



Hereford cattle at Coverwood Farm

Industrious Surrey Hills

With all the glorious countryside of the Surrey Hills, the concept of it being a manufacturing region doesn't immediately spring to mind. However, if we look back through history, we find that significant activity has taken place in and around the Surrey Hills.

Historical records show traces of iron working around Haslemere. These relate primarily to the 16th and 17th century so it is logical to assume that the ore and the wood charcoal were locally sourced. The locations of sites close to the Wey plus various ponds are all indicative of the iron furnaces and forges being water powered. There is also an indication of iron works

at Ewood near Newdigate. These are known to have been working in the 16th century. Our 2016 events programme will include a visit to this site.

The Chiddingfold area has another claim to fame – it was an important centre for medieval glass from 1350-1400 but records date this

Medieval glass in St Mary's church, Chiddingfold



industry as early as 1226. During the reign of Elizabeth I, there were no fewer than eleven glass works on the green. Chiddingfold glass was used in some of the finest buildings in the land, including St Stephen's Chapel, Westminster, and St George's Chapel, Windsor. It is suggested that the works were suppressed during the reign of Elizabeth I on the petition of the inhabitants that they were causing a nuisance. However, this action was probably due largely to the unpopularity of the foreigners (French, Flemings and Germans from Lorraine) who owned these furnaces.

Within the heart of the Surrey Hills, we find the Tillingbourne. This was a very heavily industrialised watercourse with many mills and other waterworks. The mills would have been for grain, fulling of cloth, iron work, and various other uses. The two most famous activities are, of course, the manufacture of paper for treasury notes and the production of gunpowder – both anathema to William Cobbett as recorded in his Rural Rides. The Surrey Hills Society is currently involved in an HLF funded project to record more about the industrial history of this area (see page 3).

These industries would all have developed innovative ways of doing

things. The 19th and 20th century brought fame to several local innovators and inventors and a small selection of these are featured in our centre page spread. And the story continues - various companies undertake research and development at sites within the Surrey Hills. There is also a blend of academic and business research and innovation at centres such as the UCL Mullard Space Science Laboratory at Holmbury St Mary and at the University of Surrey with its 5G Innovation Centre which is looking to develop the next generation of mobile and wireless connectivity systems.



Whilst the Surrey Hills have wonderful landscapes and leisure opportunities, they are also a dynamic and innovative region. It is this blend of conserved and protected areas with entrepreneurs and innovators which helps keep the area as something special. Enjoy them – they are your Surrey Hills.

Chairman's View

Ken and Chris on the Mayor's sponsored walk



What an exciting year we have in store for you. There are so many walks, talks and events I want to go on, I am not sure when I will have time to go to work! 2016 is going to be the "Year of the Garden" and we will certainly have plenty of gardens to visit. I am delighted to tell you that Baroness Sweerts de Landas Wyborgh has kindly agreed to open her Dunsborough Park garden near Ripley, famous for its tulips, in support of our Society. We are very grateful to her for this opportunity. Do remember to book early for this special opportunity in April.

We have also agreed to support the Gatton Trust this year with fund raising for their latest project to enhance and reinstate more of the landscape originally designed by "Capability" Brown, the famous 18th century landscape architect who worked at

Rob Tong steps down as Trustee



Aly Holly steps down



Pete Lambert's walk at Chilworth

Gatton Park. It is the 300th anniversary of his birth this year.

I must thank all the growing army of volunteers who work tirelessly for the Surrey Hills to create events, monitor the website, give talks, assist with membership or man the trailer at the many shows we attend... to name but a few of our tasks! If you would like to join the team do please call me to discuss opportunities.

I must thank again two of our Trustees who stood down at our AGM in November 2015. Rob Tong and Aly Holly have taken the decision to stand down due to family reasons. But we were delighted to announce their successor, Tariq Phillips, a lawyer from Woking. Tariq is full of energy and new ideas and takes his new role seriously.

