

# THE GODALMING TRUST

## ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17 and notice of Annual General Meeting



“A green and pleasant land” showing the Parish Church, The Bandstand, Phillips memorial park and Cloisters with the River Wey & Lammas Land.

*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

<b>CONTENTS</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
Notice of AGM	2
Officers & Committees	3
Chairman's Report	4
Forthcoming Events	6
Membership Report	7
Treasurer's Report	8
Receipts and Payments Account	9
Peperharow Road article	10
Planning Committee Report	12

## Notice of Annual General Meeting

The 2017 Annual General Meeting of The Godalming Trust will be held on Wednesday September 6<sup>th</sup> 2017 at The Masonic Hall, Ockford Road, Godalming 7:30 for 8:00pm

### Agenda

1. Apologies for Absence
- 2 Approval of Minutes of 2016 Annual General Meeting
- 3 Chairman's remarks
- 4 Adoption of Annual Report for 2016/17
- 5 Adoption of Statement of receipts and Payments for the year to 31 March 2017
- 6 Election of members of the Executive Committee for 2017/18  
Two members of the Committee are retiring, the remainder are willing to stand for re-election
- 7 Election of Mr Richard Gidlow & Mr Graham Kimber to the committee
- 8 Timing of future AGMs
- 9 Any other Business

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

**The meeting will be followed by the presentation of the first of a series of 3 short films for the website. Wine and soft drinks will be served**

## Officers and Committees

President	Christopher Robinson
Vice Presidents	Alan Brown Ron Musk
Executive Committee	Pam Talbot - Chairman Jacqui Springurth - ViceChairman Valerie Venton – Secretary (retiring) Colin Venton – Treasurer (retiring) Caroline Hopkins Gareth Munro Bridget Bagnall Colin Swait
Planning Committee	Colin Swait - Chairman Gareth Munro Jacqui Springsguth Bridget Bagnall Keith Powell – co-opted
Civic Design Awards Committee	Gareth Munro – Chairman Colin Swait
Heritage Open Days Committee	Pam Talbot - Chairman Caroline Hopkins Jeni Goddard – co-opted

## Chairman's Annual Report

I will start with an apology if this all sounds as if you have read it before. I am afraid you will have read some of it. The Annual Report is a report of business during The Godalming Trust's administrative year which ends on 31 March. However, we do not have our AGM until September and we have fairly recently issued a Spring Newsletter with all our news for the period! We will discuss the timing of the AGM with members in September (see Agenda for AGM).

I took over from Angus Palmer, who was Chairman for 5 years and on the Committee for a total of 15 years, as Treasurer before becoming Chairman in October last year. A presentation was made to Angus and his wife, Elaine, at a small reception at Godalming Museum in January 2017.

The Trust, in line with its stated objectives gave Civic Design Awards to deserving buildings in September 2016. These awards are greatly appreciated by recipients and help to maintain a high standard of building design in our town. The presentations were made at our AGM just prior to the Heritage Open Days. The awards were then displayed in the Pepperpot for the weekend.

Thank you to Gareth Munro for all his hard work in bringing this together. (A full report appeared in the Spring Newsletter).

The Heritage Open Days continue to be extremely popular. As it is an international event people are coming from further afield, hence the properties that local people have seen at the ticketed venues continue to be a 'sell out'.

The lecture, by Robin Stannard on Thackeray Turner, in the RIBA 'Love Architecture' theme was a new venture and started off the HOD weekend.

There are lots of thanks due, apologies if I have omitted anyone. We have to thank:

Stephen and Jeni Goddard for their continuing invaluable help in contacting the various properties and producing the programme for the Heritage Open Days (HOD). Stephen also does his town walks which have a slightly different emphasis to the monthly summer ones. Caroline Hopkins for her initiative for distributing programmes to local schools which has encouraged a younger audience for the weekend. The Pepperpot was particularly well attended by families.

Godalming Masonic Centre for providing their hall for the RIBA Love Architecture lecture as part of the Masonry in the Community Programme.

We are also grateful to Godalming Town Council who gave us a generous grant towards publicity for the event and use of the Pepperpot, also for sponsorship from Munro Studios, Godalming Museum for issuing the tickets and opening on the Sunday and finally to Angus Palmer who masterminded all the stewarding, took publicity material to all the participating properties and was on hand to sort out any problems. We are grateful to all the people who help with stewarding during the weekend.

