



Titsey Place vegetable garden

Celebrating 21 Surrey Hills Views



To celebrate 21 editions of our newsletter, we decided to look back towards our beginnings.

When the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) was first designated back in 1958, the world and the British countryside were very different to what they are now. Or were they? Post war Britain faced significant economic challenges, construction demands and social change.

To quote from the National Association of AONB's website "The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 embodied proposals for the designation of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. This meant that the National Parks

Commission was empowered to designate any area in England and Wales that was not a National Park, but was of such outstanding natural beauty that the provisions of the Act should apply. However, in many instances AONB boundaries were seen as nothing much more than lines on the map. Even in those AONBs that enjoyed the support of local authorities who exercised special care in controlling development, it was rare indeed for the aims of the AONBs to be given precedence over more pressing needs such as local employment, housing, industrial development and major road developments."

The Surrey Hills was one of the first to be designated as an AONB but we need to fast forward to The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 to see the beginnings of the modern AONB structure. That Act placed a statutory duty on AONB local authorities to produce and review management plans to formulate their policy for the management of the area. This led to the 2004-9 plan and the realisation that the AONB could achieve little unless the public were more aware of and supportive of the AONB. The solution? What about an independent

charity with aims aligned to the AONB Management Plan but with a specifically public facing role.

In October 2007, the Surrey Hills Society held its inaugural meeting and the rest, as they say, is history. We have weathered some severe global financial shocks, we are in the midst of a period where construction issues are high on the British agenda whilst international (and national) political decisions can have a major impact on the future of our countryside.

The Society has evolved since 2007 but one thing has remained constant – the importance of engaging with our members and the broader public. We have gone from a young organisation trying out simple events to see if they were successful, to a programme of about 40 events including some geared specifically to family or 20s-30s age groups. We have also regularly produced a newsletter – our first edition in April 2008 was a single sheet with an introduction from our first Chairman (now President) Neil Maltby and a profile of a founder member – Christine Howard. Both looked a little younger then but it shows the level of dedication and continuity which the Society has achieved.

Chairman's View



Welcome to another edition of Surrey Hills Society Views. I know a lot of you have made the most of your membership and joined us on some very enjoyable events over the summer season. I seem to have drunk rather a lot of English sparkling wine, starting with Chairman's Day in May, during English Wine week. We were very privileged to be invited to Albury Organic Vineyard to learn more about the blossoming wine industry here in the Surrey Hills. We also squeezed in a trip to meet local brewer, Lee Nicholls at Tillingbourne brewery and the new and truly amazing Silent Pool Gin Distillery. I am also grateful to David Gillotts from Four Gables Fine Dining who treated us to some lovely local food over lunch.

More bubbles were consumed at President's Day when we got a special look behind the scenes at Lingfield Racecourse thanks to our President, Neil Maltby. Yet more bubbles were consumed at the Coverwood Opera event which has been running in the Surrey Hills now for 25 years and is rather special. We were lucky enough to secure another visit there in August to enjoy this very special place and learn more about the challenges of farming in Surrey. A big thank you to Tim Metson and his family for giving



us a truly memorable day.

The other thing I like to do over the summer is consume large amounts of tea and cake and we did plenty of that over the summer with the Society too. In April, the Society for the Arts and Crafts Movement in Surrey hosted a repeat visit to Blackheath to view some of the special architectural gems in the village. They always provide delicious food in the Cricket pavilion there for us.

Further delicious afternoon teas were consumed at Chinthurst Hill House, in May, looking out over what must be one of the most beautiful views in Southern England. In June, we did it again after a very enjoyable afternoon learning the rules of croquet on Mrs Greville's lawn at Polesden Lacey.

Sadly, I missed the horse drawn boat trip in July but I hear large amounts of tea and cake were consumed there too and a good time was had by all. I also wanted to thank Isobelle Willis and all her volunteers from Wanborough, who gave us such an interesting talk and tour of this incredible 13th century barn tucked away just off the Hogs Back, near Guildford, in August.

