

Spring Newsletter 2020

# THE GODALMING TRUST



## Catteshall Lock and Farncombe Boathouse flooded in February this year

*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](mailto:info@thegodalmingtrust.org.uk) [www.thegodalmingtrust.org.uk](http://www.thegodalmingtrust.org.uk)



Registered Charity No. 263033

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## Officers and Committees

President	Christopher Robinson	
Vice Presidents	Alan Brown	
	Ron Musk	
Executive Committee	Pam Talbot	– Chairman
	Bridget Bagnall	– Secretary
	Richard Gidlow	– Treasurer
	Graham Kimber	
	Pauline Scarsbrook	
	Colin Swait	
Planning Committee	Colin Swait	– Chairman
	Bridget Bagnall	
	Mike Poulter	
Civic Design Awards Committee	Vacant	– Chairman
	Mike Poulter	
	Colin Swait	
Heritage Open Days Committee	Pam Talbot	– Chairman
	Colin Swait	

Should you wish to contact the Trust on any issue please write to:  
Bridget Bagnall, Honorary secretary, 2 Brook House, New Pond Road, Compton GU3 1JL

[info@thegodalmingtrust.org.uk](mailto:info@thegodalmingtrust.org.uk)

The Godalming Trust is a Registered Charity No. 263033 and the Website is

[www.thegodalmingtrust.org.uk](http://www.thegodalmingtrust.org.uk)

## Chairman's Introduction – Spring 2020

Welcome to our Spring Newsletter. After our wet and windy winter, it was so nice to see sunshine and the sloe and bullace trees flowering along Flambard Way. However, things are all now looking very uncertain for public events for some considerable time. We have cancelled our May and June town walks and will keep under review those later in the summer, Heritage Open Days, etc. Any changes will be noted on our website: <https://www.thegodalmingtrust.org.uk/>

I will keep this introduction short but will lead you to read other articles and information within the Newsletter.

We had good support at our AGM which was followed by a reception attended by a number of people who open their properties for Heritage Open Days. At the AGM we consulted on the joint Museum/Trust Summer Lunch and proposed some changes on how we advertise this in future. However, the summer lunch this year has been cancelled. Godalming Museum is closed to the public.

We are very sorry that Gareth Munro and Caroline Hopkins have had to step down from the Committee and much appreciate all that they have done for The Trust over the years. Apart from Civic Design Awards and the Godalming History films they have both helped in a number of ways and we will miss their expertise and enthusiasm. We thank them both sincerely for all their help and wish them well.

On pages 6 and 7 are some roles that the Committee would like to fill. Although there are specific roles, we would also like to hear from anyone who would like to join the Committee without taking a definite role at first. Perhaps come along to some meetings and see what they might wish to get involved in.

Edwina Young has written an interesting article on the Catteshall area – see page 12. You could use it to do a self-guided stroll, when Government Advice allows.

We are unfortunately only able to keep in contact with those Trust members we have email information for at the present time.

The Godalming Trust AGM 2020 may take place on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September at the Masonic Centre, Ockford Road. We shall have to see what Government advice is in August when the AGM agenda and annual reports are due for circulation.

As always, I would like to thank all those people and organisations who help us during the year, in particular, Godalming Town Council, Godalming Museum, the Masonic Centre, Heritage Open Days' volunteers, Vantage Point and especially the Executive Committee, without whose help I could not manage.

### **Heritage Open Days (HOD)**

2019 was one of the best HODs with record numbers of visitors to the properties. Whether it was the sunny weather, increased publicity or great places to visit, we hope that 2020 will be equally successful if it is able to take place in some way. The proposed dates are 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> September. We are always grateful to all the people who help both before and during the weekend and hope that you as members will encourage friends and relatives to look at some of the interesting buildings open. The national organisers will make a decision on the event by June, it may be that some 'virtual' events take place. It is also interesting to see how Heritage Open Days adds to local knowledge. See article on page 19 on Harry Stevens who was mentioned in a display at St Peter's Church, Hascombe. We shall



continue to make plans for now so that we can proceed should the situation ease later in the year.

## **Executive Committee Vacancies**

We are looking for the following positions to be filled:

### **Civic Design Awards Sub Committee Chairman**

You would oversee the biennial awards, working in close collaboration with the Planning Sub Committee, which it would be useful for you to join. Although there are a number of categories for awards these can be somewhat flexible depending on the projects achieved during the 2-year time scale. You would organise the awards part of the AGM evening in conjunction with Chairman of the Executive Committee of which you would also be a member. Do not be too concerned if you do not have presentation skills to design the awards displays. We are also looking for someone who might have such skills for a wider requirement (see below). For details of the 2018 Civic Design Awards see <https://www.thegodalmingtrust.org.uk/godalming-civic-design/>. No specialist skill is needed, just an appreciation of good design and workmanship.

