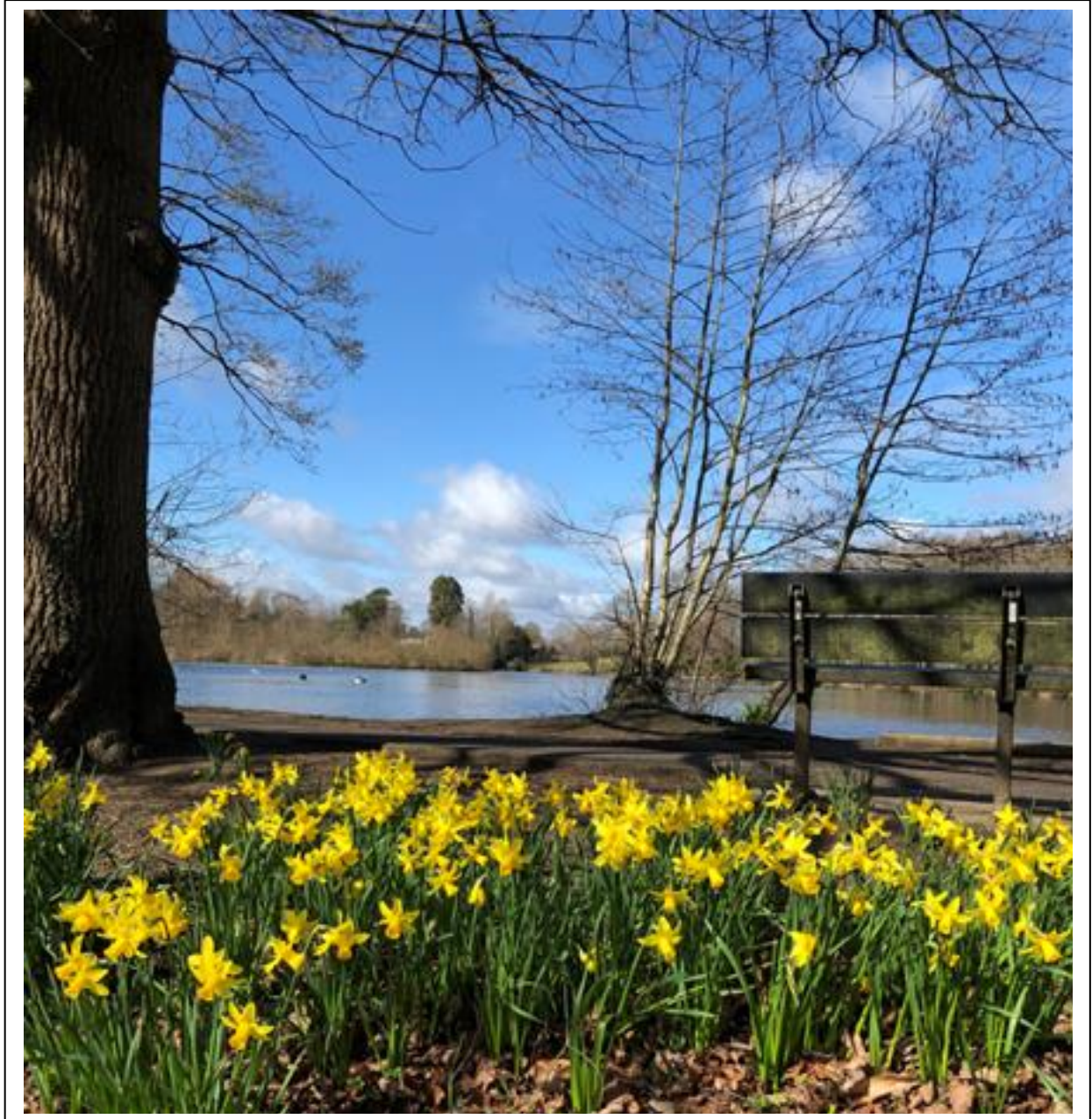


Spring Newsletter 2023

THE GODALMING TRUST



Broadwater Lake in March 2023

*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



Registered Charity No. 263033

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Officers and Committees 2022/2023

President
Vice Presidents

Christopher Robinson
Alan Brown
Ron Musk

Executive Committee

Pam Talbot – Chairman
Graham Kimber – Vice Chairman
David Else – Honorary Secretary
Richard Gidlow – Honorary Treasurer
Colin Swait
Alan Johnston

Planning Committee

Colin Swait – Chairman
Mike Poulter

Civic Design Awards
Committee

Colin Swait – Chairman
Pam Talbot

Heritage Open Days
Committee

Pam Talbot – Chairman
Colin Swait

Chairman's Introduction – Spring 2023

After a stop–start Spring, perhaps by the time you read this the weather will have settled down and the flowers will be at their peak. Certainly, the photos on the cover of this Newsletter taken at Broadwater Lake recently are a cheering sight.

