

THE GODALMING TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20 and notice of Annual General Meeting



*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.

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Registered Charity No. 263033

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The Godalming Trust
Notice of Annual General Meeting

The 2020 Annual General Meeting of The Godalming Trust will be held on Wednesday 11th November 2020 at 7.30 by Zoom

Agenda

- 1) Apologies for Absence
- 2) Approval of Minutes of 2019 Annual General Meeting
- 3) Chairman's remarks
- 4) Adoption of Annual Report for 2019/2020
- 5) Adoption of Statement of receipts and payments for the year to 31 March 2020
- 6) Election of members of the Executive Committee for 2020/21.
- 7) Existing committee members are willing to stand for re-election
- 8) 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 prior to the meeting.

Please let the Honorary Secretary have your email contact address to join the Zoom meeting by 31st October 2020 (bridget@bagnallproperty.com)

A proxy form is enclosed for those unable to join the virtual meeting. Please return to:

Bridget Bagnall, Honorary Secretary, 2 Brook House, New Pond Road, Compton, Guildford, GU3 1JL.

If you have any questions on the Agenda or wish to raise Any Other Business please contact the Honorary Secretary by either of the ways above.

Officers and Committees

President	Christopher Robinson
Vice Presidents	Alan Brown Ron Musk
Executive Committee	Pam Talbot – Chairman Graham Kimber - Vice Chairman Bridget Bagnall – Honorary Secretary Richard Gidlow – Treasurer Colin Swait Pauline Scarsbrook
Planning	Colin Swait – Chairman Bridget Bagnall Mike Poulter – co-opted
Civic Design Awards	Colin Swait
Heritage Open Days	Pam Talbot - Chairman Colin Swait Bridget Bagnall
Membership	Graham Kimber

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Godalming Trust held at The Masonic Hall, Godalming at 19.30 on Wednesday 6th September 2019

WELCOME BY THE CHAIR

The Chairman welcomed members, guests and the Mayor and Paul Rivers to the meeting

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received from: Ludi Lochner, Pauline Scarsbrook, Valerie Anderson. Elizabeth Hibbert, Margaret May, Caroline Hopkins.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE 2018 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The minutes were approved unanimously and duly signed (Proposed by Gareth Munro and seconded by Colin Swait)

3. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The Chairman did not repeat the contents of our Annual Report or the Minutes of the previous AGM but updated the meeting on matters subsequent to these and thanked all persons previously mentioned.

She noted that several members had come forward to help with stewarding at HOD for which she was most grateful and confirmed that there had been some response from the membership with regard to information on the Godalming Electricity Centenary celebrations. However there had been no response on what the Trust does or should do which she proposed should be discussed under AOB.

The Chairman thanked Mike Poulter for volunteering to join the Planning sub-committee, giving it additional expertise when reviewing planning applications. Mike has been co-opted onto the committee but has chosen not to join the Executive Committee (This is acceptable as the Chairman of the sub-committee is on the Executive).

The Chairman reported the sad death of Dr James Anderson who was well known to many members and had been Chairman of the Planning and Civic Design Award sub-committees. He was an expert on historic buildings.

4.

The Chairman, referring to her report in the Annual Report, specifically asked for people to come forward to help with publicity and publications and HOD and also noted that we have no Vice-Chairman at the present time.

None of the current committee has felt able to take this on without stepping down from their existing roles, all of which are essential for the present programme and business of the Trust. The executive are continuing to address this and there has been some initial interest, currently at a very early stage.

At present the chairman is doing both Chair and Vice-chair roles.

The Chairman suggested that as the business of the evening progresses anyone having questions on the Annual Report should not hesitate but to ask. Finally, the Chairman thanked the Masonic Hall for hosting our AGM

4. ADOPTION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2018/2019

The Chairman called for comments on the Annual Report. There were none so this was adopted (Proposed by John Talbot and seconded by Graham Kimber)

5. ADOPTION OF STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE PERIOD 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019

The Chairman called for questions on the Statement of Receipts and Payments. There were none and these were accepted (Proposed by Joy Poulter and seconded by Colin Swait)

6. ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The following agreed to stand for re-election: Pam Talbot (Chair), Colin Swait (Planning Committee), Bridget Bagnall (Hon. Secretary), Richard Gidlow (Hon. Treasurer), Graham Kimber (Membership), Gareth Munro (Civic Awards), Pauline Scarsbrook (Web-site), Caroline Hopkins. These Executive Committee members were re-elected unanimously (Proposed by Mike Poulter and seconded by John Talbot)

7. ELECTION OF NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

None (but if anyone is interested they might like to talk to any member of the Executive Committee at the reception following the meeting)

8. AOB

1) The Chairman reiterated that she would like feedback from members – Is the communication from the Trust what is wanted? Do members look at the website and Facebook Pages? Again members encouraged to speak with Executive Committee members after the meeting.

2) Summer Luncheon – the Committee does not think this is of benefit to members of the Trust. Some 140 invitations posted at significant cost (and work for the committee) to members who are not also Friends of the Museum and on show of hands at the meeting the only attendees of members are also Friends.

