

The Godalming Trust



Annual Report 2013/14

Registered Charity Number 263033

CONTENTS	PAGE
Officers and Committees	2
Chairman's Review of the Year	3
Receipts and Payments Statement	6
Treasurer's Report	7
Membership Report	7
New Housing in Godalming	8
Heritage Open Days	10
Godalming Heritage Walks	12
Events - Godalming Trust and Godalming Museum	12
AGM Agenda	14

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	James Anderson – Chairman Jacqui Springsguth 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 year to March 2014 was busy and successful for your Trust. Some of the activities that we undertook during the year are detailed elsewhere in this Annual Report. Pam Talbot has written about our walks programme; Roger Edwards has described the very enjoyable joint summer lunch with the museum and our Treasurer has reported on finances and membership.

However the activity that affects all of us the most and that will affect us for decades to come is the continuing development of our town. The chairman of our planning sub-committee, Dr James Anderson, reports on the planning applications relating to Godalming that have come before Waverley Borough Council in the last twelve months. These successful applications, together with the major developments already being built in Catteshall Lane, on the Key Site, in Station Road and elsewhere will add hundreds of houses to the town. From an architectural point of view we think that the developments and proposed developments are for the most part satisfactory. The blocks of flats on the Key Site will be up to five stories high. We would have preferred a maximum height of four stories, but at least the proposed nine story block did not receive planning approval.

But there are no substantial proposals to improve the infrastructure of the town to cope with the increase in traffic that these developments will bring. A couple of months ago your Chairman met with Steve Cosser, Surrey County Councillor for Godalming North and with the employee of SCC responsible for traffic management throughout Surrey. We were told that there are five sets of traffic lights in the town, all of which should be traffic actuated. That is to say induction loops buried in the road should be measuring the traffic flows and changing the light phasing to accommodate the weight of traffic. But, apparently, for three of the sets of lights the system isn't working. Drivers who have waited for a minute or more at the junction of Flambard Way and Brighton Road whilst no traffic emerges from Brighton Road will be familiar with the problem. Anyhow Steve and I extracted a promise that the traffic actuated systems would soon be repaired.

A full survey of traffic in Godalming would, I am sure, reveal other points where improved traffic management, perhaps new traffic lights, would smooth the flow of traffic. But we are advised that there is no money available in the foreseeable future for works of this kind. It is a puzzle to your Chairman that there is fifty billion pounds available to build a railway line to Birmingham and the north, whose cost may or may not be recovered over thirty years or so,

but not a few hundred thousand to be spent locally on improved traffic management. The cost of some modest improvements of that kind could well be recovered in a matter of months in petrol and driver's time saved. (Incidentally one can say "fifty billion" pretty quickly but that is fifty thousand million and it would buy three hundred thousand sets of traffic lights or fifty general hospitals or fifteen aircraft carriers)

Godalming Town Council and its town clerk Louise Goodfellow are now overseeing the preparation of a neighbourhood plan for Godalming. This is distinct from the Borough Plan prepared by Waverley, which was rejected by the Government inspector and which is now being rewritten. The neighbourhood plan is "community led". A number of members of the community in Godalming have joined one or more of six groups considering different aspects of our town and the way in which they would like to see the town develop. The six groups are considering Housing; Heritage and Design; Environment; Transport; Economy and Community and Infrastructure. Several members of the executive committee of The Godalming Trust have joined one or more of these six groups. Useful data is already emerging from the initial fact finding. The Transport Group for instance had a most illuminating discussion with a visually impaired individual. Some of his suggestions for making the town more pedestrian friendly may well be in the final plan.

It is some years since your committee organised an event other than Heritage Open days. However about twelve months ago we were approached by the Godalming Photographic Society. They said that they had an audio-visual presentation of historic photos of Godalming and would like to show it to our members. The show was called "Godalming Through Two Centuries". We put it on at the Wilfred Noyce Centre. Eighty-six members and guests came to see it and it proved a fascinating evening. Godalming Photographic Society charged us only a nominal sum for showing it, so that we made a profit on the evening. Our thanks go to Pam Talbot and her helpers for providing refreshments during the evening, as they also do at the AGM.