### **Vice-Chairman**

As Vice Chairman you will help the Chairman in presenting the work of The Trust to outside organisations, sit on external committees, assist with arrangements for the AGM and Chair the Executive Committee in the absence of the Chairman. You will also look for new opportunities to work with other groups within the town to expand or enhance the activities of The Godalming Trust. You could combine this role with Civic Design Awards or any of the other of the Trust vacancies mentioned.

## **Facebook**

We believe that we should be using social media to attract new support and are looking for someone who could update our Facebook page. This is not an arduous task, it is just about adding events, calling for nominations for the Civic Design Awards (see above) adding the results in due course, along with the details of Heritage Open Days. The material would be provided by Sub Committee Chairman and the Executive Committee.

## **Presentation Skills**

We are looking for someone able to put together posters for publicity and the Civic Design Awards, then to be printed commercially.

These two requirements may be done by the same person or separately and they will not necessarily sit on the Executive Committee but it would be helpful if they would.

The Executive Committee meets approximately every 6 weeks. There are three Sub Committees: Planning, Heritage Open Days and Civic Design Awards. Currently our committee is made up of the Chairman, together with a Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, the Chairman of the Planning subcommittee and our website specialist but we certainly have room for more members.

If you would like to know more or feel you could help in a more general way, please contact me and we can discuss. No specialist knowledge is needed (apart from the IT related posts) but an enthusiasm for Godalming and its surroundings and a wish for the Trust to thrive. Even in these difficult times please get in touch if you think you can help in the future.

Pam Talbot, Chairman

## **Treasurer's Report**

Our finances continue to remain healthy. There has been little activity this year with regard expenditure other than the normal administrative expenses we have to incur each and every year. Membership remains stable and therefore so does our Income.

For the forthcoming year we are considering ways to use our resources to their best effect. The following are being considered:

- Two possible Blue Plaques in Godalming;
- Sponsoring in some way the flowers that are displayed each year in Godalming High Street.

This year as well we will be incurring expenditure relating to our Design awards program that occurs biennially.

I must thank members for their continued support of the Godalming Trust through their membership fees and a special thank you to those who pay over and above that which is due.

Richard Gidlow, Honorary Treasurer



## **Planning Committee Report**

I am grateful to my committee who are, Bridget Bagnall, Mike Poulter and myself with Pam Talbot joining us from time to time.

Gareth Munro resigned during the year due to family and business commitments; we are grateful to Gareth's insight and hard work. We usually meet regularly, every three weeks, and review planning applications submitted to Waverley Borough Council.

On some occasions this year we have not met but reviewed online when there has been little to discuss and during the present crisis, this is what we shall continue to do.

Since the AGM we objected to a new access onto Charterhouse Road for a new dwelling, a fourth floor to Westbrook Mills, and a proposal for a 67-unit retirement scheme including 30% affordable as it was in the Green Belt. We objected to modern dormers on a listed period property. We also objected to a new access onto the busy Petworth road in Milford.

Colin Swait, Chairman Planning Sub-committee

## Civic Design Awards 2020

The Godalming Trust will hope to be running this in 2020.

The Godalming Trust Design Awards Committee is currently reviewing possible nominations for the biennial Civic Design awards due to be presented this September, subject to the Coronavirus pandemic regulations not being in force. 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 before 30 May 2020.

Even if this is deferred to 2021 it will be useful to have projects put forward now so they don't get overlooked.

Any suggestions of potential projects to be entered into the various categories, please contact Colin Swait 14 Ivybank, Nightingale Road, Godalming GU7 2JE

email [colin.swait@btinternet.com](mailto:colin.swait@btinternet.com)

## Dates for your diary 2020/21

### Godalming Town Walks 2020

Due to Government advice the popular walks will not take place in May and June, it is hoped we may be able to commence again in July and August so provisional dates are included here. There are essentially two walks and they will run on alternate months. *See notes below.*

All the walks start from the Pepperpot at 2.30pm, no booking is required and they are free. Just turn up. The walks take about 1½ hours and they are fairly easy walking (there is a slight slope in Mill Lane on the approach to Godalming Rail Station).

