

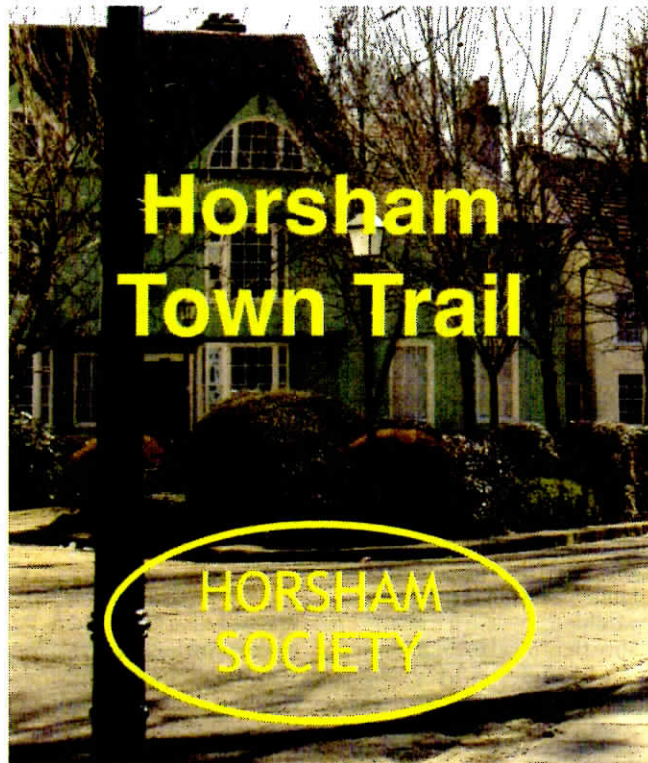
John Steele: the importance of taking pride in Horsham



Theatre's Summer School where talented youngsters put on a production for the public of the school version of *Les Misérables* after only a fortnight of rehearsals. There is nothing better than the performing arts to stretch youngsters' talent and confidence, and create pride in a successful team effort.

Hack Horsham, in contrast, brought together a group of young coders to take part in an amazing international festival in Birmingham. They worked together on projects which showcased their digital skills and one group of eight-year olds won a judge's prize for their elephantastic alarm clock, taking with them one of the elephants from the Rotary Club's very popular Elephantastic Safari.

Following the success in 2013 of their Giraffe Trail, this year there are 185 elephants spread over three trails, including for the first time a rural trail, including a mini trail in Billingshurst.



With the elephants owned by 133 organisations, and 66 local charities and

community groups set to benefit, it reaches out across the district. And there is the

fun involved in exploring and tracking all the elephants down in their locations to find and record their nicknames and enter the prize draw.

If this is not enough to keep you and your family entertained you can obtain a copy of the Horsham Society's Town Trail from the Museum in the Causeway for a nominal charge. This follows a route around the town showcasing points of interest from mediaeval houses to the children's maze in Horsham Park.

Don't forget to stop for a coffee, or more, and enjoy our burgeoning alfresco café culture. It's an interesting walk for locals, even if you think you know the town well, and if you take family visitors and friends with you we guarantee that you will be proudly showing off all that Horsham has to offer.

All that is, except perhaps the Remembrance Garden which the Town Trail passes. Recently there have been at

least two occasions on which a fire has been lit on the grass and the area strewn with rubbish. A popular meeting area for youngsters, and some not so young, who take drinks and takeaway food but fail to take away their debris or place it in the rubbish bins. This is what happens when people lack civic pride and show no respect for their town and the enjoyment of others.

The mess was fortunately quickly cleared but it should remind us of the importance of ensuring our children learn to appreciate and look after our town.

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 272814.

We wrote a while ago about the importance of civic pride in helping people to feel a greater sense of identity and ownership of their communities, and to get involved themselves.

An important aspect of civic pride is the public events such as Piazza Italia, organised by Horsham District Council, which attracts hundreds of visitors and locals, and provides an opportunity to appreciate and show off our town.

Better still are the activities that involve children and young people, and help to fill the summer holiday. A notable recent initiative was the Capitool