

farnhamsmagazine

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September 2017





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THE FARNHAMS MAGAZINE is published by Farnham Royal Parochial Church Council. It is produced quarterly in March, June, September and December and contains village, church and council news. If you have any comments or contributions, as an individual, an organisation or a business, the Editors will be delighted to hear from you.

THE FARNHAMS MAGAZINE aims to be inclusive of all views and organisations. Views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the editorial board. Please note that it is the responsibility of people sending in images to the magazine to ensure that parental permission is obtained for the use of images of under 18's. Farnham Royal PCC cannot accept responsibility for such provided images printed in good faith which do not conform to best practice in this area.

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Contributions and Copy Dates

Copy dates of the next two issues of The Farnhams Magazine are October 13th for the December 2017 issue, and January 12th for the March 2018 issue. Publication is targeted at the beginning of the month of issue. All articles and photographs for the December edition should be sent to: Jenny Harper-Jones 01753 643872 jennyhj@gmx.com

To advertise in the Farnhams Magazine

Should you wish to advertise in the magazine, please contact Peter Lidstone, peter_lidstone@tiscali.co.uk

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Editorial

I've always loved September. It reminds me of new starts: a new year at school, crisp new uniform and most importantly to me the brand-new stationery. Like New Year's Day, the air is ripe with opportunity and possibility. This could be a good time to start something new: for me it's editing this magazine; for Victoria on page 40 it's volunteering at the Village Hall.

In this issue there are some good pictures of the Open Gardens and the Parish Fete. We have updates of your local organisations – the Community Library, Sports, JAWS and lots of activities in the schools. The beautiful picture on the cover reminds us that autumn will soon be turning Burnham Beeches golden. The Hedgerley Historical Society's programme for the winter is full of interesting speakers, covering Bulstrode Park, US Military bases in Bucks, a local author and the ancient tradition of Swan Upping. And you don't to travel very far to hear some first-class concerts and talks.

Perhaps you'd like to see a recipe or article in print. We would love to read your contributions. And remember, this is your magazine so please tell us what you'd like to see in it.

A huge thank you to Jessica Houdret who has introduced this fantastic new magazine style, and to Jenny Harper-Jones, my joint editor who does so much of the work with none of the glory. I have big shoes to fill.

Wishing you all a fabulous late summer and autumn.

Paula Morris

Joint Lead Editor

Advertising Manager Required

Before standing down, our current Advertising Manager, Peter Lidstone, will complete the advertising process for the 2018 year, which starts with the December 2017 issue. We are looking for someone to start now and take over the role which will entail fielding enquiries during the coming year and handling the future annual sales process.

For more information contact Peter Lidstone on 0773 6168185 or email peter_lidstone@tiscali.co.uk

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Rector's Letter: The Coalescing of Chaos

Dear Friends

Here's a question: "**How do you manage chaos?**" Well, my life is definitely chaotic. The state of my study tells its own story: 'EE', 'Everything Everywhere!' I find that as my life speeds up I make more mistakes, I forget more and I make bad decisions. But I know this is not good for me or for anyone else. Is there a way out of the chaos? Will my mind be better organised? Can I slow down my life to find wisdom?

There has been much talk of 'chaos' in the news, so I couldn't help wondering whether we are coalescing in chaos? Over the years we have not only contributed to chaos, we live in it and we are part of it! This is not surprising since our rapidly changing western culture is making intellectual and social demands on us all. Our lives are consequently subject to increasing (and petty) levels of organisation! As life's direction and purpose wallows in chaotic uncertainty, we may wish we were still children experiencing endless hazy summer days.

I have just finished reading Yanis Varoufakis' book, 'And The Weak Suffer What They Must?' (Europe, Austerity and the threat to Global Stability). I recommend this book to anyone who has an interest in the history of the European Union and the issues it faces. The author's perception of the EU's problems and possible solutions are most interesting. Varoufakis was the minister of finance in Greece and is a Professor of Economics. What struck me about his account is the complexity concerning the EU. Our choice to leave will add yet more complexity. Can economics and history help with our prediction of life's fortunes post Brexit? Has life become too complex for us to make any sensible predictions? Are we coalescing in chaos?

