

 **Surrey Hills**
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



Dear Friend,

Welcome to your fourth edition of the Surrey Hills e-newsletter. In this edition, we're celebrating some of the wonderful work across the Surrey Hills communities, as well as some exciting projects for you to get involved with.

Happy reading!

EXTENDING THE SURREY HILLS?

Your place, your voice

The Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is a nationally important landscape, something everyone living in the area should be justly proud of.

There has been a desire locally over many years for a review to decide whether areas adjacent to the existing AONB boundary should also be designated.

A review is now underway led by Natural England, and we are keen that people who live in and around, and visits the Surrey Hills have the opportunity to provide evidence. Your knowledge is their starting point.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

The first phase of the boundary review is to gather evidence about the natural beauty of the areas that are under consideration for the extension. A website and a smart phone application have been developed to help you gather this evidence

[Click here](#) or use the link below to access the website, where you will find all the information you need to help you participate in this process.

Please feel free to share the word with your family and friends if you think they'd be interested too.

If you would like a hard copy of the survey form these can be downloaded from the website or obtained by emailing evidence@surrey-hills-aonb-boundary-review.org or using the postal address on the website.

[Click here to participate](#)



The Surrey Hills Symposium 2021 recap

The annual Surrey Hills Symposium returned on 24 November, both in-person and live streamed from the University of Surrey. This year focused on 'Our Climate and Biodiversity Emergency', and how we can inspire action.

We were joined by a whole host of inspirational speakers, including keynote speaker **Tony Juniper CBE, Chair of Natural England** and a debate chaired by **Professor Jim Al-Khalili, author and BBC broadcaster**. The debate covered off topics from what we can all do to provide action each morning, to what changes are being made locally to support biodiversity.

To find out more or watch the recorded event, click the link below.

[Find out more](#)

Surrey Hills Arts: Artist talks & workshops

Earlier on in the afternoon, innovative artists gave talks and workshops demonstrating the crucial role creative practitioners are taking towards the crisis and inspiring wider audiences to enjoy and care for nature. The afternoon was an excellent example of how creative arts practice can positively contribute to addressing the climate and biodiversity emergency locally and globally.

[Continue reading](#)

News from the Surrey Hills



First Surrey Hills Champion's Tree Planting Day

The first Tree Planting day in West Clandon brought together 50 Surrey Hills Champions, partnered with the Surrey Hills Society. They enjoyed excellent Surrey Hills food and drink and were joined by their 'Champion of Champions', Squires Garden Centres. A 50m stretch of new hedgerow was planted with a native mix of six tree species (Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Field Maple, Hazel, Dog Rose and Spindle).

[Read more](#)



Arts Council England funding

success

Surrey Hills Arts are delighted to receive funding for their 'Habitat' pilot project. Artists and ecologists will work together to create a green zone on campus at the University of Surrey as well as engaging local communities in building innovative habitats to support local species.

[Find out more](#)



Surrey Hills Artisan Festival

2022

New dates have been announced for the second Surrey Hills Artisan Festival - Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd May 2022.

Enjoy the weekend festival celebrating the very best of Surrey's food, drink, art and crafts at the stunning Denbies Wine Estate in Dorking.

[Find out more](#)



Get involved with the Surrey Hills Society!

The Surrey Hills Society revolves around their loyal volunteers doing a wide range of activities, such as the [Champion's Tree Planting day](#). Do you have a particular topic of interest that could feature in their newsletter or create an event surrounding your expertise? [Start your volunteering journey with the Surrey Hills Society today!](#)

If you're stuck for festive gift ideas, why not give a Surrey Hills Society membership gift pack this year. This pack can be enjoyed the whole year round while learning more about our beautiful Surrey Hills. Prices are £15 for an individual and £25 for a family membership.

[Give the gift of a Surrey Hills Society membership here.](#)

Surrey Hills grant scheme for farmers and land managers

The Farming in Protected Landscapes programme (FiPL), funded by Defra is a one-off grant for farmers and land managers to fund their projects. Grants are awards to projects that support nature recovery, mitigate the impacts of climate change, provide

opportunities for people to discover, enjoy and understand the landscape and cultural heritage, or support nature-friendly, sustainable farm businesses.

We've had some brilliant success so far with projects within the Surrey Hills. One of our successful applications includes financing a new specialist flail collector at the **Albury Estate** to improve its management of the important heathland, chalk grassland and woodland sites.

We're welcoming new applications until March 2024. For more information, [click here](#).

Photo of the season



"Cycling in the Surrey Hills has been my way to connect with the community; the first time that I saw Leith Hill on Google, I realized how close it was from my family's home. I couldn't wait to go there and ride my bike: all the nature, wildlife and coffee shops I see when riding through the hills, make my world stop. A simple day out cycling turns into an adventure to discover new places!"

Nil Vendrells Vilardell
@nilvendrells

Have you taken a beautiful shot of the Surrey Hills? Why not [send it to us](#) and may feature it in our next edition!

Don't forget to tag us on Instagram @SurreyHillsAONB



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Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

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Engage and Inspire

The Surrey Hills Family work together to raise awareness of the Surrey Hills and to deliver the AONB Management Plan.

