



James with Gitta Richter on the occasion of the Gala Dinner at the Georgian Hotel, 17th October 2016

JAMES MACKIE, although a proud Scot, was regarded by many as "Mr Haslemere" because he was so thoroughly involved in the affairs of the town and an active supporter of so many organisations. Rarely did an event happen without him whether it was a concert, lecture, fireworks, a show or political meeting. He had been a town councillor, mayor and Waverley councillor, also a founder member of the Twinning Association, the Haslemere Society, a fervent supporter of the Haslemere Museum, and the Dolmetsch Foundation, the U3A; the list could go on.

Over the years he had lived in Lynchmere, Three Gates Lane and Hill Road, so he felt he knew the whole area well. All Saints Church, Grayswood, was 'his' church, the history of which he wrote, and recently updated; but St Bart's was important to him too. His political interest was with the Conservative Party and all that the local association does. For many years he was a keen hockey player for the Haslemere team.

He cared passionately about the town and worked doggedly to ensure that past events and decisions were not forgotten. A case in point is the recreation ground which was dedicated as a war memorial after WW1. However, over the years, signs had disappeared and few knew of its special character. Just as important to him were future developments. So he joined Haslemere Vision and was an advocate of the new station car park development. He was a member of the London Livery Company, the Worshipful Company of Arbitrators and had been proud to be their Master in millennium year. He was never one to take a back seat but would always make his contribution, well thought out and relevant, full of wise counsel.

He will be sadly missed by his many friends but most of all by his large and dearly loved family, of whom he was so proud. It was with great joy that they celebrated his 90th birthday a month ago.

Ann Fitchett (November 2016)