

# The Godalming Trust



---

**Newsletter Spring 2014**

---

Registered Charity Number 263033

<b><u>CONTENTS</u></b>	<b><u>PAGE</u></b>
Officers & Committees	2
Chairman's Report	3
Membership Report	5
Treasurer's Report	6
Design Awards 2014	7
Planning Committee Report	8
Godalming Town Walks 2014	10
Committee Member Wanted	10
Godalming Through Two Centuries	11
Programme of Events 2014	12

## **Officers and Committees**

President	Christopher Robinson
Vice Presidents	Alan Brown Ron Musk
Executive Committee	Angus Palmer – Chairman Pam Talbot – Vice Chairman Valerie Venton – Secretary Colin Venton – Honorary Treasurer James Anderson Roger Edwards Tony Gordon-Smith Jacqui Springsguth Colin Swait
Planning Committee	Jacqui Springsguth – Chairman James Anderson Colin Swait Henry Collen – co-opted Brenda O’Hara – co-opted Keith Powell – co-opted
Civic Design Awards Committee	James Anderson – Chairman Jacqui Springsguth Michael Blower – co-opted Henry Collen – co-opted Brenda O’Hara – co-opted Keith Powell – co-opted John Young – co-opted

## **Chairman's Report**

2013 was a busy year for The Godalming Trust and 2014 promises to be similarly busy. As you know our purpose is “Working to maintain our heritage and quality of life”. To that end we look at all the planning applications concerning Farncombe and Godalming that come before Waverley Borough Council. Elsewhere in this newsletter the Chair of our Planning sub-committee writes about the work of her committee. We try to influence development in our area by commenting on and contributing to any plans produced by borough or town council. We reward good civic design by giving civic design awards to deserving buildings in each alternate year. In addition we encourage an appreciation of the heritage of our town by conducting guided walks and by organising, with Stephen Goddard, the annual Heritage Open Days.

In my last Annual Report I commented on the then undergoing Godalming Town Centre Conservation Area Appraisal. I expressed regret that a late draft of the appraisal that we had seen fell well short of the comprehensive appraisal we had hoped for. Waverley Council had explained to us that they did not have the resources to prepare an appraisal as comprehensive as we thought necessary. We were particularly pleased therefore when the final version of the appraisal appeared. Whilst it does not cover every aspect that we would have liked included, it is much more detailed than the late draft led us to believe it would be. We are delighted that the Council was able to find additional resources to produce a useful document. The Appraisal includes ten recommendations for action. Three of those recommendations ask for the co-operation of The Godalming Trust which we will, of course, be happy to give. Members may like to download the Appraisal from the Waverley web site.

You will all be aware of the fate of the Local Plan recently produced by Waverley Borough Council. The Government inspector rejected the plan on the basis that it did not provide for sufficient residential development in the borough for the period up to 2028. In fact members of the committee of The Godalming Trust had met with Waverley planners some months previously. We had expressed alarm to them that

a draft plan proposed a target for new houses unchanged from earlier plans. We pointed out that the Government had brought in a requirement for new local plans expressly to allow for increased development. We thought the plan should have aimed for a development target that would be both acceptable to the local population and also acceptable to the Government. We now understand that a revised plan will be prepared by October 2015. We very much hope that property developers will not in the meantime take advantage of the absence of a Local Plan to propose unsuitable developments in the green fields around the borough.

A neighbourhood plan for Godalming is now also in course of preparation. Members of the committee of The Godalming Trust will be part of the working parties helping to prepare this plan.

The Heritage Open Days event in Godalming in 2013 was very successful. I am always surprised at the distance people are prepared to travel to see Godalming's heritage buildings. I met one lady this year who had travelled from Australia to meet Godalming family members. But she told me she had specifically timed her visit to this country to coincide with the Heritage Open Days weekend in Godalming. A new building open to the public in 2013 was Minton Cottage in Station Road. More than fifty people toured this restored Tudor Cottage. They included a gentleman who had been born in the cottage during the War seventy years ago and another individual who had also lived in the cottage in the 1940's. Surrey County Council allowed us to open the Old Fire Station in Queen Street. This building too was very popular with former firemen and their families coming for a nostalgic visit. We are very pleased to say that we have secured two further new buildings to be opened for Heritage Open Days September 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> 2014. The Old Mill in Mill Lane will be open as will the refurbished Three Lions pub in Meadow. This latter building is more than three hundred years old. One of its claims to fame is that prisoners hanged on a scaffold close to the pub were afterwards laid out in a room of the pub for public inspection.

