



Captivated Surrey Hills Symposium audience at the University of Surrey

Surrey Hills – the next 60 years

2018 has been a year of celebrating and reflecting on the first 60 years in the life of the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and 10 years since the creation of the Surrey Hills Society. As the final event of this pivotal year, the AONB, in association with the University of Surrey, hosted a symposium to consider some of the challenges of the years to come.

Since the government is currently undertaking a review of National Parks and AONBs, it was natural that a central theme of the symposium would be – How can we best protect this special area for the future? Would it help if the area became a National Park or part of a larger protected landscape network? To help focus the discussions, panellists included Merrick Denton-Thompson (Landscape Institute) and Daniel Raven-Ellison (London National Park City). Local participants were Sarah Jane Chimbwandira (Surrey Wildlife Trust), Hugh Broom (farmer), Pr. Tim Jackson (covering Sustainability) and Pr. Caroline Scarles (covering Tourism). Tom Heap (of Countryfile) had the challenging



Key Speakers and Panellists at the Surrey Hills Symposium

task of keeping the event on target.

There was lively debate with Merrick pointing out that landscape was a by-product of activities such as farming and forestry. He highlighted climate change, planning pressures and farming issues whilst making a strong case in support of the Surrey Hills becoming a National Park.

Daniel took a more holistic view of landscape in the south east of England with a desire to make it all part of a regional, London-centric City Park.

Sarah Jane reminded us that one of the biggest challenges is due to climate change and that species diversity will alter as a consequence. This makes it more important than ever that habitats interconnect to allow greater resilience. She pointed out that landscape is not static – it evolves creating biodiversity threats and opportunities.

Tim and Caroline both had interesting points to make about local involvement – whether from the perspective of improved tourism opportunities or by keeping businesses locally focussed so that the financial benefits remained in the area rather than benefitting remote investors.

Hugh, as a local farmer, was a useful counterbalance to the “big picture” contributions. He wants greater investment in visitor infrastructure and a public understanding that farmers can only produce food if it is cost effective to do so. In response to an extended discussion



SHS Members actively participated in the debate

about the growth of viticulture in the area, he pointed out that it is just another form of mono-culture and consequently has both benefits and landscape risks.

Expanded articles inspired by the event will be found inside this newsletter but key points from the participants were: no simple national solutions, the AONB Management Plan should have statutory weight, need for local involvement, building partnerships and creating platforms will be key to success, need to invest in protected landscapes whilst farmers need certainty about future plans and policy.

Finally, there was no consensus on what a National Park would mean and about whether or not the AONB should seek to become a National Park. To paraphrase one speaker, it is probably more important to make AONBs and National Parks run more effectively and collaboratively than to create more National Parks.

Surrey Hills Highlight video and the full debate can be seen on www.surrey-hillssymposium.org.

Chairman's Views



It was with some trepidation that I agreed to become your Chairman, when Chris Howard first approached me in early 2018. I know you will all join me in thanking Chris, as Chairman, and Ken, as Vice-Chairman, for the enormous contribution that both of them have made to the Society. They are an amazing team and the Society would not be the fantastic organisation that it is today without the dedication and commitment that they have provided over the years. I am very pleased that they are going to continue to be involved and that they have both been made Vice-Presidents of the Society in recognition of their enormous contribution.

I am delighted to inform you that the Society has been nominated for a Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. In November, Chris and I, and a number of Society volunteers, met with

the County Assessment Panel to help them gain a better understanding of our work. Nomination does not automatically lead to an Award, but it is a huge testament to the success of the Society and the hard work of all our volunteers. We will be told if we have been successful in June on the anniversary of the Queen's Coronation.

It has been an exciting time to become so involved in the Society. The Symposium, which the AONB Board organised at the end of November in conjunction with the University of Surrey, celebrated the 60th anniversary of the AONB, but also looked forward to the future. It was attended by some 300 people including over 40 members of the Society. It was a wonderful opportunity



Chris Howard and Ken Bare, our new Vice-Presidents

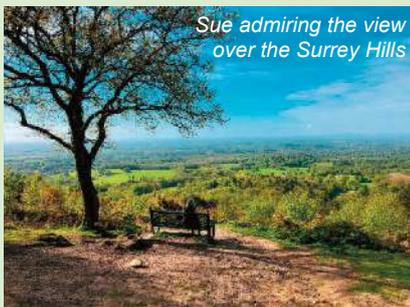


to talk to so many representatives of the Surrey Hills' community and to hear their views on how we should manage and preserve our precious landscape. It is not often that local landowners and farmers, conservationists and volunteers, artists and archaeologists and many more besides are able to come together to share their passion for our very special countryside.