Our agreed project for 2015 has been the 250th birthday celebration of Leith Hill

We need you!- update

In our last edition in this box, we asked for someone to put this newsletter together, as Diane Cooper was standing down. We are pleased to report that we now have a revamped committee, with our new sponsor, Anthony Wakefield, agreeing to become Chairman of this Group. Jeff Holliday and Pete Lambert have also agreed to join this team. Our co-ordinator Marika Elzinga has agreed to become Editor. Thank you to Diane Cooper for doing such a brilliant job of editing this newsletter for several years now. Diane will remain the Chairman of our PR and Communication Committee.

Tower. The National Trust decided a reconditioned water trough for horses, dogs and humans would make a nice addition to facilities at the tower to mark the occasion. Some restoration and new interpretive boards were also incorporated into the plan. Thanks to your generosity we have managed to raise well over £1000 to donate to the project. We have also had the opportunity to listen to the history of the tower on an evening in February, and a tour of the hill in June. We will finish the year with a practical volunteering day on Wednesday 7th October with Lead Ranger, Sam Bayley. We are very grateful to him for the wonderful insight into Leith Hill that he has given us. I know he also wanted to thank our members again for their generous support of the project.

I hope to see many of you at the events we have planned over the autumn season.... and is it too early to wish you a safe and merry Christmas....

Chris Howard, Chairman

Prudential Ride London- Surrey Cycle Race 2015

Thank you to Peter Riley and Sarah Lindley for agreeing to ride in this event for the Surrey Hills Society. They managed to raise £250 for the Society. Sadly, due to an injury, Sarah was not able to ride on the day so her brother rode in her place.



Happy Society members on a hay carrier at Coverwood

2015 AGM

The formal notice of the Society's Annual General Meeting on Saturday 21st November at The Parrot pub, Forest Green is enclosed with this newsletter. Please show your support for the Society and come along.

Tillingbourne Tales Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) Project

A project co-ordinator has been recruited to lead on an exciting new project which will reveal and celebrate the industrial heritage of the Tillingbourne Valley. The Heritage Lottery Funded project called 'Tillingbourne Tales' will discover more about the Tillingbourne River and the industries it supported, helping to bring local history to people and preserving it for future generations.

Dr Anne Sassin comes to the role with a host of experience, having just completed a successful 'Community Archaeology Project' in Farnham. She comments: "I'm absolutely delighted to be taking on this project. We already know a lot of facts, but what we really want to know is more about the stories surrounding these. Recording

and archiving oral histories is vital to safeguarding our local heritage. Getting the community to engage in this heritage and discover its legacy is what the Tillingbourne Tales is about".

Anne will be based at Shere Museum and her work will require the support of all the surrounding communities. She will recruit a team of volunteers of all ages who will help research and archive, learn about nature and water conservation, and gain the skills to maintain and improve the area through workshops.

The Surrey Hills Society, is a principal partner in delivering this project. A new interpretation centre will be created at Shere Museum and the information will be available online. To find out more about the project visit <http://www.surreyhillssociety.org/board/tillingbourne-valley/> and if you are keen to volunteer for the project please email Dr Anne Sassin on asassinallen@gmail.com.



Looking back at planning issues

Local Councils have largely decided planning applications in line with my advice in the 6 years I have been Surrey Hills AONB Planning Adviser. However, they have to balance that advice with other relevant planning considerations.

There has been no significant harmful development impacting upon the AONB and its setting so far. The exception has been the construction of a golf course at Cherkley Court, Leatherhead.

The two main threats to the character of the Surrey Hills AONB are:

- the cumulative effect over decades and centuries of many smaller developments, especially large and sometimes grandiose

designed replacement houses,

- the pressure Councils are under to provide substantially more housing land when preparing their local plans.

Councils should be able to avoid allocating green field housing sites in the AONB in their local plans. Indeed, Government policy attaches great weight to protecting AONBs from development.

But a Council planning for growth for economic reasons close to the Surrey Hills may spoil its setting. Furthermore, the demands of a greater local population combined with existing people, including cyclists, increasingly enjoying the recreational opportunities and beauty of the Surrey Hills, could well undermine their integrity. Vigilant control and taking a long term view is imperative.

Clive Smith, Surrey Hills Planning Adviser



Power lines permanently 'airbrushed' from film set scenery

A Surrey landscape picked as a filming location for Nanny McPhee and War Horse has just undergone improvements. Electricity distributor, UK Power Networks, has permanently rerouted 1.4 miles of overhead power lines underground at Painshill Farm, Dunsfold to improve views.

