



Brockham fireworks. Photo: Tom Smith

Surrey Hills – our anniversary year



What an amazing year we have enjoyed celebrating our 10th anniversary, and as we go to print there are still four months remaining!

The year kicked off at Denbies' Wine Estate where our Society had been launched, as a legacy of the 50th anniversary of the Surrey Hills designation as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB); only this time it was for a private viewing of the winning photos of Surrey Life magazine's celebration calendar themed on the Surrey Hills.

Whilst we are just ten years old and the AONB is celebrating 60 years, 2018 also marks 40 years since the North Downs Way (NDW) became a National Trail. We were delighted to join forces with Peter Morris, the NDW Manager, to deliver a series of commemorative walks. Working with key walking festival



Setting off from Reigate along the NDW

organisers across the County, we created several events through stunning scenery along the Trail.

Our chairman Chris Howard's extensive knowledge of walking in the Surrey Hills led to the publication of *Walks for All Ages in Surrey*, launched on 26th June by Dame Penelope Keith at the SHS's and AONB's joint celebrations at Loseley Park, home of Michael More-Molyneux, Surrey's Lord Lieutenant. The evening's festivities took place in the Tithe Barn, where we showcased a wide range of our projects along with the activities of some of our partner organisations to around 130 guests, including members Mr and Mrs Gunnar Nyman, who travelled from Sweden to join us.

Exhibits included two Heritage Lottery Funded projects; the Tales of the Tillingbourne, and *Our Changing Landscape*, written to mark the anniversaries by our Vice Chairman, Ken Bare. Other exhibitors included Surrey Wildlife Trust, GASP Motor Project and local artist Louise Dunkley's vintage style posters. Playle & Partners LLP sponsored the reception which closed with a well received recital by Reed Maxfield with songs about the Surrey Hills.

Another memorable event was hosted by The Rt Hon John Bercow MP in the State Rooms at Speaker's House, Westminster



Society Trustees & Supporters at Speakers House

on 8th May to commemorate the AONB's 60th anniversary. Guests included a number of VIPs from government as well as strong representation from the Surrey Hills. The Kier Group sponsored the reception where a celebration cake was cut and individual cup cakes bearing the AONB logo were served to guests.

The Gatton Park Country Fair, which took place on a scorching July day in the stunning surroundings of Gatton Park, marked our celebrations in the east of the county. Our particular thanks go to Stella Cantor, our Membership Secretary and Trustee who co-ordinated the day, along with the hard-working group of volunteers.

How wonderful that after just ten years, we have the volunteers, network and resources to make all these events happen.

Editors Note: More images from the anniversary activities can be found in our centre page spread.

Chairman's Views



Ken & Chris at Leith Hill

It seems strange to be sitting down to write my last article as your Chairman. It has been an incredible journey these past ten years and I have loved every minute of it. I have learnt so much about the wonderful area in which I have been privileged enough to live. I have also made some wonderful friends, met some extremely interesting people, and discovered some amazing places. I also hope we have created a charity which will provide a lasting legacy so that future generations can enjoy this area of outstanding natural beauty too.

Autumn is AGM time and our Trustees have proposed Gordon Jackson as the next

Chairman of the Surrey Hills Society, which I hope you will all endorse at our annual meeting on 13th October in Dorking. Gordon and his wife Sue have been great supporters of the Surrey Hills for a number of years. Many of you will know Gordon and Sue from when, three years ago, they were elected as Mayor and Mayoress of Guildford. Gordon nominated the Surrey Hills as one of his chosen charities and we had great fun supporting him in his many fundraising efforts.

I cannot let this opportunity go by without thanking the incredible team I have worked with over the years. Not only do I have a brilliant group of Trustees and Volunteers but the wider AONB team have been a pleasure to work with. In our anniversary year we knew we had a lot to deliver, and the success of all the events was testament to our strong partnership that has developed over the years. I would particularly like to thank the AONB Director, Rob Fairbanks for his constant support. Caroline Price, Clive Smith, Denise Furlonger and Pennie King



The AONB team at Speakers House

Surrey Hills Society's Annual General Meeting,

13th October 2018 at 2.15pm. You are invited to the Society's AGM to be held at Dorking United Reformed Church, RH4 1BS. The meeting will be followed by a fascinating talk and church tour.

The event details and official paperwork will be available on our website www.surreyhillssociety.org/about/agms in due course. Show your support for the Society and learn about this fascinating building at the same time!

