

THE WARNHAM SOCIETY

29th Annual General Meeting

Friday 8th November 2013 at Warnham Village Hall at 8pm.

Refreshments will be available from 7.30 pm.

AGENDA

- 1. Apologies for Absence**
- 2. Approval of Minutes of the 28th AGM**
- 3. Matters arising from the Minutes**
- 4. The Committee's Report on the Society's Activities in 2012-2013**
- 5. The Treasurer's Report and Approval of Annual Accounts for the year 1st October 2012 to 30th September 2013**
- 6. Election of Members of the Committee**

All members of the present Committee have agreed to stand for the coming year, Mr W. Mc Laughlin is standing for election. Further nominations will be welcome at or prior to the meeting. Officers are appointed by the Committee at its first meeting after the AGM
- 7. Election of the Honorary Auditor and vote of thanks to Mr Boud for auditing the accounts**
- 8. Any Other Business**
- 9. Closure of the AGM**

The formal proceedings will be followed by the Autumn Meeting featuring:

- An update by Mr Lancaster on the Society's project to commemorate Warnham's part in the Great War**
- A talk by Jonny Burke of Southern Water on " Water Resources - the next decade and beyond "**

John Hamer

Brian King

Joint Chairmen, The Warnham Society

WARNHAM SOCIETY

ACCOUNTS 1ST OCTOBER 2012 TO 30TH SEPTEMBER 2013

Balance brought forward
from accounts at 30th September 2012

At bank: £820.76

Income

Subscriptions £290.00
Surplus from refreshments £70.50
Donations £34.00

Expenditure

Hire of Village Hall £110.00
Insurance (B.A.L.H.) £65.00
FOSAS subscription £25.00
CPRE subscription £34.00
Admin costs £11.00
Speakers fee £40.00

Total £285.00

Excess of Income over
Expenditure **£109.50**

Total **£394.50**

Total **£394.50**

Reconciliation

Funds carried forward £820.76
Plus excess for the year £109.50

At bank: **£930.26**

£930.26

Signed:.....Date:.....
Jeremy Thompson (Hon. Interim Treasurer)

Signed:.....Date:.....
R. J. Boud A.C.I.B (Hon. Auditor)

WARNHAM SOCIETY: COMMITTEE REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2012-13

Very sadly, the Society lost its much valued Treasurer with the death of Susan Lee in April after a brief illness. Susan had not been long on the committee, but in that time she made sure that we kept on the financial straight and narrow. Her enthusiasm, her strong attachment to Warnham and its people and her obvious concern for the smooth running of the Society made her an invaluable member. The contribution that she made is much missed.

The Society's activities have followed more or less the same pattern as previous years. After the formal business of last year's AGM in October, the Vicar – undoubtedly Warnham's best known and most prolific pantomimist (I don't think I made that word up) – entertained a sizeable audience on the history of pantomime. Christopher has written, produced and performed in all the parish pantomimes in recent years (Oh yes he has!) and his knowledge and love of the genre is infectious. In quite a different vein, in the second of our public meetings of the year in May, Tracy Borman, joint chief curator of Historic Royal Palaces, spoke on Elizabeth I – the hidden story of the Virgin Queen. Tracy's book on 'Elizabeth's Women' had been BBC Radio 4's book of the week shortly after its publication and as a 'royal historian' she is increasingly in demand, particularly by the media, in this year of the royal birth.

It was the imminent arrival of the young Prince George that prevented her joining us when a dozen or so members of the Society visited one of the Historic Royal Palaces, Hampton Court, for a 'behind the scenes' tour. Part of the tour involved a guided walkabout on the roof of the Palace. Seeing Hampton Court from this unusual angle offers considerable insights into the skills of the original builders, and the views are spectacular. There is, however, very little in the way of shade. Given that 22 July was amongst the sunniest days of the summer, after spending more than an hour thus exposed those now sunburnt souls who had been on the walkabout were very ready to partake of the cooling waters of the Tiltyard café.

Closer to home, over the years several people from the village have found Stone Age flint tools and medieval pottery in the fields to the south of Ends Place (Warnham Manor). Ends Place itself is sited strategically at a crossroads between the local river system and the ancient North-South Wapple Way, so continuous occupation and foot-traffic is a real possibility, perhaps for the past several thousand years.

This year, the Warnham Society in association with Horsham District Archaeological Group (HDAG) commenced a coordinated field-walking exercise to gain a better picture of exactly what there is to find and where. Access to the land was with the kind permission of Jonathan Lucas the landowner and his tenant farmer, and about a dozen members of the Warnham Society took part. Three walks were conducted in spring before drilling of the new crop, and finds were logged according to where they were found. Finds included evidence of flint working, some medieval pottery of a distinct local origin, Napoleonic era clay pipes and various oddities such as an old cow bell! The intention is to continue this survey systematically as and when field conditions are favourable, and members will be informed ahead of each organised walk.

