

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 February 2016

39th Annual General Meeting
Friday, 19th February 2016, at 7.30pm
St Michael's Church Hall, Amberley



Annual General Meeting
followed by
Working with Bats
by
Amanda Millar
Chair of the Sussex Bat Group

AGM – Friday 19th February

WORKING WITH BATS - Amanda Millar is Chair of the Sussex Bat Group, of which she has been a member for nearly 30 years. When she left full-time employment she trained for and set up a Bat Hospital in Hurstpierpoint in response to a need for carers specialising in bats. She now coordinates the bat carer network throughout Sussex and trains people in the care of these amazing and endangered animals.

One of only a few with the licence required to keep bats on a long-term basis, she has over the years accumulated nearly 50 of these long-lived animals. They cannot be released because of reduced flying ability, mostly as a result of cat attacks. Not all are in hibernation this winter so if it is warm enough she will be bringing some to the talk, where she will discuss their biology and ecology in the UK and elsewhere, and her work with them.

Prior to the talk there will be a few brief AGM formalities, and refreshments will be available afterwards.

Neighbourhood Plan

Amberley Parish Council has been working hard to meet the required schedule for the Plan. Joe Thompson kindly agreed to be co-opted on to the Amberley Society committee so that he could assist with drafting the important Housing and Design policies.

Amberley Parish Councillor Tim Simpson, is Head of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. He will be at our AGM to give a brief update and answer questions. By the time of the meeting it is hoped that the Plan will be at Pre-Submission stage when it will be ready to go out to the Parish for a six-week consultation period.

Parham Estate has, at this late stage, recently offered two parcels of land at Crossgates for use as possible sites for preferred housing. Site 2 can be disregarded as it falls outside of the Parish. Site 1 which is to the south west of the Sportsman pub, is being considered along with other sites already nominated. Further details about this proposal will be discussed at our AGM.

Volunteer Event

This event, staged on 16 January in the Church Hall, was thanks to the initiative and generosity of David Lyon. It highlighted the valuable work going on in our community and several new volunteers were recruited. An attractive village like Amberley, with its vibrant community, relies on the many skills and efforts of our volunteers. There were thirteen organisations with some very good and interesting displays. All groups represented considered it worthwhile, to the extent that there will be a similar event in 2017, if not earlier. Please join in, help where you can, and come along next time to see how you might contribute and have some fun along the way. We have opportunities!

Aircraft Noise

From reaction to our last meeting it would appear that residents of Amberley are not overly concerned about prioritising aircraft noise from Gatwick above other noise pollution sources. That could change should the authorities decide to concentrate flight paths across more rural areas like ours, or go ahead with plans for a second runway at Gatwick. We will continue to monitor the situation. The Society will not be affiliating to PAGNE or CAGNE but leave it up to individuals to join such pressure groups if they so wish.

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Chairman

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