Photo: Our proposed new Chairman Gordon Jackson and current Chairman Chris Howard



Ken receives the Mayor's Award

Photo: Grant Pritchard

have also been longstanding members of the team who have worked tirelessly for the AONB and supported the Society. The events and activities we created this year were only achievable because of our solid working partnership.

I was also delighted to see our Vice Chairman, Ken Bare's voluntary efforts recognised with a Mayor's Award for Voluntary Service in his home borough of Guildford in June this year. Congratulations Ken, you truly deserve it. I am not sure what Ken's biggest legacy from his time with the Society will be, but securing HLF funding and then writing the 60th anniversary book must be a contender.

On the note of awards, some of our Trustees and volunteers from the Tales of the Tillingbourne Project attended an Award ceremony at Shere Village Hall on 28th July hosted by Surrey Industrial History Group. Our Society was awarded this year's Conservation prize, jointly with our project partners, Shere Museum. The plaque is on show at the Museum, and the generous award money of £300 was shared equally between our organisations.



Surrey Industrial History Group Award

I'd like to finish by thanking all of our members and supporters for making my time as your Chairman so rewarding and enjoyable.

All aboard for the Surrey Hills!

A travel campaign has been launched to encourage visiting the Surrey Hills by public transport. A series of vintage style posters of iconic sites in the Surrey Hills are featuring across railway and bus stations throughout the south east.

The campaign focuses on six of the special locations in the area; Frensham Great Pond, the Devil's Punch Bowl, Newlands Corner, Leith Hill, Box Hill and Reigate Hill

with ideas for things to do in the area, walk options and refreshment stops.

Metrobus, who have embraced the campaign, have gone one step further by producing the artwork in large scale and adorning the back of two double decker buses which will be seen around the East Surrey area.

Local artist Louise Dunckley, who created the posters, comments "A little while ago I began to revisit the old railway posters from the 1930s, and felt it was a style I'd love to try and recreate. I grew up in the Surrey Hills and it's been wonderful to create these

posters in honour of 60 years of the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty".



A Metrobus at the Surrey Hills launch event

Cycle Surrey Hills launches

The Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP helped launch a new network of over 80km of off-road



Launching Cycle Surrey Hills with The Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP

cycling trails in South West Surrey, funded by a grant from the London Marathon Charitable Trust. The project known as 'Cycle Surrey Hills' aims to encourage residents and visitors to get active, improve fitness and experience the spectacular scenery of the Surrey Hills AONB.

Cycle Surrey Hills is formed of five interlinking routes giving cyclists the opportunity to choose either a long distance ride or shorter loops. The Frensham, Devil's Punchbowl, Thursley, Puttenham and Elstead loops all

offer a challenging ride of varying lengths with breathtaking Surrey Hills views and points of interest along the way. The new trails are the first phase in what is hoped will become an extensive network spreading out across the entire Surrey Hills, giving cyclists the opportunity to experience a long distance route across Surrey.

A leaflet detailing the new routes is available to download from

www.surreyhills.org/discover-route/cycle-surrey-hills/

Look what's come to Farnham Heath...

Why not head out onto Farnham Heath Nature Reserve and discover 'Heathland Artworks'. Twelve temporary works have been made by local emerging artists studying Craft, Product Design and Textiles at the University for the Creative Arts in Farnham as part of a project called Heathland Artworks. The project runs until the 28th October and is free of charge.

All of the artworks are inspired by the heath and its wildlife and can be found amongst the trees and at the breathtaking



viewpoints. Discover interactive kaleidoscopes, ceramic wheels displaying the native birds, printed woven textiles and more... Heathland Artworks is a Surrey Hills Arts project and provides a new way to view and learn about the heath.

Mike Coates, RSPB Ranger, Farnham Heath comments; "Our reserve at Farnham Heath is great for wildlife, but it's also a place for people to visit. This temporary exhibition will add a new element to the site, and hopefully attract a new audience to enjoy it".

Surrey Unearthed

Space does not allow for details of this complex project being led by Surrey Hills Arts. To discover more please visit its website www.surreyunearthed.org.

Our members may be interested in the element entitled Harvest, to be displayed from dusk until 11pm on 15, 16, 22, 23, 29th September,

which has had financial support from SHS. Mary Branson's installation highlights the processes and rituals of harvest time with a focus on the endangered Straw Belle moth. The light installation will be visible from Salomon's Memorial, enabling viewers to see the work from a distance and also at

closer proximity by guided night time walks.

The piece will culminate in a celebration event at the Box Hill viewpoint on the 29th September. This will be an opportunity to find out more about the installation, listen to choirs and poetry inspired by the landscape and more.

