

THE GODALMING TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22 and Notice of the Annual General Meeting

Waverley Borough Council is asking for feedback from residents and local businesses about potential plans to regenerate three council owned sites in central Godalming.



Wharf Car Park



Crown Court Car Park



WBC Offices & Car Park

We encourage all members to look and respond – see <https://www.waverley.gov.uk/Council-updates/Read-our-latest-news/ArtMID/1683/ArticleID/232/Waverley-seeks-views-on-potential-Godalming-regeneration> or visit The Burys Council Offices to view and comment on the proposals. Feedback needs to be submitted by 16 September 2022

*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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The Godalming Trust
Notice of 2022 Annual General Meeting

The 2022 Annual General Meeting of The Godalming Trust will be held on Tuesday 27th September 2022 at The Masonic Hall, Ockford Road, Godalming at 7.30pm (doors open at 7.10pm)

Agenda

- 1) Apologies for Absence
- 2) Approval of Minutes of 2021 Annual General Meeting
- 3) Chairman's remarks
- 4) Adoption of the Annual Report 2021/2022
- 5) Adoption of Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year to 31st March 2022
- 6) Election of members of the Executive Committee for 2022/2023
All members of the Executive Committee with the exception of Bridget Bagnall 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 AGM, a film by the Circle Eight Film Group called 'Tunnel under Hindhead' will be shown.

This tells the story of Hindhead over the years and the construction of the Hindhead Tunnel. The history of Hindhead, as a main route to the south coast from London, describes how Hindhead Common was viewed as a very dangerous area to cross by coach in olden times. The film then explores the many suggestions made as long ago as 1932 to by-pass the village and, with the use of archive film and specially shot interviews, traces the history of the tunnel project from its commencement in 2008 through to its official opening in July 2011.

Officers and Committees 2021/2022

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 David Else – co-opted March 2022 Alan Johnston – co-opted June 2022
Planning Committee	Colin Swait – Chairman Bridget Bagnall Mike Poulter
Heritage Open Days Committee	Pam Talbot – Chairman Colin Swait Bridget Bagnall
Civic Design Awards Committee	Colin Swait – Chairman Pam Talbot

Introduction to Annual Report and Newsletter

This is an update to my Annual Report which appears below and follows on from the Spring Newsletter.

I am extremely grateful that David Else has offered to take over the role of Honorary Secretary when Bridget Bagnall steps down at the AGM.

In June we welcomed another member to the Executive Committee, Alan Johnston. He lives locally and is a member of the Godalming – Mayen Twinning Group. He is interested in the heritage of the town and knows how highly it is thought of by visitors from Mayen. We are grateful to him for recommending and booking the film that we are showing following the AGM. This is produced by Circle 8 Films and is about the history of the route through Hindhead and the construction of the tunnel. We do hope you will come and enjoy this.

The guided town walks have been extremely well supported since we started them in May this year and we are pleased to see a number of new residents to the town taking an interest in the history and background. We have also learnt some interesting facts from participants and passers-by. On one occasion someone shouted out 'have you told them about the elephants?' to which Graham Kimber and I were somewhat taken aback. However, a little research showed that two elephants had spent the night on their way from Portsmouth to Regents Park in the 1876. They were too large to travel by train so 'stayed' at the Angel a stop on the old coaching route! What with native Indians and elephants, Godalming does have a fascinating history.

Plans for Heritage Open Days (17-18 September) are well advanced, and the programme is published in Vantage Point. We need people to help during the weekend at the Pepperpot and a number of the ticketed venues, including Charterhouse and Ladywell Convent. Please let us know if you can help.

I am extremely grateful to the continuing support and help of the Executive Committee and I couldn't manage without them, but it is your Society and we would like more input from you, the members. A special 'thank you' to Bridget for all her help as Honorary Secretary.

Pam Talbot

Conservation Areas

It was fortuitous that as I was looking around for something to write about two things dropped into my In Box. The first is that it is the 55th Anniversary of the Royal Ascent to a Private Member's Bill setting up Conservation Areas. This was pushed through Parliament by Duncan Sandys MP, and it is as important today as it was in 1967. According to Historic England nearly 500 Conservation Areas nationally are on the 'at risk' list.

