



Catching Up Saturday 28th November 2020



Programme for Today

10.30 am	Introduction and welcome
10.35 am	Treasurer's report - Martin Cantor
10.50 am	Chairman's Review - Gordon Jackson
11.20 am	Making Space for Nature - Sarah Jane Chimbwandira
11.40 am	Questions - moderated by Chris Howard
12.00 pm	Finish



**Chairman's Annual Report
April 2019 - November 2020
Gordon Jackson**



Setting the Scene

The Glover Review of Designated Landscapes

“Our country is changing fast. It is becoming more diverse. More urban. Much busier. New forms of farming, carbon emissions, the sprawl of housing, new technology and social shifts have changed the relationship between people and the countryside, and left nature and our climate in crisis.

Our Designated Landscapes cannot carry on as they do now.

A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment



The Glover Review of Designated Landscapes

- Landscapes Alive for Nature and Beauty
- Landscapes for Everyone
- Living in Landscapes
- More Special Places
- New Ways of Working



AONB Boundary Review

- **2007** Government agreed to save AGLV policies until Surrey Hills AONB boundary had been reviewed
- **2008** Surrey Hills AONB Board stressed to Natural England and Ministers urgency of the boundary review
- **2012** Natural England includes Surrey Hills boundary review as one of two reviews in its 2012-2018 work programme and for Surrey Hills to follow Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB boundary review
- **2014** Natural England agree to begin work on Boundary Review.
- **2015 – 2018** each year AONB Board chases Natural England to commence review
- **2018** Natural England indicates it cannot progress boundary review because of work on Glover report
- **February 2020 onwards** AONB Board Chair starts lobbying Natural England, Defra, constituent Councils and MPs
- **October 2020** 6 Surrey MPs write to George Eustice Secretary of State for Defra

WE ARE NOW CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC

Surrey Hills
Outstanding Natural Beauty



Stop Press!

- Letter from Lord Gardiner to Jonathan Lord MP dated 24 November 2020
- “We remain committed to ensuring that landscapes such as the Surrey Hills AONB are recognised for their beauty, *that they flourish as havens for nature* and that they provide a *valuable opportunity for visitors to experience inspiration, adventure and relaxation*”
- “I can confirm that Natural England will take forward the development of a programme of designation priorities in the coming year and *this will include the consideration of the Surrey Hills extension*”



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Food & Rural Affairs

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Lord Gardiner of Kimble
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

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Jonathan Lord MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Our ref: MC2020/29369/SB

24 November 2020

Dear Jonathan,

Thank you for your letter of 22 October to the Secretary of State with a number of co-signatories about the status of the boundary review of the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). I am replying as the Minister responsible for protected landscapes policy and apologise for the delay in doing so. Defra is currently dealing with high volumes of correspondence due to COVID-19. Thank you for your understanding during this challenging time.

We remain committed to ensuring that landscapes such as the Surrey Hills AONB are recognised for their beauty, that they flourish as havens for nature and that they provide a valuable opportunity for visitors to experience inspiration, adventure and relaxation. The Government announced on 18 November a 'Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution' which includes assurances to start the process for the creation of new National Parks and AONBs in 2021.

As you may be aware, the statutory responsibility for appraising new or extended National Parks or AONB designations is held with the independent statutory authority, Natural England. I can confirm that Natural England will take forward the development of a programme of designation priorities in the coming year and this will include the consideration of the Surrey Hills extension.

I also understand that members of the Surrey Hills AONB and other local partners are in discussions with Natural England to review and streamline the designation process as recommended by Julian Glover in the Landscapes Review, published in September 2019. This support is invaluable as the suggested improvements to the designation process will inform the future programme of designations.

Thank you for making me aware of the breadth of support for this designation.

Yours sincerely,
John Gardiner



The Surrey Hills Family

- The chairs of the family meet on a regular basis
- We all work together to deliver the Surrey Hills AONB Management Plan



Objectives of the Surrey Hills Management Plan

- Protect and enhance natural beauty
- Promote public understanding and enjoyment
- Promote social and economic well-being





How we work with the Surrey Hills Family

Vision - a thriving rural economy of sustainable and growing local businesses which contribute to environmental sustainability and reflect and enhance the distinct and special nature of the Surrey Hills.