Our Anniversary Year

An anniversary initiative from the AONB team to help visitors explore the area



Surrey Life photo competition to provide Surrey Hills images for their 2018 calendar



The Surrey Hills Society Hare - part of a Haslemere community arts project



Celebrations at Speakers House, Westminster on 8th May 2018 to mark 60 years as an AONB



Launch of the Society's HLF funded book "Our Changing Landscape"



...And finishing at Botley Hill Farmhouse, above Titsey

Our Chairman walked the North Downs Way with various Ramblers Groups, starting from Farnham...



We have a new talk for external audiences based on our anniversary book



June saw a celebratory evening at Loseley Park with AONB Patron Penelope Keith



Our volunteers out and about at shows and fetes promoting the AONB

Loseley, a chance to showcase our work and that of many partner organisations



AONB Director, Rob Fairbanks, used Surrey Hills Partnership Day to promote food and farming



The Society had a major presence at Gattton Country Fair. Here, Molly Verity displays her sketches

 **Surrey Hills Society**

Registered Charity number 1125532
www.surreyhillssociety.org



Anthony Wakefield & Co
Protecting what's important to you

New short walks book for Surrey

Last year our Chairman, Chris Howard, was approached by Bradwell Books, the creators of "Walks For All Ages", to write a new book on short walks that showcased Surrey.

Chris Gilbert from Bradwell Books said, "We have created walk books on most counties in England, Surrey was one of the exceptions. We had noticed the Surrey Hills Society walks created by Chris, via the walks pages in Surrey Life magazine. Like all the Walks For All Ages books in the series, they are easy, short, have an interesting story to tell and finish with a pub or café.....and of course they must be free for all to access. We were delighted when Chris agreed to put together this new book for Surrey".

The book features many of the walks created by Chris and other volunteers for the Surrey Hills. Several walks originally developed for the Tales of the Tillingbourne Project have been included. These walks were created by a team led by Dr Anne Sassin, and which included Pete Lambert, Jeff Holliday, Steve Peacock, Chris Howard, Eric Brough and Alan Midgley. Society member, Diane Cooper, who also works for the Countryside Team at Surrey County Council, assisted with walks and photos for the book too.

Chris Howard was delighted when Dame Penelope Keith DL, actress and great charity supporter, agreed to launch the book as



part of the Surrey Hills AONB 60th Anniversary celebrations at Loseley Park on 26th June.

Chris donated her fee for creating the book to the Surrey Hills Society. All proceeds from books purchased from our website will also go to the charity. The book costs £5.99 plus £2.00 P&P or can be purchased at one of our events.

Volunteer portrait – Pete Lambert



I started volunteering for the Surrey Hills Society 5 years ago after a chat with Chris Howard, who at the time shared my office in Guildford. I had been walking in the Surrey Hills and leading walks

around Guildford for a few years previously, so when Chris asked me if I wanted to expand my horizons I jumped at the chance.

As for me, I hadn't always been a walker - 10 years ago I was quite unfit. I then decided to take on the challenge of walking the Great Wall of China for the Alzheimer's Society and this gave me the boost to go out walking and exploring.

I would spend hours out getting lost and then started putting routes together. Photos I put up on social media would gain interest from others who then asked if they could come out with me and from this I started learning the history about the area and have never looked back.

The Surrey Hills are my playground, my gym and my happy place and I feel privileged to volunteer for such a great organisation and to help others discover this amazing area. One of the greatest things is to take people to something they will enjoy and which will make memories.

I am currently training for my Mountain Leader qualification and love a challenge. The tougher the better for me to push my own limits in the great outdoors. I have seen some amazing places and am now signed up to conquer Kilimanjaro in September 2019.

I would not be able to do this if it wasn't for the Surrey Hills.

Surrey Hills Society supports Guildford Walkfest

The Society is leading several walks this year as part of Guildford's Walkfest. This is a free walking festival supported by Guildford Borough Council, local businesses and many of the walking groups active in the area. For more information on these free guided walks see www.guildfordwalkfest.co.uk



Sponsors view - The only way is up!

We have enjoyed a whole range of festivities this year, celebrating the 10th Anniversary of our Society.

I agreed to write an article this time on the theme "The only way is up!" Of course, that would be an appropriate title for a positive look at the future of the Surrey Hills Society, but I take that projection as a given.