The summer walks continue to be popular and we are grateful to Hugh Turrall-Clarke for his support in leading them. We do get asked to additional evening walks for groups from time to time and are happy to do them when we can. We are planning to launch the series of short animated films, made by Munro Studios, at the 2017 AGM.

There are reports from the Treasurer and Membership Secretary (Colin & Val Venton) and Planning Sub Committee (Colin Swait) below. I thank them for all their work during the year.

Jacqui Springsguth has been overseeing with Marshall Designs, the revamp of the Godalming Trust website and it is now up to date and looking much more inviting. Gareth Munro adds items to our Facebook page.

We have recently made a donation to cover the costs of the 'Blue Plaque' for Jack Phillips which was unveiled in April at the Cooperative Funeral Care in Farncombe Street, near where his home stood. Godalming Trust will consider nominations for additional plaques in the area as it makes the history of a town more prominent.

Meetings with the Farnham, Haslemere and Guildford civic societies are taking place twice a year. This is a useful exchange of information and ideas. We are talking to Godalming Chamber of Commerce, on an informal basis, on matters of mutual interest.

I would like to thank all of the Executive Committee members for their hard work and support. However, after 5 years our Honorary Secretary, Val Venton, has formally noted that she wishes to stand down at the AGM in September 2017. We are indebted to her for producing the agenda and minutes of our meetings and generally helping with the administration and business of the Exec Committee.

Bridget Bagnall has kindly offered to take on the role of Hon Secretary after the AGM. Colin Venton, Hon Treasurer, also announced his intention to stand down a little later and we are equally grateful to him for managing our finances. We are looking forward to another busy and successful year in 2017 and would like to thank you, the members, for your continued support.

Looking ahead, Richard Gidlow has agreed to take on the role of Hon Treasurer. Graham Kimber is joining the Committee and will be co-opted as our Constitution allows. Heritage Open Days looms and I am sure it will be as good as ever. I hope to see as many of you as possible at the AGM and during Heritage Open Days.

Pam Talbot MBE

Chairman

### Forthcoming Events

August 12th 2017. The last of this summer town history walks. It will repeat the June walk and look at Godalming High Street and Bridge Street and highlight the coaching inns that played an important role on the overland route from London to Portsmouth. 2.30pm at the Pepperpot. No booking needed just turn up.

September 6th 2017 7.30pm AGM at the Masonic Centre – see included Agenda on page 2.

September 8, 9 & 10 2017 Heritage Open Days has some new properties, and has lost some old favourites. See enclosed flyer with this Report. Do try and come along. If you are able to help with stewarding please contact me by email or phone (info@thegodalmingtrust.org.uk or 07778 408701.)

Godalming Museum and Godalming Trust Lectures Autumn 2017/Spring 2018 [Note the titles of the talks are provisional, but reflect the subject]. All talks take place at the Octagon, 7.30pm. Tickets £5 from the Museum or at the door.

October 18th: Joe Thompson - Timber Framed Buildings- reading their secrets

November 22nd: Hugh Turrall-Clarke - IT work at the Museum

January 31st: Anthony Isaacs - The work of the CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England)

March 21st: Alan Bott - Writing Guide Books to Twelve Local Churches.

### Membership Report

It is with great sadness that I have to announce the death of two of our life members. Mr Peter Evans died in January and Mrs Elizabeth Dixon died in February. Our early records are not comprehensive but it would appear that both of them had been members since at least 2004. Mr Evans had very generously given us a second payment for his life membership in 2013! Our condolences go to his wife Mrs Monica Evans.

On a happier note we have a new life member in Dr Sara Arber of Godalming and we wish her a warm welcome to The Godalming Trust.

One of our concerns is that the profile of our membership is weighted heavily towards the more mature end and in order to sustain our numbers and ensure the continuation of the trust we need to attract members in a younger age range. We are endeavouring to have a big push on membership at the Heritage Open Days. Please could you let us know if you think anyone in your acquaintance would consider becoming a member.

My usual plea is if anyone knows of any members who have recently passed away please could they let the secretary know or leave an e-mail on The Godalming Trust's website at [info@thegodalmingtrust.org.uk](mailto:info@thegodalmingtrust.org.uk). It is very distressing to receive incorrect communication at difficult times like these. It would be very helpful to us if a family member or spouse or partner could inform us and we can respond appropriately.



