



Members visit to the Atlantic Wall on Hankley Common

New sponsor required
see page 7

Volunteers of the Surrey Hills



The Wikipedia entry for volunteering states that it is an “altruistic activity and is intended to promote goodness or improve human quality of life. There is no financial gain involved for the individual. Volunteering is also renowned for skill development, socialisation and fun. Volunteering may have positive benefits for the volunteer as well as for the person or community served.”

During the 19th century volunteering and the creation of charitable trusts gathered pace. Today it is considered desirable for everyone to volunteer. This starts right from primary school, with charitable fundraising, to the volunteering aspect of the Duke of Edinburgh Awards in senior school, to companies giving workers time off for volunteering activities, to active retirees who donate time to charitable and volunteer activities that benefit our community, the country or the world at large.

The Surrey Hills is home to some extremely well known volunteers whose activities

have had an impact on the world stage. This includes actress Penelope Keith OBE who is Patron of the SHAONB. She is also Deputy Lieutenant of Surrey and is President of the South West Surrey National Trust.

In fact, the National Trust itself has its roots here in Surrey. Robert Hunter, a lawyer who lived in Hindhead, was one of the founder members of the Trust and organised for the land at the Devils Punchbowl to be one of the first pieces of land to be acquired by the National Trust.



Another influential volunteer of the Surrey Hills is actress, turned animal rights campaigner, Virginia McKenna OBE. After starring in the 1960s film “Born Free”, based on real life animal rights campaigner Joy Adamson, she and her husband Bill Travers, along with their eldest son Will, started Zoo Check. This later became the Born Free Foundation which to this day campaigns to change the lives of wild animals all over the world.

Another very influential Surrey born volunteer is David Bellamy OBE, born in Sutton. He is an author, broadcaster, environmental campaigner, botanist and President of Surrey Wildlife Trust. Interestingly, he was also part of the original group that created the Conservation Volunteers in 1959. It was set up in order to involve volunteers in practical conservation work. It is now one of the largest environmental sector providers of training and support to unemployed people in the UK. Their first project was right here in the Surrey Hills at Box Hill, clearing scrub to encourage the growth of juniper and rare chalkland flora and fauna.

We have only touched the surface here, highlighting just a few of the many interesting volunteers who have connections with the Surrey Hills. However, we want to devote this issue to the huge army of volunteers giving their time to rural matters, whether they are volunteering for the National Trust, Surrey Wildlife Trust, Campaign for Protection of Rural England, the Ramblers or Conservation Volunteers, or indeed our own Society, which relies so heavily on volunteers for its very existence. There is no doubt that without this army of volunteers the Surrey Hills would not exist as we know it today.

Chairman's View



Welcome to our summer season. In this edition we are celebrating the work of the volunteers in our community who all work in many ways to promote, protect and enhance our beautiful Surrey Hills.

Within our own Society, we now have an established range of volunteer roles and some real "anchor" volunteers who give up their time on a regular basis to manage a particular aspect of our work, be it leading on our shows and talks programme, managing the Membership team, managing the PR team or just making sure we stay legal and that our finances stay healthy.

At our AGM last November, I laid down a challenge and asked for more members to come and talk to me about how they could get more actively involved in the Society. It does not have to be much of your time. One lady has said she is very busy with other commitments but is available to assist with administration type work. She has now joined the membership team and assists at the busy, but predictable time of the newsletter envelope stuffing. That is three days a year but what a huge help it is to the Society – and great fun too.

Several other members have come forward and offered to do an event for us. They are often very nervous, having never done it before, but our Coordinator, Marika and the experienced Events Team support you all the way. That means you are only committed for a short while once a year.

So you see volunteering with us does not have to be a regular or life swamping experience. You may wish to try your hand at becoming a Trustee of the charity too. You will get lots of emails from me but you are only committed to four or five evening meetings throughout the year- some obviously do much more.