I know that many of us practise 'stillness' as a way of countering the chaos. Some relax with a glass of wine and some relax in a hot bath surrounded with scented candles. We all have our necessary preferences. I practise contemplative prayer, which is a way of prayer without words. It has been said that the first language of God is silence. Perhaps fewer words will bring less chaos and perhaps more silence will bring a deeper wisdom. Maybe it's time for some voices to be quiet. **Now it's time for me!**

With every blessing of peace in your life

Graham



The Farnhams Village Signs

Whether you are new to the villages or have lived here for years, how much do you know of our local history? **Judy Tipping** is here to give you some insights.

Discussions started and plans were put in place in 1998 to form the Farnhams 2000 Fund to raise funds for a permanent way of marking the Millennium. By the end of March 2000, following various fund-raising events and donations, sufficient funds were raised to erect two village signs: one for Farnham Common, the other for Farnham Royal.

Artwork for the signs was designed by local artist Ron Whiting, and they were made and erected by local sign-maker Ashley Bishop. They stand on Bishops Orchard Green, Farnham Royal and Golden Oak Green, Farnham Common.



The name Farnham, previously Ferneham, is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086 AD and is thought to have derived from "hamlet in the ferns" or "a ferny place". Farnham Common was initially called Farnham Heath, and in 1830 was the "common" or heathland" of Farnham Royal.

The "Royal" appendage was added following Bertram de Verdon, the Lord of the Manor of Farnham, being requested to provide a glove and support the hand of King William I (William the Conqueror) at his coronation on Christmas Day in 1066.

The design of the Farnham Royal sign depicts the glove, as a symbol of its royal connection, and the Parish church of St. Mary the Virgin, the history of which is difficult to date exactly, although records of incumbents go back to mid-1230. The village pump was the original central water supply for Farnham Royal and a landmark in the village until its removal in January 1972. Fortunately this was reinstalled on Bishops Orchard Green in 1993. The Bucks Swan has been the County emblem since the mid-16th Century, being part of the crest of the Stafford family, Dukes of Buckingham.

The Farnham Common sign also sports the Bucks Swan together with St John's Church, consecrated in December 1907, previously known as the Mission Hall. The connection with Burnham Beeches is depicted by one of the famous pollarded beech trees. Burnham Beeches was bought by the Corporation of London in 1883.



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Parish Patch

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*For this edition the Parish Patch is brought to you by **Hilda Holder**, the Parish Clerk, owing to our chairman, Trevor Clapp, having undergone a period of ill health. We all wish him a speedy recovery and return to us.*

Brian Bilgorri

It is with very great sadness that we heard the news that one of our councillors died suddenly and unexpectedly on 7 July. Brian was one of our newer councillors but he had already made such a big impact. He championed many causes with great integrity including improving local footpaths and Burnham Beeches. His real legacy, however, will be that he organised the installation of the defibrillators in the villages which is hoped will be available to help save lives in the future. Our sincere condolences go to his wife, family and friends. His contributions to council meetings will be greatly missed.

Open spaces

A working group of the council meets regularly to agree maintenance priorities for our open spaces. These include Ingrams, Boundary and Jubilee Copses; Temple Dell; Kingsway Green and the play areas in each village, as well as St Mary's churchyard. If you see anything that needs repairing or improving or if you have any ideas for new features, then please get in touch. One of the issues being debated is whether to provide an electricity supply into Temple Dell to encourage it as a venue for future events. This would cost several thousands of pounds. We would welcome feedback as to whether you think it is a good idea and what sort of events you might like to see held there.

Trees

We have refined our tree policy, a copy of which is on our website. The main change is to be more robust in dealing with rhododendron, ivy and holly. We continue to adopt the policy of retaining and maintaining our non-invasive native trees unless there is sound arboricultural reason to cut them back or remove them.

We are also very concerned that on occasion unscrupulous developers have been known to take down trees in our parish to enable planning development to take place. So we have agreed to commission a survey of all the visible worthy trees in our parish that deserve a tree protection order and to campaign to ensure they get one. If you know of any trees near you that should be protected then please let us know.

