

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 February 2011

**34th Annual General Meeting
Friday 18th February 2011 at 7.30pm
St Michael's Church Hall, Amberley**



Followed by a talk and discussion

Amberley Thatch and Thatching by Chris Tomkins

Chris Tomkins, a Master Thatcher, has completed many roofs in Amberley as well as at the Weald & Downland Open Air Museum, Singleton. Seen here is a current project at Kennards, so named after a previous Amberley thatcher.

AGM

The doors will be open from 7pm and as members assemble for the AGM there will be a rolling slide show of an interesting collection of photographs entitled *A Thatcher's-eye view of Amberley*. Members will receive in advance, copies of the Agenda, Chairman's Report, Annual Accounts and Minutes of last year's AGM. We ask that you bring copies of these with you, having read them beforehand.

Planning Matters

There has been considerable comment recently about the continued untidy state of Drewitt's Farm and of the increased number of local retrospective planning applications. Averil Harrison, who chairs Amberley Parish Council's Planning Committee, responds:

"I think Horsham District Council (HDC) Enforcement Officers have recently been as helpful as they can over Drewitt's Farm. There are real limits to their powers. HDC has repeatedly required the developer to remove rubbish and 'tidy up'. They attended before Christmas to inspect the site again. Unfortunately, the developer maintains that the piles of rubble, old caravan etc that he has on site are for use during construction. Whatever it may think of them, the local authority has no power to order a developer to remove anything required for construction purposes, and so it must remain.

"Retrospective applications are dealt with in the same way as ordinary applications, and the same consultations are done. There is a right of appeal against refusal, whether the application was made retrospectively or not (12 weeks or 6 months, depending on the type of application) and I would assume that no enforcement action can be taken until that period has elapsed — in case, of course the applicant should decide to appeal and win. There is also a right of appeal against an enforcement notice."

Membership

The latest membership subscription rates are attached. Those whose membership is due for renewal can do so at the AGM. Please encourage any friends and neighbours to join the Society by passing on a copy of the *Newsletter*, Chairman's report and application form. For extra copies please ask. Any non-members are also welcome to attend the meeting but there will be a nominal £2 charge.

Grahame Joseph—Chairman

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