August of next year marks the centenary of Britain's entry into the First World War. To commemorate this, a small group of members of the Society have been researching the lives of men and women connected with Warnham who died as a result of that conflict. The list includes both those who are recorded on the war memorial and some 20 others whose names, for whatever reason, do not appear there. This is something that, with the help of the Parish Council, the Society is seeking to rectify. In addition the aim is to develop a publication and a website.

Although strictly speaking not a Society activity, we do strongly support the activities of the Warnham Butterfly Project. Starting in 2010, regular surveys have been conducted on a weekly basis between April and September to record numbers, locations and species of flying butterflies. The results of these surveys are submitted to the National Butterfly Conservation database. Unlike some of us in some circumstances, butterflies apparently flourish in hot sunshine. And three new species of butterfly have been spotted at the Tilletts Fields reserve this year, reflecting a nationwide resurgence due to the warm weather. These were the Clouded Yellow, the White-letter Hairstreak and the Chalk-Hill Blue.

The Society's aims are threefold:

- to safeguard the character of Warnham parish;
- to foster any activity beneficial to the parish; and
- to promote the study and dissemination of the history of the parish.

The committee has attempted to promote all three of those aims during the course of the year; although, as is apparent from this report, we have attempted not to be unduly parochial. But, inevitably, much of the committee's time has been spent in considering, and where appropriate making representation on, issues and developments which effect the character of the parish. Not all are necessarily unwelcome; equally not all are obviously benign. They include planning applications – some merely modest domestic proposals, others with potentially far-reaching consequences – and vexed matters such as the volume of traffic, speeding and flooded roads.

If, however, the Society is to continue to be effective in meeting the purposes for which it was originally founded, more of our members need to be persuaded of the value of playing a more active role. The constitution allows for a committee shall consist of up to twelve members, with five constituting a quorum. With our present numbers, if two are unable to attend a meeting we cease to be quorate. Happily, the plea in the August edition of *The Warbler* for volunteers to join the committee did not go unheeded. But ... the opportunity remains open!

THE WARNHAM SOCIETY

Minutes of the 29th Annual General Meeting held in the Village Hall on Friday 8th November 2013.

Mr Hamer chaired the AGM and welcomed over 30 Society members and guests.

1. Apologies for Absence: None

2. The Minutes of the 28th AGM were approved; proposed by Mr Purcell. seconded by Mrs Jarvis

3. Matters arising from the Minutes: None

4. Committee's Report on the Society's Activities in 2012- 2013: Mr Hamer summarised the main features of the Committee's report. He paid a warm tribute to Sue Lee who died in April. During her term as Treasurer Sue's expertise had been invaluable in ensuring the Society's finances remained on a sound footing. The Autumn and Spring meetings were well received as was a trip to Hampton Court Palace. Society members joined in productive field walks at Ends Place and we continue to support the Warnham Butterfly Project. Work on the First World War commemoration continues apace. The Committee continues to scrutinise proposals and activities which could impact on the character of Warnham and to respond accordingly. Lastly, Mr Hamer emphasised the need for the Committee to keep up to strength if it is to fulfil its aims and asked members to consider joining.

5. The Treasurer's Report & Approval of the Annual Accounts: In Mr Thompson's absence Mr Hamer reported a welcome surplus of £109.50 which with a cash balance of £930.26 means the Society's finances are currently secure. The adoption of the accounts was proposed by Mrs Hamer, seconded by Mrs Jones

6. Election of Committee Members: Serving members (en bloc) were elected, as were new members Mrs Davies and Mr McLaughlin on a proposal by Mrs Lee, seconded by Mrs Brinkler,

7. Election of the Honorary Auditor: Mr Hamer thanked Mr Boud for his services and welcomed his agreement to stand again; he was elected on a proposal by Mrs Lee, seconded by Mr King.

8. Any Other Business: A member expressed his support for the speed indicating device recently brought into use in the village. Mr Purcell explained from the floor that it is owned by the Parish Council and is rotated around three locations.

9. Closure of the AGM: Mr Lancaster gave a progress report on the Society's project to commemorate next year the outbreak of the Great War and its impact on Warnham through publication of a book, the establishment of a website and the addition of 17 names to the War Memorial. Thanks were expressed for the Parish Council's support in realising those aims.

Mr Hamer closed the AGM and handed over to Mr King who asked Jonny Burke of Southern Water to speak on the provision of "Water Resources, The Next Decade and Beyond". The presentation prompted many questions to Mr Burke who was thanked by Mr King.