



## Annual General Meeting Saturday 9th October 2021





#### **Programme for Today**

10.30am	AGM
11.45am	Talk by Cllr Ben Knight,
	Wonersh Environmental Advisory Group
12.30pm	Lunch
2.00pm	Guided Tour of Wonersh





1) Apologies for Absence

2) To approve the minutes of the AGM held on9 February 2021

3) Chairman's Report for the period from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021





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





**Setting the Scene** 

## The Glover Review of Designated Landscapes

In May 2018 the government asked for an independent review into whether the protections for National Parks and AONBs are still fit for purpose. In particular, what might be done better, what changes will help and whether the definitions and systems in place are still valid. A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment



## The Glover Review of Designated Landscapes

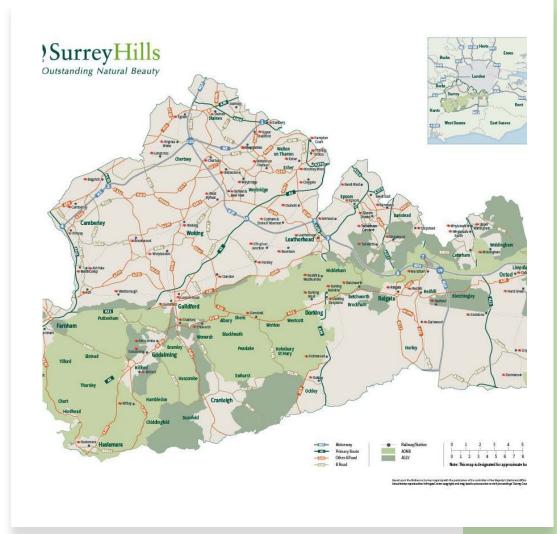
The review's final report was published on 21 September 2019. It was led by Julian Glover. The Government's response is still awaited.

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



## AONB Boundary Review

- The review to extend the boundary of the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty was officially confirmed on 24 June 2021.
- The review is being conducted by Natural England who will make a recommendation to DEFRA
- A professional firm appointed by Natural England will assist with the consultation and evidence gathering process
- The final decision rests with the Secretary of State, who MAY order a public enquiry



# How does Natural England make its decision?

There are three broad questions:

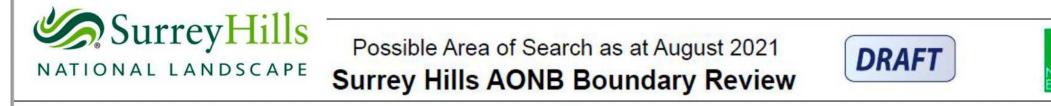
Does the landscape have sufficient natural beauty to be considered outstanding?

Is it desirable for the purpose set out above, to designate this landscape as AONB?

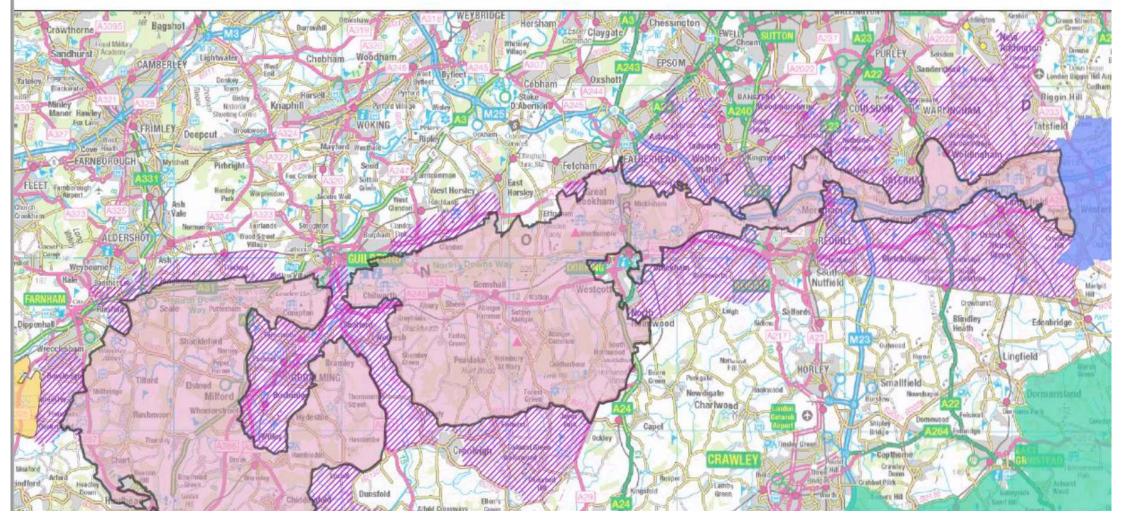
Where should the boundary be drawn?

The current timetable envisages a recommendation to the Secretary of State by August 2023 – no telling how long he will take to make a decision or whether he will order a public enquiry





NGLAN



## Objectives of the Surrey Hills Management Plan

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



## 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









#### 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 Hills Wood Fair
- Artisan fair at Denbies
- Surrey Hills Champions Programme





# TRADE APPRK.

#### **KEY FEATURES**

▶£25 annual fee

- £10 is paid to Society to carry out community projects e.g. tree and hedgerow planting and supporting young people to benefit from the healing power of nature
- Exclusive offers and experiences from Surrey Trade Mark Businesses
- Invitation to Champion's Events





Heathland Arts Trail

The House of Invisible Hands – Walter Bailey

Radius – James Tunnard







Transforming Lives and Habitats in the Surrey Hills

- Delighted to have a new Surrey Hills Society Volunteer Co-Ordinator – Christa Emmett
- 2 years funding through the Trust Fund, the Community Foundation for Surrey and the AONB Board