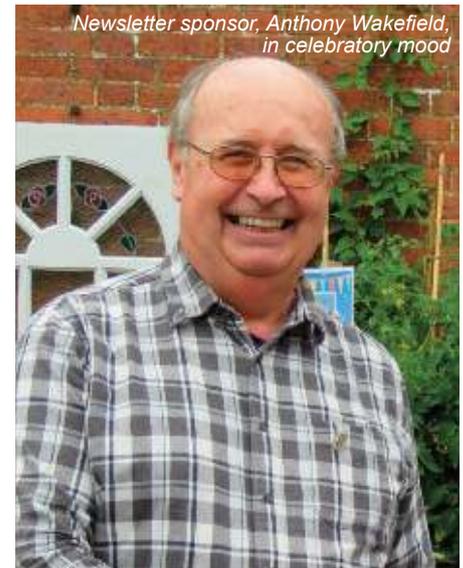
What instead I wish to focus on is the way that our towns and villages are being extended upwards as an alternative to building new homes in the Green Belt. Recent analysis of the demise of the High Street shows that a possible panacea is the creation of new housing above commercial properties.

Many of these developments involve superstructures on existing shops. Some, but not all of these, have been completed in a tasteful fashion.

For businesses like mine, this is a worrying trend, as many of these new homes are taking the place of existing offices and commercial premises. Whilst weekend trade may benefit as a result, with most people having to commute to London in order to afford these properties, many local businesses rely on offices and commercial enterprises to provide them with custom during the week, such as lunch time food, office supplies and services.

We need to find a balance, with more redundant shops being allowed to convert to office use and perhaps even to be converted into new multi-storey office blocks. Local commerce should not be left out either, as a strong community needs local skilled job vacancies for local people to fill.

Anthony Wakefield



Planning views

In July, The Government published its new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) following earlier public consultation to which the Surrey Hills AONB Board submitted its views. For the Surrey Hills it is now an improvement and the most important sentence reads "Great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and AONBs, which have the highest status of protection in relation to these issues". Significantly, the words "and enhancing" have been added to this sentence that were not in the previous NPPF.

Also added is this welcome sentence: "The

scale and extent of development within these designated areas should be limited". However, "limited" is not defined. The Government is also looking for better design.

The NPPF also reinforces the Government's commitment to protecting Green Belts, but other parts of the NPPF emphasise the need for substantially more homes to be built. To this end the new NPPF continues to allow Councils, in their local plans, to allocate housing development on Green Belt sites where it is justified as a very special circumstance to meet local housing needs. The Waverley and Guildford Local Plans have done just that.

To its credit though, Guildford Borough Council has avoided allocating in their Local Plan any housing sites in the AONB

and Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV). However, the Council may have to allocate housing on a few AGLV sites if it accepts the Inspector's requirement for even more housing to be provided.

The Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) have made a legal challenge to the increased housing development now in the Waverley Local Plan. This arises from the Inspector's requirement for the Plan to take half Woking's unmet housing needs not provided for in their own Local Plan. A judge has recently agreed to the CPRE's legal challenge proceeding to the High Court in October.

Clive Smith, Surrey Hills AONB Planning Adviser

Surrey Hills Challenge event on the 23rd September

Join the Chairman of SHS, Chris Howard on the Annual Surrey Hills Challenge. Chris and a group of SHS members will be walking the 10km route, whilst enjoying watching other walkers and runners doing the Ultra 60km marathon. The day also includes activities at the Festival of Sport hosted at Denbies Vineyard, where the SHS gazebo and display will be in evidence.

This is one of the biggest sporting challenges in Surrey. The event will raise funds for the Surrey Hills Trust Fund exclusively to help local projects and community groups within the AONB. The Fund is part of the Community Foundation for Surrey, an independent charitable trust established to inspire local giving for local need.

The Festival at Denbies is a FREE event celebrating the Surrey Hills, an outstanding area for outdoor sport and exercise. It is set to showcase and demonstrate the different types of activities that people of all ages and fitness can get involved with - from walking and running to horse riding and cycling, as well as showing how the area is accessible for all.

For more information or to register visit www.surreyhillschallenge.com.



Surrey Hills Challenge team from SHS

Event Programme September 2018 – February 2019

Visit our website for more information and additional events.

Booking is essential – even for free ones. Bookings generally open about 6 weeks before each event. Non email users can get more information by sending an SAE to the address above.

Thursday 13th September

Exploring Fox Way with Richard Fox

Join Chris Howard and Richard Fox for this all day 7 mile walk from Godalming to Wanborough via Eashing, Shackleford and Puttenham.

