

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 2017

40th Annual General Meeting
Friday, 10th February 2017, at 7.30pm
St Michael's Church Hall, Amberley



Annual General Meeting
followed by
Farming and Wildlife on the Downs
An illustrated talk by
Peter Knight – Estate Manager, Norfolk Estate

AGM – Friday 10th February

We are celebrating 40 years of the Society with several interesting and special events. Firstly, with our AGM, during which there will be a brief tribute to our late Life President, Jim Hepburn. This will be followed with a talk by our guest speaker, Peter Knight.

There was an unfortunate incident last summer when an Amberley dog was caught, without harm, in a snare on the Downs. Not only did it cause much concern and comment on Amberley Listserve, but also highlighted the need for greater understanding and awareness of countryside ways and the responsibilities of farmers and recreational users alike.

There are many benefits of living in the countryside and to improve our understanding can only increase our appreciation and enjoyment of it.

There will be an excellent opportunity to learn more from the talk by Peter Knight, estate manager to more than 3,000 acres (1,240 hectares) of the Duke of Norfolk's estate at Arundel.

Over the last 29 years, Peter has supervised the change from a fully production-based system of farming to a commercially managed estate that has conservation at its heart. His management and stewardship has been successful in food production and also the creation habitat that has enabled rare birds and butterflies to return and thrive on the Downs and in the Arun valley. He is an accomplished speaker and his talk about the farm will be followed by an organised tour being planned later in the year (May 18th), when among other things, you may see grey partridge, red kites or rare Duke of Burgundy and pearl-bordered fritillary butterflies.

At the AGM 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. Everyone is welcome. For non-members, there is a nominal £3 charge and children are admitted free.

Dates for the diary: **Friday, February 10**, 7.30pm, St Michael's Church Hall, Amberley;
Thursday, May 18, 2pm, Peppering Farm, Burpham, Arundel (booking essential)

The Black Horse and Sportsman Pubs

Sadly, both pubs are now closed. The Black Horse has now been shut for five years and the Sportsman since early January.

We understand there are possibly two potential buyers for the Black Horse. One is dependent on planning permission for increased B&B use. At the time of writing, the application had yet to be submitted following an incorrect submission the first time around, which resulted in a refusal. The second potential buyer was reported by Amberley Parish Council to be looking for a much simpler approach, using existing planning permissions granted two years ago.

The Sportsman has 11½ years remaining on the lease and is currently back on the market with agents Fleurets.

Amberley Neighbourhood Development Plan

The independent examiner of the Plan sought answers to a number of detailed questions, to which Amberley Parish Council has recently responded. Once considered, the examiner will issue her final report, expected within the next few weeks. She will make one of the following recommendations:

- that the Neighbourhood Plan should proceed to a local Referendum, on the basis that it meets all legal requirements.
- that the Neighbourhood Plan, as modified, should proceed to Referendum.
- that the Neighbourhood Plan does not proceed to Referendum, on the basis that it does not meet the relevant legal requirements.

Subject to a successful examination, there will be a referendum when all residents of the parish will have an opportunity to decide whether they want the South Downs National Park Authority to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Amberley to help it determine future planning decisions in the neighbourhood area.

South Downs National Park Authority

For latest SDNP news see their news feed: <https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/news/>

Recent topics include: Stanmer Park's successful bid for £3.8m Lottery funding; Future of the Natural Environment after the EU Referendum; and, Is your Community Dark Sky Friendly?

New book by Annabelle Hughes: Traditional Homes of the South Downs National Park

This new title, just published by the Sussex Archaeological Society, is part of its South Downs Book series. It includes many references and photographs of Amberley. Available from some local shops and online:

<https://sussexpast.co.uk/shop/traditional-homes-of-the-south-downs-national-park-by-annabelle-hughes>

I also hope to have a copy at the AGM. For other books in the series see the attached flyer.

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