The work was completed in June.

Shaun Barrell, UK Power Networks' protected areas project officer, said: "It is great to be carrying out improvements to the picture postcard rural scenery which has caught the eye of major film-makers."

Rob Fairbanks, Surrey Hills AONB director, said: "The area around Painshill Farm is an inspirational landscape and the power lines have been very obvious in an otherwise highly attractive setting. Removal of the overhead lines and poles will greatly enhance the landscape and allow people to fully appreciate the outstanding views."



Surrey Hills Society Views

Chronology of Surrey Hills Society



Inaugural meeting to consider forming a charity at Denbies on 23rd October 2007.



First participation at County Show in Guildford in May 2008 to recruit volunteers



Official launch at Guildford Guildhall in September 2008.



First Long Distance Walk – Across Surrey on the North Downs Way in September 2011.



First Chairman's Day around Leith Hill in April 2009.



First outing of the SHS promotional trailer at Guildford Farmers Market in September 2010.



First Day in the Country hosted by Wonersh Parish Council in April 2010.

Surrey Hills Society Views

First Volunteering Day:
Conservation day with
National Trust at
Headley Heath in
October 2012



Hope
Springs
Eternal - first
partnership
project we
supported in
2013



Volunteering for the Olympic Cycle Race
in August 2012

Part of Visit
Surrey visit to
Westminster and
meet the Prime
Minister in
November 2014.



SHS funded the reprint of HCPS Diamond
Jubilee Trail leaflet in April 2015.



First donation to National Trust
supporting the Leith Hill 250th
Anniversary Project in December 2014.

 **SurreyHills Society**

Registered Charity number 1125532
www.surreyhillssociety.org



News from Surrey Hills Enterprises



Surrey Hills Enterprises is a Community Interest Company set up to support the exceptional work of the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty through brand development, marketing & promotion, projects and educational programmes.

The profits made by Surrey Hills Enterprises

will be put back into the community of the AONB through its management plan, which pledges to enhance, preserve and protect the landscape.

To ensure that this plan is fully delivered, Surrey Hills Enterprises aims to bring together a range of independent companies through a membership scheme and provide a marketing platform to raise awareness of the unique local character of businesses in the area influenced by the AONB.

By becoming a member of Surrey Hills

Enterprises, businesses have access to a range of benefits including use of the Surrey Hills logo which will appeal to discerning customers concerned with the provenance of the goods they buy. In addition to featuring in the online directory on the Surrey Hills website, member companies will also be included in PR and marketing opportunities under the 'Surrey Hills' banner whilst gaining access to the established social media network.

To find out more about Surrey Hills Enterprises, please visit

www.surreyhillsenterprises.co.uk

Special Offer at Tillings Tea Room and Cornerhouse Café

£2 off a Traditional Breakfast

Tillings is pleased to offer a £2 discount on their midweek Traditional Breakfast at Tillings Tea Room and the Cornerhouse Café on presentation of this voucher. Offer includes a filter coffee or tea.



VOUCHER

£2 DISCOUNT

Tillings Tea Room and Cornerhouse Café £2 Off a Traditional Breakfast

Tillings is pleased to offer a £2 discount on their midweek Traditional Breakfast at Tillings Tea Room and the Cornerhouse Café on presentation of this voucher. Offer includes a filter coffee or tea.

Terms and conditions:

One voucher per customer. Offer can be withdrawn at any time.
No cash alternative and non-transferable. Offer valid Mon-Fri before 10.30am.
Quote 'Surrey Hills' when ordering.



The Surrey Hills Wood Fair

A fantastic rural day out in the Surrey Hills

The Surrey Hills Wood Fair is now in its 6th year and has become a popular annual fixture. Taking place within the Birtley Estate in Bramley on **Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th October from 10am – 5pm**. Getting bigger each year the fair has managed to retain the traditional charm of a rural day out

in the Surrey Hills for all the family. It attracts a wide range of exhibitors all keen to showcase their unique products many inspired by the versatility and importance of this vital natural resource – wood.