My other usual plea is e-mail addresses. We would love to have your e-mail address if you have one and you think we don't have it. E-mails are so cost effective for us as sending postal communications is now so expensive when we send them in any number. Unusually we only have e-mail addresses for about a quarter of our membership and if you think we do not have your e-mail address please could you e-mail our secretary at [val.venton@gmail.com](mailto:val.venton@gmail.com).

Colin Venton

Membership Secretary

### Treasurer's Report

We have recently updated our website which has been done by Andrew Marshall of Marshall Design, who previously designed our application forms. Now there is a distinctive harmony between the two things. We are delighted with the website and feel it is more in keeping with modern times but there obviously has been a financial cost.

The interest rate return on our savings continues to decline in common with the general banking situation. We constantly look for alternative bank accounts but have not been able to find anything better that suits our situation.

I am again going to ask members to check whether they Gift Aid their membership fees to us as we get an extra 25% at no cost to yourselves. Not all of our members do Gift Aid. The process of application is very simple and straightforward and does not entail any financial disclosure on your part. We were able to make a substantial Gift Aid claim this year.

I am going to make my usual plea about paying your membership fees by bank standing order. Many members already do and I thank them for that but we do have a significant number who do not. Postage costs are so high these days and it represents a considerable financial burden to us to chase people for their fees. Finally, 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.

Colin Venton

Honorary Treasurer

**THE GODALMING TRUST**  
**Income and Expenditure Statement**

**1st April 2016 to 31<sup>st</sup>  
 March 2017**

<b>Receipts:</b>	<b>2016/17</b>	<b>2015/16</b>
Subscriptions	£1,298.49	£1,121.00
Donations	£169.00	£233.50
Bank Interest	£87.93	£110.51
Town Council grant - Heritage	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
Sales of publications	£59.96	£100.50
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>£2,615.38</b>	<b>£2,565.51</b>
<b>Payments:</b>		
Insurance	£246.38	£238.50
Postage and stationery	£280.69	£388.85
Subs to other societies	£93.00	£93.00
Heritage Open Days	£1,296.70	£1,280.90
Website	£75.60	£66.00
Newsletter printing	£246.00	£210.00
Band sponsorship	£200.00	£200.00
AGM costs/ Other events	£231.63	£922.17
Blue Plaque Donation	£250.00	
Newsletter Design	£60.00	
Civic Design awards	£240.00	
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>£3,220.00</b>	<b>£3,399.42</b>
<b>Deficit for year</b>	<b>£604.62</b>	<b>£833.91</b>
<b>Bank balances start of year</b>	£14,313.16	<b>£15,147.07</b>
<b>Payment in advance</b>	£1,500.00	
<b>Bank balances end of year</b>	<b>£12,208.54</b>	<b>£14,313.16</b>

Colin Venton - Hon Treasurer  
and Trustee

Pam Talbot - Chairman  
and Trustee

## Peperharow Road – its early days.

Peperharow Road is one of the longest cul-de-sacs in the country but in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century it was only a farm track. At that time, the area to the north and west of Godalming was known as the Deanery Farm Estate, managed by the Deanery of Salisbury. As the name implies this was mainly farmland. Various Acts of Parliament in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century allowed the Church to sell some of its land, and in the 1860's Deanery Farm Estate was acquired by the British Land Company.

British Land was founded in 1856 by three liberal MPs as a mechanism for expanding the field of voters eligible to elect Members of Parliament – restricted to “landed gentlemen”. British Land was founded as an offshoot of the National Freehold Land Society (later Abbey National), formed in 1849, and could be considered as the first “building society”. To qualify for a parliamentary vote, it was then necessary to be a landowner and the main object of the company was to facilitate the acquisition of small plots of land by the people. To do this, the British Land Company would purchase land and then resell it on the best terms to any customer who wanted to buy it.

Peperharow Road acquired its name in 1865, when it was made up from a farm track by the British Land Company. It was called ‘Peperharow Road’ as it formed the first part of a path from Godalming to the Peper Harow Estate, on the way to Elstead.

The early development of Peperharow Road was entirely due to the arrival of Charterhouse School in Godalming. In 1867, the School decided to move away from Charterhouse Square in London. The headmaster at the time, the Rev. William Haig-Brown, chose Godalming as he had relatives in the area and he discovered that land was available on the old Deanery Farm Estate. Another significant factor was the rail link from London – the ‘old’ Godalming station was completed in 1849 as the terminus from London through Guildford, on land that is now part of Jewson's. Following construction of the viaduct across the lammas lands, the ‘new’ station was opened in 1859 giving a link to Havant and Portsmouth. The School was built between 1869 and 1872 from locally quarried bargate stone and opened in June 1872 with 117 boys who moved from London and 33 new boys. The original entrance to the School was in Peperharow Road, hence South Lodge and Lodge House at the bottom of Racquets Court Hill, and the statue of Thomas Sutton, the founder of the School in 1611, looking down the drive.