Which brings me to what do Conservation Areas protect? That depends very much on local councils and what other measures they put in place. For instance, permitted development is allowed in a Conservation Areas (CA) unless a council instigates an Article 4 direction imposing some restrictions. In Godalming there is only one of these, as far as I can tell, and it refers to 'permitted development' regarding change of use from commercial to residential in an area near Godalming Station. There is nothing to protect the appearance of buildings on CAs and even Listed Building status does not include such things as colour of paintwork. We made enquiries about how the 'Red Lion' now the Fox and Finch could be painted blue in a CA and as a Listed Building and were told as it had a painted finish before colour was a matter of personal taste and not subject to any planning requirement. So Civic Societies such as The Godalming Trust are as important today as they were 55 years ago.

This leads on to an email from a Godalming Trust member who alerted us to a potential 'regeneration of Godalming Town Centre'. We have highlighted this on the cover of this report to encourage members to send in their feedback as at this stage it is not a planning application and the more responses the stronger the message to Waverley Borough Council will be. Although this area is outside the town centre Conservation Area it does adjoin it and the riverside and Lammas Lands.

Thunder Shelters

After our series of 'Hidden Histories' I wonder if there are other 'thunder shelters', I believe there may be one more in the area, possibly as a result of a Jekyll Garden design. Does anyone know if there is one? Please let us know.

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of The Godalming Trust
held on Thursday 28th October 2021
at The Masonic Hall, Ockford Road Godalming**

Welcome by the Chair

The Chairman welcomed the Mayor, Members and Members of the Committee to the meeting reminding them of Covid restrictions and that there were face masks and hand sanitizer available with windows open in the Hall.

1. Apologies for Absence:

Received from Baroness Parminter, Roger Humphrey, Elizabeth Hibbert, Jacky Tickner, Jane Bennett, Valerie Anderson, Alan Johnston and Cathy Gordon-Smith.

2. Approval of Minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting:

The minutes were approved unanimously and duly signed by the Chairman – Proposed by Colin Swait, Seconded by Richard Gidlow

3. Chairman's Remarks:

The Chairman opened her remarks by acknowledging that she found it difficult to acknowledge that, whilst we are in now October, the AGM refers to the year ending in March, and that it had been a year in which very little had been possible in view of Covid 19, with the restrictions that that had had on everyday life. Planning applications had, however, continued to be regularly reviewed. The AGM was initially due to be held in September, but the running of Heritage Open Days was a heavy commitment and therefore the meeting had been further delayed recognising that. It is hoped that it might be earlier in 2022.

The Chairman continued by confirming that the Spring Newsletter and Annual Report satisfactorily covered all that had happened did not wish to repeat the contents but rather to look forward. She had been encouraged following an encounter with a member who thought that the Trust should be outwardly positive and proud of our beautiful town, so she hoped that despite some setbacks hers was an optimistic message.

She then outlined that as a Trust we were 'cash rich time poor' and confirmed that our finances remained healthy.

However, she is aware that the Committee does need more 'time' support to run events. In this context she is sad at the loss of Pauline Scarsbrook from the Committee. Pauline has managed the website in a proactive way and thus she is extremely grateful for all her help. However, the website has been subject to some malicious attacks which have resulted in the loss of functionality and design. It has therefore been decided to seek professional help to manage the site to make sure that it is secure. Someone is needed to act as a route for information from the Committee to the website managers. Such a person would be required to attend Executive Committee meetings (6 or so per year). Any offers of help on this and publicity generally would be much appreciated, and members were invited to speak to committee members during the proceedings.

Similarly, members were invited to put themselves forward for roles in planning, civic design and the heritage sub-committees although such help would not necessarily require participant attendance of full committee meetings.

The Chairman then applauded the support provided by members who volunteered to help during Heritage Open Days and had been delighted that not only were we able to open the Pepperpot on both days but also had help with stewarding at other venues.

The 'Hidden History' project had been enjoyed and was again on show at the AGM venue. It is thought that it is important to show that heritage involves even the smallest, seemingly ordinary, buildings. And further suggestions, or better still, information on hidden gems/buildings for inclusion in the series in the future would be welcomed.

As ever the summer walks had been a success and were extremely well attended, often by people who had recently moved into the town and were interested in the history. It is intended that these will continue in 2022.

With the help of members, the Chairman felt sure that the Trust can continue to share the heritage of our lovely town with all those interested. The Civic Design Awards, (which were to follow the AGM), serve to recognise the positive ambience of the town and contribute to its future heritage.

Finally the Chairman thanked the Masonic Hall for allowing us to hold the AGM there and also thanked the Executive Committee for their continued and invaluable support during the year.

