.

Cedar Barn is delisted - losing its Grade II status

BCC run Litterblitz Week throughout Hazlemere, raising £160 for Scannappeal.

Hazlemere Under 15 football club win the Presidents Cup

Mayflower pub temporarily closed after night of violence.

Children’s play areas replaced with modern safety material. (Proved unsatisfactory in 1993)???

Reg Lacey dies. Founder member of Hazlemere RBL and on Holy Trinity Church Council.

David Cox retires as headmaster of Park County Middle School.

Plans submitted to change Ninepins to offices

Penn Road Free Methodist church and Coppice Farm Road Methodist church hold

Mission 89 with many events being held

Waitrose pull out of Park Parade shop scheme. HRA concerned.

Rose Avenue recreation ground closed because of a geographical fault known as a swallow hole,

deep and dangerous. Vandals tear down safety fencing.

**1990**

Flooding at bottom of Sawpit Hill as Hazlemere suffers severe storm damage.

HRA concerned about deterioration and eyesore of Park Parade and lack of information on modernisation and proposed mini roundabout at junction of Cedar Avenue and Holmer Green Road. Later plans scrapped and Park Parade put up for sale for £3.3 million. Traders form a consortium to purchase the site. WDC agrees to tidy up the area.

HRA plants trees as a litter barrier

Formal opening of WDC sports pavilion on the Rec by Cllr Ken Morgan. Car park enlarged.

Cedar Barn badly damaged by fire in February. Cause unknown - whether arson or accidental

Clive Collier inducted as new vicar of Hazlemere

Former policeman Bill Chinn dies aged 107 days before becoming Britain’s oldest man.

Katie Buck aged 11 hits a hole in one at Hazlemere Golf Club.

Headmaster Dennis Hawkins of Hazlemere Combined retires and SWR head

Keith Johnson leaves.

Good Neighbours receives a new ambulance from Airflow.

District Councillor for Hazlemere East Vic Lay dies suddenly. He ran the

Fruity One in Rose Avenue.

HPC issues two newsletters re plans for rebuilding Cedar barn.

**1991**

BFP reports much criticism from parishioners on HPC plans for Cedar barn and its cost.

BFP features Manor Farm Middle School activities under headmistress Christine Brewster.

Freehold of Park Parade shops sold to traders for £2.7 million who start refurbishment.

Head librarian Eileen Gunter retires having run the library since 1976.

Community Association celebrates its 25th birthday and Hazlemere Darby and Joan club its 40th.

**1992**

Betty Slade receives the BEM in New Years Honours for services to the Scout Movement.

BCC finally agrees to a pedestrian crossing on Holmer Green Road at Cosy Corner.

BCC and HPC discuss stable end of the barn complex and work starts on Cedar Barn.

David Cox writes and publishes children’s books.

Serious flooding again at Cosy Corner with roads closed.

Armed robber and rapist attacks Hazlemere shopkeeper.

November. Putnams Lane enquiry which ruled lane to be 5.2metres wide but later reduced by

agreement to 2metres

Councillors and locals protest with placards against BCC decision to sell Rushmoor pond to Simmons and Partners for development. Pond then fenced off.

**1993**

Cedar Barn rebuilt. Opened by David Wainman

Barclays bank closed at Crossroads

Pastor Martin Hearfield inducted as Minister of Penn Road Free Methodist chapel

Moss Pharmacy on Park Parade evacuated as cyanide handed to manager Rev Andrew Williamson

Another swallow hole appears - this time in Marys Mead.

Beaumont Way carpark adds more recycling bins.

Death of John Lowry. New village quiz shield named after him

A Big Top erected on Rec for Holy Trinity’s Wreck 93 for children.

Evidence of heroin and other hard drugs on Rose Avenue recreation ground.

Last year of Senior Citizens Christmas gifts as calendars not appreciated.

Community Association and SWR in joint discussion re parking problems

**1994**

New play equipment at Dell vandalised on first day of use.

Newly formed Hazlemere theatre group Equus opens with Play for Today at RBL hall.

All residents in Hazlemere to receive questionnaire on BCC becoming a Unitary Authority.

Holy Trinity explains its plans for Community Project on Cedars public house site. Planning permission given but pub regulars opposed.

Ken Williams receives Bill Wells Trophy for services to sport.

Proposed fish and chip shop in Rose Avenue gets mixed response. Refused by WDC

Upheld on appeal.

