

The Godalming Trust



Annual Report 2014/15

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 Caroline Hopkins Gareth Munro Jacqui Springsguth Colin Swait
Planning Committee	James Anderson – Chairman Gareth Munro Colin Swait Keith Powell – co-opted
Civic Design Awards Committee	Gareth Munro – Chairman James Anderson Colin Swait (Two further co-opted members in 2016)

Chairman's Review of the Year

The year to March 2015 was both busy for your Trust and also was a year of change. Tony Gordon-Smith stepped down from the committee after many years of contribution to our success. Following elections to the town and Borough Councils his civic responsibilities have further increased, making him unable to make as big a contribution to the Trust as he would wish. We would like to thank him for his work as a committee member. However we are pleased to say that he has agreed to continue to advise the Trust on an informal basis.

Our two new committee members have settled in and are making major contributions. Caroline has a particular interest in informing children of our town's great heritage. She has organized for several schools in the town to distribute to all pupils copies of this year's Heritage Open Days programme. This will give us valuable added publicity. Caroline's partner Gareth has a keen interest in the architecture of the town and has agreed to chair our Civic Awards sub-committee. The local company, of which they are both directors – Munro Studios, has agreed to sponsor this year's Heritage Open Days programme.

Development continues in the town. Elsewhere in this report, Dr James Anderson will bring you up to date with all the various projects taking place. Your committee continues to be very concerned by the lack of investment in infra-structure that should be happening alongside these residential developments. We are considering what we can do to urge and encourage investment in improved traffic management and other infra-structure improvements.

The loss of buildings in the town that provide employment is another major concern. The offices and industrial premises, particularly along Catteshall Lane, provide local employment. This should mean short commuting journeys for local people and less traffic on the roads. Where these employment opportunities are replaced by yet more residential units the traffic and inconvenience can only increase. The future of the Old Fire Station in Queen Street is not yet decided. This building is flimsily built, is of no architectural importance and is now

unfit for purpose. But we would prefer to see it replaced by premises offering employment, rather than yet more residential units. Elsewhere in this report we look forward to Heritage Days on September 12th and 13th. This year is the twentieth anniversary of the first Heritage Open days in Godalming. On that first occasion just four buildings were opened. They were Munstead Wood with its Gertrude Jekyll garden; Ladywell Convent; the Red House, also by Lutyens, and Westbrook whose architect was Hugh Thackeray Turner. We are pleased to say that Ladywell and the garden of Westbrook will be open this year – both by ticket only. Munstead Wood and the Red House we were unfortunately unable to persuade to open this year. However Munstead Wood does occasionally open its garden on weekdays to groups and from time to time the owners of the Red House allow us to visit.

There are only two Grade I listed buildings in Godalming. St Peter and St Paul Church is always on our Heritage programme. The other Grade I building is the Wyatt's Almshouses built and run since 1622 by the Worshipful Company of Carpenters. Over the years we have tried several times to gain admission for at least one small group for Heritage Open Days to the chapel of the almshouses, but have never been successful. However we understand that the Carpenters can no longer afford the upkeep of the almshouses and they are to be sold. We very much regret the loss of a connection to Godalming that is almost four hundred years old but perhaps the new owners will afford us the opportunity to see inside this historic building.

However there will be several new buildings in the programme this year. We were approached by St Marys Chiddingfold who asked to be part of our Godalming programme. Also staff of the architecturally interesting main building of Barrow Hills School in Witley will be conducting guided tours of the building on the Heritage Saturday. So with the recent addition of the churches in Hascombe and Hambledon we have continued the spread of our programme outside Godalming town.

There is a report on conducted walks elsewhere in this programme. But I should just like to say that we are always ready for a challenge and when we were asked to conduct a tour for a French group from our twin town Joigny the walk was ably led by Hugh Turrall-Clarke.

Hugh has now produced a guide to the town in French which will be of value to French visitors in future.

Our current year has started well and we look forward to a successful 2015/16. I would like to thank all our committee members for their hard work and also to thank you, the members, for making it all possible.