4. Adoption of the Annual Report of 2020/21:

The Chairman called for comments on the Annual Report. There was none so this was adopted. Proposed by Ian Coult and Seconded by Tony Gordon-Smith

5. Adoption of Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ending 31 March 2021

The Chairman called for questions on the Statement of Receipts and Payments. There were none and these were accepted. Proposed by Angus Palmer and Seconded by John Talbot.

6. Election of Members of the Executive Committee for 2021/22

No New members nominated

7. Existing Committee members willing to stand for re-election

The following agreed to stand for re-election: Pam Talbot (Chairman), Graham Kimber (Vice-chairman and Membership), Bridget Bagnall (Hon. Secretary), Richard Gidlow (Hon. Treasurer), and Colin Swait (Planning). There were no further nominations. The existing committee members were re-elected unanimously. Proposed by Joy Poulter and Seconded by Tony Gordon-Smith.

8. Any Other Business

None

9. Date and venue for 2022 Annual General Meeting

This should be held in September 2022, the date to be fixed by the Executive committee having regard to Heritage Open Days. Hopefully we shall be able to meet at the Masonic Hall once again

Following the formal closure of the meeting the Chairman and the members of the Executive Committee were thanked by Mr Ludi Lochner for all their hard work and effort put into the protection of Godalming's Heritage

Chairman's Annual Report 1 April 2021-31 March 2022

Much of what happened during this time was reported at the 2021 AGM and in the Spring Newsletter. I will briefly summarise it here.

In 2021 we were able to offer the guided history walks through the town from June onwards, these had had to be abandoned during 2020 and it was good to see a number of people turn out on each occasion. The Heritage Open Days also attracted a good number of participants although booking of events was slow to start by the time of the weekend most venues were fully booked.

At our AGM we presented our Civic Design Awards (a list of winners appeared in our Spring Newsletter and is on our website). These were presented by the Mayor of Godalming, Councillor Michael Steel. We were pleased to see many of our members at the AGM.

Our new secure website was launched, and it is maintained professionally and will hopefully stop malicious attacks on it.

In January we co-opted David Else onto the Executive Committee (see details in our Spring Newsletter).

During March we ran some guided history walks for groups from outside the area and we started planning for Heritage Open Days 2022, Ladywell Convent is re-opening after a break of several years, tours by ticket only. The Programme will be published in Vantage Point August 2022 and brochures will be available at Godalming Library and Museum.

As always, I am extremely grateful to the Executive Committee for their help and support during the year and without whom there would be no Godalming Trust.

Treasurer's Report

Our finances continue to remain healthy. In the Spring Newsletter I thought we would incur a deficit of some £602. The accounts as included in this report show that to be slightly less at £ 562. We received a donation for a walk at the end of the financial year that I was unaware of at the time of writing the previous newsletter. Since my previous report, we have now incurred expenditure of Sponsoring the flowers - £180 and had to pay for website maintenance, so far this year, £162. This is an ongoing maintenance cost and is dependent upon how much we wish to change the site to keep it up to date as well as their monitoring costs. But until we have someone who can do this within our own resources, it will become something we have to fund going forward.

And talking of going forward, you will have seen Pam Talbot's report that includes reference to proposed changes to the town by Waverley Borough Council. This certainly is something the Trust needs to be watching with a great deal of interest and so costs going forward may well start to include items that have not been incurred for a number of years. I cannot anticipate at this point what they might be, but our reserves are there just for such matters that arise like this. 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

THE GODALMING TRUST

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Subscriptions	1,192	1,114
Gifts and Donations	40	50
Bank Interest	1	3
HMRC Gift Aid	224	256
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,457	1,423
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
Insurance	202	202
Postage and Stationery	89	50
Publicity	60	-
Subscriptions	144	140
Website	122	123
WEBSITE Re-design	780	-
Newsletter	48	86
AGM and Other Events and Costs	173	-
Heritage Day Expenses	315	-
ZOOM Meeting costs	86	-
Charitable Donations :-		
Godalming Museum	-	500
St Marks Trust - Foodbank	-	500
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2,019	1,601
	<hr/>	<hr/>
DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR	- 562	- 178
Bank Balance brought Forward	13,963	14,141
Bank Balance carried forward	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£ 13,401	£ 13,963
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Current Account	175.55	738.14
Deposit Account	13,225.88	13,224.55
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£ 13,401.43	£ 13,962.69
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Planning Committee Report 2019

We continue our frustrations on the lack of involvement and resources available for adequate roads and infrastructure by local government with National Government allowing automatic conversion of office buildings to flats.