11<sup>th</sup> July – Walk 1

8<sup>th</sup> August – Walk 2

**Walk 1** – looks at the industrial history of the town and the influence it had on the buildings. It ends with a walk along Church Street looking at the timber framed buildings, two of which are 15<sup>th</sup> Century, eight are 16<sup>th</sup>, six are 17<sup>th</sup>, three are 18<sup>th</sup>, six are 19<sup>th</sup> and the few remaining are 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

**Walk 2** – will give general background and then set off along the High Street. The High Street was part of the main road between London and Portsmouth and had five coaching inns, The Red Lion, The White Hart (once called The Antelope), The Angel, The Great George and The Kings Arms. With the exception of The Angel, the buildings are still on the High Street though only two as hotels. In 1859 the arrival of the railway gave a quicker route from London to Portsmouth. The walk then continues into Bridge Street.

For more information please see our website:

[www.thegodalmingtrust.org.uk](http://www.thegodalmingtrust.org.uk)

or email: [info@thegodalmingtrust.org.uk](mailto:info@thegodalmingtrust.org.uk)

## **Godalming Museum and Godalming Trust Autumn – Winter Lectures 2020/21**

Oct. 21st 2020: Eric Fernie – *The Norman Cathedral of Winchester – its local, national. and International Contexts.*

Nov.18th 2020: John Talbot – *Building Stones of the Godalming Area*

Jan.20 2021: Alison Pattison – *The 100th Anniversary of Godalming Museum*

March 24th 2021: Charles O'Brien – *Rewriting Pevsner's 'Buildings of England – Surrey'*

All lectures take place at the Octagon, St Peter and St Paul's Church Godalming 7.30 for 8pm. Tickets on sale at Godalming Museum £5 or on the door.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE MUSEUM IS PRESENTLY CLOSED  
TO THE PUBLIC**

## **A Brief History of Catteshall**

The manor of Catteshall comprised land in the north east of the parish of Godalming and land in Chiddingfold and during the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries was held by the de Broc family. However, in 1565 John Wintershall (Wintershall Estate, Bramley) conveyed Catteshall to William More (Loseley House). The manor remained in the tenure of the family until 1836 when James More Molyneux sold the manor to George Marshall of Broadwater (a large local family of timber merchants whose extended family also owned Broadwater House).

Catteshall is the directly attached neighbourhood and commercial estate in the east of Godalming civil parish. It is centred around Catteshall Lane and Catteshall Road.

Catteshall Manor is at the top of the hill and the former Ram Cider House is at the bottom. The hamlet's name is thought to come from *Gattes Hill* to derive from "a gate to the hill". Two buildings are listed: *The Ram Cider House* and *Catteshall Grange*.

The area consists of mainly residential housing today with the exception of a few high-tech industries. There are Victorian and some earlier properties interspersed amongst the majority of houses which were built after 1920 and recently an area that was small industrial and office spaces has been reshaped into housing of all descriptions.

### **A Stroll Down Memory Lane**

As you first approach Catteshall from the town, in the Wharf area, there is now a small collection of flats and houses. Until 2018 this area contained the local Police Station which had been moved from Bridge Street in the 1960's.



The Police Station

*Reproduced with kind permission of Godalming Museum*



Edison House 2020

*Photo: ©Pam Talbot*

The station, which won architectural prizes at the time, gained some notoriety as the place where the 'Guildford 4' were held after the Guildford Horse and Groom Pub bombings in 1975.

On the left there is a street of Victorian three storey houses named Victoria Road – nicknamed Coke Alley. Once owned by the Reverend Mark Simmonds, a bachelor and benefactor of Godalming who lived in Church House in Church Street. When these houses were first built, most residents worked in the steam laundry, skin mill, the tanneries or Reeds Paper Mill, all local to the area. The focal points of the road were the two small shops on either corner, now demolished, one an off licence and general stores called Fremlins, and old Lady Harris' sweet and tobacconist shop. There is then a small row of pretty cottages named Spring Place which also were originally workers cottages.

Further along would have been the swimming pool. In the 1930s Godalming briefly had its very own open-air swimming pool between Catteshall Lane and the River. This was built by the unemployed men of Godalming under the guidance of 'Ginger'

Alderman Albert Haskell, past Mayor of the town. Funds were donated by the townspeople and a total of £2,000 (£141,000 in today's money) was given and sometime in the 1930's the pool was built.



RFD buildings

*Reproduced with kind permission of Godalming Museum*



The area in 2020

*Photo: © Pam Talbot*

However, the area was plagued by mosquitoes and in the build up to the second world war the site was sold to RFD for the manufacture of barrage balloons and emergency equipment. The company used the pool to test dinghies and emergency escape slides.