Simon Whalley, Owner of the Birtley Estate comments;

"The Surrey Hills Wood Fair is well established in the events calendar and you'll see why when you come along. There really is something for all the family to enjoy and the Fair is very reasonably priced. Surrey is the most wooded county in England and you'll discover lots you didn't know about

wood. We have experts explaining how it's used as a fuel, sculptors demonstrating how they use it creatively, bug hunts so you can discover what sort of species thrive in woodlands and lots of stalls with a whole host of beautiful wood products to buy."

Surrey Hills Society members can buy tickets at the discounted price of £5 with a valid membership card with Children 12 and under going free. The fair also welcomes your four legged friends as long as they are on a lead and parking is free.

For further information on the Surrey Hills Wood Fair visit www.surreyhillswoodfair.co.uk



Registered Charity number 1125532

Sponsor's View

I was very pleased to offer my Company as the new Sponsor of this newsletter.

Anthony Wakefield and Company Limited is a family run Insurance Broker that specialises in Fine Art insurance and insurance for Private Clients. We opened our first office in Devonshire House in Leatherhead in 1983 and moved to Westcott in 1989. Nowadays our main office is in South Street, Dorking.

We have been Members of the Society since its early days, but now that I am transferring many of my day to day duties

at the Company to a younger generation I have time to offer more practical support to Chris and her colleagues.

I hope to meet many of you in the coming months. I will also be writing regular bulletins for the newsletter on the more unusual aspects of insurance that might be of interest to other Members. In this issue I write about the perils of invasive plants and other species that can have a serious impact on how you plan to protect your homes and gardens.

Thank you, Sall and Stan Baring for giving us the opportunity to take over as Sponsors. We look forward to helping the

Surrey Hills Society to flourish and grow.

Anthony Wakefield



Invasive Species

Our British Isles have successfully repelled foreign human invaders since 1066 but we have not been able to keep several armies of plants, animals and insects away from our shores.

In most cases these have had beneficial consequences for our countryside, but there are some fairly serious exceptions to this!

The Oak Processionary Moth is one of these. Originating from Central and Southern Europe it probably originally entered as eggs on imported trees. If found at your property you will need to report it or you are likely to receive a



Japanese knotweed in flower

Forestry Commission Enforcement Notice requiring you to have it eradicated. There is no option but to pay for this to be done and these costs will not normally be covered under your household insurance policy.

Japanese Knotweed is another import. It is native to Eastern Asia, including Japan, China and Korea. First introduced as a fast growing background plant by enthusiastic gardeners in the mid Nineteenth Century, it has become established in the UK, as well as North America. Unlike the Oak Processionary Moth, its discovery on your land does not have to be notified to Regulatory Authorities, but it is a criminal offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 to plant it or to cause it to grow in the wild, which means that you cannot take it anywhere other than to an authorised landfill site via a licensed waste carrier to be destroyed, including the removal of contaminated soil or cuttings. As a private individual you can bury the weed on your own land provided that you check with the Environment Agency a week before or you can burn it if your Local Council permits bonfires in

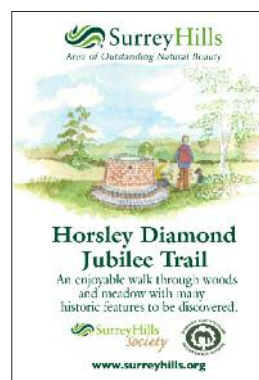
your area. However the only effective current way of eliminating it is by a professional herbicide treatment, which takes up to 3 years to make the plant dormant and can typically cost up to £5,000.

Japanese Knotweed is a fast growing plant that has no respect for paved or tarmac surfaces and can infest the foundations of your property, causing boundary walls to collapse and greenhouses to move. It can grow to a height of 3-4 metres in just 10 weeks and its roots or rhizomes can spread up to 7 metres horizontally.

We know of no circumstance where Japanese Knotweed has resulted in a successful insurance claim for Subsidence to the main structure of a house and without this most insurance policies will not permit claims for Subsidence to surrounding structures. However some insurers will not issue a policy that includes Subsidence where the presence of Japanese Knotweed has been declared and mortgage providers are unlikely to offer funds to applicants without one.