- Surrey Copper Gin Distillery
- Plant Passion
- Artisan fair at Denbies



Inspiring Views

- Perspectives

Farnham Heath RSPB

- Heathland Arts



Inspiring Views

- Optohedron - Will Nash
- Radius – James Tunnard





Transforming Lives and Habitats in the Surrey Hills

- Supporting the **Inspiring Views** programme
- **Into the Wild**: providing grants for nature-based therapies in the Surrey Hills for all ages, but particularly for the young and vulnerable and those with special needs
- Promoting nature-based projects in the community
- Promoting access projects in the Surrey Hills



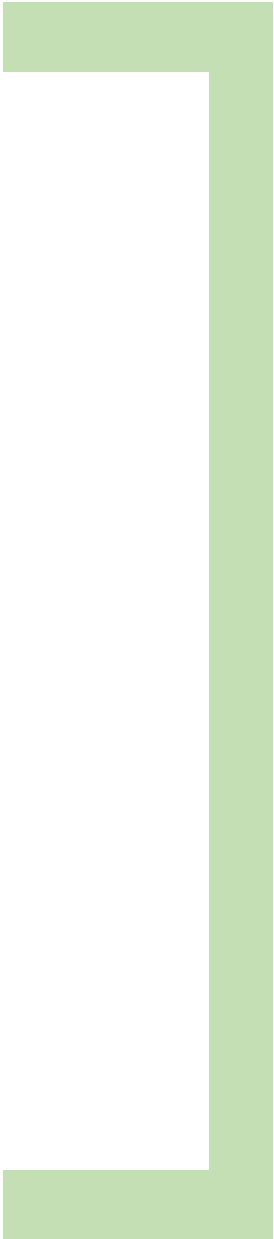


Into the Wild Report by Genevieve Lebus The Biophilia Hypothesis

- The **brain evolved** in a **biocentric world**, not a machine regulated world
- We are **predisposed to positively respond to nature**, which leads to benefits in health and wellbeing
- **Our Natural Health Service**




Into the Wild – A summary Mental Health in Surrey

- 10,600 children aged 5-15 in Surrey have a mental health problem.
 - Mainly anxiety
 - There is significant Social inequality
 - 70% don't receive help young enough
 - 0.74% NHS budget spent on child mental health
 - Less contact with nature in childhood is associated with up to a 55% higher chance of developing psychiatric disorders later in life
- 



Into the Wild

Identified Barriers

- Accessibility restraints - transport
 - Areas of deprivation have less local green space and travel costs are high
 - Disabilities
 - Technology and social media
 - Parent perceptions and fears
 - Social norms and lack of awareness
 - Initiatives must be done “with” young people, not “to” them
 - Ethnic minorities
 - “White British” identity - “People turn around and look at me”
- 

Into the Wild

Transforming Lives and Habitats

- Engage a Project Director
- Concentrate on conservation projects with Butterfly Conservation – 13 sites
- Promote therapeutic activities – Forest bathing, therapy gardens, outdoor adventure
- Develop pilots working with identified partners
- Social prescribing – Surrey Heartlands





2019-20 The rollercoaster continues!



A few statistics

- April 2019- March 2020
 - 54 Events
 - 5000 volunteer hours
 - 8 talks
 - 11 shows and external events
 - £28,000 raised through membership fees, talks and donations
- March 2020 to date
 - 23 Events since the end of the first lockdown
 - 515 memberships, of which 213 are family memberships (so at least two people)
 - 50 Parish councils and other similar organisations with multiple contacts
 - 16 affiliated commercial organisations mainly small ones under 20 employees.



Working with other organisations

- Surrey Wildlife Trust
- Arts and Crafts Movement in Surrey
- Downlands Trust
- Investec International Music Festival
- Natural England
- Butterfly Conservation Trust
- Guildford Astronomical Society – Dark Skies Matter
- Southeast Communities Rail Partnership North Downs Line



Our walks

- Regular 1st Sunday of the month walks
- Best attended – Walk off your Christmas Pudding
- 26 Walks in y/e March 2020
- 13 since lockdown



Walking Festivals

- In 2019 we supported Farnham Walking Festival leading a walk along the North Downs Way from Farnham to Chilworth
- We have supported Guildford Walkfest in both 2019 and 2020
- 12 Walkfest walks in 2019
- 11 Walkfest walks in 2020
- Our sponsored Walkfest walk from Guildford to Denbies raised £3000 for Guildford Street Angels in 2019



Garden Visits

April 2019- March 2020

- Ramster
- Pratsham Grange
- Grace and Flavour
- Deepdene

Since Lockdown

- National Garden Scheme in Wonersh
- Caxton House, Reigate
- Vann House, Hambledon
- Dunsborough Park
- Ramster
- Gatton
- Hannah Peschar Sculpture Garden