I also want to give a big thank you to Pete Lambert who helped me start the 20-30s walking group that meets on the first Sunday of every month for a free walk somewhere in the Surrey Hills. The walks programme has gone from strength to strength but many of our, may I say "older" members, fed back to me that they liked the sound of these walks too. Therefore, we have opened up the Sunday walks to all members who feel they are fit enough to keep up with the "30 somethings".

I must also thank Ken Bare, our Vice Chairman, for the huge effort he put in to organise the Mayor of Waverley, Mike Band's, sponsored walk along the Greensand Way



Our amazing afternoon tea at the Duke of Kent School

Maggie Barlow from Imbhams Farm supporting the Mayors Walk



last September. It was great fun meeting the Mayor of Haslemere, who saw us off at the start. A huge thank you also to Maggie Barlow from Imbhams Farm, who came and gave us some of her wonderful local muesli and apple juice along with our sausages and rolls to set us up for the days walking. Maggie is a great supporter of ours and you will often find her stall at the various farmers markets across the county.

I also need to give a huge thank you to the Duke of Kent School for their fantastic support welcoming us back on the last day of our journey. This Pre-prep to Year 11 school is in an amazing setting in the Surrey Hills near Ewhurst. Thank you also for the scrumptious afternoon tea that they kindly put on for us. What a wonderful school.

I am pleased to announce that the event has raised nearly £4000 for the Surrey Hills Trust Fund, to be used for projects to conserve and enhance the AONB. The event was so popular we plan to do another one in 2016.

I hope you enjoy the 2016 programme of walks, talks, fund-raising and volunteering for the wonderful Surrey Hills.

Chris Howard, Chairman

Start of Mayors walk at Haslemere Town Hall



North Downs Way gets Googled!

The North Downs Way is to become the first National Trail in the UK to be fully captured by the Google Trekker. Last year the intrepid North Downs Way explorers headed out into the great British countryside with the Google Trekker to record a 360 degree panoramic experience of the trail.

The North Downs Way is one of only 15 designated National Trails in England and Wales with diverse appeal and many unique features. Passing through 153 miles of

stunning and varied countryside, the North Downs Way traverses the protected landscapes of the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and the Kent Downs AONB. The route begins at the impressive new start sculpture in Farnham (designed locally by the Utopia Foundry in Guildford) and emerges onto the White Cliffs of Dover. These images will be made available for public use via Google Maps in the Spring of 2016 and will showcase the many and varied benefits the trail brings to its users and to the local economy. To plan your visit go to www.nationaltrail.co.uk/north-downs-way



Biggest sporting challenge in Surrey launched

The Surrey Hills Challenge is set to be one of the biggest sporting challenges in Surrey this year with a series of running and



Launch of Surrey Hills Challenge at Hindhead

walking events in the Surrey Hills AONB on Sunday 25th September 2016.

People of all ages and fitness can participate in four different running and walking challenges. The Greensand Way will form the backdrop to the event where the super fit can face the ultimate challenge with 'The Ultra', a 60km run, 'The Half', no ordinary walk (or run) in the park of 21km, 'The Ten', a fast and furious 10km or 'The Five', a family challenge 5km event.

The challenges start in Haslemere, go past the Devil's Punchbowl at Hindhead, traverse Surrey's main hills of Hascombe, Pitch, Holmbury and Leith Hill, before descending north to Dorking.

Jim McAllister, Chief Executive, Rutland Management Ltd comments;

"We are delighted to be working with the Community Foundation for Surrey and the Surrey Hills to deliver an event that will not only raise funds for local communities, but highlight and help preserve the beautiful countryside."

Chairman of the Surrey Hills Trust Fund, Neil Maltby comments;

"The Surrey Hills Trust Fund is delighted to have been chosen as the beneficiary for the Surrey Hills Challenge event. Money raised will go into local projects from clearing viewpoints and restoring landscape features to educating younger audiences. Your support of this event will help to safeguard this beautiful area for future generations".

For more information or to register, visit www.surreyhillschallenge.com or call 01483 720459 / 542221.