Pam Talbot reports elsewhere in this Annual Report on the guided walks that she organises. These are absolutely fascinating, led by expert guides and I would urge members who have not been on one to give it a try.

In the Spring newsletter I reported on the successful 2013 Heritage Open Days. Elsewhere in this report we look forward to the 2014 version with

several buildings open for the first time. Please make sure you get your tickets promptly for the ticketed visits.

I am sorry to have to notify members that Roger Edwards has said he will retire from the Executive Committee at the AGM in September. He has served the Trust for fourteen years and his contribution to our work will be greatly missed. We told you in our last report that Graham Firth had left the committee. Roger's impending departure means that the remaining committee members will be stretched to do everything that we need to do for the Trust.

Can you please think about becoming a committee member? We meet about every six weeks. Each committee member has individual responsibility for some aspect of what we do. We now need help for instance with the newsletters, and with our Facebook and other social media sites. We need help with admin of stewards and so forth on Heritage Open Days and with putting on small exhibitions in the Pepperpot during those days. If you think helping with one or more of those tasks would be interesting then please contact me.

Angus Palmer
Chairman

The Godalming Trust
Receipts and Payments Statement
1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014

Receipts:	2013/14	2012/13
Subscriptions	£1,418.00	£1,300.39
Donations	552.00	700.96
Film ticket sales	30.00	0.00
Paypal verification	0.00	0.31
Bank		
Interest	193.58	15.82
Town Council grant - Heritage	994.40	964.80
Sales of publications	104.80	175.04
Total Receipts	<u>£3,292.78</u>	<u>£3,157.32</u>
 Payments:		
Insurance	£238.50	£245.00
Civic Voice subscription	0.00	406.50
Printing postage and secretarial	104.36	363.13
Subs to other societies	89.00	90.00
Design Awards	0.00	195.05
Heritage Open Days	1,129.87	964.80
Website	49.00	410.00
Design printing and distribution of membership leaflet	0.00	1,242.00
Printing reports to members	0.00	249.60
Band sponsorship	200.00	200.00
Hire of hall for AGM	0.00	60.00
Other events	16.29	100.72
Museum sponsorship	25.00	0.00
Total payments	<u>£1,852.02</u>	<u>£4,526.80</u>
Surplus (Deficit) for year	£1,440.76	(£1,369.48)
Bank balances start of year	<u>£11,711.63</u>	<u>£13,081.11</u>
Bank balances end of year	<u>£13,152.39</u>	<u>£11,711.63</u>

Colin Venton - Hon Treasurer and Trustee
Angus Palmer - Chairman and Trustee
20th July
2014

Treasurer's Report

Financially, 2013-2014 has been a good year for The Godalming Trust. With a deficit last year of nearly £1,370 I am delighted to report that we have had a surplus this year of a few pence over £1,440 meaning that we have made a small increase in funds over the two years. Last year we undertook two major projects in updating our website and redesigning our membership leaflet. This year has been financially quieter and our efforts to limit costs and maximise our earning potential have borne fruit this year.

E-mailing members with our newsletters, annual report and notices has meant that our postage and stationary costs have been cut to just over £104.

Our back-up fund was earning a miserable rate of interest and when they put it down to 0.1% we decided to look elsewhere. We found the Virgin Money Charity Deposit Fund which gave us 2.6%. Unfortunately, that great rate of interest has been slowly declining and now sits at 1%, which is very much the standard on many accounts at the moment. The committee is monitoring the situation and if any suitable accounts arise with a better rate of interest we will go for it! We have earned £193 in interest this year compared to £15 previously.

Sales of our publications were down this year to £104 compared to the high of £175 last year but as you can see they continue to do well.

Colin Venton – Hon. Treasurer

Membership Report

Our membership continues to remain fairly stable in number with 86 single members, 202 family members, 3 corporate members and 117 life members making a grand total of 408.

I must thank members who continue to renew their subscription each year and in particular those who give over and above the annual subscription fee and those who have made substantial donations. Through you we are able to continue the work of The Godalming Trust.

Colin Venton – Hon. Treasurer

New Housing in Godalming – Progress to Date

Despite the generally agreed need for a substantial increase in the building of new housing units, especially in the South East of England, there is much discussion about where building should take place; particularly whether the redevelopment of so called brown sites within existing conurbations should be given priority over construction on green field sites on their periphery.