Angus Palmer
Chairman

The Godalming Trust
Receipts and Payments Statement
1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015

Receipts:	2014/15	2013/14
Subscriptions	£1,609.09	£1,418.00
Donations	£244.00	£552.00
Film Show Profit	£216.00	£30.00
Gift Aid Refund	£710.84	£0.00
Bank Interest	£171.65	£193.58
Town Council Grant - Heritage	£1,000.00	£994.40
Heritage Open Days sponsorship	£250.00	£0.00
Sales of publications	£107.20	£104.80
Total Receipts	£4,308.78	£3,292.78
 Payments		
Insurance	£238.50	£238.50
Postage and stationary	£20.00	£104.36
Subs to other societies	£91.00	£89.00
Design Award Sponsorship	£250.00	£0.00
Heritage Open Days	£1,332.80	£1,129.87
Website	£49.00	£49.00
Newsletter Printing	£92.80	£0.00
Band Sponsorship	£200.00	£200.00
Other Events/AGM costs	£40.00	£16.29
Museum sponsorship	£0.00	£25.00
Total payments	£2,314.10	£1,852.02
 Surplus for year	 £1,994.68	 £1,440.76
 Bank balances start of year	 £13,152.39	 £11,711.63
 Bank balances end of year	 £15,147.07	 £13,152.39

Colin Venton - Hon Treasurer and Trustee
Angus Palmer - Chairman and Trustee
26th July 2015

Treasurer's Report

Financially this has been another good year for The Trust and we have managed to increase our surplus from last year. Our bank accounts are now in a very healthy state, so much so, that recently we have been able to move money from our current account into our interest earning deposit account.

The Film Show that was enabled by The Godalming Photographic Society earned us a profit of nearly £250 which isn't shown clearly in our accounts as some of the ticket sales happened in the previous financial year. Our deposit account interest has declined in common with all other deposit account rates but seems to be stable at the moment and despite looking around is the best that we can obtain at present. For the first time we received sponsorship for the Heritage Open Days and we must thank Hamptons for their generosity in doing this. The Godalming Town Council continue to support our work for the Heritage Open Days by awarding us a substantial grant which is amazing considering the considerable financial constraints that councils are under these days.

Sales of our publications continue to do well and this year sales matched fairly closely what we sold last year. However, our two outlets have been Godalming Museum and Squires Garden Centre at Milford and Squires have told us that they only want to sell publications with barcodes on them. As the cost of putting on barcodes is pretty prohibitive we will only be able to sell them at the Museum.

The other income that has increased our finances substantially has been the Gift Aid tax refund and I would encourage all our members to sign up for Gift Aid as it enables us to claim up to 25% for all membership fees.

Our outlays this year have remained very much the same except that your committee decided to give Waverley Borough Council a £250 donation towards the cost of the Waverley Design Awards.

Membership Report

We currently have 84 single members, 194 family members, 2 corporate members and 112 life members making a grand total of 392 members which is roughly the same number as last year.

We have e-mail addresses for about a quarter of our membership which is a very effective way of communicating with our members and the proportion of e-mail addresses is slowly rising. Please let us know if you feel we don't have your e-mail address.

I would like to thank members for continuing to support the work of the Godalming Trust and a special thank you to those members who give over and above the membership fee.

Housing in Godalming – An Update

Last year I wrote an article which considered a number of housing developments, either underway or proposed, in the Godalming area. This year I am updating the position and reviewing the more significant recent planning applications.

The revised Waverley local plan has not yet been finalised, but in September 2014, Waverley Borough Council issued a consultation paper, 'Makingwaves', setting out various alternative options and inviting feedback from local residents and other interested parties. The paper envisaged four scenarios, each of which allocated 1,050 new homes to Godalming, but three of the suggestions could have a considerable impact on Godalming and its local villages because they involved the development of Dunsfold Aerodrome. Options ranged from 1,800 homes to 3,400.