In the New Year, your trustees will be developing an action plan for the Society going forwards. I'm particularly grateful to those of you, who braved a truly filthy night, to come to the Change of Chairs event in Leatherhead and for your responses to our questionnaire about what you like about the Society, what events you would like to see and what projects you think we should support. I believe that the important themes that are emerging are the Society's role in helping to enhance landscapes, celebrate communities, engage with young people and inspire a love of the countryside.

If any of you would like to contact me please do email me at chairman@surreyhillssociety.org.

Volunteer Portrait – Gordon and Sue Jackson



Sue admiring the view over the Surrey Hills

Sue and I have loved to explore the countryside ever since we met when we were 19! Sue was raised in Windermere and I grew up in Surrey. Before we were married, we spent most of our holidays walking in the Lake District. Sue has never lost her love of walking beside water. Fortunately, there

are so many opportunities to fulfil this requirement in the Surrey Hills. Our favourite places for walking include the areas around Frensham Ponds, the boardwalk at Thursley and along the river banks of the Wey and the Mole. We never cease to be amazed at the peace and beauty on our doorstep!

Having worked as a Corporate lawyer in the City for over 35 years, I retired in 2010. Shortly afterwards, I became a Guildford Borough Councillor for our village of Pirbright. Initially, I viewed this as an opportunity to represent the village on a very local scale, but it was not long before we became engaged far more widely as we discovered the thriving community of Guildford and then the Surrey Hills.

In 2016-17, we were privileged to be Mayor

and Mayoress of Guildford and I was delighted to nominate the Surrey Hills Trust Fund as one of my charities and to be involved in many fundraising events. This led to a far deeper insight into the vast range of work done by the Society and the projects that it supports. I am very honoured to be asked to be Chairman of the Society.



Gordon and Sue Jackson

Decluttering the Surrey Hills

A Declutter Campaign is underway in a bid to maintain the rural character of the Surrey Hills. Working with parish councils in villages, the scheme identifies and removes unnecessary metal highway signs that spoil the natural environment of Surrey's picturesque villages.

Liz Cutter, Vice President of the Surrey Association of Local Councils and Chair of the Surrey Hills Board Quiet Lanes & Decluttering Working Group comments: "Reducing unnecessary signing benefits road users and discourages through traffic

and HGV movements from our country lanes. Many road signs are not mandatory. They are put in place by the local highway authority and can be removed at its discretion. We want to encourage local people, through their parish council, to assess their local road signs and

recommend any individual signs that should be removed or relocated."

If you would like to see less roadside clutter in your village simply visit the Surrey Hills website to find out more www.surreyhill.org/board/de-cluttering/.



Maps unveiled at Surrey Hills stations

A series of station maps have been unveiled along the Guildford to Gatwick North Downs Railway as part of a partnership project to show how accessible the Surrey Hills is by train.

The new maps have been sited at Shalford, Chilworth, Gomshall, Dorking Deepdene and Betchworth railway stations. Each map pinpoints which local attractions are accessible by foot from the station as well as how to access walking routes along the

North Downs Way (NDW) National Trail.

Peter Morris, NDW Trail Manager comments: "The NDW is one of, if not the most accessible National Trail in England and Wales. Running through the spine of two AONBs, the rail network connects large urban populations with the countryside for health and wellbeing and also helps support rural businesses."

The maps are the first project for the North Downs Community Rail Partnership, who help to bring the local community together.



Unveiling of the maps at Chilworth Railway Station

Surrey Hills Arts – Terrain

As part of the *Surrey Unearthed* arts programme, artist Jane Ponsford has been travelling across the AONB collecting natural materials and engaging people creatively along the way. In each location – Box Hill, Witley Common and Newlands Corner, she has created artworks integrating the clay, chalk & natural dyes into hand-made paper to site temporarily in that landscape. Her paper-making workshops have proved very popular as has her work

with disadvantaged young people from Waverley and Guildford. She also led a Big Draw event at Newlands Corner where people of all ages enjoyed drawing the landscape with pigments drawn from local nature. Jane will be ending her journey at Reigate Fort with a residency this spring when she will lead 60 local young people through their Arts Award qualifications.