On April 12<sup>th</sup> this year we will hold an audio-visual presentation of Old Godalming at the Wilfred Noyce Centre. Details of that event and other

events held jointly with Godalming Museum are elsewhere in this newsletter. We hope to continue our programme of walks and details of these too will be found in the newsletter. We are looking forward to another busy and successful year.

Angus Palmer  
Chairman

### **Membership**

It is with deep sadness that we have to report that we have recently heard that Mr Peter Biraben-Losson has died. If any members know of any other members who have recently passed away please could they let the secretary know or leave an e-mail on The Godalming Trust's website at [info@thegodalmingtrust.org.uk](mailto:info@thegodalmingtrust.org.uk).

We currently have 86 single members, 202 family members, 3 corporate members and 117 life members which is about the same as last year. We are very keen to have members' e-mail addresses as it is a very cost effective way in which to communicate with them. We have used e-mails to inform members of various events. We are planning to e-mail newsletters and AGM reports to members who are happy to receive them this way. If you think we do not have your e-mail address please could you e-mail our secretary on [val.venton@gmail.com](mailto:val.venton@gmail.com).

## Treasurer's Report

After the large outlays last year for two new initiatives our finances this year have very satisfactorily recovered. With no major outlays as yet, although there is some discussion at the moment to improve the Heritage Weekend brochure, there have been many reasons why our finances have recovered so well.

One of these being the small rise in the costs of membership, and the second being our resignation from the organisation Civic Voice. We were members for about two to three years to give the organisation a fair trial, as it was quite new. The membership fees were very high and the committee felt that we were not getting value for money. Indeed other major organisations, some of which we are members, were far more proactive in the news when it came to controversial government proposals.

Several of our members through their generosity have made substantial donations to the Trust and we are extremely grateful to them for that. Lastly, we have a sum of money which is held in reserve in case we ever have to employ professional services over planning concerns. This money was held in a Charities Aid Foundation Account except it wasn't aiding us as a charity very much! When the interest gained on our deposit fund went down from 0.2% to 0.1% we decided to move the money into a more profitable account. It now lies with Virgin Money where we are gaining a far more healthy interest rate. We were getting 2.6% but this has gone down to 2%. Even so, I am delighted to tell you that, already in just under a year, we have earned nearly £200 in interest. We are also managing to keep our postage costs low and one of the ways we are managing this is by using e-mail as much as possible.

Colin Venton  
Honorary Treasurer

## **Design Awards 2014**

The Godalming Trust Design Awards Committee is currently reviewing possible nominations for the biennial Civic Design awards due to be presented this September. A new development or the refurbishment of an existing building which you admire could be a potential candidate for an award. To help us draw up a shortlist, we invite you to nominate any building or feature you think worthy of consideration, in the following categories:

- New building
- Refurbishment
- Environmental improvement
- Shop front
- Extension(s)
- Special award, for something which does not quite fit any of the above

If possible, a photograph supporting your nomination would be appreciated.

Please submit suggestions to James Anderson, Phillimore Cottage, Thorncombe Street, Bramley, GU5 0LU, email [james.anderson87@btinternet.com](mailto:james.anderson87@btinternet.com), before 30 April 2014.

## **Planning Committee Report**

In 2013 the planning sub- committee of the Godalming Trust reviewed 203 planning applications out of a possible 328, thus 62%. Where we have serious concerns we write to Waverley and to the Town Council. In 2013 six letters were sent to the Town Council and to Waverley Council based on our observations and concerns.

In 2012 the committee reviewed 170 applications out of 326, 52% and wrote 6 letters. In 2011 committee reviewed 176 applications out of 325, 54% and wrote 7 letters.

Interestingly the applications reviewed in 2013 by our committee are about 10% greater than in previous years. This would imply that more applications submitted in 2013 have been of interest for review, probably due to the planning law changing so that certain criteria, if met, do not need planning permission.

The planning applications we review are from the Godalming Parish Wards of Binscombe, Busbridge, Catteshall, (Godalming) Central, Charterhouse, Farncombe, Holloway, and Ockford. We also look at applications on our parish borders and items of interest along the main road of Milford (as many of our members live in Milford).

As can be seen from the numbers, planning applications are consistent year on year and also consistent are the number of letters we have written to the Councils. The numbers include listed building applications. We generally do not look at applications that are at the rear of properties. We always consider the application on its merit of enhancement within its landscape.

Notes principally for our own use are made about most planning applications. These notes are however made available to Waverley councillors and we understand that they are valued in helping councillors to decide on applications. We make a note also if we think an application once complete may be considered as part of our Biannual Civic Design Awards, although many of these permission granted applications may not at that time have been built.