The Waverley Local Plan of August 2012 set a target of some 650 new units in Godalming in the fifteen years to 2027. This draft plan was rejected by the government inspector and is currently being revised with a view to being published in draft in November 2014 with adoption in October or November 2015.

Although the target for Godalming will be revised upwards, considerable progress has been made to date and some of the current and future schemes are considered further in this article.

As Godalming residents will be aware there are currently two major schemes presently under construction; the redevelopments of Würth House and Anvil Park in Catteshall Lane and the Flambard Way Key Site, which includes the former police station complex.

The first, named The Riverside, is being carried out by Linden Homes, and comprises 147 new housing units including a mix of detached and semi-detached homes and two bedroom apartments, set in landscaped grounds running down to the River Wey with views over the Lammas Lands. This development will include thirty seven affordable homes.

The second, being developed by Willmott Dixon, involves the building of thirty five houses and a further 102 apartments. The initial design for the Key Site was deemed inappropriate because the proposed new buildings were considered too dominant and likely to adversely affect the unique character of Godalming. Because of the cost of clearing the site and treating contaminated ground there, there is no provision for affordable housing on the Key Site, but

there is provision for this elsewhere provided the viability of the development is not compromised.

There are also a number of additional sites currently under construction, ranging from single homes to slightly larger developments such as land at the former Barco and Nantmore, Charterhouse Road (nine dwellings) and the row of derelict, former garages in The Oval, Farncombe (eight dwellings). The Priory Orchard and former car park site in Station Approach is earmarked for fourteen affordable dwellings, but progress was halted after site clearance following the discovery of a number of early medieval skeletons.

Planning permission has been granted for redevelopment on the Milford Hospital site. This would provide 104 new housing units together with the refurbishment of a number of extant buildings to create a further 16 units. This scheme initially came in for much local criticism, principally because of the risk of serious traffic congestion in the very narrow Tuesley Lane, but also because of the paucity of public transport serving the estate. These matters are being addressed.

A slightly contentious proposal is for building forty six new dwellings on Godalming College land. The College's objective is to raise capital to improve teaching facilities and to relocate its sports pitches to green belt land off Ashstead Lane. The application was initially refused, but subsequently overturned on appeal. As with the Milford Hospital proposal, there are local concerns about traffic congestion.

Waverley Borough Council has recently submitted a scheme for the redevelopment of a number of properties in Ockford Ridge. This would involve the demolition of sixty five existing dwellings and the creation of ninety nine new housing units. The rationale is that the current properties, which generally have large gardens, need expensive refurbishment to bring them up to acceptable standards, and that replacement by fifty per cent more new properties is a preferable alternative. The design and general layout of the area initially designated for redevelopment is of high quality, but Godalming Trust is concerned about the inevitable cost and inconvenience to current residents and has written accordingly to the planning authorities.

In June 2014, McCarthy & Stone submitted an application for the redevelopment of the site presently occupied by First Church of Christ Scientist in Ockford Road. The site was acquired by McCarthy & Stone earlier this year and the proposal is to create thirty four retirement homes and build a new, smaller church and reading room.

In late July 2014 Crown Hall Estates submitted an outline application for the erection of up to 119 affordable dwellings on land at Franklyn Road owned by F A Secrett Limited.

Whilst Godalming would appear to be on line to meet its new housing targets, more consideration will need to be given to the infrastructure improvements needed to support the new residents. School places will need to be provided and medical and dental services will have to cater for further patients. Traffic congestion in Godalming is already a problem, especially in the mornings and evenings and parking, particularly at Godalming and Farncombe railway stations, is presently difficult and further commuters will exacerbate this.

These are matters which are of concern to Godalming Trust and the Trust's planning sub-committee will, when commenting on specific applications, continue to bring any perceived shortcomings to the attention of the Waverley planning committee.

James Anderson

Chairman – Godalming Trust Planning Sub-committee

Heritage Open Days 2014

Enclosed with this Annual report please find a copy of the programme for Heritage Open Days 2014. The open days this year will be on Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th September. The programme is in a new format. Members will recall that previously we had an A3 folded sheet whereas the new format is a sixteen page booklet. This gives us more room to describe the events.