In future whilst the lunch will be brought to the attention of members in the Spring Newsletter the formal invitations will not be sent unless specifically requested

3) Summer Walks – The August walk was one of the best ever attended and it is encouraging to find that these are attracting new residents who want to find out about the town they have moved to. The Trust will be reprinting the Godalming Town Walks booklet and we hope that Hugh Turrall-Clark will help with the update despite his decision to step down from leading walks. We have also been asked to consider a similar publication for Farncombe and are in discussion on this, there being two people who have been working on this independently of each other. We hope that elements of the two can be combined into a similar booklet to that for Godalming.

4) Finally 2020 is our year for the Civic Design Awards – if members notice something that they think deserves consideration they are asked to inform the Executive Committee as the planning applications do not necessarily reflect the quality of the finished building, extension or refurbishment. There may also be environmental projects which have not been noticed (e.g. guerrilla gardening!).

9. DATE AND VENUE FOR NEXT AGM

This will be fixed by the Executive Committee but is likely to be in September 2020 to give ample time for the Civic Design Awards to be decided but is likely to be held in the Masonic Hall as September is a good month for them

There being no other business the meeting closed at 19.50. This was followed by a 'wine and nibbles' reception at which were welcomed a number of non-members who are involved in HOD. This is the 25th year of Heritage Open Days (only 24 in Godalming we think). A number of past information leaflets were available to view.

Chairman's Update

I hope you are all keeping safe and well in these challenging times. When we wrote the July Newsletter we were hopeful that by postponing our AGM it might be possible to hold it as an actual meeting, but, as I write, this is almost certainly not going to be possible. I am sure many of you have been using ZOOM during the lockdown to keep in touch with family and friends so I hope you will feel happy to sign up to take part in our AGM. The Committee and I need your support please.

You will see my Annual Report for the year ending 31 March 2020 when we had only just entered lockdown on page 8. So these words are an update to that and our July Newsletter.

It is obviously difficult to work on the Trust's public profile at the present time. We are not alone and have been contacted by the Farnham Society to see if there are some things we might work on together with the other Waverley Civic Societies in the future. We have previously met and discussed planning matters, but our geographical and statutory planning areas (green belt, special protected areas etc) give us differing base lines and problems.

Our own Planning Working Group has continued to look at all the applications within their usual criteria and commented where appropriate. We have also been 'collecting' possible nominations for our Civic Design Awards which we hope will run in 2021.

The August issue of the local Vantage Point magazine ran an article on Heritage Open Days. We had booked the centre pages for our programme this year which wasn't needed, so Stefan Reynolds, Editor and Publisher of Vantage Point, suggested we submit a more general article which he also helped with. This has resulted in some feedback – a volunteer to help steward and a realisation how much work behind the scenes goes on to run the event. We have still been unable to meet potential new volunteers to help with Working Groups etc, but hope that we can start in 2021 to take this forward. I am most grateful that Graham Kimber has agreed to take on the role of Vice Chairman, it will be a great help to me.

One thing the pandemic has given us is some vehicle free time in the High Street, are people enjoying this or is it inhibiting trade? Something for The Godalming Trust to explore with the Chamber of Commerce in the future perhaps?

Whilst this was originally our initiative that resulted in Saturday closure many of you will know that it had not been operating reliably, even before social distancing measures were put in place.

I want to thank the Committee for all their support and help, particularly when things seem so dark.

One final plea, please sign up for our ZOOM AGM to support your Committee and the Godalming Trust, if you are not able to do that please complete and return the enclosed Proxy Form for the AGM.

Chairman's Annual Report to 31 March 2020

I apologise that this is just a reiteration of reports made throughout the year, but is a necessary part of our AGM paperwork.

The Town History walks in summer 2019 were well attended, often by new residents to the town. Hugh Turrall-Clarke decided it would be his last summer leading the walks and Graham Kimber agreed to help take them forward.

In fact Hugh was ill for the August walk and Graham took over sooner than expected. We were extremely grateful to Hugh for leading the walks over many summers. It is something that helps to bring Godalming Trust's profile to the population.

Our AGM was well attended by members and was followed by a reception held to thank a number of people who open their properties for Heritage Open Days (HODs).

At the AGM we consulted on the joint Museum/Trust Summer Lunch and proposed some changes on how we advertise this in future (as the event had to be cancelled in 2020 this will hopefully be implemented in 2021).

2019 was one of the best HODs with record numbers of visitors to the properties and events, we had hoped that 2020 would have been equally successful. (The decision was finally taken in June not to organise an event in 2020).

We were invited to attend Godalming Chamber of Commerce Meeting in February and it will be important that we maintain this link to support them in initiatives to help the town recover in some way from the pandemic.

We have been approached about a Blue Plaque for George Mallory and as soon as it is appropriate to do so we will contact the property owners to see if they are willing to have one. There are, in fact, two properties associated with Mallory in Godalming, so hopefully one will allow a plaque to be installed.