Hazlemere RBL decides not to celebrate 50th anniversary of VE Day.

NISA supermarket on Park Parade closes for refurbishment.

**1995**

Community Association AGM described as ‘stormy’ as strong debate over cost/quality of entertainment

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Hazlemere Food Hall reopens at Park Parade with parking on roof

Holy Trinity celebrates 150th anniversary in marquee on Rec led by Clive Collier and curate Andy Rimmer. Other events held inc Jazz, fun days and exhibitions, some at Holy trinity. The CoE school also celebrates its 150th birthday with a concert.

HPC Newsletter includes questionnaire on Queensway

11th High Wycombe scout group at Beaumont Way celebrates its 21st birthday.

Armed robbers hijack Securicor van and driver and take £7000 from Spar shop in Rose Avenue.

Lord Lieutenant of Bucks takes salute at war memorial as VE/VJ parade passes.

Putnam’s Lane resurfaced and opened.

Fete in danger but Mike Darnell agrees to be chairman.

Extra traffic from new development off Inkerman Drive (Badgers Way) causes problems at junction with Inkerman Hill which is realigned, with criticism of camber.

In a Holy Trinity survey of residents Hazlemere deemed a happy place by 70 per cent, but 70 per cent also thought traffic caused problems and 20 per cent thought it a lonely place.

**1996**

Key to the Future - new threat to H7. Public meetings well attended.

BBC Radio Gardeners Question Forum held at Community Centre, chaired by Stefan Buczacki

Public Inquiry re footpaths on Widmer fields

Huttons took over Fords at Crossroads

District and parish councillor Brian Tomkins died

Christine Brewster leaves Manor Farm Middle school after 15 years

Amy Gardiner celebrates her 108th birthday

Buses run through Hazlemere Park for first time.

HPC at wits end over vandalism on Hill/Manor Farm mainly to street lights.

Repairs cost over £12,500 in past year.

Police consider Hazlemere one of the worst areas for vandalism.

WDC purchase Queensway.

HPC and HRA feud over ‘mindless jabber’ jibes by HPC.

Normans ironmongers closes to become an Italian restaurant

Penn Road Free Methodist chapel celebrates its 90th birthday

David Hattersley CoE school headmaster dies in firework accident ultimately leading to a change in law.

**1997**

Public meeting at the Cedar barn to discuss future of the fete. Mike Large agrees to chair new committee.

WDC Local plan to 2011. H7 under threat again. HRA and HPC strongly against proposals.

Public meetings are well attended but hundreds locked out at community centre meeting

as WDC explained the plans.

Cecily Day writes booklet on Hazlemere ‘The Cherry-picking Preacher’.

Joan Barnes Theatre Workshop is renamed as New Directions Theatre Company.

Italian restaurant opens in Penn Road and breaches planning conditions. ie no take-aways

PO moves from In Time to Star newsagents on Park Parade

Greek restaurant opens above Troutt’s butchers

Anti roads protester Daniel Hooper alias Swampy ordered to stay at home in Hill Avenue.

Plant nursery opens at Grange farm

Basketball pitches open at Rose Avenue and Rec

Formation of GAG. Leads Save Farmland tour of H7

**1998**

Elongated island constructed at junction of Penn Road and Rose Avenue

Arrival of police station with twelve officers

Youth club saved from closure by new management committee under youth worker Ed Mallam

Planning officers, district councillors and Cheryl Gillan MP walk round H7.

GAG makes representations on Local Area Plan to 2011 and holds joint exhibition with BBOWT at Grange Farm.

Developers Laings and Redrow Homes put forward conceptual ideas for the whole of H7.

WDC gives professional representation at consultation meeting at SWR.

PO sorting office in Oakengrove Road closes.

**1999**

Queensway to be purchased by WDC for possible Park and Ride for 350 cars. HPC to get 7/24

of £100,000

HRA submits strong evidence against Queensway Park and Ride under Wycombe Local Plan

Equity and Law closes and is purchased by Berkely Homes

Punch Taverns threatens to close Cedars pub.

Widmer Farm public inquiry on footpaths approved

Under new criteria Law Lords save Sunning well (Oxon) Village Green from development. David Wainman and Nick Smith identify similarities with three fields on Widmer End farm.

Gordons builders merchant in Holmer Green Road believed to be encroaching into Pontos Wood.

**2000**

143 houses by Berkeley on Equity and Law site. Berkeley supports fete

Queensway removed as Park and Ride. Later proposed out of town supermarket not progressed.