Open all hours from 6 to 20 April, viewing

the works from the openings of the fort. Meet the artist on 6 April at 11am – 3pm. 'Terrain' in conversation with the artist 11am – 1pm on 20 April. For further details visit www.surreyunearthed.org.



Paper making workshop with artist Jane Ponsford

Note also these Surrey Hills events

(Surrey Hills Society's events can be found on the back page)

- Horseman's Sunday at St Martha's Church 28 April
- Surrey Hills Sculpture Garden & Arts Festival 4 May-2 June
- Surrey Rural Economy Conference in May
- Surrey Countryside & Produce Fair 9 June

Visit www.surreyhill.org for more details.

Increasing pressure on Greenbelt



Graham Lomas PhD, MRTPI

Seven district councils along the North Downs, immediately south of the London conurbation, are distinctive not only in possessing extensive areas of outstanding natural beauty, but in being almost completely contained within greenbelt. Their ability to meet housing forecasts is constrained.

By 2028, 73K more people (9% rise) will need housing somewhere along the Downs. By 2038, the number will reach 110K; 13% growth from now. Equivalent to the present size of urbanised Sevenoaks. Comparative figures for the London conurbation are 11% and 17%. Not so very different, because the North Downs communities are increasingly integrated economically with the metropolis:

over 50,000 in and out movements of workers per day between the boroughs and with London. The seven boroughs currently house 823K people.

Built-in growth arises because the UK is seventh in world industrial output, sixth in services and the overall size of the economy, and fifth as an exporter of goods, services, and income. The UK, (southeast especially) also ranks world seventh for immigration. While London today may stand only 31st in world city size, UK's density of population is over four times the European average; only exceeded by Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany.

This is the background against which the housing crisis along the Downs, and the wider southeast, has to be resolved. It is well to remember that AONBs, National Parks, greenbelts, and regional plans had their origins in WW2. Beveridge, Abercrombie, Barlow, Uthwatt, Scott and Reith were given their heads to think the unthinkable. They were judges, economists, professors, and businessmen. Their seminal reports made the post-war work of Attlee, Bevan, and Silkin much easier. Major reports on social insurance, London planning, employment, land valuation, rural development and new towns helped get Britain off its knees. Done

with minimal manpower.

Today's task is hindered by a pervasive scepticism about 'planning' – born of failure to carry further the lessons of the 50s and early 60s. Reflected now in cries to abolish greenbelts, they take no account of the fact that industry and commerce invariably craves a framework of infrastructure that helps them plan their business. Such muddled thinking finds refuge in arguing both that brownfield sites will solve all housing need, and that London and the wider southeast will just have to live at higher density – densification and intensification is the jargon – where 'superbia' will magically replace 'suburbia'.

A way out of this impasse has to be found. The last in-depth review of greenbelt was 25 years ago. Its 270 page report, having listened to much opinion, concluded greenbelts were effective. But made no attempt to consider population growth, development land costs, local against sub-regional needs, business expansion constraints, pollution from longer distance travelling, and stoking up of 'Nimby' attitudes. It is time to put this right.

Graham Lomas PhD, MRTPI, Chair of The Friends of Farthing Downs and retired consultant in urban and social matters

The importance of the natural environment for Surrey

We all know about Surrey's rich wildlife and natural beauty. What you may not know though is that it is also an economic powerhouse that is home to over 65,000 businesses and has a higher GVA (gross value added) than Leeds and Liverpool combined! However, we do not necessarily understand the connection between these two aspects of Surrey and may even assume that they are in conflict. In fact, the county's natural assets are vital to its economic success.

Surrey Nature Partnership (SNP) has produced a report created by its members including Surrey Wildlife Trust, Surrey County Council, Natural England and the University of Surrey (to name but a few). They have shown our economically minded politicians just how much the natural environment is worth to our society. It is called "Naturally Richer" and you can view it at www.surreynaturepartnership.org.uk

Inside this document are some astounding statistics. Did you know that Surrey's

41,225 hectares of woodland provides economic benefit of approximately £90 million per year? This includes 8,000 tonnes of air pollution removal and 350,000 tonnes of carbon removal, as well as reducing the risk of flooding.