Professor Crocker at Tillingbourne Tales launch

In our last edition we introduced you to our new Co-ordinator for the Tillingbourne Tales HLF project, Dr Anne Sassin. You may remember that the Surrey Hills Society is a principal partner in delivering this project. In this edition we will update you on the progress so far.

Anne explains "The idea with this project is that it will help celebrate the industrial heritage of the Tillingbourne Valley, and reveal aspects of it that have either been overlooked in the past, or have not yet been discovered. The project hopes to bring awareness of the local history to the residents, and help them understand the national importance the area held, so that they can help preserve the information discovered for future generations.

Each village will have its industrial past drawn-out through the creation of

characters based on research of actual historical figures (for example, a corn miller in Shalford, a gunpowder worker in Chilworth, a weaver in Shere, and a tanner in Gomshall). These characters will be created into puppets that will then visit the local schools and take part in a pageant which will be performed in the autumn.

Work will also take place with the Surrey Wildlife Trust and river wardens to learn about water conservation and monitoring, to help preserve the natural environment of the river valley".

A successful evening launch event took place at Shalford Village Hall on Monday 23 November, with a talk by local historian Professor Alan Crocker on the 'Mills of the Tillingbourne'.

Currently, Anne is working with the local Parish Councils, schools and local voluntary organisations to develop the project, with much of the core work being undertaken by local volunteers. Two volunteer training days have already taken place in November and December at the Surrey History Centre in Woking, with the support of Surrey

Heritage. It is not too late to get involved though, as there is a huge variety of roles and skills needed for this project: mapping, oral history collection, archive research, educational support, creative arts, IT and social media literacy, river wardening, and more. If you are interested in volunteering in any way, contact tillingbournetales@gmail.com, or find out more about the Tales and Trails of the Tillingbourne Valley project by visiting <http://www.tillingbournetales.co.uk> or joining their new Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/tillingbournetales/>.



Professor Crocker at the launch

Surrey's Innovators and Inventors

Throughout the centuries, Surrey folk have been inventive and creative people. A number of them had ideas which drove progress or had far reaching implications. In this feature, we highlight just six of them from the 19th and 20th Century – although, space permitting, we could have included many more.



Replica Penfold post box in Haslemere.

John Wornham Penfold

The first UK pillar boxes appeared in the 1850's. Standardisation of sorts came in

1857 when the Committee for Science & Art of the House of Lords designed a very ornate box festooned with Grecian style decoration but, in a major oversight, devoid of any posting aperture, which meant they were hewn out of the cast iron locally, destroying the aesthetic of the box. Between 1866 and 1879 the Penfold post box became the standard design for pillar boxes and it was during this period that red was first adopted as the standard colour.

John Wornham Penfold was a Haslemere man who became a prominent architect and surveyor. He surveyed the local area when the railways came, rebuilt and expanded Haslemere parish church and designed other local buildings. However, he is best remembered in the wider world for his post box.

Penfold's box combined simple design with functionality. Hexagonal in shape, it was adorned with acanthus leaves and balls, a far less ornate design than some earlier "standard" models. Many of the features initiated with the Penfold boxes remain in use today. Such was the impact of Penfold's work that it was the only post box ever to be known by the designers name and – even more of an accolade – its popularity led to replica Penfolds, bearing the cipher of Queen Victoria, being produced. The first replica was produced in 1988 and placed in the heritage area of Windsor. Another, installed in about 1990, is sited outside Penfold's former home in Haslemere.

J W Penfold died on 5th July 1909 and is buried in the grounds of St Bartholomew's Church, Haslemere.

Godalming Council

Since 1836, the Godalming Gas & Coke Company had lit the town's streets using gas. Late in 1881, the local council decided to award electricians Messrs. Calder and Barrett, of Lambeth, a twelve month contract to provide electricity to the street lamps. They used the existing posts and lamp housings but provided the generating equipment. It was all about money: their cost estimate undercut the gas company's quote.