Members will also note no less than six illustrations by Stephen Goddard. These have all been produced especially for our programme and very special thanks are due to him for drawing them. We also need to thank Hamptons, Godalming's leading estate agents, for sponsoring the programme. In previous years the Town Council has also borne a large part of the cost of producing and distributing the programme and our thanks go to them for their very strong support.

Details of all the buildings open are in the programme. Members should note that one or two properties are only able to open every other year, so we will not be able to visit the Red House, or Eashing cemetery chapel, or the Unitarian Church this year. 3 Church Street is also unavailable. However we have no less than six properties open for the first time. Both Hascombe Church and Hambledon Church will be open. Both churches are fascinating and both of them will have a tour on the Saturday. We have been asked by the public for several years if the Old Mill in Mill Lane could be open to visitors and we have arranged it for this year, thanks to the tenants Drake and Kannemeyer. This firm of Surveyors has done much work for the town and an exhibition of their work will be shown in their offices. Please note that that is a Sunday only opening. There will be three ticketed tours of Ladywell Convent and four of the Meath Home, all on the Saturday. Finally the recently refurbished Three Lions pub in Farncombe will be open on the Saturday and Sunday. But if you can we suggest you get tickets for the Saturday or Sunday tour that will include the upstairs private areas of the building.

Two of the open buildings have important anniversaries this year. The Pepperpot will show an exhibition celebrating its 200 years. The Quaker meeting room will mark 300 years with an exhibition of "Witnessing for Peace on the Centenary of War".

Don't miss the bandstand concerts on both afternoons and the Weybridge Male Voice Choir in the parish church on the Saturday evening. If you haven't been on one of Canon Mervyn Roberts Gory Ghostly Walks then either the one for children or the one for adults is a must. Stephen Goddard's history walk will be thoroughly informative and the Morris Men will be performing around the town.

Many buildings do not require tickets. But where space is limited or there are guided tours tickets must be obtained in advance. These will be available from 10:00am on Saturday 23rd August at the Museum reception limited to four per person for any one venue. But there are more tickets than ever, with almost three hundred available in total this year.

Godalming Heritage Walks

We are on somewhat of a learning curve trying to find the best time for the town walks during the summer. In 2013 we held some on Saturday and some Sunday to avoid clashing with town fetes and festivals, but then there was Music in the Park and the Wimbledon Men's Singles Tennis Final! We held a walk each month from April through to October. In April it was almost too hot and by May we were wet and cold. A stalwart public supported the walks whatever the weather threw at them! Not only do people ask questions, but they sometimes have additional information about the history of the town. In addition to the monthly walks the Godalming Trust was asked by Balfour Beatty Construction Services UK to guide a lunchtime walk as part of their Sustainability Month. In late October about 20 of the Wandsworth over Fifty Activities Group arrived by train to for a Heritage Walk.

In 2014 we will settle for the second Saturday of each month from May until August, this mainly avoids other activities in the town and will fit in with the Heritage Open Days walks in September. We hope to continue the walks in 2015 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

Nurscombe Farm on Snowdenham Lane, Bramley was the venue for this year's Summer Lunch by kind permission of Jane Fairbanks, an invited guest along with the Mayors of Godalming and Waverley. The refurbished Big Barn, usually limited to 90, seated 194 diners enjoying the salmon and coronation chicken salad followed by strawberries and cream. The picturesque house and grounds were wonderful, as was the weather.

The Arts was the theme for the four Museum lectures and we sponsored a 'local interest' film show in the Wilfred Noyce Centre.

THE 2014 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE GODALMING TRUST WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 2014 AT THE OCTAGON, BOROUGH ROAD, GODALMING AT 8 PM.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Approval of Minutes of the 2013 Annual General Meeting.
3. Chairman's Remarks.
4. Adoption of Annual Report for 2013/2014.
5. Adoption of Statement of Receipts and Payments for the period 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014.
6. Election of Members of the Executive Committee for 2014/15. Roger Edwards who has been a member of the Executive for the last 14 years has decided to retire. Other 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 local Architect, Michael Edwards FRIBA renowned for his knowledge of Sir Edwin Lutyens and of building restoration.

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 acting editor
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