Staggeringly, only 23% of residents in our County have access to 2ha of greenspace within walking distance of their home. Our country also has major health concerns around obesity, diabetes, mental health and well-being issues (all of which are often linked to a sedentary urban lifestyle). The report tries to explain the true cost of poor quality natural capital. For example, in health terms the total cost of care linked to physical inactivity is £18m.

In the future the SNP hopes to encourage land developers to take advantage of biodiversity offsetting and making infrastructure and utilities more resilient, with lower operating costs.

Recognition of our County's natural capital, in economic terms, will help planners,

politicians and local communities to create more sustainable communities. Hopefully it will be recognised that one of the reasons Surrey is so economically successful is because previous generations have protected Surrey's natural capital and this helps to maintain our prosperity today.

Sarah Jane Chimbwandira of Surrey Nature Partnership, Biodiversity Director at Surrey Wildlife Trust and Surrey Hills Society Trustee



Sarah Jane Chimbwandira, Panellist at the Surrey Hills Symposium

The future for our trees and woodlands

Pamela Holt at one of our 'Tree Identification' walks. Many of our members refer to her as the 'Tree Lady'



Surrey is one of the most wooded counties but all this could change due to a variety of factors. The population of Great Britain stands at 66 million of which London has over 8 million. Current demand for houses is huge and the people drawn to the south for jobs, look to Surrey for their homes. The pressure on land for housing is a continual threat to

our green belt with the Surrey Hills providing the tranquil environment many crave. Yet the pressure of visitors on our trees can be their downfall. The increasing footfall or car parking over the root area causes compaction and soil erosion with resultant loss of oxygen and water or conversely waterlogging through lack of drainage.

Global warming is happening despite what some would have you believe. Many mature trees are unable to adapt to climate change - often becoming stressed and thus more vulnerable to pest and disease attack. Our winters are milder and wetter with extreme weather conditions becoming the norm. Cold winters used to kill off a variety of pests but we now face new unwelcome foreign pathogens through international movement of plant material, goods and services. Biosecurity is the new watchword.

Dutch Elm disease arrived in Britain in the 1970s due to importing timber with bark attached. Oak Processionary Moth arrived as eggs on the twigs of imported oak trees for a landscape project in Richmond and is now spreading into the Surrey Hills. Its caterpillars present a human health hazard too with their irritant long barbed hairs which cause a terrible skin rash and the

microscopic hairs breathing difficulties. Wooden pallets used to ship Indian landscaping stone were the source of an outbreak of Asian Longhorn Beetle in Kent. Other pathogens are waiting in the wings from Emerald Ash Borer to *Xylella Fastidiosa* affecting commercial crops like olives and now being found on other trees.

Tree species may well change in the future as resistant varieties succeed, susceptible ones die and more tolerant exotic species are grown.

Many traditional woodland practices are dying out and woodland products replaced by plastic and metal materials altering the woodland landscape and type of trees grown. Coppice using hazel, sweet chestnut and alder contributed to the woodland landscape and local industries. Trees, sadly, are frequently seen as a nuisance, threat or a perceived danger with worries of subsidence on clay soils, insurance claims and litigation. Let us hope that the varied soil types and topographical features of the Surrey Hills continue to support a variety of tree species and associated flora and fauna in the future.

Pamela Holt, Dip.Hort.Kew, Cert.Ed. and a founder member of Surrey Hills Society

Encouraging younger generations to connect with the Surrey Hills

Have our young people lost touch with the countryside, and if so, how can we help them rediscover and enjoy it for generations to come?

In 2014, during my time as manager of Leatherhead Youth Project (LYP), I first came across Rob Fairbanks of the Surrey Hills AONB, at a Community Foundation event. We passionately exchanged ideas about the importance of getting young people outdoors to experience the wilderness and have the chance to enjoy nature. The idea for the project known as 'Into the Wild' was born, but unable to resource the activity themselves, LYP were encouraged to apply for a grant from the Surrey Hills Trust Fund. The grant was successful, and the Trust Fund was pleased to provide funding of £2,000 to support the concept of getting young people from an urban area out into the countryside.

The project itself made a huge impact – 12 young people ventured into the Surrey Hills for 2 nights of wild camping in hammocks under the stars (a first for everyone,

including the youth workers!), with the day time filled with learning survival skills, hiking, cooking around a camp fire and learning about the local area. The benefits were huge.