A previous application for housing development at Dunsfold was turned down on the grounds that the local infrastructure, particularly roads, was inadequate. However, a Government paper issued in July

2015, 'Fixing the Foundations: Creating a more prosperous nation,' stresses the importance of building a substantial number of new houses, and suggests that applications on brownfield land, which Dunsfold is, will receive almost automatic approval. In late June this year Dunsfold Airport Limited submitted a Request for Scoping Opinion regarding the proposed development of 1,800 dwellings, a village centre with community facilities and a primary school, as well as an expansion of the existing business park. Waverley Borough Council's response is awaited with interest.

Two major schemes were singled out last year, the redevelopments of Würth House and Anvil Park in Catteshall Lane and the Flambard Way Key Site. The former, which comprises 147 dwellings in landscaped grounds. is now substantially complete with few homes remaining unsold. Construction work on the latter, now named Prime Place, is well underway with completion expected in April 2016. This will provide thirty five town houses and 102 apartments.

In addition there are a number of other medium and large projects currently being built.

Leithfield Park, on the Milford Hospital site, is being developed by David Wilson Homes, and comprises a total of 120 homes including forty eight affordable homes. Construction here is well underway. Land previously owned by Godalming College is being developed by Bovis Homes. This will provide forty six homes including fourteen affordable homes, with its entrance onto Ashstead Lane. Waverley Borough Council is building fourteen affordable homes on the former car park in Station Road, Godalming. Work had not started last year because of the discovery on the site of a number of medieval skeletons, but these have now been removed and construction is proceeding apace. The McCarthy & Stone redevelopment of the site

occupied by First Church of Christ Scientist in Ockford Road, providing thirty four retirement homes and a new smaller church and reading room, has recently started.

In June 2015, an outline application was submitted for the redevelopment of Woodside Park, Catteshall Lane, currently a trading estate occupied by a number of small concerns. The application is for the erection of 87 dwellings and a building for community use at ground level, with possible office use or further flats above. Godalming Trust has expressed its reservations about this proposal not only because of yet more traffic using Catteshall Lane, but also by the loss of commercial space in the town.

An application, still pending, relating to the development of fifty dwellings on land adjacent to Furze Lane, Farncombe by Croudace Homes Limited, has been widely criticised mainly on the grounds of the risk of exacerbating the flood risk on neighbouring land.

Although Godalming appears to be online to meet its housing target, Godalming Trust is still very concerned that the number of new residents will put even more strain on the local infrastructure. Traffic, particularly in Catteshall, is now particularly slow moving, especially in the early mornings and evenings and this is not being adequately addressed by Surrey County Council Highways department.

James Anderson

Chairman – Godalming Trust Planning Sub-committee

“ASK THE MEMBERS”

The objects of The Godalming Trust as set out in its constitution are:

The Society is established for the public benefit for the following purposes in the area comprising Godalming and parishes contiguous thereto which area shall hereinafter be referred to as “the area of benefit”.

- (a) To promote high standards of planning and architecture in or affecting the area of benefit
- (b) To educate the public in the geography, history, natural history and architecture of the area of benefit
- (c) To secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features of historic or public interest in the area of benefit.

The trust satisfies object (a) by having a planning sub-committee which examines all planning applications relating to the “area of benefit” that come before Waverley Borough Council. The sub-committee writes to Waverley where it believes proposed new developments are not of a sufficiently high standard. The Trust’s Civic Design Awards also promote high standards.

Object (b) is satisfied by running Heritage Open Days annually and by the past publication and current sale of “walks” booklets describing the buildings of the town and the natural history of the Lammas Lands.

The Trusts planning sub-committee helps to satisfy object (c) However members of the Trust are increasingly concerned by the growth of residential building in the town unaccompanied by commensurate improvements in infra-structure. The Executive Committee feels that, particularly in the light of changing planning laws, its opposition to new residential development falls on deaf ears. However there is a proposal before the Executive Committee at the moment to spend up to £3000 on a

traffic survey of Catteshall Lane where traffic problems are particularly acute. The survey, with possible solutions, would be given to Surrey Highways to encourage them to address the traffic problems in that area.

The Executive Committee now seeks members views on the direction the trust should take.

