

The Godalming Trust



Annual Report 2012/13

Registered Charity Number 263033

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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 Graham Firth 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 Review of the Year

The trust year that ended in March 2013 was the busiest that I can remember. Every committee member worked hard during the year to very good effect. Members of the Trust may recall that, at the last AGM, I reported that your committee intended to improve communications during the year both internally and with the public. This has been done.

We have produced a new leaflet about the work of the Trust that includes an application to join. Under the direction of Pam Talbot, this was produced in full colour to a design by Marshall Design of Godalming. The leaflet replaces the previous one which was in black and white. Members were sent a copy of the new leaflet with our previous newsletter. The leaflet was also enclosed in a Godalming edition of the Surrey Advertiser and resulted in some new members joining the Trust.

Our website was redesigned by Chamberlain Design, again a Godalming organisation. This is now much more attractive including photographs of Godalming and updates on Trust walks and other activities. Members of the public can now join the Trust simply on the website with no need for a paper application. Jacqui Springsguth maintains and updates the website. We have also improved our Facebook site with the help of Graham Firth and now receive "likes" from as far away as the USA! Another innovation is our membership of TiCL. This is a 'phone "app" and works by telling visitors to Godalming who address the app. the activities, such as walks and Heritage Open Day events that the Trust is running in Godalming at that moment. There was a substantial cost involved in these updates which will be seen in our accounts and mentioned in the Treasurer's report. But we consider it money well spent.

Heritage Open Days which we organise jointly with Stephen and Jeni Goddard is the major event of our year. In 2012 the number of properties open was similar to the previous year. However walks organised during the two days have proved so popular that we organised an additional new walk along Meadow led by our historic buildings expert committee member Dr James Anderson. We hope further to expand the walks in 2013. We estimate the annual attendance at the various properties and events that we organise over the two day period at around 1500 people. We are grateful to Godalming Town Council for the use of the Pepperpot over the Heritage weekend and for their meeting the full cost of the printed programme.

Regular walks led by Pam Talbot were held once a month in the summer. Pam's report is elsewhere in this annual report. Similarly Jacqui Springsguth has reported here on the activities of our busy planning committee and Roger Edwards on the joint lecture programme and lunch held with Godalming Museum.

Following the approval of members at last year's AGM, subscriptions were increased during the year. Every member received a personalised form to send to his or her bank. We are grateful to members who have almost all completed and sent in the forms to their banks. We had feared that the change of subscription would cause large numbers of members to resign but, in the event, we only lost two or three.

The difficult decision was taken during the year to resign from Civic Voice. The Godalming Trust belonged to Civic Voice's predecessor organisation, the Civic Trust, for many years. But the cost of belonging to the Civic Trust was only around £100 per year whilst Civic Voice cost in excess of £400. Whilst we agree entirely with the aims of Civic Voice we did not receive any discernible benefits from membership and, with great reluctance, decided to resign.

About twelve months ago we were told by Waverley Council that they proposed to produce a Conservation Area Appraisal for the Godalming Conservation Area. English Heritage requires councils to appraise the situation of all conservation areas from time to time. Some years ago Waverley produced an excellent detailed appraisal of the Farnham Conservation Area so that, when Waverley invited the Godalming Trust to participate in the Godalming appraisal, we were delighted. Committee member Dr James Anderson not only holds a doctorate in historic buildings but was also an adviser to English Heritage. He has participated in a number of Conservation Area Appraisals so we knew that his contribution would be valuable.

Waverley then produced a first draft of the appraisal. This contained a number of errors of fact but was also very brief. We pointed out to Waverley the errors. We also suggested that there were substantial omissions from the document making it inadequate as a useful appraisal. We suggested additions and proposed that input from a number of Godalming residents with specialised knowledge of the town and of its buildings would produce a much more useful document. However Waverley explained that they did not have the resources to produce an appraisal on the scale of the one we suggested.

They offered the Godalming Trust the opportunity to write a section on the history of the town but were not prepared to make any other changes to the document as already drafted. We then felt that we could be of no further assistance and reluctantly withdrew from consultation on the document.