The two waterwheels at E. & J. Pullman's Leather Works at Westbrook Mill were used to drive an alternator and an exciter. The electricity generated was taken by overhead cable to the High Street. There were two

circuits. The first was 250 volts and 12amps. It supplied seven arc lamps in series: three at the mill and four on posts in the town. The second circuit supplied 34 incandescent lamps at 40 volts. Most were located in the town, except for seven at the mill and Mr Pullman's house.

Calder and Barrett got out of their depth and Alexander Siemens stepped in after April 1882. It is believed that he replaced their generator with a traction engine in a shed behind the Old White Hart. However, the whole enterprise was costing him money and when the contract came up in 1884, he declined to tender. The project was abandoned and the town went back to gas. It was, however to be recorded as



Image from "The Graphic" Nov 1881, courtesy of Godalming Museum

the world's first public electricity supply illuminating the local streets. The Godalming Power Station was driven by water, and was thus also the first hydroelectric power station in Britain.

John Henry Knight

Knight, born in Farnham in 1847 of a wealthy family, was both an inventor and pioneer. In 1868 he had a little steam carriage made; it was capable of carrying three passengers at a speed of 8 miles an hour on good roads, while it easily mounted the hills in the neighbourhood of Farnham. Over the following years he created a renowned steam powered hop digger; a heat saving radiator; a brick laying machine; a grenade thrower, a speedometer, wooden vehicle tyres, and a patent 'dish lever' for tilting plates when carving meat.

His enduring fame though is as a result of an event in 1895 when he and his assistant, James Pullinger, built Britain's first petrol-powered motor vehicle. The car

was designed very much as an experiment in order to attract Police attention and therefore create public awareness of the

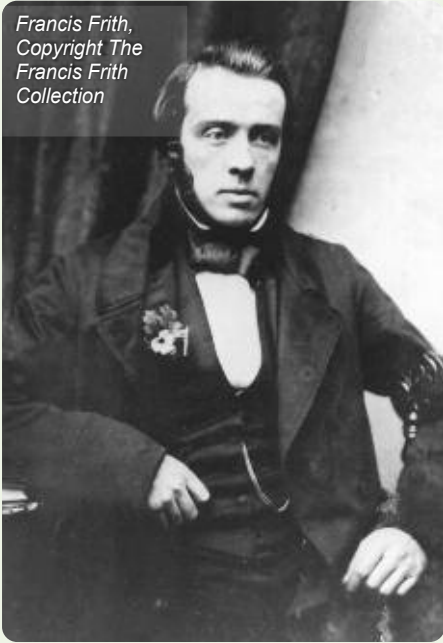


Knight on one of his early cars, courtesy Museum of Farnham

many restrictions which prevented the use of motor carriages in Britain at that time. Knight managed to use the vehicle for some 150 miles on public roads, before being stopped by the Police. However, On 17 October 1895, they drove through Farnham, Surrey, whereupon he was prosecuted for using a locomotive with neither a licence nor a man walking in front with a red flag. Knight subsequently became a founder member of the Automobile Association (AA) and was instrumental in the repeal of the Red Flag Act.

Interestingly, Knight was also a keen photographer and pioneer of early colour photography, photographing Farnham and the surrounding countryside in the early years of the 20th century.

Francis Frith,
Copyright The
Francis Frith
Collection



Francis Frith

Frith was born in Chesterfield, Derbyshire. In 1850 he started a photographic studio in Liverpool. A successful grocer and printer, Frith fostered an interest in photography, becoming a founding member of the Liverpool Photographic Society. Frith sold his companies in 1855 in order to dedicate himself entirely to photography. From 1857 he undertook three pioneering photographic expeditions to Egypt and the Holy Land.

In 1859, he opened the firm of Francis Frith & Co. in Reigate, Surrey, as the world's first specialist photographic publisher. In 1860, he married and embarked upon a colossal project—to photograph every town and village in the United Kingdom; in particular, notable historical or interesting sights. Initially he took the photographs himself, but as success came, he hired people to help him and set about establishing his postcard company, a firm that became one of the

largest photographic studios in the world. Within a few years, over two thousand shops throughout the UK were selling his postcards.