Are we satisfying the objects for which the Trust was set up? Can we and should we do more to oppose residential development? Is the proposed traffic survey a sensible use of the Trust's funds?

Members who would like to speak to this agenda item at the AGM are requested to register with the secretary in writing or to info@thegodalmingtrust.co.uk, before the meeting. Each member will be given the opportunity to speak to the meeting for up to three minutes

Heritage Open Days 2015

Heritage Open Days in 2015 will be on Saturday September 12th and Sunday September 13th. Your committee, working with Stephen and Jeni Goddard, have secured some new properties open to the public for the first time this year.

2015 is the 50th Anniversary of the Godalming Trust and also the 20th year Godalming has taken part in Heritage Days. Four properties opened in 1995, Ladywell Convent, Munstead Wood, The Red House and Westbrook and we are pleased to say that two of them are open this year.

Prior's Field School is open this year and guided tours are available but must be booked directly with the school on their website, www.priorsfieldschool.com or call 01483 810551. For further details see the programme.

Barrow Hills School/Great Roke with gardens originally laid out by Gertrude Jekyll is a newcomer this year.

Shackleford and Peper Harrow with churches by George Gilbert Scott

and Augustus Pugin with a two mile walk through the two villages is led by Shackleford Village Organisation (details in the programme)

St Mary's Church, Chiddingfold is also offering guided tours and a display of its treasures and is a Grade One medieval church.

There are walks including Canon Mervyn Roberts gory ghost walks on Saturday at 4.00 pm aimed at children and 7.00pm for a more adult audience, and Stephen Goddard's well informed walks around the town lasting about 1.5 hours on Saturday & Sunday starting at 10.30 am.

Some events and walks are ticketed. These will be available in the museum from 10:00am on Saturday August 15th limited to four tickets per person per property.

Godalming Town Walks 2014 - 2015

The 2014 season of walks were well supported and the weather was mainly kind to us. We have refined the programme and found that it is best to do the walk on the second Saturday of the summer months. This avoids clashes with town event which tend to be on the first Saturday. People come from some distance to do the walks and the various publicity methods seem to be working well in attracting participants. We have also been asked to do several additional walks for various groups throughout the year .

For the 2015 programme we have decided to alternate the two distinct walks, we started with what we refer to as the 'Industrial history' and then do a walk down the High Street and Bridge Street. The season will end with the August walk which will cover the High Street and Godalming's role in the route to Portsmouth, but other walks will be part of the Heritage Weekend programme.

For more details of the programme or to arrange a walk for a group please contact Pam Talbot at pamtalbot@clara.co.uk.

Godalming Trust and Godalming Museum Events

The lecture programme for 2015/16 features “Godalming People with a View from the Top”

All lectures are held in the Octagon at the parish church 7:30 for 8:00pm. Tickets are £5 each and are available from the museum

2015

Friday October 30th: “House of Commons”. Rt. Hon. Jeremy Hunt MP

Wednesday November 11th. “ House of Lords”. The Baroness Parminter

2016

Friday January 29th. “The Law”. The Lord Toulson PC

Wednesday March 16th. “Education”. Richard Pleming MA Headmaster Charterhouse.

The Annual General Meeting of The Godalming Trust will be held in The Octagon at the parish church on Wednesday September 9th. 7:30pm for 8:00pm

Heritage Open Days this year will be on Saturday and Sunday September 12th and 13th. Tickets for this free event will be available from the Museum from 10:00am on Saturday August 15th.

THE 2015 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE GODALMING TRUST WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2015 AT THE OCTAGON, BOROUGH ROAD, GODALMING AT 8 PM.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Approval of Minutes of the 2014 Annual General Meeting.
3. Chairman's Remarks.
4. Adoption of Annual Report for 2014/2015.
5. Adoption of Statement of Receipts and Payments for the period 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015.
6. Election of Members of the Executive Committee for 2015/16. Existing members of the Committee are willing to stand for re-election.
7. "Ask the members" - Members of The Godalming trust are asked to comment on the future direction of the Trust. See the article elsewhere in this report
8. 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.

Wine and soft drinks will be served after the meeting

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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