

Date: 12th December 2018
Report: Surrey Hills Society – September to December 2018 update
Written by: Gordon Jackson (Chairman)

Purpose of Report

To report on the activities of the Surrey Hills Society

Summary

1. The most exciting news is that Surrey Hills Society has been interviewed as a possible recipient for a Queens Award for Voluntary Service. The interview took place a couple of weeks ago, but we will not know the result until June 2019. Whether or not we get the Award, it is a huge honour to be nominated and the work of all the volunteers and trustees that have contributed to this must be acknowledged.
2. The Surrey Hills Society **AGM** was held on 13th October at the Dorking United Reform Church. 43 people attended the event. I was appointed as the new Chair and the enormous contributions of Chris Howard and Ken Bare as retiring Chair and Vice-Chair were recognised and applauded.

The first ever Annual Report was created to be delivered at the meeting. (see attached) and there was an extremely interesting talk about local suffragettes and a tour of Dorking United reform Church

3. ‘**A Change of Chairs**’ event was held at the Leatherhead Institute on 9th November and was attended by over 60 people. During the course of the evening we collected members’ views about the future trajectory of the Society and these will help to inform the development of the Business Action Plan, which we will be meeting to discuss in early February 2019.
4. The Society supported the **Surrey Hills Symposium** organised by the AONB Board at the University of Surrey, with approximately 40 Society members attending. It was generally perceived as a hugely successful event and I have had letters from both the Lord Lieutenant and the Vice Lord Lieutenant congratulating us on the format and quality of the event. Some members were unable to get tickets due to the popularity of the event, so we are considering showing the film that has been prepared of the Symposium at a later date.
5. During the reporting period the following events have been held:
 - Walk from Ashted to Box Hill

- Explore Historic Shere Village
 - A day in Bletchingley
 - Walk around Pitch and Holmbury Hills
 - Map Reading to enjoy the Surrey Hills
 - Behind the Scenes at Leatherhead Theatre
6. On Sunday 25th November I was interviewed live on Surrey Hills Radio for about half an hour on the work of the Society.
7. Forthcoming events include:
- A pre-Christmas walk at Belmont School on 8th December for which over 30 have signed up
 - Walk off Your Christmas puddings – a walk in the Guildford area on 27th December from 10:30 pm – 1:30 pm
8. A great deal of work has gone into the handover between me and Chris Howard and this is ongoing. Our next newsletter, which will cover the period from January to May is going to print just after Christmas and we are looking forward to working with the AONB Board to develop our calendar for next year, the projects that we might support and our business action plan.

Recommendations

The AONB Board is asked to note of the report.