Considerable residential development is now taking place and is planned in and around the town. The Linden Homes development of around 140 homes is well under way in Catteshall Lane and it seems as though work will start shortly on the Key Site development. Whilst we are reasonably happy with the planning and architecture of these developments we are very concerned with the impact on traffic in Catteshall Lane. Already the delays for residents wanting to leave the area in the rush hour are unacceptable. With the new developments the situation will worsen. We are hoping that Surrey Highways will find the funds to improve traffic management in Catteshall Lane. Similarly the proposed development on the Milford Hospital site will cause serious traffic problems in Tuesley Lane. No adequate solution to these problems has been proposed. We have, however, had informal discussions with some of those involved to see what solutions can be found.

We are looking forward to another good year in 2013/14. We will have new buildings open for Heritage Open Days and hope to have an old fire engine on display outside the old fire station in Queen Street. We shall continue to scrutinise and comment where necessary on all planning applications involving Godalming and Farncombe. Our great concerns for the coming year are the worsening traffic problems and the new Waverley Local Plan. This Plan has not yet been agreed with the government Inspector and it must be if the green spaces in Waverley are to be protected. We will be doing our best to help resolve these issues in the coming year.

I would like to thank the committee for all their hard work this year and to thank you, the members, for continuing to support The Godalming Trust.

Angus Palmer
Chairman

Income and Expenditure Statement

1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013

Income:	<u>2012/13</u>	<u>2011/12</u>
Subscriptions	£1,300.39	£1252.00
Gift Aid tax refund	-	323.80
Donations	700.96	231.65
Paypal Verification	0.31	-
Bank Interest	15.82	20.31
Council Grant for Heritage Days	964.80	1370.00
Sales of Publications	175.04	185.80
Total Income	<u>£3,157.32</u>	<u>£3,383.56</u>
Expenditure:		
Insurance	£245.00	£245.00
Civic Voice Subscription	406.50	436.50
Printing, Postage & Secretarial	363.13	204.25
Subs to Other Societies	90.00	70.00
Design Awards	195.05	250.00
Heritage Days	964.80	1436.75
Website Design	410.00	-
Design, Printing & Distribution of new Membership Leaflet	1,242.00	-
Printing of Annual Report, Newsletter & Subscription Letter	249.60	191.30
Band Sponsorship	200.00	200.00
Hire of Hall for AGM	60.00	-
Other Events	100.72	201.84
Total Expenditure	<u>£4,526.80</u>	<u>£3,235.64</u>
(Deficit) Surplus for year:	(£1,369.48)	£147.92
Bank balances start of year	£13,081.11	£12,933.19
Bank balances end of year	<u>£11,711.63</u>	<u>£13,081.11</u>

Colin Venton – Hon. Treasurer and Trustee

Angus Palmer – Chairman and Trustee

10th July 2013

Treasurer's Report

Last year we embarked on some expensive initiatives and this is reflected in our accounts for the year 2012-2013.

Firstly, we updated our website as it was felt it was rather dated and had not kept pace with technological changes. Members are now able to donate or apply using PayPal. It also looks more attractive.

Secondly, with the retirement of our secretary last September there was a need to alter the membership application form and the committee decided to completely update it in order to make it more appealing. The distribution of it in the Surrey Advertiser incurred further costs but did result in people applying to become members.

With the rise in the costs of membership and a quieter financial year I am confident that our finances will quickly recover.

Membership Report

It is always with regret that I have to report the passing of members and we have recently heard that Mr O Ali-Shah and Mr D C St Clair-Stannard have died.

With the new design of the membership leaflet the committee decided to enclose the leaflet in the Surrey Advertiser along with the hope that the newspaper would write an article featuring us and our work. Although the article didn't materialise the distribution did have an effect and we have had a number of people apply to become members of The Godalming Trust. We currently have 85 single members, 200 family members, 3 corporate members and 117 life members which is an increase on last year.

At the request of some members we have put the secretary's name and contact details on the newsletter and this has resulted in more communication sorting out queries and the learning of e-mail addresses.

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 history walks and when the tickets for visits to properties for the Heritage Weekend are available. 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. We promise not to bombard you with e-mails!