The Committee and I are optimistic that our programme will go ahead as planned this year and dates are listed on page 9. In particular, 'save the date' for the AGM on 26 September 2023 please. More details will be available in the Annual Report and Newsletter which will be sent out in late August. The Heritage Open Days are on 16 and 17 September 2023.

Our summer guided town history walks in 2022 were well attended although the August walk was postponed until October due to the extreme heat warning. We had hoped that Heritage Open Days would go ahead as planned, but the death of HM Queen on 9 September resulted in a small number of events being cancelled. There was still a good variety of properties open and both Ladywell Convent and Franciscan Centre (newly opened in 2022) and Charterhouse were fully booked. An upsurge in Covid cases impacted our stewarding so this year we will need more volunteers to make sure we can keep the Pepperpot open and support those properties needing our help on the day.

I was sorry not to have been able to attend our AGM in September which our Vice Chairman chaired. I have subsequently been able to see the film on the Hindhead Tunnel which I hope you found as fascinating as I did. Bridget Bagnall stood down as Honorary Secretary, but we are grateful to David Else for taking on the role. Bridget was active in the planning and heritage sub committees as well as her role as Hon Secretary. We would like to thank her for all her support during her time on the committee.

Recently we sent out an email asking for more people to join the Executive Committee and we are now extending this plea, in this newsletter, to those who receive their information only by post. We are grateful to those who have responded so far and look forward to

exploring ways that they might help. If you have been thinking about volunteering but have not yet done so please do get in touch. There are many ways, no matter how limited your time may be, that you can help. We really do need more support to undertake the Trust's aims and objectives.

We should run our Civic Design Awards this year and if you have any suggestions of new buildings, renovations, extensions, environmental projects to consider please do let us know. The projects should have been undertaken since September 2021 and expect to be completed by August 2023. The pandemic and the subsequent delays in planning approvals and building may well mean that we will have to defer awards until 2024.

As we are going to press there has been an announcement that the plan to 'regenerate' Godalming town centre has been scrapped. The proposed project included building housing on Crown Court Car Park and a multi deck car park within the present Waverley Borough Council's site. WBC is now looking at sharing a site with Guildford Borough Council details yet to be announced.

Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Beauty Boundary Review, this area has not been reviewed since its inception in 1958 see <https://www.surrey-hills-aonb-boundary-review.org/welcome> for more details. There is also a campaign to make Surrey Hills a National Park and the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs of the United Kingdom has been invited to visit the area.

We would also like to hear from anyone who would like to contribute an article for the next Newsletter.

I would like to publicly thank all those who help the Godalming Trust with its various activities, Godalming Town Council, Godalming Museum, Vantage Point, Godalming Chamber of Commerce, the Masonic Hall, and all those people who open their properties for Heritage Open Days along with the members of the Executive Committee whose help is invaluable.

Treasurer's Report

Our finances are still healthy albeit we have now had expenditure that has exceeded income for three years in a row. In 2021 we had a small loss of £178, in 2022 it was £562 mainly as a result of the Website re-design. This year, 2023 it is looking like a loss of £805.

Again though, as in last year, there have been one off costs. This year the Leaflet was redesigned and reprinted at a cost of £474. We are now though having to pay an outside agency to maintain our website, which this year has cost £405. Funds were also spent in Advertising ourselves more in the Community including the sponsoring of a flower box in the town and to sponsoring a Music in The Park concert on Heritage Day weekend.

Our finances are healthy as I said above, in that we have reserves of over £12,500 still available to us. Our Income is overall remarkably steady, but it is showing signs of early decline. Going forward we must try to find new blood so to speak. So please if any of you know of friends and/or neighbours who share your passion about Godalming, please try to get them to sign up.