Charterhouse School and The Meath always have very comprehensive plans with sensitivity and kind consideration to their environments. My sincere thank you goes to Henry Collen, Keith Powell, and James Anderson for their support and knowledge and goes to a more recent member joining us with his valued awareness of the town - Colin Swait. Brenda O'Hara at the moment is not able to join us but is always a valuable member with her contribution and expertise, and for many years she kindly supplied us with tea/coffee and delicious biscuits. We now meet at Waverley Planning Office 16 – 17 times a year, around every 3 weeks. We can be sometimes a little noisy but also try to be helpful to any visitors to the offices, showing them the bell to press for attention. The staff has always been so very accommodating, polite and helpful, with the piles of applications that we ask for.

We always aim to be independent and not influenced by external pressures to ensure we review each application with the same attention to detail, consideration and balance. The meeting notes are circulated to the Executive Committee via email. For major planning applications the Executive Committee becomes more involved such as for the Key Site.

As with many people of Godalming/Farncombe we have a love and pleasure in the buildings, landscape, and history with the full understanding that we are all the custodians of this very special place.

Jacqui Springsguth  
Chair – Planning sub-committee

## **Godalming Town Walks 2014**

Learn about the history of Godalming.

Guided walks will take place on the following dates:

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> August

All walks will start at 2.30pm at the Pepperpot. The walking is gentle and the walk usually lasts about an hour and a half. If you would like more information please contact Pam Talbot at [pamtalbot@clara.co.uk](mailto:pamtalbot@clara.co.uk). If the walks have to be cancelled a notice will appear on the Pepperpot door. Details of walks during the Heritage Weekend (13/14 September) will appear in the programme which will be available during the summer.

### **Committee member wanted**

Graham Firth, a long time member of the Executive Committee of the Godalming Trust is stepping down from the role. He and his wife have taken on the tenancy of the Three Lions pub in Farncombe – a more than full time job. Graham's special responsibility on our Committee has been communication and the production of our newsletters and annual reports. We would like to thank him for the very efficient way these reports have been produced over the last few years.

However we now need someone to join our Executive and to take on this task. If you know of someone who may be interested please let us know. If that individual is also interested in communication via social websites such as Facebook then that would be an advantage, but is not essential.

# **GODALMING THROUGH TWO CENTURIES**

## **An Audio-Visual History of Godalming**

The Godalming Trust in conjunction with the Godalming Museum will offer an audio-visual presentation on Saturday April 12<sup>th</sup> at the Wilfred Noyce Centre next to the Crown Court car park in Godalming. Doors will open at 6:30 for a 7:00pm performance. The presentation will be in three parts with a twenty minute interval between each part. Refreshments will be available.

The presentation has been put together by Godalming Photographic Club

An audio-visual (AV) presentation is a film show using still photographs. When it was conceived in 1983, the plan was to incorporate as many Godalming photographs as possible since the invention of the camera in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. The oldest photo in the presentation was in fact taken in 1834, and shows a seemingly dark and dingy High Street(due to the necessity for a very long exposure in those days).

The presentation is in three parts, each part lasting approximately half an hour.

**Part 1** We briefly cover the background history of Godalming, using prints and etchings and a JW Turner painting. We then progress into the DEVELOPMENT OF GODALMING into the town we recognise today, followed by the main OCCUPATIONS of the townsfolk.

**Part 11** Starts with the CELEBRATIONS recorded throughout the last two centuries, as well as other ENTERTAINMENTS, SERVICES and EDUCATION.

**Part 111** Records the changes in TRANSPORT, the impact of the TWO WORLD WARS on the town, and the POST WAR YEARS.

The production finishes with a modern and artistic photographic presentation of Godalming around 2000.

Tickets are available now from the Museum at £5 each

## Programme of Events 2014

Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> April	Film show in Wilfred Noyce Centre by Godalming Photographic Society. Tickets - £5 from Museum.
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> July	Summer Lunch at Nursecombe Farm. By invitation only
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	AGM in the Octagon at The Church of St Peter & St Paul. 7.30pm for 8pm start.
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> to Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> September	Heritage Open Days. Your committee need you to volunteer as a steward. A 2-hour shift on one or both days.  Contact Roger Edwards on 01483 428662 or <a href="mailto:seletar5644@tiscali.co.uk">seletar5644@tiscali.co.uk</a>  Limited entry tickets are free from Godalming Museum reception.

Should you wish to contact the Trust on any issue please write to Valerie Venton, Honorary Secretary, at [val.venton@gmail.com](mailto:val.venton@gmail.com) or 1A Ockford Ridge, Godalming, Surrey GU7 2NP.

The Godalming Trust is a Registered Charity No. 263033 and the Website is [www.thegodalmingtrust.org.uk](http://www.thegodalmingtrust.org.uk)