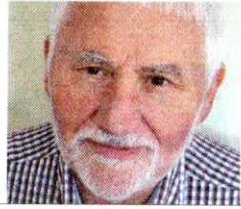


Horsham Society

with Malcolm Willis



Our town is 'fun, safe and friendly'

We have now come to the start of the school holidays, a time that generations of children have looked forward to. When we think back to our own school holidays they were always sunny, and we had lots to do.

If we try and remember accurately what we actually did, then things become somewhat hazy. Past meteorological records show many wet Augusts, yet as a child we only remembered the good times.

I have been working with local school children on a new booklet celebrating our town which will be published in the autumn.

Very recently I was with the Year 5 members of the Arunside School News Club, who excitedly discussed the forthcoming holidays.

I asked the simple question as to whether there was much to do in Horsham, and I was somewhat taken aback by the strength of their response.

These children are excellent ambassadors for our town, extolling the virtues of Horsham and saying that much could be done for little or no cost.



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Top of the list was Horsham Park. A great place to explore, play games of hide and seek and make dens.

The lake and visiting the ducks are very popular, as are the skate park, fitness equipment, the dragon in the maze and

having picnics.

What was clearly important to them are large spaces and big sky. This is something that can also be felt at the top of Denne Hill. These spaces give a sense of freedom and, to quote, 'a funny, but nice feeling'. The Human Nature Garden is also recognised as a great place.

Other than at theme parks, the play area alongside the Pavilions in the Park is the best they have seen, as it caters for all ages up to 14 and is always fun to visit.

The children are also excited about Chesworth Farm, Owlbeech and Leechpool Woods and Warnham Nature Reserve. These are all great places to explore and, other than the small charge for the nature reserve, didn't cost anything.

The children then talked about special summer activities, and are looking forward to the Library's Reading Challenge - 'Mischief Makers' (celebrating the 80th Anniversary of The Beano).

They all enjoy reading that comic, and I would have to confess that I also used to be a fan.

The Summer Holiday sessions at Horsham Museum with a Knights and Castles play and display area is another

thing to look forward to. The Ping Pong Parlour is also very popular.

Mention was also given to swimming at the Pavilions in the Park, particularly the fun sessions. The Capitol is also popular, as are the special events in the park, the town centre and the Forum.

Having paused for thought, a child told me that 'Horsham is a great place to live and you don't really need to go on holiday to somewhere different. It is fun, safe and friendly.'

There is much being said about Horsham and the changes that are occurring, and opinions vary greatly.

Yet listening to the younger generation and what was spoken 'out of the mouths of babes', there is much to commend our town, particularly in the eyes of the next generation.

The Horsham Society is concerned about the past, present and future of the town. It seeks to promote good planning and design for the built environment and open spaces. Membership of the Horsham Society is open to anyone who shares these concerns. For more information, visit the website www.horshamsociety.org or phone 01403 259038.