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, Mike Poulter and myself with Pam Talbot joining us from time to time. We review regularly, every few weeks, and look at planning applications submitted to Waverley Borough Council. On most occasions this year we have continued to review online when there has been little to discuss but still researched fully. Since the AGM, we have reviewed the various applications but there has been very little to object to apart from the consultation for the Regeneration of the Town with the loss of Crown Court parking. We made representation on the many concerns that our members and we had on the proposed plan, but as you will see from the Chairman's introduction it has been announced that the project has been scrapped. You can be assured we will be keeping a close watch on any new schemes put forward.

Colin Swait Chairman Godalming Trust Planning sub-committee.

Admiral Sir John Balchen (1670-1744) and HMS Victory



Have any of you heard of this Admiral and especially his connection with HMS Victory and more importantly its connection with Godalming?

Well nor had I. And I am very grateful for being enlightened the other evening when I attended a lecture given as part of the Godalming Museum and Godalming Trust lecture series. The talk was fascinating, and I learned quite a lot. For instance, that there had been an HMS Victory prior to Nelson's ship and furthermore that it had been commanded by someone born in Godalming. John Balchen was born in Godalming in 1670 and joined the Royal Navy aged 15 as a midshipman. He had a long career and was called out of retirement in 1744 (having only retired a year earlier) to help relieve Gibraltar. His ship HMS Victory and 1100 men were lost, possibly off Alderney where some artefacts have been found although it is now thought the ship finally sank some 100km further into the English Channel. There is a memorial to Admiral Sir John Balchen in Westminster Abbey. Alan Smith, who works now on Nelson's HMS Victory gave an illuminating talk and has written a book on Balchen (see details below).

Smith, Alan (2022) *Balchen's Victory. The Loss and Rediscovery of an Admiral and His Ship*. Seaforth Publishing, 256pp.

There are usually 4 lectures each year and they are well worth looking out for.

Pam Talbot

Dates for your diary 2023

Godalming Town Guided History Walks Summer 2023 Programme

Come along and learn about the town's fascinating and sometimes surprising history. Looking at the buildings and landscape tells us much about Godalming's past. There are two walks alternating throughout the summer. The first looks at the town's 'industrial' past (walk 1) whereas the second looks at the towns former coaching inns and their role and High Street and Bridge Street (walk 2). They both are relatively easy walking on the public footpaths around the town and usually take about 1½ hours each. No booking is required, the walks are free, just turn up at the Pepperpot at 2.30pm. (children should be accompanied by an adult). The dates for this year are the following Saturdays:

May 13th -Walk 1

June 17th Walk 2 This is National Town Day celebrating the Heritage of High Streets.

July 8th – Walk 1

August 12th - Walk 2

Please check on our website <https://www.thegodalmingtrust.org.uk/> for any updates to this programme.

Other dates for your diary

Heritage Open Days 16 and 17th September 2023. The Programme will be published in the August edition of Vantage Point

AGM – Tuesday 26th September 2023 7.30pm at the Masonic Hall Godalming.

The joint Godalming Museum/ Godalming Trust autumn/winter lecture programme is not yet available.

From the archives of the late Mrs Winifred Aston.

Cost of reshingling the Church Spire & tower of St Peter's, Hascombe in 1902.

	£ - s - d
4236 oak shingles at 8/6d per 100	17-18-6
4144 oak shingles for tower	17-12-2
Labour	32-18-6
Cartage	2- 1-1
30lb sheet lead	15-0
71 ¾ lb nails	3- 19-9
Scaffold	1- 12-6

	76- 17-6

Cost covered by a "whip-round" of 18 parishioners, 3 of whom (Joseph Godman £20, the Rector £10, Mr Rowcliffe £ 9 contributed half of the total.)

PEACE AT ANY PRICE (extract from Parish Magazine Sept 1982)

A Bishop turned to his congregation to say, 'Peace be with you', only to find that the sound system was not working. 'There is something wrong with the microphone' he announced. And the congregation, seeing his lips move but not hearing him, dutifully intoned 'and also with you'.



Should you wish to contact the Trust on any issue please write to David Else, Honorary secretary, Winter Cottage, Milford Road, Elstead Godalming GU8 6HY or email via info@thegodalmingtrust.org.uk

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