Projects like this show us that young people, and in fact all of us, have a deep connection with the outdoors. Despite the initial culture shock at the lack of Wifi and mobile data, the enjoyment of the experience and the natural therapy of the countryside was the overriding memory, and all young people involved committed to coming back and enjoying the outdoors more regularly.

This is why 'Access' is a huge priority for the Surrey Hills Trust Fund. Ensuring that the countryside is accessible to all, including those who may not normally have the means to get there and experience it. We strive to not only preserve the environment for future generations, but help young people experience it in the here and now.

So how can we achieve a future where young people feel invited to take part in the managing of our Surrey Hills? We must provide more opportunities for helping them



The twelve happy participants of Leatherhead Youth Project in the woods with their leaders

to access and enjoy our countryside, but to also feel empowered to take a lead, to raise ideas, and to take an active role in the management and preservation of the Surrey Hills. This will require us to all work together, across schools, youth organisations, land owners, volunteers and others, to raise awareness, to educate, inspire and to promote leadership opportunities for the next generation.

To find out more about the Surrey Hills Trust Fund, including how to support the fund, visit www.surreyhills.org/trust-fund/.

Joe Crome, Director of Philanthropy of Community Foundation for Surrey

Themes from the Surrey Hills Symposium

The future of farming

Our treasured landscapes, like the Surrey Hills, are a bi-product of farming. Some of the richest terrestrial habitats are a creation of farming. Two quite separate forces for change have combined to create a very important moment in time that could see a transformation to the way our countryside is managed. The first is the publication of the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan. The second was the decision to leave the European Union and as a result the need to replace the Common Agricultural Policy.

One of the many organisations influencing these changes is the Government's Natural Capital Committee. This committee is attempting to build a business case around sustainable food production systems by literally going back to the basic ingredients of our landscape and giving them a cash value. The committee would be the first to admit the difficulties in achieving a meaningful and an acceptable way of accounting values in this way. However if successful the accounting process will be audited and owned by the Treasury and could lead to a restructuring of economic intervention into farming – possibly reverting to a zero based budgeting system that has never been achieved before. So how might this approach work and what might the implications be for our farmers?

Obviously the first step sees a dismantling of our landscape into its raw materials – water, air, soils, ecosystems, geology and climate, but this list is evolving with pressure to include Cultural Capital. The next stage is to give a value to these raw materials, for example – clean air, clean water and naturally fertile soils to pass on to future generations. The chalk landscapes of Southern England will be vulnerable to an audit of these topics – take the issues of water and air quality as examples. Despite the best technology, farmers still lose up to 50% of applied nitrates from the targeted crop, 25% leaching into the aquifers and, depending on humidity 25% given off as nitrous oxide (a climate change gas 300 times more potent than carbon dioxide).

A Natural Capital approach will see the small numbers of farmers rewarded who already adopt an integrated crop management system that fixes nitrogen from the air that does not pollute the water or the air. Plants like Sainfoin and Lucerne are excellent in achieving such outcomes. Part of the accounting process can give



a value to clean water by assessing the cost of clean-up, but giving a true value to clean water or clean air as a bi-product of farming remains a challenge. A great deal more work needs to be done before this approach can stand up to close scrutiny.

The farming industry is facing real changes to the way it is supported and administered. The balance between regulation and incentives has yet to be declared by the Government. We must also hope that the trade deals over Brexit ensures that sustainable food production becomes a new standard that will benefit the UK farmer. Public investment in support of farming will be on 'a public money for public goods' basis and a new emphasis is being given to the way we treat our soils and ecosystems. Much of modern farming currently suppresses the power of natural systems – of Natural Capital – we must hope that these changes encourage the harnessing of the power of natural systems. The countryside we value depends on farming and we must support the industry to moving towards securing sustainably produced food. We all await the details of the new Environment Land Management System which will continue to support the farming community through public engagement.

Merrick Denton-Thompson OBE FLI President, Trustee and Fellow of the Landscape Institute



The useful and beautiful Sainfoin and Lucerne plants

Interesting facts:

- Surrey's residents currently consume almost 3 planets' worth of resources compared to the UK average of 2.5 planets.
- Surrey's population is planned to increase from 1.17m in 2015 to 1.37m in 2037.
- Surrey County Council had a repair bill of £12.5m after the 2014 major flooding.
- Woodland recreation + wood products + carbon sequestration is valued at £90m

Global warming and pollution – Sponsor’s View



Whether you side with the argument that global warming is manmade or the other that says that it is a naturally occurring phenomenon, there is no doubt that global temperatures are rising. Sea levels are encroaching our shores around the world and extreme weather conditions are multiplying. While we are developing ways of reducing CO2 emissions, we have no hope of resolving the issue if global populations continue to rise.