I must apologise to new members that after applying for membership they have not received any further communication from us and the committee have recognised that we need to develop a welcome pack for members. Please be assured that new members who have applied in recent months will shortly receive a pack.

Heritage Open Days 2013

Heritage Open Days in 2013 will be on Saturday September 14th and Sunday September 15th. Your committee, working with Stephen and Jeni Goddard, have secured some new properties open to the public for the first time this year.

Minton Cottage at the junction of Mint Street and Station Road is a 16th century cottage of great interest. For the first time the Masonic Hall opposite the Inn on the Lake will be opening its doors. There will be masons on hand to talk about their services.

Some of the old favourites will be open too. The Lutyens designed Red House owners have kindly agreed to let a group tour and the fascinating Unitarian Church in Meadow will be open. The chapel at Eashing cemetery has been refurbished and rededicated and will be open.

We are hoping that on the Sunday the old fire station in Queen Street will be open with an exhibition of fire fighting related items and one or two old fire engines should be parked outside the station.

There are more walks than ever including Canon Mervyn Roberts ghost walks, James Anderson's learned walk along Meadow, a walk around places connected with Jack Phillips and Stephen Goddard's well informed walks around the town.

Some events and walks are ticketed. These will be available in the museum from 10:00am on August 24th limited to four tickets per person per property. But a record number of tickets will be available, over 250 for the buildings alone.

Godalming Heritage Walks

Following the successful relaunch of the Godalming Heritage walks in 2012 it was decided to continue in 2013. It was apparent from last year that it was best to avoid other events in the town centre like the festivals so some walks were arranged for Sunday this year. The first walk in April was blessed with fine weather and a number of people from further afield interested to know more about the town following articles in the national press. The May walk by contrast was bitterly cold and a small stoic group took part. In June the walk took place on Sunday and the opportunity was taken to look at the coaching inns and pubs along the High Street and Bridge Street rather than Godalming's industrial heritage. The July walk unfortunately clashed with the Men's Tennis Final at Wimbledon and was cancelled due to lack of support. We hope that the walk on 3rd August will be well attended. In September walks will be part of the Heritage Open Weekend on 14 and 15th and the final walk of this year will be on Sunday 6th October starting at 2.30pm from the Pepperpot.

In addition to the programme of walks we were asked if we could lead a walk for a local company, Balfour Beatty Construction Services UK, this was part of their sustainability month. We did this as a short lunchtime walk and it was attended by 10-12 people. If there is interest from other groups we will consider doing this in the future.

We hope to continue the walks in 2014 and the programme will be published early in the New Year. We are grateful to Hugh Turrall-Clarke and Stephen Goddard for leading the walks.

If you would like any information on the walks please contact Pam Talbot (pamtalbot@clara.co.uk)

Godalming Trust and Godalming Museum Events

Wanborough Barn was the venue for the Summer Lunch. VIP guests were the Mayor of Godalming and the Mayoress of Waverley. The lunch was well attended and the Mayor of Godalming paid tribute to the volunteers who ensure this annual feast is prepared and enjoyed. The Barn dates from 1388 and was used for sheep shearing and storing of the fleeces. During WWII the Manor House and Barn were used by SOE operations and for training their agents

THE 2013 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE GODALMING TRUST WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2013 AT THE OCTAGON, BOROUGH ROAD, GODALMING AT 8 PM.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Approval of Minutes of the 2012 Annual General Meeting.
3. Chairman's Remarks.
4. Adoption of Annual Report for 2012/2013.
5. Adoption of Statement of Receipts and Payments for the period 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013.
6. Election of Members of the Executive Committee for 2013/14. Existing members of the Committee are willing to stand for re-election.
7. Any Other Business.

A member wishing to propose another for membership of the Executive Committee should send notice to the Honorary Secretary 14 days before the meeting.

Following the business of the meeting there will be a talk by the Architectural Historian of the Society for the Preservation of Ancient Buildings (SPAB).

Wine and soft drinks will be served after the meeting and talk.

The Godalming Trust is a Registered Charity No. 263033 and the Website is www.thegodalmingtrust.org.uk

If you have any queries please contact the editor
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