

Spring Newsletter 2019

THE GODALMING TRUST



Farncombe Boat House on the National Trust owned and managed River Wey

*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

President	Christopher Robinson
Vice Presidents	Alan Brown Ron Musk
Executive Committee	Pam Talbot – Chairman Bridget Bagnall – Secretary Richard Gidlow – Treasurer Graham Kimber Caroline Hopkins Gareth Munro Pauline Scarsbrook Colin Swait
Planning Committee	Colin Swait - Chairman Gareth Munro Bridget Bagnall
Civic Design Awards Committee	Gareth Munro – Chairman Colin Swait
Heritage Open Days Committee	Pam Talbot - Chairman Caroline Hopkins Colin Swait



Chairman's Introduction 2019

Welcome to our Spring Newsletter.

2019 is the 25th Anniversary of Heritage Open Days and The Godalming Trust is hoping to make it a memorable event. This year in Godalming it is on 13-15th September. We are hoping to offer some new properties. It appears that the first Godalming Heritage Open Days was in 1995. We have a copy of the programme on our website in the Archive. It consisted of coach trips over the weekend to 4 properties and a number of guided town walks. In 2018 there were more than 20 properties and events. The national theme for this year is 'People Power' as far as we know there has been no uprising or massacre in Godalming (please let us know if we are wrong!), but there have been a large number of individuals who have made a difference both in the town and to the wider community as well as public funding support for both the Pepperpot and the Phillips Memorial. It was the first town to have a public electricity supply, but not the first to have electric street lighting as often reported.

We are grateful to Godalming Town Council for their support for the Heritage Open Days programme, Godalming Museum for

issuing the tickets, along with all those who give up their time to open properties, guide walks and steward. It is at an early stage in planning but we are hoping to have a launch event for Heritage Open Days in early September. If you would like to help in any way this year please do get in touch.

If you have not been on one do consider a Godalming Town History walk this summer. The full list of dates is on page 10-11. They are very popular and it always brings a smile to my face when people learn that Godalming was a very industrial town in the past (you could apparently smell when you were approaching the town by train - from the tanneries and other industries) and it was not the 'rural market town' idealised by the weekend papers.

Also do look at our website (www.thegodalmingtrust.org.uk) from time to time, our Webmaster is making it more dynamic and we will try to put more information there during the year.

We have recently received a generous donation, for which we are most grateful, to further the aims of The Trust, I hope to give you more information later in the year.

Finally, I am grateful for the continued support of the Executive Committee members without whom I would be overwhelmed. However, it is your society and we welcome your feedback and we would be grateful for any assistance you could give us.

Pam Talbot

Chairman

info@thegodalmingtrust.org.uk

Treasurer's Report

We have again have had a rather quiet year in terms of financial transactions. The main difference this year has been the decision, welcome by ourselves, by Godalming Town Council to take over directly the major printing costs of the Heritage Open Days Weekend. We therefore no longer receive their usual contributions. I say welcome by ourselves, in that we were unable previously to reclaim VAT that had been charged to us on the costs of publishing and advertising of the Open Day Weekend. So we have saved some money, in that the contribution received was never quite sufficient to cover all our costs. Godalming Town Council have also benefited in that they have been able to reclaim the VAT charged. Good news all round.

Our finances continue to remain healthy. The main expenditure during the year again related to our Website, in that 2 of the committee had to go on a training course in order to be able to maintain the site following a change of personnel, our newsletters and other publicity material. We have also contributed to the Godalming Music Festival. Our Insurance costs have risen this year as well.

I must thank members for their continued support of the Godalming Trust through their membership donations 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, Gareth Munro, Bridget Bagnall, and myself with Pam Talbot joining us from time to time. We meet regularly, every three weeks, and review planning applications submitted to Waverley Borough Council.

This year following meetings of the various local civic Societies in Waverley, we met the Chief Executive, Tom Horwood, Elizabeth Sims, Head of Planning, and Councillor Julia Potts, Leader of the Council to discuss our concerns in the changing world of Planning. With the government directive to allow change of use for redundant Offices into flats, once they had been marketed for 2 years without suitable tenants/buyers being found, and other matters concerning changes to the Green Belt, little regard to road access through towns, and a lack of infra-structure generally.

We have opposed any development on Broom & Lees, the Charterhouse playing fields and in the Green Belt, we opposed development on the site adjacent to Aarons Hill until the Developer was able to provide proper plans for access to both the A3 and Ockford Road and the Binscombe development, we thought, impinged on the surrounding countryside to the detriment of the area.

Colin Swait

Chairman, Godalming Trust Planning Committee

Civic Design Awards 2020

This year Waverley Borough Council ran the competition and Godalming Trust will be running it again in 2020. Any suggestions of potential projects to be entered into the various categories, please contact Gareth Munro –email gareth@munrostudios.com



Lt General Sir Frederick Marshall
(reproduced courtesy of Godalming Museum)

The Marshall Family of Farncombe

The Marshall family played a significant role in the development of both Farncombe and Godalming.

Lt General Sir Frederick Marshall (1829-1900), lived in Broadwater House, Farncombe, (this is the site of Broadwater School today) with his wife Adelaide and children. One of whom was Sybil Mary, who became the Baroness Hamilton of Dalzell. He fought in the Crimean War and took part in the Zulu Wars . He held the office of Alderman of the Borough of Godalming in 1900.

