



NEWSLETTER February 2010



Betchworth & Buckland Society

For the protection and conservation of the quality of life in Betchworth & Buckland

Welcome

We welcome Julie Hardy of Betchworth to the Committee. Tony Innes has retired from the Committee due to ill health, though we trust that following recovery we may welcome him back. With over 20 years of Committee service including consistent balanced views on so many local issues, we have had no hesitation in making Tony an Honorary Life Member. We all wish him well.

It has been a cold start to the year. We trust that our events will warm up your appetite to be active in the community in 2010. Please see overleaf and put the dates in your diary.

Duncan Ferns, Chair

History of our Society

Some early Minute Books of the Society have recently come to light, and seem worthy of recapping the early history of the Society. The Society was originally formed as the 'Betchworth Society', formed on 19 March 1957. The first 10 years show two lecture meetings a year, one of which was the Annual General Meeting (AGM). The published aim - 'for the protection of the natural beauty of the countryside and the preservation of the character of Betchworth and its surroundings' is practically unchanged, just fewer words! The subscription was 5 shillings (25p). The committee had a good peppering of honourable men: Commander EJV Hatch R.D R.N.R., Mr Compton Pearson OBE and Mr RN M Milton C.V.O. OBE.

Early activities included:

1958	Talk on 'Surrey Amenity Council Aims' by Mr LA Edwards at the Red Lion
1959	'A trip to India' by Miss Pamela Bone (of the Committee)
1964	A tour of Betchworth House conducted by Major Gen. EH Goulburn DSC with an account of the history - at Betchworth House
1965	Problems of the A25 - Mr DH Cole, Church Room, Betchworth
1968	Two films (Loaned from the National Film Library): 'Who cares for England and 'Forest Heritage' at Village Hall
1967	The M25 enquiry
1971	Gatwick anti-noise Executive
1971	Pylon Action Committee

At the AGM on 10 May 1972, the Society voted for the change of name to the 'Betchworth & Buckland Society'. At this time, the Society had income of £131 and expenditure of £113. In 1973 (5th Dec), the Committee agreed that the minimum subscription remain at 25p, unchanged since 1957 - whilst noting 'almost all members paid more than this voluntarily'. Inflation has hit us hard since then, but we still hope to offer value for money.

ABOUT US ...

Our Purpose

The Society strap-line summarises our purpose— For the protection and conservation of the quality of life in Betchworth & Buckland.

We aim to deliver our purpose through four practical goals :

- To protect the natural and built environment in our villages.
- To provide financial support and advice for projects that enhance village life
- To encourage interest in the local history, culture and personalities of our villages
- To promote social events to bring together residents of Betchworth and Buckland and raise funds.

Your Committee

Stella Cantor (Secretary)
Anthony Eisinger
David Evans
Duncan Ferns (Chair)
Julie Hardy
Fiona Hooper
Nigel Husband
John Pharo-Tomlin
Paul Rietchel
Dick Shadbolt
Richard Worsley (Treasurer)

Website

http://www.bucklandsurrey.net/bb_society.php

JOIN US TODAY

We need your support. You will receive future Newsletters and invitations to all our events. Please complete the form overleaf and send to:

Membership Secretary

Richard Worsley (B&BSoc.)
Greenridge,
Reigate Rd,
Reigate RH2 9RE

Gatwick Runway Relief

The new owner of Gatwick tried to calm environmental concerns, insisting that it would not try to build a second runway for at least a decade. Sir David Rowlands, the airport's chairman, announced on 9 February 2010 that Global Infrastructure Partners, the US-based owner, had "not a shred of interest in a second runway" even if the Government favoured it. They insist that the plan "for the foreseeable future" was to develop the airport around its current single runway.

Brendon Sewill, who leads the long-campaigning Gatwick Airport Conservation Campaign (GACC) said "This firm statement will kill off some silly speculation, and will remove a lot of uncertainty and anxiety. We will stand ready, if need be, to launch a massive campaign to defeat any new runway plan, as we have defeated such plans in the past."

This is good news for our villages and we will continue to support campaigning when necessary.

Our 2010 Events

Add them to your Diary ...

We start the year with the Quiz night with a Fish & Chip Supper in the Reading Room. As before you can either book as a team (6 to 8 people) or come along on the night and join a team then. The quiz will include the usual 'local knowledge' rounds about our villages.

We repeat our 2-course informal lunch in late-April, which was enjoyed outside last year - a chance to socialise mid-week, aimed particularly at those members not rushing off to full-time jobs.

This summer the BBQ will move to Golbourn Green Betchworth, after several years on Buckland Green—so no car display this year!

Our Autumn meeting will be a new event for us—an evening of poetry & literary readings with contributions from our residents—look out for details of how to contribute over the summer, or contact Fiona Hooper.

We look forward to seeing you!

EVENTS

2010 Calendar

Fri 19 Mar 7.30pm prompt
Quiz night with meal.
Reading Room, Buckland

Wed 21 April 12.30 for 1pm
Members Informal Lunch
The Red Lion

Mon 10 May 8pm
Society AGM followed by
Speaker (tba)
Reading Room, Buckland

Wed 7 July 6.30pm to 9.30
Annual BBQ—Golbourn Green,
The Street, Betchworth

Mon 25 October 8pm
'It's a Wonderful World' Poetry
& Literary Evening
Reading Room, Buckland

Fri 12 November 8pm
Annual Dinner
The Red Lion

Fri 17 December 6.30-9
Christmas Drinks Party
Reading Room, Buckland

Previous Events

Download the report on 5 Years of our Events from our website at http://www.bucklandsurrey.net/bb_society.php

PROFILE— Stella Cantor

Each Newsletter will profile a member of our Committee or our community. Thanks to Stella Cantor, our Secretary for her contribution:

I joined the committee in 2007 when an advert appeared in the Parish Magazine asking for a volunteer to act as Secretary. I was about to finish working as a teacher and having lived in Buckland for four years being far too busy to get involved, this was the perfect opportunity to correct that. I have met lots of people locally as a result. I feel that our villages are set in some of the most beautiful countryside and, as the residents, we should do what we can to preserve it. I am also a member of the events committee of the Surrey Hills Society which has a similar purpose.

I really enjoy living in our house in the village of Buckland, particularly now that I have more time to appreciate it. Being able to walk out of the house with the dog straight onto a footpath into the countryside is wonderful. It is amazing that such a rural environment can be found within 25 miles of the centre of London. I am a keen cook and gardener, enjoy going to the theatre and am involved in a supporting role in Girl Guiding so I keep myself busy.

For a donation of just **£10 per household** you can become members for 12 months.

Name

Address Postcode

Email Phone

Please enclose a cheque payable to 'Betchworth & Buckland Society' & forward to the address on the other side of this cut-off slip

We look forward to meeting you at our events