Working with Horsley Countryside Preservation Society

Horsley Countryside Preservation Society – and especially Peter Hattersley – have long been strong supporters of our Society. Earlier this year it became necessary for them to update their walk around the Horsleys, called “Horsley Diamond Jubilee Trail”, and to get it reprinted. Continuing our tradition of supporting like-minded organisations, Surrey Hills Society offered to pay for the printing of the revised leaflet. This was done and the new leaflet launched recently – with the SHS logo included on the cover and details about us on the back.



The entire route is now accessible to off-road mobility vehicles and also improves access for pushchairs and other groups of walkers. Why not walk it by picking up a copy from our trailer or from several local Horsley shops?

Events Programme October 2015 – March 2016

Visit our website for more information and additional events. Bookings generally open about 6 weeks before each event and must be booked in advance – even free ones. Non-email users can get more information by sending an SAE to the address above.

Thurs 1st October

Walk the Lovelace Bridges Trail

About 4 miles on the slopes of the Downs near East Horsley in the company of a local guide. Learn more about the history of the bridges and enjoy the scenery.

3rd & 4th October

Surrey Hills Wood Fair



This Surrey Hills Enterprises event at Bramley is a firm favourite with our members and the public of all ages. Don't miss it for "All That's Good About Wood".

Wed 7th October

"Hands on" Volunteering at Leith Hill

Vegetation clearance near the Tower to provide material for the 250th anniversary bonfire. A chance to be involved in "hands on" conservation work.

Saturday 17th October

Tipples of the Tillingbourne Valley with Compass Bus Company

Join us for our first pub and distillery tour of the Tillingbourne Valley. Using the newly launched Compass bus No 32 service through the valley we will explore some of the local tipples.

Wed 21st October

Trees in Autumn

Another of our popular tree identification walks with Pamela Holt – this time at the Woodland Trust Marden Wood site near Woldingham. Followed by optional lunch.

Sun 1st November

20s to 30s Event ▲

Exploring St Martha's, Chilworth.

Meet at Chilworth Railway Station at 11am. Free event.

Fri 13th November

A Tasting of Surrey Wines

Join us for a tasting of wines from a wide range of Surrey vineyards. Nowhere else can you taste such a broad range of Surrey's wines and hear more about the development of the industry.

Sat 21st November

Surrey Hills Society AGM

This year we return to The Parrot at Forest Green for our AGM and more fine local food

Sat 5th December

Pre-Christmas visit and walk at Belmont School



We return again for this popular pre-Christmas event with a walk followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

Sat 12th December

Christmas decoration and wreath making



A repeat of last years' very successful event when we went out into the countryside to collect materials and then returned to base to make them into Christmas decorations.

Sun 27th December

Walk off your Christmas puddings



Join Walk's leader Pete Lambert for a brisk walk around the Chilworth Gunpowder Mills and take in the beautiful views of St Martha's church on the hill. Free event. Meet at Percy Arms, Chilworth at 11am.

Sun 3rd January

20s to 30s Event ▲

Exploring Compton

Meet at Guildford Town Bridge for 11am start. Free event.

Sat 16th January

Gomshall walk

Blow away the winter cobwebs with this walk around the Gomshall area finishing with a warming afternoon tea at Tillings.

Sun 7th February

20s to 30s Event ▲

Exploring Wonersh

Meet at Guildford Town Bridge for 11am start. Free event.

Wed 10th February

St John's Seminary (Wonersh)

Join us for a rare opportunity to visit this Seminary. Afternoon visit. Constructed in 1891 and subsequently extended. Our tour will take a look at the buildings, history and work undertaken at the Seminary.

Sat 13th February

Map reading to enjoy The Surrey Hills

A training day for those who want to get out and appreciate the Surrey Hills, but do not have the confidence and experience to use Ordnance Survey maps and a compass. Based in Wotton.

Sun 6th March

20s to 30s Event ▲

Exploring Hindhead

Meet at National Trust cafe, Devils Punchbowl for 11am start. Free event.



Dog friendly



Family Friendly



20s to 30s group. More details on Facebook – Discover Guildford
Twitter: @DiscoverGfrd Email: pete@discoverguildford.co.uk

To join us go to www.surreyhillssociety.org and click on the Personal Membership tag