

# The Amberley Society

The aim of the Society, is the conservation and improvement of the amenities, character and interests of Amberley and its surroundings

## Newsletter April 2011

### Amberley Artists - Exhibition and Talk - 20 May, 2011

It was in the late 1880s when artist Edward Stott arrived here to live, and many others followed. An exhibition of paintings by Amberley artists, past and present, will be held by the Society on the evening of May 20, 2011.



Edward William Stott ARA NEAC, 1859-1918  
*Maternity, c.1903*

We are particularly interested in attracting any old works by the well known Amberley artists, such as Edward Stott, Jose Weiss, Arthur Winter-Shaw, Fred Stratton, Ista Brouncker, Harold Latham, C Lievin-Bauwens, Arthur Rackham and others. If you know of any paintings which we might be able to borrow for just one evening please let me know. The paintings can be by Amberley artists, either living or from the past, or paintings of Amberley itself. There will be discussion and talks about the exhibits, the artists themselves and their Amberley connections. It is hoped that from these discussions new and interesting information will emerge. This will be an excellent opportunity to see some of these rare paintings, learn about the artists and this important aspect of Amberley history. Further details of the location to be announced shortly.

### LITRAS – Environment Agency Lower Tidal River Arun Flood Risk Management Strategy

A new strategy for managing flood risk for the next 100 years within the Arun valley is under way. How water levels are managed and river banks maintained could have a significant impact on the landscape around us. We have all seen the effect of extreme weather conditions around the world and this strategy provides greater and cost effective, protection against such events. However, some of the strategy options recommended could, potentially, be locally contentious. For those on e-mail, a FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) document about the strategy and a newsletter from the Environment Agency are attached. The public consultation phase is just coming to an end and the various options are being considered. Once the Environment Agency has decided on its 'preferred' options, and as part of its engagement plan, it will formally consult with communities and organisations, such as ourselves, and has agreed to come and answer our questions. It is proposed to hold an Extra Ordinary Open Meeting, in conjunction with the Wiggonholt Association, and details will be announced when the EA reaches this stage.

### Gurkha Suspension Bridge nominated for CPRE Countryside Award

The footbridge at North Stoke, which the Society was instrumental in saving, has been entered for the CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England) New Sussex Landscapes Award. I believe we have a strong entry and a copy of the 26-page submission will be available for viewing at our May meeting. The winner is to be announced in October. The newly-named bridge now appears on the latest range of Ordnance Survey leisure maps.

## **South Downs Network**

The Amberley Society has been invited to join the South Downs Network and our application is to be considered by its Executive Committee at its next meeting in May. The group of non-government environmental organisations aims to act as an independent 'critical friend' of the National Parks Authority. Other members include the National Trust, Southdowns Society, CPRE, and Sussex Wildlife Trust.

## **2011 AGM and Talk on Amberley Thatch**

The Annual General Meeting in February was well attended and minutes are available. The meeting was followed by a talk and discussion about thatch by Master Thatcher Chris Tomkins. Having worked on many roofs in Amberley, Chris is a familiar, and well-liked character, and it was no surprise that his talk was so entertaining.

## **Planning Issues – Rackham Barns (opposite the T-Junction)**

After unanimous support at our AGM for the Society to object to the Retrospective Planning application for the barn, ref DC/11/0164, two letters were written to Horsham District Council. I am pleased to report that this application, and another ref DC/11/0419, for the conversion of the adjacent dilapidated former cattle stalls and open shelter, have both been refused.

## **Membership**

Welcome to a number of new members and, in particular, to those new to the village. Through the Society there are friends to meet and much to learn about our surroundings. Thanks, also, to all who have recently renewed their membership.

## **Paper Copies of Documents**

For anyone requiring paper copies of the AGM Minutes or the Environment Agency LITRAS documents please ask.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible on May 20. It promises to be a special evening.

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