

THE WARNHAM SOCIETY

30th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

7th November 2014 at Warnham Village Hall at 8.00pm
(Please note that refreshments will be served from 7.30pm)

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Approval of Minutes of 29th AGM of the Warnham Society

3. Matters arising from the Minutes

4. Committee's Report on Activities of the Society in 2013-14

5. Treasurer's Report and Approval of Annual Accounts

The Report and Accounts will cover the year 1 Oct 2013 to 30 Sept 2014.

6. Hon. Auditor's Report

7. Election of Members of Committee (Maximum 12)

All members of the present committee have agreed to stand for the coming year. These comprise Anne Davies, Gillian Debenham-Taylor, George Elliott, John Hamer, Brian King, Steve Lancaster, Bill McLaughlin and Jeremy Thompson. Further nominations to the committee will be welcomed. Note that Officers, who comprise: Joint Chairmen, Treasurer, Minute Secretary, Correspondence Secretary and Membership Secretary, are appointed by the Committee at its first meeting after this AGM.

8. Election of Hon. Auditor

9. Membership Subscriptions and Society Income

Membership subscriptions represent the principal source of income to the Society, the other being admission charges for visitors attending certain of our meetings. The Committee is concerned that the present level of subscription renewals represents only approximately half of our membership. The resulting shortfall in income cannot be sustained indefinitely.

We have considered two possible courses of action:

Option 1 represents the 'status quo' and requires intensive and ongoing effort to 'chase up' missing subscriptions.

Option 2, preferred by the Committee, is simpler and dispenses with annual subscriptions in favour of free membership and 'per meeting' payments for all.

Accordingly, the Meeting is requested to approve the adoption of **Option 2** on a trial basis for one year, pending a decision for future adoption by AGM in 2015.

10. Any Other Business

11. Closure of AGM

The formal business of the AGM will be followed by a talk by Vicky Lillywhite of Horsham District Archaeology Group entitled 'From Endes Place to Ends Place'.

John Hamer
Brian King
Joint Chairmen, The Warnham Society

23 October 2014

WARNHAM SOCIETY: COMMITTEE REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2013 -14

A major aim of the Society since its foundation in 1985 has been to safeguard the character of the parish. And this remains ever high on the agenda for much of our activity.

During the past twelve months the character of the parish has appeared to be under assault from various quarters: notably, on land, by large scale housing development – actual and proposed - in the surrounding countryside; and, in the air, from the trialling of new flight paths and the uncertainty surrounding a possible second runway at Gatwick.

In responding to these threats the committee has attempted to not be unduly parochial, but to acknowledge that whilst not seeking to live in an ossified past, changes have to be properly considered and appropriately managed. The Parish Plan and the Parish Design Statement of 2007 and 2008, to both of which the Society had a major input, identified a number of criteria against which development should be assessed. Amongst these were that proposals should seek to build upon the parish's heritage and to incorporate the highest qualities in planning, design and materials. Development within the parish should be small- scale and gradual; and any large-scale development in the locality should address the potential impact upon the infrastructure. In particular it should go ahead only within a road system capable of accommodating the likely increase in traffic. It is these principles which have guided our deliberations on planning proposals.

Equally – or possibly more – contentious than some of the proposed local housing developments was the overflying of the parish as a result of the trialling of new flight paths out of and into Gatwick. The concerns that this caused were compounded by a consultation process that was, in the committee's view, so flawed that we responded by rejecting any of the options proposed. Clearly (or audibly), however, although the trials have ended, the danger of Gatwick becoming increasingly intrusive on the character of the parish has not.

Two of our public meetings this year were linked by a common theme – water. In different ways they addressed matters to do with the infrastructure of the parish past, present and future. In November Jonny Burke of Southern Water spoke about 'Water resources, the next decade and beyond.' In a region where a month without rain is likely to result in a hosepipe ban, or worse, water resources, or the lack of them, are clearly a burning issue – if that's not too oxymoronic. Jonny, however, was convincing – almost – that we need have no fear of the water supply running dry. But ... just in case, in May we introduced what is intended to be the first phase of an audit of wells in the parish. It was a fascinating evening. Mains water did not arrive in Warnham until 1933, so wells were essential to everyday living and as the project progresses we hope to record all those that are still extant.

A highlight of the year has been the publication of the Society's book on 'Warnham and the Great War' the product of more than two years' research by Elizabeth Bridges, George Elliott, Rachel Hamer, Steven Lancaster and Susan Overton. It was launched at our meeting in June and a service commemorating the 43 people known to be connected with Warnham who died during the 1914-18 war was held on 3 August, a day before Great Britain entered the war 100 years ago. The book has been a notable success with rave reviews. 'I have seen a good few local history publications in my time', wrote Brian Slyfield in the Horsham Society Newsletter, 'but this one must be among the very best'. Luckily, reasonably priced copies are still available!

As flagged in the September edition of the 'Warnham Warbler', the parish has the

opportunity to make its own input to the Horsham District Development Plan via the preparation of a Neighbourhood Development Plan. The steering group for this, on which the Society is represented, has now been formed and work on the Plan is underway. All members of the parish will be consulted at various stages in the process, so watch this space.