History in the Surrey Hills

- Wanborough Barn
- St John's Seminary, Wonersh
- Watt's Gallery
- Guildford Author's trail
- The Medieval Wool Trade
- Polesden Lacey
- Brookwood Cemetery and the Commonwealth War Graves



Chairman's Day The Hampton Estate

- Learning about forestry on the estate
- Watching the logging
- Lunch at Molly's barn
- The Sussex herd
- Visiting the hop fields
- Visiting the oast house



Arts and Crafts Activities

- Wreath making
- ACMS Talks
 - Pre-Raphaelite Women
 - The Victorian House of Arts and Crafts
- Grayshott Pottery
- Watts Gallery
- Hannah Peschar



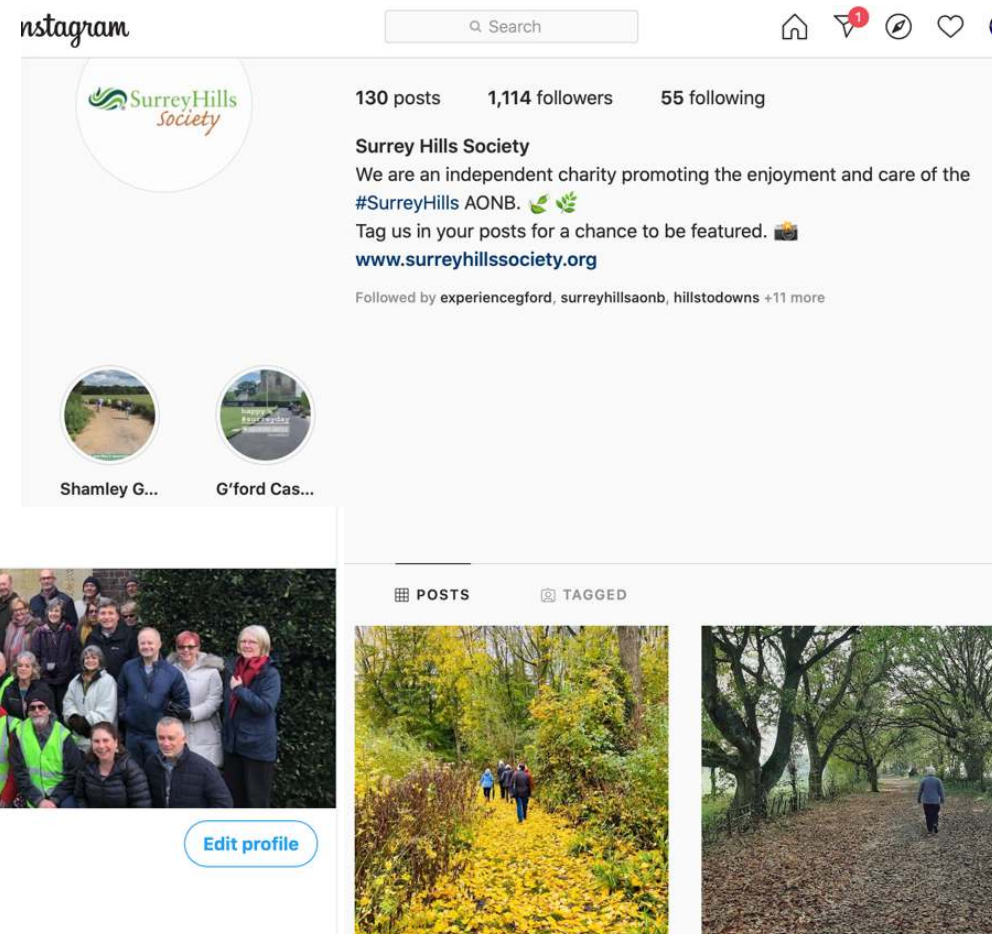
Town and Village Days

- Guildford
- Godalming
- East Clandon
- Compton
- Cranleigh
- Newdigate
- Farnham



Newsletters and Social Media

- Sadly our former newsletter sponsor, Anthony Wakefield died this year
- E-newsletters – a new format
- Paper newsletters will return!
- Instagram (1,147) and Twitter (359) and Facebook (65)



Our Photographic Competition

- Congratulations to Linda Norton (1st) and Chris Tremain (2nd)
- Over 70 entries





Our Queen's Award for Voluntary Service



A BIG THANK YOU TO

- Our trustees
- Our committees – finance, governance, newsletter, shows, communications and events
- All our volunteers – events, walks, talks, and shows
- The AONB Team
- Lesley Crofts – our co-ordinator





Questions?