After Frith's death in 1898 his two sons, and later his grandson, continued his massive task. The Francis Frith Collection now contains over 300,000 images of 8,500 cities, towns and villages taken between 1860 and 1970, and is recognised as being the only nationally important archive of its kind in private hands.

Over 130,000 images are already available to view on the Frith website – www.francisfrith.com – and the company has just finished a major project to digitise the entire photographic archive. Frith's work has been an important contribution to social history, providing a window on the UK's – and especially Surrey's – towns and villages. If you have never checked their web site, it's worth doing – their images are not only fascinating but also make excellent gifts.

John Rand Capron

Capron was an amateur astronomer and highly respected spectrologist. Apart from practising as a solicitor he had a variety of other roles; Clerk of the Peace for the borough of Guildford; Chairman of Directors for Guildford Gas Light & Coke Company, and for some years Coroner.

He was educated at The Royal Grammar School, Guildford. While at school he had typhoid fever and during his recovery he was lent a microscope. This opened a new world of study. Initially interested in biology and geology, he later developed a particular enthusiasm for the study of spectroscopy and astronomy. Capron built himself a private observatory in Guilddown, on the Hog's Back.



Capron's Observatory, Copyright of Paul Fuller, courtesy of Surrey History Centre

In 1877 he published a significant work on "Photographed Spectra", which provided reference photographs of the spectra of

various elements. In 1879 he extended this into a study of the characteristics of the aurora, and in 1883 published an analysis of an extremely unusual phenomenon observed during the aurora of 17 November 1882. Capron was one of the first scientists to seriously research the nature of aurorae, particularly from a spectrographic perspective.

In 1880, in a letter printed in the scientific journal Nature, he recorded what may be the first report of a crop circle. It is clear from his writings and studies that he was of an inquisitive and analytical mind and was a true innovator, using new technologies and developing new theories to support his findings. Sadly, his health deteriorated and he died in 1888 before he was 60.

Ada Lovelace & Alan Turing

Ada Lovelace has recently had significant media coverage connected to the 200th anniversary of her birth in 1815. Ada loved machines. She spent hours poring over diagrams of new inventions and eagerly devouring any new periodical journals she could get her hands on. She also had a



Ada Lovelace



Plaque outside Turing's parents home in Guildford

mathematically focussed education and when she was subsequently introduced to Charles Babbage and his "Analytical Engine", something clicked. She foresaw how such machines could undertake far more complex tasks than those Babbage focussed on and started to develop ideas which are now considered to form the birth of computer science.

Ada's ideas found their way into modern computing via Alan Turing. During WWII, as he was working at Bletchley Park on decoding German communications, Turing discovered Lovelace's Menabrea translation (of Babbages presentation in Turin) and its attendant notes. They were critical documents that helped to shape his thinking. In his seminal paper Computing Machinery and Intelligence, Turing explored the question

"Can machines think?", promptly launching the field of artificial intelligence.

Ada was married to William King, the 8th Baron King who became 1st Earl of Lovelace – with family homes at Ockham and then Horsley Towers in East Horsley. Turing's parents had a house in Guildford where he spent school holidays and other periods. Consequently, it is fair to say that Surrey had two major computer pioneers amongst its residents.

 **Surrey Hills Society**

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CowParade is coming to the Surrey Hills

Surrey Hills Enterprise Director, Tim Metson, along with a stunning chrome cow named "Mirror Moo" (which reflects the landscape of the Surrey Hills), attended the Surrey Hills Society AGM in November 2015 and explained to our members what this project is all about.

Basically the idea of CowParade is that individuals, companies and schools can sponsor a life-size cow and either decorate it themselves, or bring in an artist to do it. The cows will then be displayed around the county before being herded to the inaugural Surrey Hills Food, Drink and Music Festival at Coverwood Farm on 3 September where they will be auctioned off for charity. The best designed 'top twenty' will be auctioned at a glittering ceremony held at a unique London location later in the year. The cow

sponsors can choose their own charity and the auction proceeds will be split between that and the Surrey Hills Trust Fund, a charity established to conserve and protect the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, leaving a legacy for generations to come.

