



The Pulborough Society

Registered Charity 266153

Newsletter 294

Chairman's Notes

Welcome to our summer 2024 newsletter, which details what the Society has been up to over the last few months. We hope to publish 2 newsletters a year and the next one is planned for early in 2025. We shall also be providing separate notifications in advance of each forthcoming meeting or event.

As you are probably aware, we have been used to having eight indoor meetings a year in the Village Hall; however, rising costs, for renting the hall and the amounts that speakers are charging, has meant that we have reluctantly taken the decision to reduce this number of indoor meetings to six, which includes one social evening (more about this later).

On the other hand this year we have embarked on a series of excursions to nearby venues and details of those we have undertaken, so far, are detailed below.

You can keep in touch by visiting the website at <https://pulboroughsociety.org.uk>.

Indoor meetings

In January John Dixon, who is chair of the Pulborough Community Care Association, provided us with an interesting talk on the role of the Association and his talk included presentations by some of the volunteers who run various groups.

In February we welcomed Andy Bliss, who was the then High Sherriff of West Sussex, who provided us with a light-hearted talk on his year in that role, including how he had purchased his ceremonial tights from the ladies wear section of Marks and Spencer!

In March we held our AGM, which was attended by 23 members. After serving ten years on the Society's Executive Committee, and nearly six years as Chair, Ian Ellis announced that he was stepping down from the position. I am now filling the role of Chair on an interim basis, with Rob Aylott as Vice-Chair.

Pulborough's Community Wardens Ross Phillips and Louisa Hull also attended the March meeting to brief us on the range of initiatives they had started in Pulborough and provide an update on their progress.

The meeting concluded with some general 'round table' chats over tea and biscuits about life in Pulborough and what members would like from the Society.

In May our treasurer, Michael Pioli, provided us with a talk on how he had renovated a run-down house in Galicia, Spain and also described some of the pitfalls he had experienced in trying to learn the language!



In July Alyson Heath, the former head of St Mary's School, gave us a thought provoking talk on the work of the charity "Education West Africa" and the partnership between our local primary school and a primary school in Sierra Leone, West Africa.



Excursions



In April thirteen members took part in the first of what we hope will be a regular series of outings, visiting the Old Vicarage in Washington for a fascinating and comprehensive guided tour of its beautiful gardens followed by afternoon tea with delicious home-made cakes.

The following outing, on a very hot day in July, was to the Knepp Estate where twelve members enjoyed a lunch in the new Wilding Kitchen. Some also followed one of the self-guided walking routes and were rewarded with the sight of young storks in their nests as well as adult storks in flight, together with purple emperor butterflies and Tamworth pigs,

Exmoor ponies, longhorn cattle and red and fallow deer which wander freely in the landscape.



In August 18 Members visited the English Martyrs Church in Goring to view the magnificent ceiling which was painted by one of their parishioners and represents a two-thirds scale reproduction of the famous ceiling in the Sistine Chapel, in the Vatican City, which was painted by Michaelangelo. This was followed by a most enjoyable lunch at the Highdown pub and – for some - a leisurely stroll through the adjacent Highdown Gardens.



Forthcoming events

Wednesday 2 October 2024 at 2.30pm

Pulborough Flower Shop owner Claire Denman will give an illustrated talk about how we date old buildings, using examples from Pulborough as well as further afield.

Wednesday 6 November 2024 from 6.45 to 8.15pm

Social event with wine and nibbles.

Planning Matters

The Society scrutinises all planning applications in the parish and comments on these where appropriate. Unfortunately, Horsham District Council decided to grant permission for development at Greendene Nurseries and Coppice Hanger, Church Hill, despite our opposition; however, the application at Waterside House, Lower Street, to which we objected, was withdrawn by the applicant. We also assisted the owner of a listed building, who was objecting to development opposite their property, in a planning appeal.

Horsham District Council has submitted its Local Plan, for development between 2023 and 2040, to the Secretary of State. This document includes plans to build 6,000 houses, over that period, at specified sites throughout the District. The only one of these sites in Pulborough adjoins the new Brookfields development and is for 25 houses.

Other Matters

We are looking for new members to join the Committee. We meet about six times a year to discuss the Society's business. If you are interested, please contact the chairman, Martin Ellis, at martin.ellis29@yahoo.co.uk or on 01798 873481.

We also need help with refreshments at our meetings. If you are able to assist please contact Leo Hanmer at leonora.hanmer@btinternet.com or on 07919 080567.

Also if you have any suggestions for possible talks or outings, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Felicity Stroud at f.stroud@btinternet.com or on 01798 873504.

Finally, please do not forget to come and visit us at our stall at the Harvest Fair on **Saturday 28th September**.