



Box Hill © John Miller

WELCOME...

to the first edition of the Surrey Hills Society newsletter. The society is an independent organisation with the primary concern of protecting the unique landscape and character of the Surrey Hills.

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE



“These past six months have seen such tremendous advances in establishing the Surrey Hills Society. In October 2007 over 170 people attended a public meeting, of which an overwhelming majority voted in favour of establishing the society. A Management Committee was then formed and I was honoured to be elected as the first Chairman at its initial meeting in December. Five sub-committees were then set up to work on the constitution of the

society as well as on finance, membership, PR and promotion and events. Everyone has worked so hard and all with the same goal – to protect and celebrate the unique landscape of the Surrey Hills. The Society is in its early stages and we urge you to join us, with your support we can protect this beautiful area for future generations to enjoy”.

Neil Maltby,
Chairman of the Surrey Hills Society

THE SURREY HILLS

The Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is an intriguingly diverse landscape.

The hills themselves embrace an amazing variety of countryside, from the rolling chalk downs of yew and box woodland and flower rich grasslands, to the acid heaths and woodland of the Greensand Hills that rise to form the highest point in South East England at Leith Hill. The

hills stretch across the chalk North Downs that run from Farnham in the west, above Guildford, Dorking and Reigate, to Oxted in the east. In between are the river valleys of the Wey, Tillingbourne and Mole, and the heaths of Frensham and Thursley.



PENELOPE KEITH OBE

“With its rich heritage of wooded slopes and rolling grassland, the Surrey Hills has provided inspiration for some of the country’s greatest artists and writers. It is truly an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty for us all to respect, cherish and enjoy. The Surrey Hills Society provides the opportunity to give something back to this precious landscape and ensure its future”.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBER

NIGEL DAVENPORT



© Eric Beard

"The Surrey Hills Society provides a wonderful opportunity to further protect this beautiful area. As Chief Executive of Surrey Wildlife Trust I believe the Surrey Hills Society can work in harmony with the Trust and other organisations to raise the profile, enhance and celebrate this diverse landscape for future generations".

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SURREY HILLS

The 50th anniversary of the Surrey Hills' designation as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty falls this May. 2008 also marks the European Year of Food and Farming, providing twin reasons for a celebration that will



take the form of farm visits for local people, including schoolchildren; guided walks; the publication of information leaflets and a number of small projects that will link particular localities with the agriculture that has shaped them.

Half a century of farming and food production in the Surrey Hills will be celebrated this year thanks to a grant of £41,500 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF).

The project will be promoted at events such as the Surrey County Show and Surrey Farm and Village Week. The Surrey Hills Society is championing the project and is hosting a conference event at Dorking Halls in November as well as working on a host of other events.



Hambledon



Circa 1950

EVENTS

A spectacular range of events are on offer this year to members of the Surrey Hills Society. Book early to avoid disappointment

MAY 26th

County Show

Come and visit the Society stand, which is situated in the '50 years of Food & Farming in the Surrey Hills' marquee

JUNE 4th

'The Far East' - Guided tour of Reigate Fort and Discover Gatton.

Meet in Wray Lane car park at 10am. Tour finishes by 4pm

JULY 23rd

'The Wild West'

Tour and talk on the Lovelace Bridges with sandwich lunch in East Horsley, followed by a visit to the Surrey Hills Brewery and Wood Fuel Hub at Old Scotland Farm. Cost £5.

AUGUST 18th

Private View of Surrey Hills

Then & Now exhibition at Guildford House Gallery

AUTUMN

Launch event of the Surrey Hills Society, Heritage Open Days, Surrey Farm and Village week....

For more information on events visit our website

www.surreyhillssociety.org

FOUNDER MEMBER - CHRISTINE HOWARD

"I am so thrilled to be able to support the Surrey Hills Society by becoming a founder member. I have been a parish councillor within the Surrey Hills for fifteen years and have learned so much about the beautiful area in which I live. I am delighted that this can now be shared with a wider audience through the society and I will be able to be involved with this wonderful organisation long after I cease to be a parish councillor."



To become a Founder Member of the Surrey Hills Society or find out more visit

www.surreyhillssociety.org to download an application form or telephone 01372 220651 for a membership leaflet.



DENBIES VOUCHER

Nestling in the Surrey Hills is Denbies, England's largest wine estate. To show their commitment to the Surrey Hills Society, Denbies are happy to **DONATE 10%** of the sales of their Whitedowns sparkling wine to the Society.

To further help the Society you can purchase bottles of Denbies Whitedowns sparkling wine by visiting the Gift Shop or via the on-line shop*

Online: visit www.denbiesvineyard.co.uk simply enter **Voucher code: Surrey Hills**

Gift Shop: Hand in this voucher with your purchase

* Minimum order 6 bottles when purchased on-line

Terms & Conditions
One voucher per person
Offer ends 31st December 2008



Denbies Wine Estate London Road Dorking Surrey RH5 6AA

www.surreyhillssociety.org

SurreyHills Society

A working landscape to protect, explore and enjoy