Part of Guildford Walkfest, see www.guildfordwalkfest.co.uk

Saturday 15th September

Nutfield and Countryside Food Festival

An interesting day exploring Nutfield. A morning walk, followed by time to sample the delights of locally produced food and drink at the Local Food Britain Countryside Festival at Priory Farm, where SHS members will receive special treatment.

Sunday 16th September

Heritage Weekend Walk

We continue to celebrate the Tales of the Tillingbourne. This walk focusing on Shalford, will include an insider's tour of the rarely open Chapel of Rest, Shalford Mill, and Shalford Church with local parish councillor Alan Midgley.

Sunday 23rd September

Surrey Hills Challenge and Sports Festival at Denbies

Set in our beautiful Surrey Hills, there are a number of activities that will suit all ages and abilities. See www.surreyhillschallenge.com to sign up.

Thursday 27th September

North Downs way 40th Anniversary Walk

Celebrate with a 13 mile walk from Guildford to Dorking including St. Marthas, Newlands Corner and Ranmore Common. Finish at Dorking station and return by train. Part of Guildford Walkfest, see www.guildfordwalkfest.co.uk

Friday 28th September

Walk the Greensand Way and discover the Inspiring Views sculpture at Hindhead

Join Chris Howard as part of the Haslemere Walking Festival for this 6 mile walk to view Sir Walter Bailey's Xylem sculptural bench – part of the Surrey Hills Inspiring Views project. Meet at Haslemere Museum at 10.30am. See www.haslemere.com/vic/events

Wednesday 3rd October

Leatherhead Theatre – Behind the scenes

An exclusive guided tour around the whole of the theatre, followed by afternoon tea.

Saturday 6th October

Map Reading to enjoy the Surrey Hills

A training day for those who want to get out and appreciate the Surrey Hills, but do not have the confidence and experience to use Ordnance Survey maps and a compass.

Sunday 7th October

Explore – Pitch Hill & Holmbury Hill

Our FREE guided monthly walk. Meet: Peaslake's free Hurtwood car park 2 (Walking Bottom) at 10.30am for 11am prompt start. Finish: 1.30pm. 6 ½ mile moderate walk. postcode GU5 9RR.

Saturday 13th October

Surrey Hills Society AGM

Join us for our Annual General Meeting in Dorking, with a series of talks and tour of the beautifully preserved Victorian United Reformed Church, followed by afternoon tea.

Thursday 18th October

Village Day in Bletchingley

Discover some of the gems of this historic village, including the gatehouse of Bletchingley Place, a great Tudor House.

Thursday 25th October

Shere Historic Walk

Afternoon tour with a local historian to learn more about this picturesque village, followed by afternoon tea.

Sunday 4th November

Explore Ashted to Box Hill along Thames Down Link route

Our FREE guided monthly walk. Meet at 10.30am for an 11am start at Ashstead Station. Linear walk to Box Hill and return by train. 5 mile easy walk.

Friday 9th November

"A change of chairs"

An evening celebration and appreciation of Chris Howard, our outgoing Chairman, and Ken Bare, our outgoing Vice Chairman. Also a chance to welcome and talk to Gordon Jackson who takes over at the AGM.

Wednesday 28th November

Symposium with the University of Surrey & Surrey Wildlife Trust

The Surrey Hills – the next 60 years. More details to be announced.

Saturday 8th December

Pre-Christmas visit and walk at Belmont School

This annual favourite pre-Christmas event with a walk, followed by mulled wine and mince pies, at this interesting Arts and Crafts house which now houses the school.

Thursday 27th December

Walk off your Christmas pudding

Once again this has become a very enjoyable way to take some gentle exercise after the excesses of Christmas.

Sunday 6th January

Explore Haslemere

Our FREE guided monthly walk. Meet at Haslemere Museum at 10.30am for 11am prompt start.

Sunday 3rd February

Explore Godstone

Our FREE guided monthly walk. Meet at Godstone parish free car park RH9 8DU at 10.30am for prompt 11am start. 4 mile moderate walk. Finish: 1.00pm.

Saturday 16th February

St John's Seminary at Wonersh

We are privileged to return for another rare opportunity to visit this Seminary. Constructed in 1891 and subsequently extended. Our tour will take a look at the buildings, history and work undertaken at the Seminary.



Dog friendly but kept on a short lead throughout the walk



Family Friendly



Signposting for events where SHS will be present

▲ Our FREE guided monthly walk on 1st Sunday of the month. 10.30am for an 11am start, finishing about 1pm.



Easy/flat



Moderate



Challenging