## Christa's Role

- Working with local charities and other community groups to facilitate voluntary conservation activity in the Surrey Hills
- Providing advice and support to parish councils and community groups in the SHAONB to take practical action to implement and maintain conservation projects
- Supporting the Society with fundraising; and
- Ensuring effective communication and coordination of programmes with partners eg Surrey Wildlife Trust





### 2020-21 A truly extraordinary year!





## Despite the Pandemic

- 28 Events (54 last year)
- A further 34 events since the year end
- 504 memberships, of which 213 are family memberships (so at least two people)







## Despite the Pandemic

Four new Rail to Ramble Walks in association with the Southeast Communities Rail Partnership and the AONB Team







## Despite the Pandemic

We were able to do some guided walks but limited to groups of 6:

- Pamela Holt
- Gatton





## Our walks

- 1st Sunday of the month walks from August 2020
- Best attended Shamley Green immediately after lockdown
- 16 Walks in y/e March 2020 (11 for Walkfest)







### **Garden Visits**



- Caxton House, Reigate
- Vann





**Garden Visits** 

- National Garden
  Scheme in Wonersh
- Ramster
- Dunsborough Park







#### **Garden Visits**

#### Hannah Peschar Sculpture Garden







## Our only indoor visit! Sidney Sime Gallery







The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

#### Zoom events

- Michael Cavendish Sleigh Victorian Architecture and Stained Glass
- Kathy Atherton Pilgrim Fathers from Dorking
- 30/40 attendees









for Voluntary Service

## Edition 35 Spring 2021 SurreyHills Society

#### The Surrey Hills at Night



received so our intent is to intersperse paper aditions with electronic ones. This will allow

us to communicate more with you whilst

Although our outward facing activities may

have been constrained during 2020, a lot of work has continued behind the scenes. Our

Chairman's Views itent on page 2 will touch

which came to fruition just before Christmas.

During 2020, the Surrey Hills AONB Board,

on this but our theme for this newsletter comes from a new and excting initialive

along with other bodies such as Surrey Wildlife Trust, CPRE, RSPB and the

keeping our costs down.

Society had been discussing the issues relating to light pollution in the Surrey Hills and what could be done to reduce 1. These discussions testore of the aproject entitled Dark Skies Matter (www.darkakiesmatten.org.uk) and the Surrey Hills Society (SHS) is preased to be a key part of this initiative. Welcome to our first edition of 2021. In the following pages we will take a look al Whilst our eNewslatters have performed an important role in keeping us in cornect with various aspects of the Surrey Hills at Nicht. our readers, we move into a new year with the return of a hard copy edilion. The electronic version has, however, been well

and some of the issues raised by our modern lifestyle with its heavy use of artificial lighting. A small number of National Parks in other parts of the country have also been taking steps to retain their status as dark areas or to reduce light pollution where possible. We have a lot to learn from them in addition to far higher population density than any of the other Dark Skies areas of England. It is strange to think that it was only in 1881 that Godelming became the first town in England to have electric street, lighting. Until then, every generation had the opportunity to enjoy the night sky and cur world without significant light pollution. How things have

changed. Totally unit areas are now the

he Dueen's Av Voluntary Servic exception rather than the rule, whilst excessive and wasteful use of lighting has often become a symbol of affuence or poor design rather than need.

Not all use of artificial light is bad. The key is to use the right light, in the right place, at the right time. We hope that these brief articles will help you to understand the backdrop within which this Dark Skies project has been established. Some of the issues raised are beyond the ability of the individual to resolve However, there are many small changes that we, as local residents, can make to turn our area into a belter prace for humans and wild ife t really is a case of many small changes in our actions having a large ceneticial outcome The Surrey Hils Board website also has more information on this topic at

ww.surreyhills.org/board/dar

www.surreyhillssociety.org Registered Charity number 1125533

#### Newsletter

- Now publishing two e-newsletters and 2 paper newsletters each year
- Thank you to our sponsors:
  - Stan Baring Solicitor
  - Bury Hill Estate Management
- Also to Lady Rosemary Prosser for her generous support







- Instagram 1480 (1,147)
- Twitter 594 (359)
- Facebook 317(65)



Surrey Hills Society @surreyhillssoc

The Surrey Hills Society is an independent charity promoting the positive enjoyment and care of the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Surreyhillssociety.org III Joined June 2019

291 Following 594 Followers

P

Tweets Tweets & replies Media Likes

Surrey Hills Society @surreyHills... · 3d ---Society visit to #Woking today along #basingstokecanal that runs right through the town, pleasant waterside stroll ending at the beautiful Muslim Peace Garden #tranquillity #history @BasingstokeCS @weare\_woking





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Surrey Hills Jaciety		211 osts	1,480 Followe		Contract of the		
Surrey Hills Society We are an independent charity promoting the enjoyment and care of the #SurreyHills AONB. If the enjoyment Tag us in your posts for a chance to be featured.							
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#### **Forthcoming Events**

Surrey Hills Symposium at University of Surrey and online on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> November at 6:30 pm *Our Climate & Biodiversity Emergency How can we inspire action?* 

Fundraising Dinner at the County Club on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November at 7:00 pm







#### A BIG THANK YOU TO

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







## **Questions?**





4) To receive and consider the Report of the Trustees andFinancial Statements for the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March2021

5) To confirm the appointment of the independent financial examiner, David Montgomery from Kingston Smith for 2021/22 and to authorise the Trustees to fix remuneration

6) To set the annual membership subscription for 2021/22





7) Appointment of Trustees

a) To confirm the reappointment of Martin Cantor and Sarah Jane Chimbwandira as Trustees, who are retiring by rotation

b) To note the reappointment of the Chairman, Gordon Jackson by the Trustees for 2021/22

8) To note the resignation of Neil Maltby as President of the Society and to elect his replacement





## Any other business?