And, finally, what is becoming almost an annual plea. If the Society is to continue to be effective in meeting the purposes for which it was originally founded, we need more volunteers to join the committee. We have increased our number over the last two or three years, but it would be good to get closer to the 12 members that our constitution allows for. In coming years the parish will face a number of challenges. The opportunity is there for you to help to confront them wisely.

Anne Davies
Gillian Debenham-Taylor
George Elliott
John Hamer
Brian King
Steven Lancaster
Bill McLaughlin
Jeremy Thompson

November 2014

WARNHAM SOCIETY

ACCOUNTS 1ST OCTOBER 2013 TO 30TH SEPTEMBER 2014

Balance brought forward
from accounts at 30th September 2013

At bank: £930.26

Income

Subscriptions £180.00
Surplus from refreshments £82.83
Donations £0.00

WW1 Book Sales £2,232.01

Expenditure

Hire of Village Hall £110.00
Insurance (B.A.L.H.) £65.00
FOSAS subscription £25.00

Warnham Parish Council
(WW1 books) £1,842.01

CPRE subscription £36.00
GACC annual subs £10.00
WW1 book flyer printing £56.34
WW1 book launch music £8.00

Total £2,152.35

Excess of Income over
Expenditure **£342.49**

Total £2,494.84

Total £2,494.84

Reconciliation


Funds brought forward £930.26
Plus excess for the year £342.49

At bank £1,272.75

Reserves: **£1,272.75**

£1,272.75

Signed:  Date: 9/10/14
Jeremy Thompson (Hon. Treasurer)

Signed:  Date: 29/10/14
R. J. Boyd A.C.I.B (Hon. Auditor)

THE WARNHAM SOCIETY

Minutes of the 30th Annual General Meeting held in the Village Hall on Friday 7 November 2014.

Mr Hamer chaired the AGM, welcoming about 40 members and guests. He explained that documentation appertaining to the AGM was displayed electronically on the Society's website and by PowerPoint projection at the meeting, This environmental friendly move was intended to reduce paper and printing costs

1. Apologies for Absence: Beryl Jarvis, Mary Jasper, Roger & Joy Purcell.

2. The Minutes of the 29th AGM were approved: proposed by Marion Stockley, seconded by Angela King.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes: None

4. Committee Report on the Society's Activities in 2013-2014: Mr Hamer paid tribute to George Brand, the Society's erstwhile long serving Treasurer, who died earlier this year. Mr Hamer summarised the main issues raised in the report and the Committee's responses. These included the impact of increased noise from the Gatwick flight path trials and the possibility of second runway at Gatwick, both of which raised great concern within the parish and continue to do so.

Another is the actual and potential impact of housing development within and without the parish. The Parish Plan and the Parish Design Statement are now over six years old. Horsham District Council is planning the provision of 13,000 additional dwellings over the next 20 years, the parish is responding by preparing a community led Neighbourhood Development Plan to which the Society will contribute. The NDP will identify challenges and opportunities and appropriate responses. Given parish approval the NDP will become part of the statutory Development Plan for HDC.

Mr Hamer highlighted the the publication by the Society of its book " Warnham and the Great War", a product of research by a five person research team, commemorating the centenary of the outbreak of the Great War. The book was published with the support of the Parish Council and has been very well received.

The two public meetings focussed on water, one initiated an audit of wells in the parish, the other relating to the long term assurance of continuity of water supply by a Southern Water speaker.

Mr Hamer ended with an appeal for volunteers to join the Committee to help the Society continue to meet its purpose, safeguarding the character of the parish.

5. Treasurer's Report & Approval of Annual Accounts: Mr Thomson spoke to a display of the Accounts on the screen. The Society's income was inflated by the proceeds of book sales due to be repaid to the Parish Council, ignoring book sale income expenditure exceeded income. This issue is addressed later in the meeting. The Accounts were approved on a proposal by John Brinkler, seconded by Pamela Brinkler.

6. Election of Committee Members: The current members of the Committee were re-elected en bloc, proposed by Angela King, seconded by Marion Stockley There were no other nominations.

7. Election of the Honorary Auditor: Mr Boud was re-elected, Mr Hamer thanked him for his support over the past year.

8. Membership Subscriptions and Society Income: Mr Hamer explained that the present rate of subscriptions renewal was insufficient to meet the Society's forecast expenditure. The Committee proposed that the payment of membership subscriptions should be suspended for one year and replaced with an entry fee for admission to meetings, rather than the status quo. The proposal was agreed on a show of hands.

9. Any Other Business: None.

On completion of the AGM Mr Lancaster introduced the evening's speaker, Vicky Lillywhite of the Horsham District Archaeology Group, whose subject was "From Endes Place to Ends Place". In a riveting address Vicky presented a timeline of the houses that have stood on the Ends Place site over the centuries. She melded that story with a description of the finds from a field - walking exercise that took place in a small part of a farmed field near Warnham Manor. The talk was followed by a variety of questions from the audience. Afterwards, there was a chance to inspect specimens from the field - walk.

Mr King proposed a vote of thanks to Vicky and her support colleagues for her talk and display of artefacts