

Surrey Hills Society Annual General Meeting October 2010

Members Standing for Appointment as Trustees

Neil Maltby (Chairman)

As Mole Valley's representative to the Surrey Hills Partnership for 10 years and a former chairman, I was pleased to be asked to help set up and be the Chairman of the Surrey Hills Society. After 16 years as a councillor, Leader and Chairman of the District Council, establishing the Society continues to be a new, fresh and exciting challenge.

I am a retired Chartered Surveyor and Agricultural Valuer, a partner in a property business and a small thoroughbred breeding stud. I am currently Vice Chairman of the Gatwick Airport Consultative Committee (GATCOM) and a governor of a local school in the Surrey Hills.

Kenneth Bare

I joined the Surrey Hills Society in November 2008 shortly after retiring in my mid-fifties. After a few months, I offered my services as a more active member and was invited to participate in the management team – initially as an observer and then as a full member following the AGM. During my time with the Society, I have developed a presentation which I take out to external organisations to promote the Surrey Hills and the Society. I have also taken an active role in increasing the visibility of the Society through my work on the PR and Promotion Sub-Committee, including the establishment of a high quality gazebo and display which we take to numerous public events within the county.

Prior to my retirement, I had two careers with blue chip companies – firstly as a scientist and latterly as a Health, Safety & Environment adviser/manager. My leisure hours included long walks in the Surrey Hills to clear the mind and enjoy the scenery. This pastime continues with the added benefit that the photographs which I take can now find a use in Society publications, presentations and other promotional items.

Graham Butler

I have been a member of the Management Committee setting up the Society and have chaired the Membership Sub-Committee. In addition I have been a member of the Events and Projects Sub-Committees. I am keen to see the Society develop an information role particularly to inform members and the general public of access opportunities in the Surrey Hills.

In other roles within Surrey; I was Chairman of the Surrey Countryside Access Forum and a member of the Surrey Rural Partnership. Over the last 25 years I have held Area positions in the Ramblers Surrey Area including Area Secretary for 17 years which, included setting up several local groups.

Previously for 32 years I was working for two multi-national oil companies in various locations and a variety of roles, but mainly handling procurement contracts and running computer systems until taking early retirement to concentrate on voluntary work within the Ramblers and other similar organisations.

Nigel Davenport

I have served as a member of the Management Committee for the Surrey Hills Society since its inception. In parallel, I have held the appointment of CEO of Surrey Wildlife Trust since May 2006. I have a background of charity and NGO management in the Wildlife, Countryside and Animal Welfare sectors, backed by an experience of wide range of voluntary appointments in a variety of organisations.

Previously, I served as an Army Officer for over 20 years holding a variety of 'Operational' and MoD 'Staff' appointments in Germany, Gibraltar, Cyprus and Northern Ireland. Leaving the Army in 1993 as a Major, I was appointed as the Director of Equine Welfare at The Blue Cross Animal Welfare and Veterinary Charity.

I have a particular interest in protecting and promoting the environmental aspects of the Surrey Hills and its beauty and wildlife.

I also sit as a member of the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Board.

Christine Howard

I have been a serving Parish Councillor for Wonerish for 17 years and in that time have had the pleasure of working with the Surrey Hills Board on numerous projects. I served for 4 years as a Borough Councillor for Waverley and in that time had the pleasure to serve on the Surrey Hills Board during Neil Maltby's time as Chairman. I am passionate about the Surrey Hills AONB and was delighted to be able to find another way to volunteer to help it. I have served as a member of the Management Committee since its inception and am the Society's Vice Chairman; I am also Chairman of the PR and Promotion Sub-Committee.

I am currently the Vice Chairman of the Surrey Association of Parish and Town Councils and a member of the Surrey Rural Partnership. I am currently Business and Tourism Manager for Guildford Borough Council and love being able to combine my work with my passion for supporting the countryside and in particular the AONB. I have a commercial background, two grown up daughters and a passion for gardening, walking and environmental issues.

Richard Pitts

Three years ago at age 54 I took early retirement and became a volunteer for one day a week at the Surrey Hills Office at Warren Farm Barns, providing administrative support for the Surrey Hills Board. When the Society was formed I joined the Membership Sub-Committee, became Membership Secretary and set up the membership database and various aspects of membership administration. I spend 1-2 days a week on Society business mainly on membership matters. I am an existing trustee, a member of the Management Committee and also maintain the information on the Society website.

I have lived with my wife in Ashted, just north of the Surrey Hills, for over 20 years and am also a volunteer on Ashted Common National Nature Reserve. I began my career as an analytical chemist in a Government laboratory eventually becoming a senior policy adviser on health and biotechnology issues at what was the Office of Science and Innovation. I enjoy walking and am a keen fruit and vegetable grower, having been self-sufficient in the latter for many years.

Mark Richards

My family and I moved to Coldharbour, on Leith Hill in 1975 when I was three years old. I spent whatever free time I had during my childhood exploring Leith Hill. This love of the countryside at any early age lead to me volunteering for the National Trust on Leith Hill during my school holidays. After completing my schooling I was lucky enough to get a place on the National Trust Youth Training Scheme working on Box Hill and Ranmore, which gave me the required practical experience to get a place at Merrist Wood Agricultural College, Guildford, on the National Diploma in Countryside Recreation course. After three years at Merrist Wood, which included a work placements at Bewl Water in Kent and in Virginia in the USA, I was offered a seasonal contract working back with the National Trust on Leith Hill. This became full time in December 1996, where I became responsible in managing the day to day running of Henman Basecamp, the Trust's volunteer's hostel.

In February 2002 I moved from Leith Hill, to become Warden for Limpsfield Common and Oxted Downs, which consists of approximately 340 acres of Common and 60 acres of SSSI chalk down land and lies right on the eastern boundary of the Surrey Hills ANOB.

Last year I became Head Warden for the North Downs East National Trust countryside properties, which include Limpsfield Common, Harewoods Estate, Reigate Hill and Gatton Park.

Stuart Smith (Hon Treasurer)

I am 60 years old and married with two grown up children. Two years ago I took early retirement having spent 41 years in the Financial Services Industry. My first career was with HSBC (originally Midland Bank) from 1967 to 1991, and my second working with Nationwide Building Society Group from 1991 to 2008. My responsibilities covered regulatory compliance, operational risk, fraud analysis and debt recovery.

I have lived all my life in Surrey and for the past 24 years in Guildford. I am a keen walker, having completed, in their entirety, three national long distance paths. On leaving work, I was keen to do voluntary work and in 2009 I assisted the Surrey Hills Society with various small projects. I became the Treasurer at the start of 2010.