A404 diversion inquiry

July Blue Plaque recording birthplace of Sir Geoffrey de Havilland unveiled at Magdala House

on Terriers Green, followed by flypast of vintage planes over Hazlemere

Cedars school closed and boarded up

GAG applied for Village Green status on Widmer Fields.

Public inquiry held in December

**2001**

Cedars school 3 offers for site - medical/community centre or old peoples home or school.

Public meeting in February

Part of Widmer farm fenced off - awaiting village green decision

Cedars pub plan to demolish and replace with flats

GAG - evidence given to Local plan to 2011 hearing

**2002**

CCTV on Park Parade

Village green accepted by inspector.

New public Inquiry on Cedars pub

Les Taylor died. District and parish councillor, officer of HGA.

Ken Williams died. Founder parish councillor, and heavily involved in HSC.

HRA 50th anniversary. Dr Wills cuts cake

Plans to rebuild stable block at Barn Lane.

HGA publishes Silver edition of Yearbook - 25 years

Sports pavilion renamed Ken Williams Memorial Pavilion

Cedars school: WDC development control committee voted 6-6 for Old Peoples home. Cllr Lay used casting vote for Old Peoples home. No community provision for Hazlemere. HPC and HRA both angry and disappointed.

GAG. Footpaths being marked on Widmer fields.

Bowling Green on Rec discussed

**2003**

A404 relief road no longer on district plan, but disappointment at plans for 400 houses on Terriers Farm.

April £217,000 to rebuild stable block. Portacabins for 8th HW scouts and HGA???

April Village Green judicial review begins under Judge Sullivan who later quashes decision

Proposed Bowling Green now £105,000

Stable block Millennium Centre being built. HGA prepare two rooms. Third room for 8th HW scouts and public use. HGA present seat in memory of Les Taylor.

Last cedar tree taken down - bifurcated deemed unsafe

Redrow refused permission to build flats on Cedars pub

Huttons sold to Kitchens and Bathrooms plus

**2004**

Development of Cedar School starts in January

Stephen Kelsey replaces Tony Fermor as head of Park School

Armed robbery at Park Parade

Business plan drawn up for Bowling Green

Local plan replaced by local development framework

Frances Taylor officially opens Millennium Centre 22 May

HPC and HSC discuss sports pavilion

New tenant of Cedars pub trying to make a go of it but Public Inquiry allows demolition

Rose Avenue Basketball Court noisy - new restrictions imposed

Bowling Green now in use on Rec.

Cedars pub closed in November

SWR art centre to be built

**2005**

HRA buy 8th HW scout group a clock

Blue Cedar tree planted in Shepherd’s Lane

Hazlemere Lodge Care home and St James Court - extra care name of old peoples home being built on site of Cedar School

Official opening September 16. Competition held for design of a bench made from the Cedar Tree by students at Bucks University

Queensway running track becoming protracted

Grange Farm British Flora granted longer tenancy

Foundations at Holy Trinity lychgate found to be unsafe. Offered to Chilterns museum but

Churchwardens decide to relocate in church grounds.

Developers Persimmon propose 400 houses at Terriers farm.

Possible development of Wellesbourne school and playing fields

**2006**

HPC still in discussions about new sports pavilion on Rec.

Rose Avenue Basketball court. Ombudsman in favour of HPC but complainant wishes to continue

Queensway Athletic track in early stage of planning

Surgery in Roberts Ride to start in February

Hazlemere Lodge in 3 way partnership with BCC, ECHG, Heritage care wildlife area

Holy Trinity lychgate repositioned in church grounds, but later removed and taken to Bristol.

Proposed running track may be at SWR.

Unveiling of bench made from the cedar tree at Hazlemere Lodge

Vandalised bus shelters to be remade of brick

WDC to discuss Wellesbourne development

Good Neighbours gets a new bus and gives its other bus to HW Sea scouts.

**2007**

GAG propose purchase of Widmer Fields (now Green Belt and AONB) in light of

proposed changes to legislation on Village Green registration.

Performing Arts Centre opened at SWR

Plans drawn up for sports pavilion - WDC criticism - architect resigned

H7 offered to councils - later withdrawn

Locals plant wildlife garden at Hazlenere Lodge

Wellesbourne and Terriers Farm appeals heard. Sec of State to determine outcome.

Coop take over from VG at Park Parade.