Volunteers at Surrey County Show



Members volunteering at Headley Heath

We are now in our sixth year as a new charity and I feel we are starting to come of age. We are now not only promoting and supporting, but sometimes taking a leading role in the Surrey Hills AONB network of organisations that work across the area. Very excitingly, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) Hope Springs Eternal project, in Dorking that we have promoted, albeit in a very small way, has just been awarded its major grant. Also, we have just heard that the HLF bid we have been working on with other organisations associated with the Tillingbourne Valley and the Chilworth Gunpowder Mills, has been awarded the funds for a project to work with communities in the area to capture the historical stories and make them accessible to the younger generation. The Surrey Hills Society will be taking a leading role in this project and will be employing the Project Coordinator.

I must note sadly, that one of our Founder members, who only last summer led an event for us with his wife Susan, has passed away. Denis Holmes was an amazingly active and energetic leader in his community. He was a leading light in the Ramblers, Chairman of his Parish Council for many years and an active and supportive member and volunteer for us. Our banner photo on the front cover was taken on his Atlantic Wall event.

And finally, I would like to congratulate June Robinson, our original administrator, who has recently accepted the post of National Chairman of NADFAS – National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Society. We wish her well.

I hope you have noticed we have a new improved website. Please feedback if you are having any problems with it. We are very grateful to our colleagues in Surrey Hills Enterprises for leading on this.

Chris Howard, Chairman

We need you!

Our volunteer who's been putting this newsletter together for the past 4 years wants to focus more on PR and marketing for the Society.

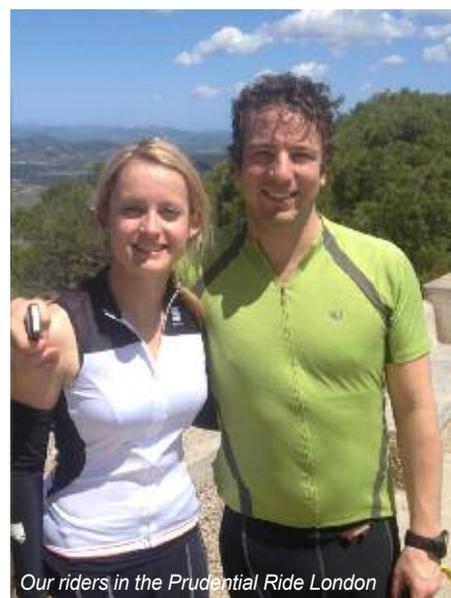
If you have skills with words, are creative and want to take on a new challenge (with help) then this might be the role for you. You'll collect in articles and photos 3 times a year, liaise with a designer, meet deadlines for print and arrange for delivery of the finished newsletter. For a chat about the role, please call Diane Cooper on 07778 285466 or email the Society to be put in touch with her.

Support our Prudential Ride London Cyclists

Peter Riley and Sarah Lindley are going to be cycling on our behalf in this year's Ride London 100. This is their story:

We both went to school at Reigate Grammar and grew up in Leigh and Redhill respectively. Now we live in South East London, but are regular visitors back to Surrey both to see family and enjoy the Surrey hills. Whether it's hiking up to Leith Hill Tower with the family, a day out at Polesden Lacey, mountain biking the Three Peak Challenge (Leith, Pitch and Holmbury Hills) – the Surrey Hills is one of our favourite places in the world and close to our hearts. We are very proud to be cycling for the Society and excited to be a part of the Ride London 100. Thank you for the opportunity and I hope we can raise some good funds for you.

To sponsor Peter and Sarah please go to www.justgiving.com/surreyhillssociety



Our riders in the Prudential Ride London

Off roading report

Off road motorised vehicles are having a major impact on the Surrey Hills. The popularity of these activities through the woods and commons of our AONB, with new tracks being illegally carved out on private land, has created tension with landowners and leisure users.

On a recent site visit with Rural Police Officer PC Mark Trezise, Surrey Hills Board Member Councillor David Mir and the Surrey Hills AONB Director Rob Fairbanks were shown first-hand what damage these vehicles are doing to byways in Mole Valley

and Guildford. They visited a series of byways in the Mole Valley area including Wolvens Lane and Beggars Lane. The photograph shows the poor conditions of these byways, including deep rutted tracks, criminal damage to barriers and new tracks being carved out illegally.