The RFD site was given over to housing in the early 2000's.

Opposite what was once the RFD factory stood the old Stone Keeper's Cottage which was lived in by the Marshall family's gamekeeper. Although the building was clearly isolated it displayed a notice on a painted board of 'Ancient Lights' or a Right to Light.

The next large building would have been the hosiery factory. Wool working was the main occupation for centuries in Godalming. The firm of G Holland's Fleecy and Segovia Hosiery



was in production from 1788. However, in 1885 the Godalming Sanitary Steam Laundry began to share the premises and in 1890 G Holland moved out and the laundry gained sole possession right up to the 1970's. It was a considerable employer in the town.

A little way along and facing you is the Ram Cider House. In the 1950s this delightful 16th Century building was a house selling cider. Converted to a pub shortly after, with two snugs along with a larger bar, it became a mecca for cider drinkers for some 45 years, a feature was the apple trees which included plantings from the National Cider Collection. Sadly, for some, it closed in 1999 and was converted back to a private house.



The Ram when a public house

*Reproduced with kind permission of Godalming Museum*

Despite its name, it has nothing to do with sheep, but is named after a ram pump which pumps water up the hill from a natural spring. The pump is now enclosed in a glass case. The water was very popular with locals as it was crystal clear.

As you turn into Catteshall Road, immediately on your right is Carnival House. This house was constructed in 1924 when money was raised, via a prize draw, for Carnival Week. Tickets were 2 shillings and 6 pence each (approximately £7.45 in today's

money). It was built by tradesmen of the town and was valued at £400. The lucky winner was Mrs Mackay, whose family were proprietors of the Blacksmiths and Riding School in Pound Lane. You then make your way again on to Catteshall Road and next come across a large handsome house on the left. This is Catteshall Grange, once known as the Mill House or the Blockhouse. It is a Grade II listed building.



*Photo: © Pam Talbot*

The Mill Medical Practice follows on from this on your right-hand side. These buildings have had a variety of uses in the past. Catteshall was probably one of the three Godalming mills listed in the Domesday survey of 1086. However, the first specific reference to the mill is dated 1300 when it was occupied by Robert atte Mulle. At that time, it would have been a corn mill but before 1360 this was joined by a fulling mill, where locally-woven woollen cloth was shrunk and thickened. Corn milling continued until the 1830s. It was then replaced by papermaking, this was the situation when John Sweetapple and Joseph Chandler, both Quakers, purchased the mill in 1782.

The mill was taken over by a branch of the Spicer family and eventually, in 1907, Albert E Reed acquired and operated it until 1928. It then lay idle until 1939 when it became Blackburn's foundry and engineering works. Later some of the buildings were demolished, some became works units, and some have been converted for office and residential use.

There is Sweetapple House now situated at the corner of Catteshall Road and Meadow built in 1875.

Catteshall Lock sits next to the Mill and is the first lock on the Godalming Navigation. From here you can see the ancient Lammas lands – historic common land on the floodplain, where ownership was marked by dole stones, two of which remain today.

The Godalming Navigation was a working waterway until the late 1960s, and despite the nature of old photographs of barges being drawn by horses with men leisurely walking alongside, time lost opening and closing locks and weirs was crucial to the economy of the canals.



Farncombe boat house © Jacqui Jones

The Boat House would have been home to the Lock Keeper a vital part of the waterway's economy. Traditionally, on this waterway, each lock-keeper maintained the water levels belonging to his length. Over time, the

role of lock-keeper has evolved into that of lengthsmen, since locks are no longer staffed.

At one point according to the 1874 map of the area there was a Recreation Ground on the banks of the river fronted by workers cottages. These would also have been inhabited by the local workforce.

Reaching Meadow, you can take a left turn back into Godalming or a right turn towards Guildford. This is where our Catteshall Stroll ends.

*Information assembled from:*

*Surreyarcheology.org.uk, Memories of Farncombe and Godalming,  
Devised and edited by David Coombs -The Godalming Trust,  
Wikipedia, The National Archives, and the National Trust.*

Edwina Young  
March 2020

## **Harry Stevens: The Local Forgotten Soldier Killed in WW1**

Surrey Heritage Day was held on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2019. St. Peters Church in Hascombe was displaying local history items, archives and photographs. Among a list of soldiers killed during both World Wars was a name, 'HARRY STEVENS' and a note which read: '*no other information is available about this man.*'

Because I know of a family called Stevens that lived about the Hascombe area and in fact an Arthur Stevens who worked alongside my father in the nearby hamlet of Thorncombe Street in the 1950's. So I contacted Arthur's daughter, Ms Brenda Stevens, who told me Harry was her uncle and had died towards the end of WW1 aged only 18 years.