**2008**

McCarthy and Stone to build flats on Penn Road. (Work restarted 2010)

Star Newsagents on Park Parade becomes funeral parlour with Post Office moving into Coop

HRA joins with Widmer End Residents Association

Hazlemere Players 50th anniversary held at Golf Club with founder member Joan Barnes present.

**2009**

HRA ceases to exist. Minutes from 1952 deposited in BCC records office

New HRA2009 formed to fight SWR running track

Flooding problems on bowling green

WDC proposes allotments on Queensway

Work commences on new sports pavilion August 1

Taylor Woodrow to discuss selling three fields. GAG interested

Village Green regulation changes. Landowner can apply for voluntary registration

without previous public usage requirement.

Lisa Lear fund for Hodgkin’s disease closes after 29 years

7th HW (Manor Farm) scout group celebrates 40 years since formation.

**2010**

HRA2009 win campaign against running track at SWR

HPC agree HSC to pay no rent on new pavilion for two years but

a Peppercorn rental agreement signed by HPC and HSC was not legally binding.

Sports Pavilion to be named Ken Williams Memorial Pavilion

New name added to War Memorial. Royal Marine Joseph Windall was killed in a Nimrod crash

during the Afghanistan conflict in 2006

BCC Park and Ride at Terriers being discussed - route through Rec

Grange Action Group (GAG) renamed Grange Area Trust (GAT) with charitable status

Hazlemere fete celebrates 150th birthday. Last one to be held on Rec

**2011**

New Parish Council elected

HPC agree in principal for High Wycombe Croquet Club to have two courts on Rec

Death of Vic Gee - Mr Hazlemere. President, chairman or other office of many organisations inc

HRA, HSC, Community Association, HPC etc

BCC withdraws funding for youth workers at Youth Centre

Much enlarged fete moves to SWR school fields.

James Corden publishes his autobiography which includes his Hazlemere recollections.

**2012**

HPC Skatepark feasibility study presented, petition reaches 299

but Council resolves Rec over utilised and no space for a Skatepark

and to move the children‘s playground to behind the Crown would cost £72,500

HPC in discussion with HSC re pavilion peppercorn rental agreement

Former HPC chairman imprisoned for criminal activity and has name removed from parish council chain of office at a later date

SWR school helping fund and run Youth Centre

Joan Barnes celebrates 90th birthday; still involved in theatre workshop

David Brown elected HPC chairman.

Radio 4 presents Gardeners Question Time from Community Centre.

RC diocese closes St Edmund Campion Church. A Cedar Community Centre group

hope to be able to purchase the site for community use.

GAT purchase four Widmer Fields after private loan secured

**2013**

HPC in favour of bus shelter at Cosy Corner

Six councillors resign from HPC inc chairman David Brown. Parish meetings not to be held under Chatham House Rules.

Scouts to have reduced storage and use at Cedar Barn. Room also for community use.

Brian Mapletoft elected HPC chairman. New council elected

HPC asked to undertake public consultation for building a skatepark.

HPC informs WDC confirming support for Queensway Tranquil Park. No financial commitment.

HPC served notice on HSA under s25 of the Landlords and Tenants Act 1954 to vacate pavilion within six months.

New adult gym equipment planned at Rose Avenue

Runners-up in Best Kept village competition

Charitable Trust to be created to run Pavilion, as Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).

Ray Cox becomes chairman of fete committee. Fete opened by Wycombe MP Steve Baker.

GAT win national award by Footpath and Open Space Society for work done on Widmer Fields.

**2014**

Adult gym equipment installed at Rose Avenue. Opened by HPC chairman Brian Mapletoft

Over 70 at packed public area at HPC meetings and numerous questions asked re pavilion s25 notice. Answers given were described as unsatisfactory. Much anger displayed.

Over 1200 sign Save Our Pavilion petition and handed to HPC. BFP letters page include statements from different parties.

11th High Wycombe scout hall destroyed by arson in Beaumont Way.

HGA state HPC plan to use a container instead of stable block rooms is not practical.

HPC councillor disqualified from holding office on a technicality but

remains on WDC. Apologises to Hazlemere residents and is re-elected at following HPC election.

Ken Williams pavilion to be renamed Hazlemere Memorial Hall but the tennis clubhouse to retain the Ken Williams Memorial Pavilion name instead.

Wycombe MP Steve Baker opens two Croquet courts on Rec WDC side as earlier

talks with HPC stalled.