There have been a number of schemes for consultation prior to planning including Secrett's of Milford with the old buildings considered unsuitable for modern retailing and proposing to build new retail elsewhere on the site and replace with around 200 new homes and other facilities.

A number of flats are to be converted above the shops where they have been storage and larger flats.

Our main concern is for the planned major changes on Crown Car Park, the Council Offices including a new multi storey car park which we will be responding to before the deadline of the 16th September for the informal consultation.

The Godalming Trust will await any planning applications that are submitted before final representation will be made.

Colin Swait

Chairman – Godalming Trust Planning sub-committee.

From the archives of the late historian, Winifred Ashton. Photos by Francis Frith.

THE VILLAGE INN.



The White Horse Inn at Hascombe is well - sited. Three roads meet there. One is the main road from Godalming to Cranleigh (B2130) which was turnpiked in 1826. The other two roads were once – before the turnpike age – Important links between Hascombe and villages to the north and east. One of these is now a cul-de-sac and it was once the old North/South highway; the other is now no more than a track past the old Manor house along the northern side of the greensand ridge. The White Horse is a 16th/17th century building of bargate stone, much enlarged since it was first built.

It was almost certainly put there by the Lord of the Manor at that time, the Coverts. The Inn belonged to the Manor until 1819 (when the Manor was sold) and it was described at that time as "substantial built house with a parlour, bar, kitchen, wash house, dairy and pantry, three bedrooms and a Garret" . There was a one-and-a-half-acre garden, an orchard, a stable for 5 horses, hog pound, cow and store houses. From 1819 onwards the Inn ceased to belong to the Lord of the Manor. It was bought at the sale by one John Gardner for £700. The tenant at that time was Richard Miles who had been there since 1808.

COMPETITION

After the Turnpike was made in 1826, the Inn's business must have grown substantially. But there was now to be competition for in 1830, an Act freed beer from licensing laws and from duty; New beer-shops sprung up in town and country. There were two in Hascombe. One of them was opened by Richard Miles himself, he left the White Horse in 1840 and went to a house on the turnpike built by his brother William it was about half a mile north of the White Horse near Hascombe Mill. Here he opened the beer shop; it was not given a name in the census return until 1861 when it was described as the Royal Oak. Back at the White Horse, there were new tenants in place of Richard Miles. In 1844 it was taken by William Robinson who had been the Butler at the Manor house. He stayed until 1858 when he moved to a new house on the turnpike called Charmwell where he was the tenant of William Gill who had built it 10 years before.

William Robinson now used his White Horse expertise and began to brew beer at Charmwell; by 1856 he was said to be doing 'an excellent trade'.

In the early 1850's, therefore, there were the old village inn, the White Horse (tenanted for a time by Charles Miles, son of Richard) together with two beer shops, Charmwell run by William Robinson, the other the Royal Oak run by Richard Miles and later briefly by Thomas Waller.

In 1856, Richard Miles died at the age of 77. His son Charles left the White Horse in 1859/60 and was followed by a succession of tenants according to tithe records, the owner in 1870 was Joseph Godman, of Park Hatch and it is not clear when the property was sold to Lascelles Tickner, the Guildford Brewers. They were certainly the owners in 1906.

In 1926 the White Horse was provided with an inn sign painted by Gertrude Jekyll. It was in position until the late 1950s and has alas since vanished; new inn signs have taken its place. Richard Miles had left the Royal Oak four years before his death. The tenancy there was taken over by George Clark from Alfold. In 1857, however, he exchanged with William Robinson and took over Charmwell from him; he ran it as a village grocery and bakery, the brewing part of the business ceased. William Robinson was now installed at the Royal Oak.

The two public houses, the White Horse and the Royal Oak were closely integrated within community life. In 1863, when the church was rebuilt, services were held in the clubroom of the White Horse.

Vestry meetings were held in the parlour of the Royal Oak presided over by William Robinson, who was parish clerk. William Robinson stayed at the Royal Oak until his death in 1879; it was then taken over by his widow Emma and by his son William who ran it until he died in 1922. The Royal Oak, too, had been bought by the Brewers Lascelles Tickner.

The White Horse and the Royal Oak operated side-by-side until 1956 when the Royal Oak closed. The White Horse has since been the only public house in the village as it was more than 150 years ago. In a motorcar age it attracts customers, from a wide field to enjoy its hospitality in delightful country scenery.



Produced by Colin Swait August 2012

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

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