Internationally renowned artist Alexander Creswell who is Patron of CowParade Surrey says:

"The CowParade is a brilliant platform for generating creativity and for bringing together businesses, schools and individuals across Surrey, it will also be a huge amount of fun! Together we will be creating a massive art installation with the potential to raise lots of money for good causes and for the Surrey Hills Trust Fund in particular."

CowParade was born in Switzerland in 1998 and has been staged in more than 80 cities and towns worldwide. Over the years 3,000 cows have been decorated by more than 5,000 artists. CowParade New York had 450 cows and was seen worldwide by



45 million people. The highest-grossing cow was created by designer John Rocha for CowParade Dublin in 2003 – studded with thousands of pieces of Waterford Crystal it was auctioned for \$146,000 – quite a lot of moo-lah indeed.

The cows will be on display out in Surrey from May – September 2016 where the public will have an opportunity to see them all and there is a specially designed app currently being created to track all the cows.

For more information on how to take part call the Surrey Hills CowParade team on 01483 661150 or visit the website at www.cowparadesurreyhills.com

Discovering, revealing and interpreting views of the Surrey Hills

Funding has been received from the Mittal Foundation to establish a Surrey Hills Arts programme. The project will open up hidden views in the southern Surrey Hills, improve access, engage with communities and commission artists' responses to these views. Surrey Hills Arts will commission five artists to create artworks inspired by far reaching

views across the Greensand Way. These artworks will respond to the location and incorporate seating providing a reason to visit, pause and appreciate the outstanding view.

Each art installation will be beautifully crafted, innovative in design and relevant to the sense of place.

An education programme alongside each site will inspire and engage new audiences through talks, creative writing, poetry, sound and photography.

For further information visit www.surreyhills.org or contact Programme Manager, Ali Clarke; sa.visual@surreycc.gov.uk.

Special offer 10% off your next pub meal bill

Red Mist is pleased to offer this voucher at The Cock Inn (Headley), The Queens Head (East Clondon), The Duke of Cambridge (Tilford), The Stag on the River (Eashing) and the Wheatsheaf (Farnham).

A promotional voucher for Red Mist Leisure. The top left corner features the Red Mist Leisure logo. The top right corner says "VOUCHER". The main text reads "10% OFF YOUR BILL" and "Red Mist Leisure". Below this, it states: "Red Mist Leisure is pleased to offer 10% off your bill when two main meals are purchased in any one transaction (excludes sandwiches). Offer valid at The Cock Inn, The Queens Head, The Duke of Cambridge, The Stag on the River and The Wheatsheaf." At the bottom, there are "Terms and conditions": "One voucher per customer. Excludes Saturdays after 6pm & Sundays before 6pm. Not valid in conjunction with any other offers. Offer expires 23 March 2016." The Surrey Hills Enterprises logo is in the bottom right corner. The background of the voucher shows a scenic view of a river and hills.



Sponsor's View

It was a great pleasure to meet many of you at the 2015 Annual General Meeting and also at Belmont School. My firm is very proud of being the current sponsor of your newsletter.

One of my interests in having my firm sponsor the Surrey Hills Society newsletter

is that it enables me to let people know about the innovative things that are going on in Dorking and its surroundings.

In late 2014 Aviva allowed part of the grounds of the former Friends' Life complex in Dorking to be used to create the "Patchworking Garden Project". Two acres of wilderness that are contained in the original walled garden have been taken over to provide a sanctuary where people struggling with problems, such as bereavement, isolation and physical or psychological ill health can immerse themselves in creating and tending different types of flower and vegetable beds. In addition, a sensory garden, wooded area and a bog garden have been created.

After a full year of developing the site, the organisers of this project can now show it off to visitors and the Society plans to arrange a trip there during the summer. We can also explore the historic village of Pixham and perhaps take in a cricket match at Dorking Cricket Club's grounds next to Pixholme Grove.