However, what we can do to help is wake up to the fact that the waste that we create is poisoning the Earth to such an extent that it could ruin our planet long before global

warming gets us! Pushing the can down the road or burying it is not the answer.

Recycling could provide an answer, but the practice of exporting waste is rapidly ceasing to be an option, as China and other countries are shutting their doors to us and telling us to deal with the problem at home. We have to clean up our own back yard!

Here are some businesses in Surrey that are doing just that.

SUEZ Recycling & Recovery Surrey (formerly SITA) operate fifteen community recycling centres and five waste transfer and bulking facilities in Surrey. Local firm Environmental Support Service at Sondes Place Farm in Dorking offers commercial recycling facilities. Long established and community minded firm D&E Roberts has been operating their recycling plant since 2008 and recycle most types of waste products.

Perhaps the most exciting local development is Suez’s Eco Park in Shepperton, which is currently nearing completion and should eventually be able to process a third of

Surrey’s non-recyclable waste through a mixture of gasification and anaerobic digestion, feeding back sufficient energy into the national grid to power up to 8,000 homes.

But is there also a way that we could cut down pollution by sourcing the products we need closer to home? Greengrocers such as Greenwise in Fetcham, as well as Card’s and H.E. Hardy (Garry’s) in Ashted, pride themselves on selling food by weight, without extra packaging, and many other local shops, farm shops and markets will sell you food with the minimum of plastic. The Food Float in Dorking is a not-for-profit Community Interest Company that sells local products in the old fashioned, packaging-free way.

Please do your bit by reusing your shopping bags, recycling or finding fresh uses for your cardboard or plastic packaging, supporting your local shops and using the Council’s recycling facilities.

Anthony Wakefield, Newsletter Sponsor



Into the Surrey Hills – a badge for members of girlguiding

It is one of the Society’s aims to make the young people in our area more aware of the Surrey Hills AONB. Girlguiding is the leading charity for girls and young women in the UK, and has an emphasis on encouraging them to take action to improve and promote their community – just the sort of people we would like to have on board to help promote our beautiful area in the Surrey Hills.

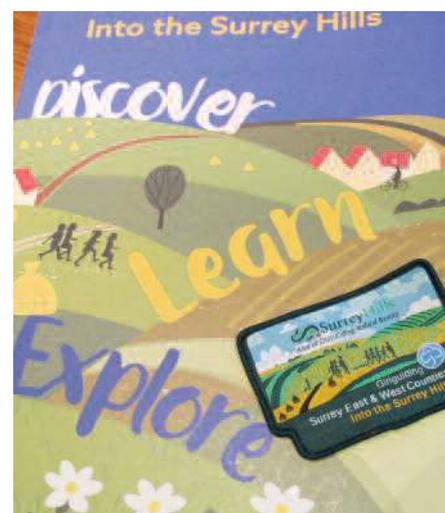
The girls love to gain badges and so the Society has sponsored the design of a badge together with a resource to make it easily accessible to all the volunteer leaders. We rely on them to promote it as an activity for the girls in their units, be they the youngest Rainbows or the adult Trefoil Guild.

The resource presents information about the AONB, including a map, and some activities.

To gain the badge, the worksheet has to be completed and followed up with a visit to one of the 60 places in the Surrey Hills that are listed on a page of the AONB’s website. The badge is suitable to work on as a unit, or as individuals who can make the visits with their family.

The badge and the resource are all ready as we prepare to promote this to the leaders in Surrey in the run up to the summer – the season when units like to get out and about. With many thanks to Caroline Price of the AONB Unit for all her help in getting the designs completed.

We hope to see many of the girls proudly displaying the badge on their uniform having learnt something about the value of the area where they live.



Planning views

70 years after the legislation enabling the creation of National Parks and AONBs was passed, the Government has launched a review into how these iconic landscapes meet our needs in the 21st Century. The review led by writer Julian Glover, is exploring the scope to expand the current network of AONBs and NPs as well as ways of boosting wildlife, recovery of natural habitats and connecting more people with

nature. Unfortunately, pending the review, Natural England have again postponed their Surrey Hills AONB Boundary Review expected to have been started in 2018.