Frederick was one of the seven children of **George** (1789-1853) and **Sarah Marshall** (1799-1874), the timber merchants who bought the Manor of Farncombe from the British Freehold Land Society, with 76 heriots and £2 a year quit-rents in 1859.

One story I have heard is that Sir Frederick bought his horse back from the war, which was a quite normal occurrence in those days and that it is buried beneath a tree by the side of Broadwater Lake. We won't find the truth of this until the tree falls and the remains are found (or not)*.

Sir Frederick was President of the Surrey County Cricket Club in 1867 and along with two of his brothers, Alexander and Harry excelled at the game. The family appear to have been very sporty possibly due to their height and build which was unusual for the Victorian period when the average height for a man was 5'5" and they reached 6'4". His uncle, Henry Marshall (1795-1874), a solicitor who lived in the High Street and was the first mayor of Godalming, was a supporter of Julius Caesar (1830-1878), a young highly regarded professional cricketer born in Godalming. Julius was lucky to have been brought up in a family who were devoted to the game of cricket, so much so that they fielded their own team in a celebrated match in August 1850 when Twelve Caesars vied with Eleven Gentlemen of Godalming & District. When Julius came upon hard times, through the death of his wife from cancer and the suicide of one of his sons, it was Frederick Marshall who started a fund for him. He nevertheless died at the young age of 47 and is buried in Deanery Road graveyard but has no gravestone.

There is a Marshall's solicitors in the town today and the Georgian house (formerly called The Croft) where Henry lived is now Nero's coffee shop. It had a very long back garden stretching all the way up to Butts Lane on Holloway Hill. A summerhouse was built there to access the terrific views and it still stands today having a Grade II listing. The garden eventually became Croft Road and in later years Flambard Way. In 1897, General Sir Frederick Marshall, who at the time was a director of the London and South Western Railway Company is

said to have instigated the building of Farncombe Station, a building more grand than might have been usual for a 'minor stop' on the Portsmouth Direct Line between Guildford and Godalming. This allowed cricketers to attend games on Broadwater cricket pitch more easily via a direct path on to the field.



Farncombe Station

Murray Wyatt Marshall (1853-1930) was Sir Fredericks nephew and a renowned rugby player. In an era where international matches were few and far between, Marshall played in ten consecutive international matches, a record that stood for 36 years. He was described in 1892 'as in every respect one of the best forwards England ever turned out. Possessed of great height and strength, he was invaluable in a scrummage, used his feet well when the ball got loose, and was a very clever tackle'. When his rugby career was over Murray moved into his family business of timber merchants and lived with his family at Springwood House in the Brighton Road. His father, **Murray Marshall senior** (1825-1870) lived with his wife, Eliza and their children in Bridge House on Bridge Street. This was the house opposite the church on the corner of the

bridge, which was demolished in 1969. Murray was responsible for setting up Hillside School in Frith Hill.

The large nineteenth century house on the hillside overlooking Farncombe was used as a hydropathic establishment, then became a boy's school and lastly was used as a guest house / hotel. It had a coach house, stables and outbuildings and the grounds covered several acres. Murray Marshall appears to have purchased the property in 1866 and in 1867 an advertisement announced that Hill-side was being used as an Hydropathic Establishment 'for the treatment of acute and chronic diseases ... the locality is salubrious and beautiful, the situation being one of the finest in the Surrey Hills'. By 1871 the Thompson family were living at Hillside, so the experiment with hydropathy was over.

Edwina Young

Sources Ancestry – Wikipedia – British History on Line – Surrey Maps – Lindfield History

*When searching for a photo of Sir Frederick I came across a reference that his horse was buried at Catteshall Manor, this seemed strange and I am very grateful to David Marshall Hall (a great great great grandson of George and Sarah Marshall who has a website on the family) who replied to my email and confirmed that it was correct and who has seen the memorial stone there. Sir Frederick gave his horse to his nephew Charles Fairtlough who lived with his parents at the Manor.

Dates for your Diary 2019

Godalming Town History Walks

The popular walks will take place on the second Saturday of May, June, July and August. There are essentially two walks and they will run on alternate months

All the walks start from the Pepperpot at 2.30pm, no booking is required and they are free. Just turn up. The walks take about 1½ hours and they are fairly easy walking. For more information please email: info@thegodalmingtrust.org.uk

May 11th – Exploring the industrial history of the town through its buildings, then ending with a walk up Church Street looking at the timber framed buildings. (**Walk 1**)

June 8th –This walk will cover the High Street and Bridge Street. Godalming was about half way between London and Portsmouth and had a number of coaching inns. With the arrival of the railway to Portsmouth in 1859 this trade diminished. We will explore this side of Godalming's history but will still see evidence of its industrial past. (**Walk 2**)

July 13th – Walk 1 repeated

August 10th – Walk 2 repeated

Godalming Museum and Godalming Trust Summer Lunch

Sunday June 9th – this year the lunch will take place at Jordans, Eashing, courtesy of Mr and Mrs Isaacs.

Details of the Autumn/Winter lecture series will be available in the Annual Report issued later in the year

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