

NEWSLETTER – July 2020

THE GODALMING TRUST

We hope that you are all keeping safe and well in these strange times. We thought that we should update you on a number of decisions your Executive Committee has made since we published our Spring Newsletter. Unfortunately we were only able to distribute this by email but there is a copy on our website <http://www.thegodalmingtrust.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Godalming-Trust-Newsletter-Spring-2020.pdf>. Covid-19 has also meant that we have had to cancel or postpone many of our high-profile events.

AGM

We have decided to postpone this as late as our Constitution allows. It will now be held on Wednesday 11th November at 7.30pm at the Masonic Centre. This venue can accommodate some social distancing. However, if it is not possible to hold a physical meeting, we will conduct the proceedings via Zoom and allow postal votes (if necessary) for those unable or unwilling to attend virtually. Please let us know if you would be happy to take part by Zoom by email to gtmembers@btinternet.com or by post to our Secretary* at the address below. The Annual Report and Agenda will be circulated in October 2020.

Civic Design Awards

These have been postponed until 2021 but please submit any buildings that deserve consideration to colin.swait@btinternet.com

Heritage Open Days

Although the National Trust Heritage Open Days team have now decided that an event will happen between 11-20 September, we had already decided that having regard to safety of all concerned, along with practical difficulties on social distancing, we would not organise an event in and around Godalming this year. The national website will give details of any virtual events that are available round and about <https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk>. We hope to be back in 2021 with a bigger and better weekend. This is our major opportunity to bring to the public what The Godalming Trust does and it is important to our existence.

However, with the theme of Hidden Nature this year, why don't you explore one or more of the many green spaces in and surrounding the town and see what you can see? Perhaps a flash of blue of a kingfisher by the river, plants and insects on the Lammas Lands, Phillips Memorial Park or Broadwater Park and Lake. Or why not go a little further afield to our local commons in Elstead, Milford, Thursley and Witley, or visit Hydon's Ball, where there is a memorial to Octavia Hill, one of the original founders of the National Trust.

*Working
to maintain
our heritage
and quality
of life*

The Godalming Trust is an independent body, not funded by the Councils, and all activities are organised and staffed by volunteers. Its campaigning role needs the financial support and interest of all those who care for the Godalming of today and tomorrow.

info@thegodalmingtrust.org.uk www.thegodalmingtrust.org.uk



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We are so lucky to have nature so close to our town. Please enjoy it, but be sure to follow Government Guidelines in place at the time. If by chance restrictions are re-imposed and you have a garden, 'Hidden Nature' is there too!

Town History Walks

Sadly, this summer's programme has been abandoned. Despite social distancing guidelines being changed we feel guided walks on narrow footpaths cannot be undertaken safely.

The future of Godalming Trust

During lockdown your Committee has been looking at the future of the Trust. We are finding it difficult to attract new members and although we had some interest from people to join the Executive Committee, we have been unable to invite those to a meeting to date, but hope to do so as soon as we can. Without new members and initiatives, the future does look rather uncertain. There are two things we might do.

- 1) Set up Working or Task Groups to achieve the objectives of the Trust. This would mean that individuals could help with specific tasks on an ad hoc basis and would not need to commit to joining the Exec Committee. For example, perhaps you could help with distributing Newsletters, publicity material for Heritage Open Days and membership forms at various locations or perhaps you could research candidates for Blue Plaques. If you are interested in this less formal way of helping your Godalming Trust please contact us by email at info@thegodalmingtrust.org.uk or in writing to our Secretary, address below.
- 2) Membership Drive: As this year our opportunities to reach potential members is limited, we have included some membership leaflets with all posted copies of this newsletter. If all members try to recruit at least one new member from their friends, family or neighbours we will be in a stronger position to go forward and for this we thank you.

The Executive Committee

* Bridget Bagnall, Honorary Secretary, 2 Brook House, New Pond Road, Compton GU3 1JL