We were very sorry that Gareth Munro and Caroline Hopkins have stood down from the Committee and much appreciate all that they have done for The Trust over the years. Apart from Civic Design Awards and the Godalming History films they have both helped in a number of ways and we will miss their expertise and enthusiasm.

As always I would like to thank all those people and organisations who help us during the year, in particular, Godalming Town Council, Godalming Museum, the Masonic Centre, Heritage Open Days volunteers, Vantage Point and especially the Executive Committee, without whose help I could not survive.

Treasurer's Report

Our finances continue to remain healthy. There has been little activity this year with regard expenditure other than the normal administrative expenses we have to incur each and every year. Membership remains stable and therefore so does our Income. For the forthcoming year we are considering ways to use our resources to their best effect. The following are being considered: Two possible Blue Plaques in Godalming and the sponsorship in some way of the flowers that are displayed each year in Godalming High Street. In this 2020 - 2021 year we were anticipating having expenditure relating to our Design awards program. However as you will have been notified already, that has had to have been cancelled due to the current pandemic. I must thank members for their continued support of the Godalming Trust through their membership and a special thank you to those who have contributed over and above that which is due.

Richard Gidlow
Honorary Treasurer

THE GODALMING TRUST
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>2020</u> £	<u>2019</u> £
Subscriptions	1,345	1,538
Gifts and Donations	262	1,000
Bank Interest	6	6
HMRC Gift Aid	295	294
	<hr/> 1,908 <hr/>	<hr/> 2,838 <hr/>
 <u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
Insurance	202	310
Postage and Stationery	52	351
Subscriptions	190	115
Travel costs	72	-
Website	69	365
Newsletter	174	445
AGM and Other Events and Costs	142	64
Leaflet Design	-	462
Civic Design Awards	-	334
	<hr/> 901 <hr/>	<hr/> 2,446 <hr/>
 2020 SURPLUS / 2019 SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	 1,007	 392
 Bank Balance brought Forward	 13,134	 12,742
 Bank Balance carried forward	 <hr/> £ 14,141 <hr/>	 <hr/> £ 13,134 <hr/>

Richard Gidlow
Honorary Treasurer

Planning Committee Report 2020

This year we have met online as physical meeting has been difficult with Lockdown and Coronavirus but all applications have been reviewed, mainly concentrating on new-builds, changes in the High Street above and to the rear of shop premises which are producing flats and “mews dwellings” and the conversion of Offices for which demand is more valuable for residential units.

We are pleased to see the new development which has replaced The English Chain Company’s premises on the corner of Croft Road and Brighton Road which compliments the new build opposite in front of Pennington’s old premises. Another refurbishment at the far end of the High Street is the old Elizabeth Tea rooms, lastly a Chinese restaurant, which fell into disrepair and now has a beautiful façade which enhances this end of town and is a definite asset.

An ongoing concern is still the lack of infrastructure with road management hardly considered and looks unlikely to change in the near future.

My thanks to my committee of our Chairman, Bridget Bagnall and Mike Poulter.

Colin Swait
Chairman – Godalming Trust Planning sub-committee.

Dates for your Diary 2020 -2021

At the present time it is still uncertain whether the Godalming Museum/Godalming Trust lectures will be able to take place next spring.

Heritage Open Days 2021 – proposed date 17 – 19 September

Sir Winston Churchill (1874-1965) was Prime Minister of Great Britain during the Second World War and one of the world's greatest statesmen of the twentieth century. He began painting while in Surrey.

A professional soldier as a young man, Churchill entered politics having discovered he could make his living by writing. In 1908 he married Clementine Hozier.

On the outbreak of the First World War he was First Lord of the Admiralty. In 1916 Allied Forces attempted to gain control of the Dardanelles in North West Turkey. The campaign was a disaster and Churchill was forced to resign. Churchill thought his career was finished and became deeply depressed. His wife, Clementine, worried that he would die. Churchill and his brother, Jack, in 1915 leased for the summer months, Hoe Farm in Hascombe near Godalming, as a weekend retreat for their families. It was owned by Joseph Godman for whom the architect, Sir Edwin Lutyens, had extended the farmhouse in 1890. One Sunday at Hoe Farm, Churchill noticed his sister-in-law, Gwendeline, painting in water colours. She encouraged him to try his hand but dissatisfied with the medium he decided on oils. Four pictures of Hoe Farm by Churchill remain. Churchill found oil painting to be the most complete physical and mental relaxation and he took his paints and canvases everywhere. By the end of his life he had painted more than 500 pictures - landscapes, interiors, still life and portraits. It was to be the start of the paintings painted during 1920-1940, and as he said "Buy a paint-box, and have a try". It gave him immense pleasure for the rest of his life "Happy are painters, for they shall not be lonely. Light and colour, peace and hope, will keep them company to the end of the day" he wrote in his book, *Painting as a Pastime* (1925).

Should you wish to contact the Trust on any issue please write to Bridget Bagnall, Honorary secretary, 2 Brook House, New Pond Road, Compton GU3 1JL info@thegodalmingtrust.org.uk

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