

# 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](http://www.amberleysociety.org.uk)

## Newsletter May 2015



Summer Meeting

### **Amberley Graveyard Tour**

with

The Revd Alison Pattenden

**Friday, June 5, at 7.30pm**

### **Amberley Graveyard Tour**

Amberley's vicar, the Revd Alison Pattenden, will be leading an evening tour of the churchyard. Alison's research of the graveyard has formed a large part of her ongoing university studies: *Their memorials live after them: the study of a rural churchyard*. The tour will be a 'who, what, why, where and when' discovery of Amberley's past. We will be able to share our knowledge and memories of famous and familiar family names. It will be an opportunity to hear about the protocols governing the site and discuss how we can all make the most of this beautiful, sacred and special green space. Last autumn, members of the Society sowed wildflower seeds in a dedicated area and it will be interesting to see the initial results.

### **Neighbourhood Plan**

Work is well under way with the Neighbourhood Plan, which is a community project to enable us to shape development and conservation of our village and surrounding area. The working group developing the plan is led by Amberley Parish Council and we, as a Society and individuals, all have an important role to play to help it succeed. Response to the various meetings has been good and we would like to encourage your interest and engagement throughout the process.

### **The Black Horse**

Since the pub was put back on the market, and particularly since the Annual Parish meeting, the Black Horse Action Group (BHAG) has been working hard to seek ways to achieve their aim to see the pub reopened. Business plans are being worked through to investigate the possibility of a

community purchase. Key to BHAG plans is the raising of sufficient funds from within the community, so if you or others you know, would be interested in investing in such a scheme, Jeff Feakins, chairman of BHAG would be pleased, to hear from you. Call (01798) 831538 or e-mail [feakster@aol.com](mailto:feakster@aol.com)

### **Drewitt's Farm Development**

The Society has written to Horsham District Council and the South Downs National Park Authority objecting to the poor visual quality of the new stone wall being built in front of the house on Plot 1. It seems unlikely that the wall, as presently constructed, is compatible with sample boards or the requirements of planning permissions granted on this sensitive site within the Conservation Area. The new wall has the appearance of vertical 'crazy paving' with poor bond paths between the stones and is built mostly of imported stone, which is a poor match to the local Malm stone.

### **Vacancies on Amberley Parish Council**

There are three vacancies on the Parish Council, which it is hoped can be filled by co-option at the Council's next meeting on Thursday, May 21. Please consider whether you can volunteer and do something positive and make a difference by influencing decisions that affect our community. For further information, contact Vicky Spiers, parish clerk, on 01903 742181 [vhspiers@hotmail.com](mailto:vhspiers@hotmail.com)

### **Michael Blencowe Wildlife Safaris**

After the hugely popular, entertaining and interesting talk at our AGM in February by Sussex Wildlife Trust's Michael Blencowe, many have been asking how to join one of his 'safaris'.

Full details of the numerous Sussex Wildlife Trust events and courses can be found at: [http://www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/events/event\\_diary/index.htm](http://www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/events/event_diary/index.htm) or by calling 01273 492630.

They are open to both members and non-members of the Trust and bookings can be made simply online. Some courses run by Michael are as follows:

Friday	July 10	- An Evening with Glow Worms.	Hangleton, Hove.
Saturday	July 11	- An Introduction to Summer Butterflies.	Woods Mill, Henfield.
Saturday	July 18	- An Introduction to Moths of Sussex.	Woods Mill, Henfield.

### **Amberley Museum & Heritage Centre - Local Villages Day - May 23 & 24**

This is a new event at the Museum with a special focus on events and activities in and around local villages. The event is open all weekend from 10am to 5pm. The Amberley Society will have a stand with display boards and I am looking for any volunteers to help man it.

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Chairman

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