PC Mark Trezise, of Surrey Police commented;

"It was important to undertake this site visit to show how damaged byways are becoming in the local area. It is quite clear that there are groups of off-roaders on bikes or in cars who believe they can drive where they want no matter what damage they cause. It is

important to send out a message to those who use the lanes inconsiderately and in an antisocial manner and to make them aware that where the law has been broken robust action will be taken."



Planning Update

Public consultation on further stages of the Guildford and Waverley Local Plans is awaited after the May elections.

Significantly, in response to the question in the Waverley consultation as to whether "housing needs in Waverley can be met without using land currently designated as an AONB", 74% strongly agreed and 10% agreed. In response to the question

as to whether "the Council should retain the AGLV designation until Natural England's review of the Surrey Hills AONB has been completed", 80% strongly agreed and 10% agreed. Mole Valley decided not to publish its draft local plan that would mainly propose how it would meet the housing target in its 2009 Core Strategy and instead are embarking upon a completely new wider local plan.

Following the High Court's overturn of the

Inspector's decision to dismiss the appeal against the County Council's refusal of permission for exploratory drilling at Coldharbour, a second public inquiry was held between 22 April and 1 May. The effect of the proposed development on the AONB will be of even greater significance than previously suggested. The AONB Planning Adviser has already submitted evidence and defended it at the Inquiry.

Clive Smith, Surrey Hills Planning Adviser

Front Line finale

On a cold March afternoon, I was privileged to be an invitee at an event near the top of Reigate Hill which was held to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the fatal crash of a B-17(G) "Flying Fortress". This was the culmination of a two year project called Front Line Surrey Hills involving many people, including the Surrey Hills AONB, National Trust, Gatton Trust and Surrey County Council.

The focal point of the afternoon was the unveiling of a sculpture shaped like the wing tip of a B-17 which forms one of a pair

placed the same distance apart as those of the ill-fated flight. These wing tips were designed and constructed by Roger Day, a well-known local sculptor.



In a very moving ceremony, numerous local dignitaries, representatives of local organisations, a senior military member of

the American Embassy, relations of the flight crew and members of the public witnessed the unveiling and placing of small memorial crosses. (See picture) A modern Chinook helicopter from RAF Odiham also paused to give a supportive bow in memory of the original flight crew.

Next time you take a stroll along the North Downs Way just above Reigate, stop off and take a look at this memorial. Not only is it a reminder of the actual crash but also of the enormous impact of those war years right across the Surrey Hills.

Ken Bare, Society Vice-Chairman

Surrey Hills Trust Fund

The fund has been established in partnership with the Community Foundation for Surrey, an independent charitable trust established to inspire local giving for local needs. The Community Foundation works both with donors who want to give something back to their local communities and voluntary

groups providing vital services for local people. Donations from individuals, families, trusts and companies will support a wide-range of exciting local projects, from landscape conservation to community enterprise schemes.

Chairman of the Surrey Hills Trust Fund, Neil Maltby comments;

"We are looking for local community groups, projects and organisations working to enhance the Surrey Hills countryside,

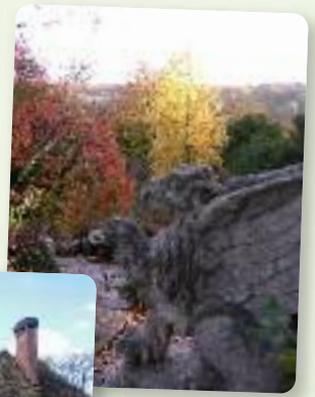
that have a need for funds. Perhaps your group is looking for additional equipment to undertake conservation activities, opening up a viewpoint or working with young people to educate them about the special qualities of the Surrey Hills - we would love to hear from you!"

For more information visit www.cfsurrey.org.uk/funds/area-funds/surreyhills or phone 01483 409230.

During the latter part of 2015, we ran a photo competition to find new images which we could use for our publications, a new set of notelets and other ways of promoting the Society. The competition theme was Inspiring Views and Impressive Structures. We obviously struck a chord with a number of our readers because we received over 70 photographs.