**2015**

CIO status for Memorial Hall confirmed and trustees sought.

Little Cherubs to be given sub lease to use Memorial Hall during weekdays.

Bowls and football to be charged same rent. Public use Friday to Sunday.

Plans to convert loft.

HPC state they have power to acquire land for a cemetery but to ask WDC to ascertain

if Queensway can be used jointly as a burial site.

Mary Berry opens fete at SWR.

**2016**

WDC discusses devolved services with HPC

Proposed upgrade of Lady’s Mile

Concern about public use of Memorial Hall as feeling running high in community

Work starts on St Edmund Campion church site in Barn Lane

The Earl Howe opens fete at SWR

Police report six per cent increase in all crime in Hazlemere

Installation of New LED lighting commenced.

McCarthy and Stone outline plans to build in Holmer Green Road

Scientists, schoolchildren, parish council and distinguished guests including descendants of Sir William Ramsay lay wreaths at his grave on the centenary of his death.

Play area on the Rec. refurbished. Opened by recently elected HPC chairman Millie Roberts

WDC local plan objected to as too much proposed development inc Terriers Farm. Penn Road,

Orchard Club

Little Cherubs underlease at Memorial Hall finally signed.

Severe flooding at Jackson Court

Community Association celebrates 40 years since Community Centre opened.

**2017**

Replacement of various sports areas including hopscotch, basketball and football kicking wall at Rose Avenue and zip wire at the Rec

Bus shelters for Rose Avenue and Cosy Corner

GAT repays loan in full. Area given Village Green status.

Police station closes at Hazlemere Crossroads

Youth Club reports going from strength to strength under chairman Andy Rose.

Application for defibrillators in various parts of Hazlemere

WDC local plan proposes link road from Penn Road to Sawpit Hill.

HPC has serious concerns re development access to Terriers farm and Tralee farm proposed development.

BCC projects include parking restrictions on Park Estate

Thames Water to further investigate further Jackson Court flooding

David Cox dies. Former Park school headmaster, Hughenden, HPC and WDC councillor.

Plaque and Flagpole erected in his memory and oak tree planted in Lower Lodge Lane.

Queen’s Head pub on Amersham Road closed with plans for flats

Plans to have Beaumont Way only recycling facility in Hazlemere

Village Green status for Widmer fields approved. Now secure in perpetuity for public access.

**2018**

Macarthy and Stone start new flats on Holmer Green Road

HPC has much discussion on bus shelters

Hazlemere Players celebrate 60 years with a BBQ

Rebuilding of 11th High Wycombe Scouts hall in Beaumont Way commenced.

Change over to LED pavement lighting completed

Woodland in Dell to be Forest school

Concerns Beaumont Way to be only recycling facility in Hazlemere

Hazlemere and District branch RBL records a record poppy collection

**2019**

Serious misuse and drug taking problems on the Rec.

Plans for Terriers farm show increase on number of units with access from Trinity Road through Rec. Many objections.

New plans for bus shelters include demolishing old shelter at the Crossroads and replacing it with bench seat McCarthy and Stone flats in Holmer Green Road.

Tennis club celebrates its centenary with games played in period clothes and racquets

Travellers on Rose Avenue recreation ground cause problems and expensive clean-up

Parking restrictions on Park Estate being considered

Holy Trinity Church submits plans for major refurbishment and extension.

Clive Collier retires as Rector of Holy Trinity Church and Mark Meardon becomes new vicar

HPC jointly with Chepping Wycombe PC purchase speeding device.

Chinese Take away on Park Parade closes leaving just Churchill’s fish and chips

**2020**

Work begins on Queensway cemetery

Refurbished Cozy reopens as fish and chips shop with Kebabs replacing Chinese

Gordons builders merchant in Holmer Green Road closes.

Crown closed for Covid-19 and refurbishment.

Fords grocery shop which became a saleroom for kitchens and bathrooms put up for sale.

Persimmon hold public display at Memorial Hall on Terriers Farm proposals

Work starts on Holy Trinity refurbishment and extension.

Alan Kenyon dies. Former scout leader, fete chairman, parish councillor, Good Neighbours, etc

Adele Hazelgrove dies. Former Community Centre entertainment manager and fete secretary. .

Hazlemere in general lockdown due to Coronavirus. Most shops shut as well as public houses

and other public venues. Schools, community centre, sports are all affected.

Fete cancelled.

David Gantzell 2020