Barn and Mill conversions

Who would not like the idea of living in a beautifully converted barn or mill and having wonderful views over the Surrey countryside? You would be surprised how many!

Agricultural buildings offer a means to increase the rural housing stock without interfering with Green Belt planning restrictions. Or do they?

In March 2015, the Department for Communities and Local Government issued new planning practice guidelines because approximately 52% of prior approval applications for agricultural to residential conversions had been refused in the period between April and September 2014. Under the Permitted Development rights issued in 2014 local councils were expected to allow farm buildings to be converted to homes without planning permission.

Mole Valley District Council has an enlightened approach towards agricultural conversions and it is a credit to the Planning Department that a holistic concept of maintaining the traditional character of the area, along with the need to find new uses for redundant properties, has continued to make our Surrey Hills such a wonderful place to live in.

But there are drawbacks to owning a converted agricultural building. Access is one, with planning decisions often limiting the amount of car parking space so as not to affect the character of the countryside. Also lack of provision may mean that internet access is poor or not available and connection to main services difficult or impossible.



Also there is the question of whether an agricultural building close to a Listed Property also has the protection of itself being Listed. In my researches this is normally a decision for the local Council to make and often hinges on whether the property is considered to lie within the curtilage of the main property.

From an insurance perspective, the construction of most converted farm buildings renders them "non - standard" as far as mainstream insurers are concerned. For those insurers that are prepared to consider such properties, clients need first to establish the precise rebuilding costs before comparing one insurance quote from another. Some insurers offer as part of their service a free survey to look at the correct reinstatement cost of a building and also advice over fire and security protection.

Remember also that many agricultural buildings have been constructed in flood plains, so unless this has been taken into consideration as part of the conversion process, flood cover may not always be available.

Contact me on 01306 734105 or at aw@anthonywakefield.com for more information.

AONB Planner's view

"For several years local and national planning policies have provided for the conversion of rural buildings, not just barns, to dwellings subject to certain criteria being met. However, their low key, rustic charm as working buildings connected with managing farmland and often forming attractive features of the Surrey Hills in themselves, does change. Even though conversions can be well designed, their use as dwellings necessitates numerous physical changes, such as the insertion of many more windows. Then there is all the paraphernalia associated with dwellings such as parked cars, garaging, smart driveways, domestic gardens, fencing, washing lines and sometimes sheds and greenhouses. In the future the houses may be extended and so more building bulk. Sometimes the character of adjoining land also changes from agriculture to 'horsiculture' with stabling.

In time, unconverted traditional farm buildings still used for farming will become a rarity. The character of the Surrey Hills will be the lesser for that.

Generous permitted development rights allows for replacement agricultural buildings to be erected. If in future these in turn are allowed to be converted so the cycle will continue with more and more buildings in the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. So while the short term view is that these conversions can provide lovely homes for the occupiers and that is better than allowing new houses to be built in the AONB, the longer term public enjoyment of the natural beauty of the Surrey Hills tends to be overlooked. Imagine how the Surrey Hills will look in say 100 or 200 years time if this is allowed to continue."

Clive Smith

Events Programme February – June 2016

Visit our website for more information and additional events. Bookings generally open about 6 weeks before each event and must be booked in advance – even free ones. Non-email users can get more information by sending an SAE to the address above.

Saturday 13th February

Map reading to enjoy The Surrey Hills

A training day for those who want to get out and appreciate the Surrey Hills, but do not have the confidence and experience to use Ordnance Survey maps and a compass. Based in Wotton.

Monday 15th February (and other dates)

Activities for Children & Families at Gatton Park

Signposting to Gatton Park Trust

As part of our support to Gatton Park in 2016, we wish to highlight their regular events programme for children & families. See www.gattonpark.com/events-for-children.php and www.gattonpark.com/events-for-toddlers.php for more details.

