

The Amberley Society

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

www.amberleysociety.org.uk

Newsletter August 2017

Save the Date – Next meeting Friday October 20, 2017 at 7:30pm Amberley Church Hall

Amberley Social History Project

Our website regularly attracts over 100 hits per week. Many of these are from people researching their family tree or requiring information about Amberley houses in which their ancestors once lived. How interesting and useful it would be to have the facility to search a large database containing the history of Amberley and its residents, all from your home computer. With images available, too. It could soon become a reality thanks to a project started by Ian Galbraith and supported by local historians Bob Hutchinson, Richard Howell and others. To hear more about the plans to launch this exciting project, come to our next meeting on Friday, October 20th.

Talk by Former Amberley Signaller Ted Cook

If anyone missed Ted's entertaining talk at our meeting back in October 2014, or would like to hear it again, he will be at Arundel Museum on Wednesday, August 23, at 7pm. £2.50 at the door. Ted worked at Amberley Station from 1967 until 1970 and was the youngest ever signaller to work for British Rail. His slide show about life behind the scenes and goings on at Amberley, before the modern railway of today, will amuse.

Proposed Train Service cuts at Amberley

We have recently filed objections to proposed cuts in Amberley rail services in the consultation currently being conducted by Southern Rail. Through our friends in the South Downs Network we were also able to gain support from other groups such as the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE), the South Downs Society, Fittleworth and District Association and others.

Amberley War Memorial Cross

Historic England proposes to List the Amberley War Memorial Cross, which is located in the churchyard at St Michael's. We have responded to a request for information but if anyone has any knowledge about the memorial, such as the date it was erected etc. please let me know so that it can be passed on to Historic England. See: <https://historicengland.org.uk/>

Black Horse Pub

Refurbishment work has been delayed because 'prior to commencement conditions' relating to the already approved planning application had to be discharged by HDC/SDNPA before work could start. Johnnie Kennedy, the new owner, tells us they "are raring to get cracking" and planning to commence work on Monday, September 25. He anticipates the build and fit-out to take around 12 months and hope to be open prior to Christmas 2018. We will need to be patient, as inevitably there will be some disruption during the works and Johnnie promises they will do their best to be good neighbours.

There are also new planning and Listed building applications for new glazed doors for the adjacent garage (in the High Street), which he has recently purchased. Some members have already expressed concerns about the effect on the Conservation Area. See: <http://planningpublicaccess.southdowns.gov.uk/online-applications/>

References: SDNP/17/03770/HOUS and SDNP/17/03774/LIS

Johnnie and his fiancé Emma plan to marry on Sunday August 27th and will be holding their reception in the Black Horse. We wish them well, both on the day and for the future.

Amberley Village Tours

Earlier this month Richard Howell and Grahame Joseph led a Horsham U3A (University of the Third Age) Towns and Villages group on a guided tour around the village. Visitors on these tours always have numerous questions and invariably want greater detail than can be covered in just two hours. Hopefully, the Amberley Social History project will enable this desire to be satisfied in the future. The tour raised £100 for the Church Tower fund.

South Downs National Park News

For the latest news click on this link:

<http://mailchi.mp/southdowns/south-downs-news-whats-happening-in-your-national-park-this-month?e=f26e3e78d2>

Wealden Buildings Study Group

If you wish to find out more about the history of your house you may be interested in the Wealden Buildings Study Group. Their volunteer members can come and survey an historic property and produce a report, free of charge. For further information see the attached poster or visit their website:

<http://www.wealdenbuildings.org.uk/>

Membership Renewals

We are politely chasing up membership subscriptions which have lapsed or due for renewal. We need your support and ask for any renewals as soon as possible. Annual costs are minimal at £4 for single and £6 for family membership. Longer term membership attracts a discount. Further details on our website:

<http://www.amberleysociety.org.uk/membership.html>

We accept payment by Standing Order, BACS internet banking, cheque, or cash.

If paying by BACS our account details are:

The Co-operative Bank

SORT CODE 08-92-99

Account No. 65649464

Cheques should be made payable to The Amberley Society. Payments should be made direct to our Treasurer: Tim Simpson at Downlands Loft. Postbox is on the left-hand side of the path up to Amberley Stores just by the entrance. Any questions please call Tim on 01798 831234 or mail@tim-simpson.com

Grahame Joseph
Chairman