The OS map of 1871 shows that the only houses in Peperharow Road were a row of cottages on the south side of the road beyond the School entrance. These cottages were built to house the workers who were building the School, and are still standing today. Twenty-five years later, OS 1896 shows considerably more housing – mainly on the north side of the road and almost all used as housing for teachers. Individual plots were acquired at auction, either by the School itself or by senior School staff. Also shown, set back from the road but well away from the main School buildings, is the School Sanatorium. This building is now used as flats as part of Badgers Hollow.

Development of the south side of the road took place in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century at the beginning of the road, and further to the west in the 1970's. The original houses in the road were known by their house name only, as numbering was not introduced until 1911 following the development on the south side. However, following further development, many of the houses were re-numbered in 1972. Although several of the houses retain their original name, the local historian should be wary of the potential confusion of houses having a name and two different numbers!

There are numerous 'famous' families who have lived in Peperharow Road. Some examples are: -

Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of the Scout movement, was a pupil at the School when it moved to Godalming in 1872, and later briefly lived in the road.

Aldous Huxley - Aldous' grandfather, Thomas Huxley, lived in Milford and Aldous' father, Leonard Huxley, was a teacher at the School. Some sources suggest that Aldous was born in Peperharow Road, where the family did live, but they had moved to a house (Laleham) near The Manor Hotel (Huxley Close) before he was born. Aldous' mother Julia (nee Arnold) founded Prior's Field School for girls in 1902. Julia died young in 1908 and is buried in Compton, as is Leonard Huxley. Aldous died in America, where he was then living, on 22nd Nov 1963 (the day of JFK's assassination). His ashes were later returned to England and are buried at Compton also.

George Mallory (1886 -1924) was a teacher at Charterhouse from 1910. In 1914, he married a local girl, Ruth Turner, the daughter of Hugh Thackeray Turner. After serving in the army in WWI, he returned to Charterhouse until he resigned in 1921 to join the first Everest expedition. He joined the 1924 expedition and in June he and his climbing partner Andrew Irvine left advanced base camp at 21,000 feet to climb to the summit.

They were seen a few hundred feet from the summit but were not seen again until Mallory's body was found in 1999, but there is some speculation that he did reach the summit nearly thirty years before Edmund Hillary.

W.C. Sellar (1898 – 1951) was also a teacher at the School and lived in Peperharow Road. In 1930, he published "1066 and all that", a tongue-in-cheek guide to "all the history you can remember." The title is based on Robert Graves' autobiography "Goodbye to all that". Robert Graves had been a pupil at Charterhouse, taught by Mallory, and a friend of W.C. Sellar. Sellar's widow continued to live in the road from the 1950s to the 1970s.

Graham Kimber

### Planning Committee Report

In the Spring Newsletter, I reported fairly fully on our activities and I am grateful to the members of the committee who join me at Waverley Borough Council's every 3 weeks to review the planning applications.

At one time we seemed to be reviewing applications to change offices into flats at every meeting and it is good to now see derelict buildings being restored and in a number of cases, particularly Farncombe, being rebuilt and matching in with the Street scene. Some useful small dwellings have grown from the back gardens of some of the Shops in the High Street rather than lie abandoned. We are very concerned on the impact of more traffic through the town and continue to monitor the effect that Dunsfold Park could have on our road system and that of surrounding villages. At the end of the first week of the public enquiry it was suggested that Dunsfold's 1800 home development could cause hazardous, slow, difficult, frustrating and dangerous traffic conditions. We will always support good design and appropriate development. We alternate with Waverley Borough Council in making Civic Design awards and are happy to receive recommendations from the Public.

Colin Swait

Chairman, Godalming Trust Planning Committee

After 6<sup>th</sup> September, should you wish to contact the Trust on any issue, please write to Bridget Bagnall, Honorary Secretary, at 2 Brook House, New Pond Road, Compton, GU3 1JL or email: [bridget.bagnall1@btopenworld.com](mailto:bridget.bagnall1@btopenworld.com)

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

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