Denbies
Shirley Martin



Polesden Lacey
Marilyn Jones



Munstead Wood
June Robinson



Winner A - Guildford Castle - Jane Thomas



Winner B - Waverley Abbey - Rob Tong



Winter's Day from Newlands Corner
Jane Thomas



Clock tower Guildford High Street
Gail Oxley-Crawford

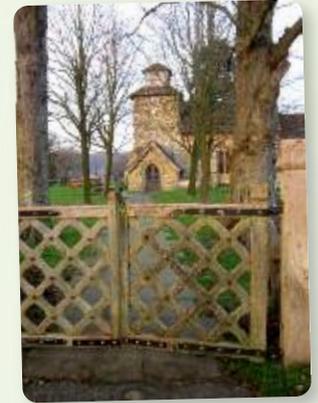
To make everything completely fair, we invited Caroline Price of the Surrey Hills AONB Team to act as an independent judge. Her three selections are shown here along with a picture of the winners receiving their prizes – a bottle of the locally produced Litmus Wines White Pinot.

The montage spreading across the pages shows a selection of the other pictures received and highlight how difficult Caroline's task was in selecting only three as the winners.

Chinthurst Hill Folly
Jon Shinn



Albury Chimneys
Steve Peacock



St Johns Church, Wotton
Cath Friend



Winner C - Wintershall nr Hascombe Hill - Stephen Kiley



If you entered the competition, thank you. If you missed it this time, watch out for our next one. Either way, get out there into the Surrey Hills and start taking pictures of the wonderful scenery. Who knows, you might have the winning picture just waiting for our next competition.

The Surrey Hills Wood Fair 2015

The Surrey Hills Wood Fair, now in its 6th year, takes place at the Birtley Estate in Bramley on Saturday 3 and Sunday 4 October from 10am to 5pm. Each year the fair gets bigger and better, yet retains the traditional charm of a rural day out in the Surrey Hills for all the family.

- Interesting stalls, great local produce, variety of refreshments including beer tent
- Surrey & Sussex Coppice workers demonstrate their skills with products to buy
- Entertainment – local bands from Academy of Contemporary Music (ACM)

- Horse and wagon rides and chainsaw demonstrations
- Children's craft making and animal attractions
- Theatre show from Man in the Moon Theatre Tent
- Entry free for under 12s

Tickets £7.50 for Adults and over 12s, Surrey Hills Society members can buy tickets at the discounted price of £5 with a valid membership card. Tickets in advance on-line at www.surreyhillswoodfair.co.uk. Dogs on leads welcome, parking free.



HELP! We are looking for volunteers to help with this year's fair. If you could spare a day or even a few hours to help please contact Carrie White on 01483 661151 or email carrie@surreyhillswoodfair.co.uk. All volunteers will gain free entry to the show and refreshments are provided.

The Coverwood Lakes Opera 2015

on Sunday 28 June

at Coverwood Farm, Peaslake Road, Ewhurst, GU6 7NT

For the 25th year of this unique event, Coverwood Lakes Opera has partnered with Surrey Hills Enterprises to create a fun-packed evening of popular arias along with locally-produced food and drink in a most spectacular setting.

£5 off tickets for members of the Surrey Hills Society

The beautiful gardens and lakes will be open for byo picnics from 5pm. Performance at 7pm. £45 per person (or £40 for Society members) to include a complimentary drink on arrival and coffee/tea at the interval. Dress code smart casual.

Tickets are available from the Surrey Hills Enterprises website where you will find full details of the event including information on each of the performers and a menu of food available on the night to purchase. www.surreyhills.org/events/coverwood-lakes-opera



Local Wood Hub Project final study visit



Traditional horse logging extraction methods in the publicly owned forest in Brittany.

In March this year, as the final piece of an 18 month project, representatives from Surrey Hills Enterprises and the South East of England attended a 4 day study trip to Brittany in France. With the objective of sharing knowledge, comparing situations and exploring commercial opportunities, we visited woodlands, processing businesses and educational facilities.