Wednesday 24th February

Snowdrops at Gatton

An exclusive opportunity to see the snowdrops at Gatton, plus an explanation of the plans to celebrate the tercentenary of the birth of Capability Brown who created the landscape there. This is a project the Society is supporting in 2016. The talk and lunch will be in the magnificent hall of the house.

Sunday 6th March

Exploring Hindhead

Meet at the National Trust café, Devils Punchbowl for 11am start. Free guided walk

Tuesday 8th March

Fascinating Farnham

An evening talk hosted by the Town Clerk of Farnham. Learn about some of the history of the area and enjoy the rather special surroundings of the Council Chamber

Sunday 20th March

Family Day at Bocketts Farm

Join the Surrey Hills Society for a busy day full of activities at Bocketts Farm, have a picnic and see the lambs. You might even see one been born under your eyes! Children will take home Easter eggs decorated by themselves.

Easter holiday

Family Fun

Signposting to National Trust

Over the Easter holidays National Trust offers a wide range of activities for the whole family. See their website www.nationaltrust.org.uk and look for Easter holiday fun.

Sunday 3rd April

Exploring Box Hill, Dorking

Meet for 11am prompt start at National Trust Cafe at top of Box Hill. Allow around 2 hours for this 2¼ m strenuous walk. Free guided walk.

Tuesday 12th April

Review of Surrey Hills AONB Planning issues

A talk by the AONB team's Planning Consultant on current planning issues affecting the Surrey Hills. This is a must for Parish Councillors and those interested in planning related issues.

Tuesday 19th April

Redhill Aerodrome plus Surrey Air Ambulance

A specially hosted event in a 1930's aviation-themed venue. Featuring a talk on the history of the aerodrome plus a film about, and visit to, the Air Ambulance based on site. Lunch included.

Tuesday 26th April

Dunsborough Park Gardens

An exclusive private visit to the spectacular gardens with its magnificent display of tulips. We'll be taken around by the Head Gardener who will tell us all about these gardens that have been structured over hundreds of years, so there will be something to satisfy everyone's taste. There is also an exquisite collection of outdoor statuary and garden ornaments.

Sunday 8th May

Exploring Banstead Woods, near Chipstead

Meet at 11am for prompt start from Chipstead Railway station. This is an easy walk lasting 2 hours. Free guided walk.

Tuesday 10th May

Wonderful Winkworth Arboretum

Winkworth Arboretum has spectacular carpets of blooms giving an abundance of colour and scent. Our guided walk will cover the Arboretum's history, how it is managed plus information about the trees and plants.

Wednesday 25th May

Chaldon Church & Tudor House

We return to St Peter and St Paul's, Chaldon for an evening visit to view the internationally renowned twelfth-century doom mural. By special invitation, we will also be allowed to visit the adjacent Tudor House

Sunday 5th June

Exploring Woldingham

Meet for 11am prompt start from Woldingham Railway Station. This is a moderately strenuous walk, but no stiles and will take about 2 hours. Free guided walk.

Wednesday 8th June

Chairmans Day

Another popular day focussing on the excellent food and drink producers of the Surrey Hills. Details to follow

Wednesday 15th June

A Visit to Goddards

Goddards was built by architect Edwin Lutyens and has a garden laid out by his friend and collaborator, Gertrude Jekyll. We are privileged to have been granted access for a private viewing of this wonderful Arts & Crafts building situated at Abinger Common.

Wednesday 29th June

Duxhurst - Surrey's Lost Village

A morning talk by Ros Black who has researched and written about Duxhurst. In the 1890s, Lady Henry Somerset was travelling the world in her capacity as president of the British Women's Temperance Association. In 1894 she founded Duxhurst (just 3 miles south of Reigate) as a village for the care of inebriate women of all classes. Learn all about this forgotten community and Lady Somerset's work.



Dog friendly



Family Friendly



Open to everyone who enjoys faster, fitter pace but particularly suitable for our 20's-30's group. For more details on 20's-30's events check out Facebook - Discover Guildford, Twitter @DiscoverGfrd or Email: pete@discoverguildford.co.uk