With a few more family details I contacted a Ms. Marlene Dance in Canada who can expertly work with Ancestry, Historical and Military records and she produced these amazing facts and details about this '*Lost & Forgotten Soldier*' killed 101 years ago.

Harry Stevens; his real name was Henry Charles Stevens (HCS), but known as 'Harry' all his life by everyone. He was the eldest of 5 brothers and a sister to parents Kate and Henry who was an Agricultural Labourer living in Pear Tree Green in Dunsfold. He later lived and worked as a Gamekeeper for Joseph Godman on The Park Hatch Estate, Loxhill, Nr Hascombe.

HCS was born in 1899 and baptised in St. Marys and All Saints church in Dunsfold on 21<sup>st</sup> May 1899.

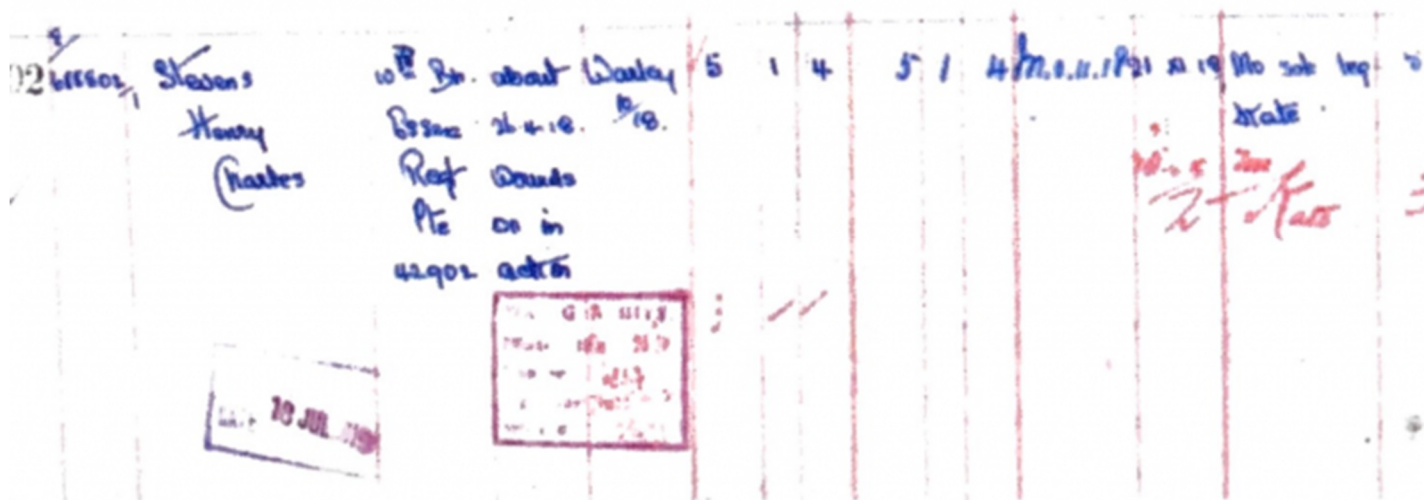
There is no written record or date of his 'Call to Arms' but he enlisted in Guildford, and entered The Bedfordshire Regt., service No. 10638. He later transferred to The Essex Regt. 10<sup>th</sup>



Battalion, service No. 42902, and went to war in the trenches of The Somme.

Pte. HCS was killed-in -action in Flanders, France on 26<sup>th</sup> April 1918 aged 18yrs.

Pte. 42902 Henry Charles Stevens Essex Regt. Burial and 'final resting place' is The Pozieres Memorial, Pozieres, Departement de la Somme, Picardie, France. His name, **STEVENS H C**, is carved on the monument, panels 51 and 52



The above document shows that HCS's personal effects were returned to his mother Mrs. Kate Stevens.

It is hoped that the information and documentation on Pte. Henry Charles Stevens will be accepted by the authorities and this young man's sacrifice will be recognised and his story can be told during the Service of Remembrance on Sunday 10 November 2019 in Hascombe so long after his death. It would also show our gratitude to the Stevens family for the loss of their eldest son who gave his life for his country. R.I.P.

*By Brenda Stevens, Andrew Kirk and Marlene Dance  
(Marlene Dance is an expert in Ancestry, Historical & Military records)*