The visit culminated in a conference for over 130 people at which two of our representatives addressed the delegates. The project will be wrapped up by June 2015 and findings reported back to the SHE Board and AONB Board. For more information on the project please contact Carrie White on 01483 661151.



Would your business like to sponsor the Surrey Hills Society newsletter?

We need a new sponsor. You will have your logo on every other page and space for an article in our spring, summer and autumn/winter newsletters. With a print-run of 3,000, the newsletter goes out to our network of over 1,000 members as well as associated organisations and businesses across Surrey. It is also distributed across all the libraries, tourist offices and other key locations. It's also available digitally on our website. You will gain access to important functions and activities going on in the Surrey Hills and potentially we can also organise some fun corporate days out for your business.

For more information and to discuss your particular needs please call Chris Howard on 01483 894437.



Sall Baring

Sponsor's View

This is the last issue that we are sponsoring. We are very fortunate to have been in a position to help out the Society but we now feel that we should donate to another worthy cause.

It has been fabulous to be dragged into the Society by our Chairman, Chris. Chris and I, together with her partner Jeff, have been singing together for a number of years now with the Godalming Operatic Society (we specialise in Gilbert & Sullivan operettas and perform with a full professional orchestra). Incidentally, it is their 90th anniversary this

year and we are performing a celebratory concert on Saturday 20 June.

The SHS is, by comparison, a relatively new venture being only 6 years old, but with all the hard work that our team and many volunteers do, it is now recognised as a key partner in the protection and enhancement of the area.

I am very much looking forward to remaining a member of the Society and will encourage more people to join so that they can learn more about their surroundings and enjoy the interesting outings that the Society runs.

Adieu from Sall and Stan Baring Solicitors

Supporting Like-Minded Organisations

The Society likes to work with other 'like minded' organisations who often have skills or specialist knowledge that is not core to our activities. Also, supporting their work can create opportunities for our members. Ever since our inception we have worked with the National Trust and Surrey Wildlife Trust to our mutual benefit.

Periodically, opportunities occur to support other smaller groups. This year our Events Diary promotes a number of third parties including Surrey Hills Music Festival, Tilford Rural Life Centre (RLC) and the Countryside Restoration Trust through their work at Pierrepont Farm, Frensham.

Surrey Hills AONB has long been a

supporter of Tilford RLC and the Society has taken its promotional trailer to a number of their events, as well as run a very successful members visit to the centre last year. This year we are recommending that you attend their Rustic Sunday event on 26 July.

During the same visit, we also went to Pierrepont Farm in Frensham to see the automated milking parlour and nearby woodland. Their 2015 Festival of Farming Food & Wildlife on 7 June is definitely worth a visit. We are also heading back there on 19 September for an SHS Family event to see the dairy and take part in lots of wildlife activities. This will be a very special day so mark your diary now.



Pierrepont Farm



Rural Life Centre



Digital Walking News

We work closely with many local authorities and conservation organisations as you'll have read in this and past issues of Views. Our colleagues in Surrey County Council's countryside team have recently told us of their venture into providing self-guided walking trails across the county as an app, many of them in the Surrey Hills. So for those of you

who'd like to download a walk route to your phone, rather than carry a leaflet or map, why not have a look at the Explore Surrey collection.

They've worked with iFootpath to digitise 26 trails, like the Mole Gap trail, Medieval Waverley, Tillingbourne at Work amongst others. Take a look at www.surreycc.gov.uk/ifootpath

Events programme *June to November 2015*

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 find out more information by sending an SAE to the address above.

Thursday 4 June

A walk around Leith Hill

A guided tour around The Dukes Warren – the “unknown” part of Leith Hill. Walk led by the local NT Lead Ranger. Followed by a “bring-your-own” picnic and a climb up the Tower.

Saturday 6 June

Heathland Discovery Day at Hindhead Common

Signposting to National Trust event
Stalls, crafts, fun and games for the family. Hindhead Common Car Park, London Road, Hindhead, GU26 6AB. Further details 01428 681050 or hindhead@nationaltrust.org.uk

Sunday 7 June

20s to 30s Event

Exploring Leith Hill

Meet at Friday Street car park, 11am. Our 20s to 30s events usually end with a visit to a pub.