Government protection of the landscape and scenic beauty of AONBs and NPs is officially, equal. Yet public perception is that NPs enjoy greater protection. There is a substantial imbalance of Government funding between the two and the term AONB is difficult for many of the public to grasp.

Being so close to London and other large populations, the Surrey Hills is under probably the greatest recreation and development pressures of any AONB or NP. With planned population growth and increasing health and well-being awareness, the Surrey Hills will be under even greater pressure in the future. The review needs to address these growing issues.

Clive Smith, Surrey Hills AONB Planning Adviser

Event Programme February – June 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.

Saturday 9th February

Map Reading Course

A whole day of training and practice in map reading and simple navigation techniques to enable you to explore the Surrey Hills.

Saturday 16th February

St. John's Seminary – FULL

Thursday 21st February

Afternoon at Gatton Park

A chance to see the snowdrop display and hear about the developments which have taken place as part of the tercentenary project. Afternoon tea will be served in the hall.

Sunday 3rd March

Explore Ewhurst

Our free guided monthly walk. Join us on this 4 ½ mile easy walk around Ewhurst. Meet us at The Green, opposite The Bulls Head Pub, GU6 7PB from 10.30am for a prompt 11am start.

Sunday 3rd March

Gatton Park Open Day

Special 2 for 1 offer on entry for members of the Surrey Hills Society to admire the park and gardens.

Tuesday 26th March

Education Visit to Nower Wood

A private tour of Surrey Wildlife Trust's flagship education centre and a short tour around this pretty woodland site.

Sunday 7th April

Explore Frensham Ponds, near Farnham

Our free guided monthly walk. Join us on this 5 ½ mile easy walk with some hills. Meet us at the first, smaller Frensham Little Pond car park, GU10 3DW from 10.30am for a prompt 11am start.

Wednesday 17th April

Guided tour of Guildford

A morning tour of Guildford House with our Chairman Gordon Jackson, followed by an intriguing walk discovering the authors, actors and artists intimately associated with Guildford.

Friday 3rd May

Inspiring Views Walk

Join Ali Clarke from Surrey Hills Arts for this free guided walk to two of the sculptural seats from this art project in beautiful Hurtwood. In partnership with Investec International Music Festival.

Sunday 5th May

Explore Guildford River Wey walk

Our free guided monthly walk. Join us on this 5 mile circular walk followed by optional lunch at Dapdune Wharf. Meet us at Stoke Park Nightingale Rd entrance, GU1 1ER from 10.30am for a prompt 11am start.

Friday 10th May

Albury & Shere Walk with Musical Treat

This walk, jointly organised and led by Investec International Music Festival, offers a special opportunity to see a historic Saxon Church where a musician will be waiting to enchant you.

Wednesday 15th May

Discover Deepdene Gardens and Betchworth Castle

Deepdene in Dorking was once the home of one of the nation's most enigmatic characters, Thomas Hope, who created one of the first Italianate gardens in England, in the mid-17th century. The ruin of Betchworth Castle is a hidden away Surrey Hills gem.

Monday 27th May

Surrey County Show

Show your support and visit our stall at Stoke Park, Guildford.

Saturday 1st June

North Downs Way Walk from Farnham to Guildford

Join North Downs Way Trail Manager, Pete Morris and Chris Howard on this 11 mile day trek. Part of Farnham Walking Festival, visit www.farnham.gov.uk.

Sunday 2nd June

Explore Greensand Way

Our free guided monthly walk. Join us on this special all day walk from Brockham to Reigate. A short walk option available as well.

Wednesday 5th June

East Clandon Village Day

A morning guided tour of the village with a local historian followed by lunch. A tour, talk and tasting at High Clandon vineyard makes a fitting climax to this fascinating day.

Thursday 13th June

Gentle Game of Croquet at Polesden Lacey

Enjoy a picnic, a gentle game of croquet and finish with afternoon tea in the café.

Wednesday 19th June

Sublime Sanctuaries

Private, guided tour around Brookwood cemetery and the Orthodox St Edward Brotherhood Church followed by lunch at Lord Pirbright's Hall.



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

To join us go to www.surreyhillssociety.org and click on the Personal Membership tag