

# 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 2013

**36th Annual General Meeting  
Friday, 8th February, 2013 at 7.30pm  
St Michael's Church Hall, Amberley**



Followed by talk, discussion and  
a Q&A session with

### **South Downs National Park Authority**

**Nigel James - Area Manager  
Simon Mockford - Ranger**

#### **AGM**

Doors will open just before 7pm and we ask members to arrive in good time, particularly if subscriptions are to be paid. Between 7pm, and 7.30pm, there will be a rolling slide show of old Amberley photographs from the Barrie Motion albums. Barrie lived in Stream Cottage as a child during the late 1930s before moving to Pulborough.

The formal part of the meeting is scheduled from 7.30pm - 8pm and all documents will be sent prior to the meeting. Please read them beforehand and bring them with you if required. If anyone should wish to go through the accounts, or has any questions, please let me know in advance to save time.

Then follows a presentation on the South Downs National Park by Area Manager Nigel James and Ranger Simon Mockford, pictured above installing new gates on the footpath to the Gurkha Suspension Footbridge. The presentation will cover both broad National Park Authority issues, such as the forthcoming SDNP Management Plan setting out future policies and objectives, as well as local area details. The meeting will be an excellent opportunity to raise any concerns and to understand how the National Park functions. Friends, relatives and non-members are all welcome.

#### **LTRAS – Lower Tidal River Arun Flood Risk Management Strategy Exhibition**

The Environment Agency, which discussed its work on LTRAS at last year's AGM has now published its draft recommendations, and a period of formal public consultation is now underway. For further details see: [www.environment-agency.gov.uk/lowertidalriverarun](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/lowertidalriverarun).

Management of the river for the next 100 years is set to change and this includes less maintenance in some areas. Details of the proposed changes are available on the EA website and there is another opportunity to discuss them with the project team at an exhibition to be held at Arundel Town Hall, Maltravers Street, Arundel, BN18 9AP, on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2013, between 1pm and 8pm.

### **Black Horse Pub - Appeal Hearing**

The appeal by the pub owner against the refusal of planning permission for change of use from public house to two dwellings is to be at a public hearing in Horsham on Wednesday 27th March, at 10am. Copies of the Society's representation have been e-mailed to the membership and paper copies are available on request. For anyone without computer access who wishes to view documents on the SDNP website, they are welcome to view from my computer. I would like to thank everyone who took the trouble to write letters of objection, both in respect of the initial planning application and the appeal. Your support has and is, greatly appreciated.

All those letters, together with representations by various bodies, can be viewed on the South Downs National Park Authority website:

[www.southdowns.gov.uk/planning](http://www.southdowns.gov.uk/planning), click on View Planning Applications, click on Public Access System, then tick the 'Applications' box (the 'Appeals' box is not working). Enter the reference SDNP/12/01031/FUL, then click Search. Click 341 Documents.

The excellent representation by the Black Horse Action Group is attached for those on e-mail and will be available at the AGM.

A good show of public support at the hearing is important and it is hoped as many as possible will attend. There are approximately 100 seats in the public gallery and we need to fill them.

**BLACK HORSE - APPEAL HEARING**  
**Wednesday 27th March - 10am**  
**HDC Offices, Park North, North Street, Horsham RH12 1RL**  
(Near the Station)

### **Wildlife**

Sussex Wildlife Trust has a course here in Amberley looking at birds of prey that you might see in Sussex. *A Beginners' Guide to Raptors*, with tutor Mike Russell who writes regularly in the Wildbrooks parish magazine. Saturday, 16 March, 10:00 - 16:00. Bookings: 01273 497561

Rowenna Baker, a PhD student, is currently studying water voles on Amberley Wildbrooks. As part of the ongoing research project by the University of Brighton, the distribution, abundance and gene flow of water voles within the Arun Valley are being monitored to help direct landscape management to enhance the wetland network and connectivity. If you would like to be involved in this interesting research they are looking for volunteers to assist with surveys between Spring and Autumn 2013. The project is supported by Arun and Rother Connections and the Royal Geographic Society. Further information please e-mail: [rowbaker@hotmail.com](mailto:rowbaker@hotmail.com) or [rjb22@uni.brighton.ac.uk](mailto:rjb22@uni.brighton.ac.uk)

### **Summer Meeting - Saturday 18 May**

This will be an outdoor event. By popular request, Roger Birch, who spoke at our autumn meeting, will be returning to give a guided geological tour of the village. Details are still to be finalised but will be published nearer the time.

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