Sunday 7 June

Festival of Farming, Food and Wildlife

Signposting to Countryside Restoration Trust event
A FREE event at Pierrepont Farm near Frensham. Keep an eye on their website for further details www.countrysiderestorationtrust.com

Sunday 7 June

Reigate Fort Garrison Day

Signposting to National Trust event
Get up close to living history with the 10th Essex Regiment. Reigate Hill, Wray Lane, Reigate, RH2 0HX. Further details 01372 220640 or reigate@nationaltrust.org.uk

Wednesday 10 June

Polesden Lacey Croquet & Cream Tea

Whether you are ultra-competitive or just fancy trying your hand at the “gentle art” of croquet, join us for this afternoon at Polesden Lacey and play the part of the landed gentry.

Sunday 14 June

Hone your Map Reading Skills

Practice your map reading skills and gain confidence. Suitable for attendees of our March session and those who can already read maps and use a compass but want to practice in a managed environment.

Sunday 28 June

Coverwood Lakes Opera, Ewhurst

Surrey Hills Enterprises joint event with Coverwood, special offer for Society members, see page 6.

Saturday 4 July

A horse-drawn boat trip

Step back in time for this leisurely afternoon trip on “Iona” – a horse drawn canal boat operating from Godalming. Watch the countryside pass by without being distracted by engine noise. Satisfy the senses with a cream tea as you enjoy the tranquillity of the area.

Sunday 5 July

20s to 30s Event

Exploring St Martha’s and Chilworth Gunpowder Mills

Meet at Chilworth Station, 11am.

Sunday 12 July

All day walk in the hills around Shere, Peaslake and Winterfold

SHS hosted walk as part of Guildford WalkFest.

Thursday 16 July

An exploration of Ranmore & St Barnabas Church

A wander around Ranmore including a visit to St Barnabas church which forms such a prominent part of the local skyline. Learn about all the local connections – Cubitt, Denbies and Gilbert Scott.

Wednesday 22 July

Presidents Day at Lingfield Races

Join our President for a private tour of the racecourse followed by a picnic lunch and an afternoon of racing. Background information and tips provided by our President.

Sunday 26 July

Rustic Sunday

Signposting to Tilford Rural Life Centre event
A wonderful experience of rural life in a delightful setting with something for all the family to enjoy. See www.rural-life.org.uk

Sunday 2 August

20s to 30s Event

Exploring the hills around historic Guildford

Meet at Keystone Pub, Guildford 11am

Saturday 8 August

Coverwood Farm and Grounds, Ewhurst

A private visit for our members. We will have a farm tour and lunch followed by a visit to the gardens, with a walk and time to enjoy the scenery.

Wednesday 12 August

A guided visit to Wanborough Great Barn and hamlet

This will be a private visit to Surrey’s most important medieval barn - built in 1388 by the Cistercian monks of Waverley Abbey.

Sunday 6 September

20s to 30s Event

Exploring the hills near Shamley Green

Meet at Bricklayers Arms Pub, 11am

Saturday 19 September

Pierrepont Farm Family Day

A visit to this Countryside Restoration Trust owned farm at Frensham for a day of fun for all ages. Includes a visit to the automated dairy plus wildlife activities and hands-on projects.

Friday 25 September

Dinner at the County Club, Guildford

An evening of excellent local food and good company in the surroundings of one of Guildford’s hidden secrets. (Lounge Suits)

Sunday 27 September

Guided walk around Newdigate

A return to this village for another guided walk around the fields and countryside in the company of a local expert.

Thursday 1 October

A guided walk on the Lovelace Bridges Trail

About four 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.

Saturday 3 & Sunday 4 October

Surrey Hills Wood Fair

Surrey Hills Enterprises event at Bramley. A firm favourite with our members and the public of all ages. Reduced entry price for SHS members, see page 6.

Wednesday 21 October

Trees in Autumn

Another of our popular tree identification walks with Pamela Holt – this time deep into Waverley.

Friday 13 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.

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

Saturday 21 November

Surrey Hills Society AGM

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

