

***The Hazelbourne Ladies Motorcycle and Flying Club* by Helen Simonson**

Set in the aftermath of World War, this novel is filled with adventurous women riding motorcycles and ready to take flying lessons, much to the horror of the proper British society that surrounds them. But Constance Haverhill is without prospects, and with far fewer men returning from the front of The Great War, marriage seems definitely out of reach. So does nearly every occupation she shows aptitude for – the jobs must go to the returning soldiers, even if they have been filled very efficiently by women during the conflict.

Haverhill is plucky and appealing, and as her world seems again and again to beat her down and put her back in her place, a relationship blossoms between her and Harris Wirrall, a fighter pilot recently wounded in battle. He too feels discarded and passed over, until his service mechanic needs his help in a major way. A very satisfying novel, showing the realities of the great challenges that women faced as they began to seek careers and move outside the home, yet with more than a touch of romance, where the right people get together in the end, despite all the circumstances that stand against them.

I also read and enjoyed *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand*, by the same author.