Overgrown hedges

One of the many issues that come our way relates to footways being impassable or hard to use owing to overgrown private hedges, particularly in the side roads around the villages. The Parish Council now shares responsibility with BCC to improve the accessibility of footways for our residents. Last year we prepared and issued – via the Farnhams Magazine – a leaflet to every resident with information on this subject. We would ask that every resident looks at their hedges has them cut back as soon as possible where they encroach on the footways or road. There are formal procedures that we can take with BCC to enforce such cut backs where necessary to ensure safe use of our highways, but we very much hope that it won't come to that.

Registering new rights of way

Councillor Home has agreed to become our Rights of Way representative on the County Council's liaison group. A pressing issue for them is to register new rights of way where unregistered (but well used) local paths are being blocked. 2026 is the final date for registering new rights of way so it is important that if any parishioner feels strongly about this then they should get in touch with the clerk as soon as possible. To register a new right of way, you must put forward a robust case with a substantial number of witness statements and have a small working group to champion the issue. The council is willing to lend its support to any such local cause.

Grants

The council has adopted a new grants policy. If you'd like to apply for monies to assist with an event or project to benefit the community then please look at our policy which is on our website.

And finally a message from one of our residents following an unfortunate accident on the Kingsway in early June. She asked me to pass on the following message

"Thank you to all the kind people who stopped to help my husband who fell off the kerb in his wheelchair in Kingsway on 2 July. It is lovely to know there are such caring people in our community."

If you have any special thanks to give someone in our community, please feel free to get in touch.



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Bishop Steven rededicates St Mary's Church Farnham Royal

On Sunday 11 June, our new Bishop of Oxford, the Rt. Rev'd Steven Croft, visited to rededicate St Mary's after major interior works had been completed. He gave thanks for all that has been accomplished and offered prayers for all that is to come. His sermon reminded those present that the completed works were 'Good News', for both retaining the historic character of our listed building, and creating a pleasing environment to ensure that children are more central to the future life of our church.

Clearly church buildings and church people must change to meet the challenge of our times if there is to be any relevance. Our old ways must be laid to rest and the new must rise and be owned. To begin this challenge, we made the decision to renew the inside as the place for worship and prayer in the

21st Century, but also to retain all the historic features in keeping with the Listing.

The small reordering committee led by Jerry Houdret began planning the current works in 2014, after a previous reordering committee's design had been turned down by the Diocese as unsuitable.

With Diocesan and Listed Buildings approval for the changes, the actual works were completed by October 2016, with Jerry supervising many of the jobs under the direction of a Construction Design Manager. As well as providing leadership in restoring the church tower roof in 2013, and our rare Arts and Crafts clock in 2009, including raising the funds for both those items, Jerry, aided by many congregation members, especially his fellow warden Adrian Martin, has ensured that this final phase of the reordering was completed to budget. This has been a vital step for the mission of our church. We are most grateful to Jerry for his energy and enthusiasm in leading the project. As a result, our dream for a renewed building has finally become a reality.

Bishop Steven said he believes we now have a brilliantly appointed church building where parishioners must re-gather and be Good News for the community. He said this is not



Bishop Steven with his Chaplain, the Rev'd Paul Cowan (left) and the Rev'd Graham Saunders.



New Church Warden, Simon Taylor, with retiring Wardens, Jerry and Adrian, beside the new noise attenuated vestry and meeting room.



The children display their drawings

the time to languish in the past but come alive in the present.

Thanks to using the new noise attenuated larger vestry, Liz Glover and Cherie Taylor, together with supporters, have begun some children's mini services, called JAM (Jesus and Me), during our normal Sunday Communion. As St. Mary Farnham Royal has a church school this makes good sense.

Additionally, they have started a free "Drop In" group for all, open to those of any faith or none, every Wednesday morning at 8.45am 'til 10.15am in term time. Coffee/tea and

usually a biscuit is on offer, and the chance to have a chat while younger siblings of those already at St Mary's School can play with toys. Come and have a chat, make new friends, and be part of our future.

