

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 2015

38th Annual General Meeting
Friday, 13th February 2015, at 7.30pm
St Michael's Church Hall, Amberley



Annual General Meeting
followed by

A Wildlife Safari across Sussex

by

Michael Blencoe – Sussex Wildlife Trust

AGM – Friday 13th February

Our Annual General Meeting has moved forward a week from the date originally planned. Paraskevidekatriaphobics will have no trouble remembering the date! Doors open shortly before 7pm and we ask members to arrive in good time, particularly if subscriptions are to be paid. The brief formal part starts at 7.30pm and documents will be sent prior to the meeting. If you have any friends or neighbours who might be interested please bring them along. Entrance is free.

AGM – Talk by Michael Blencoe

Sussex Wildlife Trust's Michael Blencowe will take us on a (virtual) safari across Sussex, stopping off at the Wildlife Trust's nature reserves, and showing us some of the beautiful (and bizarre) species that live in our county. Michael will focus on some of the wildlife found at Amberley Wildbrooks and give us some ideas for places to visit in 2015 when the weather warms up. He is an inspirational and entertaining speaker and, in his spare time, is also a volunteer for Sussex Butterfly Conservation.

The Black Horse

The planning application was submitted back in April and only now, after nine months, has Horsham District Council (HDC) finally granted planning consent. Decisions are generally delivered within eight weeks. Amberley Parish Council has been pushing HDC to expedite the process and both the Amberley Society and the Southdowns Network have been lobbying the South Downs National Park Authority. We understand the applicant agreed to all HDC's requested changes in order to achieve an early decision. The unacceptable delay by the planning authority requires explanation as the frustration caused is far-reaching: key appointees have been forced to find other employment and contractors who had been scheduled for renovations throughout the winter are

no longer available. Momentum has been lost, the financial burden increased and further difficulties and uncertainties remain.

Houghton Bridge Caravan Park

The latest application for extended use of the site throughout the year has again generated a huge response by objectors. Both Amberley Parish Council and the Amberley Society strongly objected to the plans. For further details see: <http://planningpublicaccess.southdowns.gov.uk/online-applications/> using the reference **SDNP/14/06325/FUL**. Thank you to everyone who submitted comments and objections.

Amberley Signalman Ted Cook

For those who enjoyed Ted Cook's entertaining talk at our meeting in October, there is another opportunity to hear him when he returns to Sussex on 1st June (7:30pm) at Yapton and Ford Village Hall. The subject on this occasion will be 'West Sussex Railways 1960s and 1970s' and entrance for visitors is £2.50. If anyone would like copies of his books, please let me know. At our meeting, Ted recalled an Amberley ghost story from his time here in the late 1960s of strange, snowy footprints on the platform. They only appear on Friday 13th so if it snows for our AGM, we may have an unexplained visitor!

'The Muse of Amberley'

This is the intriguing title of a talk to be given by historian Richard Howell who has been researching the story of this largely forgotten Amberley resident. She lived at Boxwood, in Church Street, in the early 19th century. The talk is at an open meeting of The Amberley Group (TAG), at 2:30pm on 14th April in Amberley Church Hall. All are welcome.

Amberley Tour Guides

I am receiving a number of requests, including three from the University of the Third Age (U3A), for guided walks around the village. They are a useful way of raising funds, such as for the Church Tower and any assistance would be appreciated. For volunteers, Richard Howell and I would be happy to provide notes and the opportunity to join some of the current tours.

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