A big and very pleasing feature of our Rededication Service was the broad spectrum of the congregation from babes in arms to folk with Zimmer frames, and from a wide variety of backgrounds. The road ahead is exciting, and our rededicated church building is ready to serve all of us for many years to come!

Rev'd. Graham Saunders

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Farnham Common Village Schools 60th Anniversary

1957 saw the birth of our fantastic Junior ('Middle') School in the village, Head Teacher **Alison Fisher**. The friends of Farnham Common Schools are inviting you to join in their diamond anniversary celebrations on Saturday 30 September.

The school has educated many of our residents' children and grandchildren over the last 60 years and we would love everyone in the community to come and be a part of the day. It'd be great to see former pupils, staff, governors, as well all current junior and infant school pupils and parents, especially as the schools have come together as a federation under the new umbrella name: Farnham Common Village Schools.



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There will be 1950s-inspired refreshments for adults and children, an art exhibition, dance and choir performances by the school and plenty of fun and games for people of all ages. Stalls will also be there selling great value personalised gifts and 'pocket money' toys from the '50s. There will also be a chance to see the time capsule that has been filled with memorabilia from 2017 that each class has chosen – it will be buried in the school grounds and will be opened in a few decades (the actual year of unearthing is still up for debate!!). Current pupils will be around to give former pupils a tour of the school to see if they can find their old classrooms – or even their names on house trophies!

Let's hope the sun will be shining, although there will be plenty of shelter from sun and rain under the marquees. Please add the date to your diary now – the afternoon of Saturday 30 September. Look out for more details around the village!

Another Travel Award for Farnham Common Village Schools.

You will remember in the last magazine our schools were given a national travel award, and it would appear that success breeds success. We attended an event on 6 July in London hosted by the Education Business Awards. Schools from all over the country came together to celebrate their achievements. We were told that there was a record number of entries and the shortlist for 2017 featured over 100 schools from the state and independent sectors. Each of the schools was an example of best practice in their category of achievement, of which there were 23. Our school was shortlisted in the Parking Management and Travel Planning category, together with four other schools. The reasons given for adding us to the shortlist were:

"The school's large on-site car park makes it easier for families to drop children at school and poster campaigns have promoted safety. Since 2012, the school has been encouraging families to leave their cars at home for the school journey, and has succeeded in reducing car use for the whole school journey from almost 68% in 2012 to 36% in 2016."

We were delighted when the school was named as the winner and we received a certificate and plaque from the star of Educating Essex, Steven Drew.

As ever, we could not have achieved this award without the help and cooperation of all staff, parents, children and their families, volunteers and governors. Perhaps we could improve our figures even more in 2017/18. We can but try.



Proud pupils receiving the Travel Award

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Farnham Royal School

*As we prepare for the end of another term and say a fond farewell to our fabulous Year 6 pupils, writes Deputy Head **Sallyann Ward**, we are excited about what the new academic year brings to us for the Autumn Term.*

It has been yet another busy yet highly productive term, with SATs and Assessments carried out, especially for Year 2 and Year 6 pupils, who have all done extremely well despite the heat and pressure that this can entail for some.

Year 6 thoroughly enjoyed their five-day residential and returned with a wide range of interesting stories both of the days' activities and their evenings. The staff that were good enough to give up their time to ensure it was possible for the children to attend also came back with a few stories of their own.

The school had a fabulous Sports Day this year, which involved a new design of activities and allowed parents to follow their child to each event and cheer on heartily. The annual picnic lunch was a roaring success and it was wonderful for families to have the opportunity of all sitting together and sharing the special day.

At St Mary's, we continue to ensure that sports is encouraged and we are delighted to report there has been an even wider variety of outdoor activities that pupils have been involved in.

The school also took part in a swimming gala at Wycombe Abbey and all the pupils involved found this day to be extremely exciting.

The school and community are all abuzz with excitement as the circus is coming to town – on the school field, in fact! Staff and children have been taking this wonderful opportunity to hold a 'circus day' including learning the skills and completing work to find out more about the life of the circus!

Year 6 are also busy practising and performing for their final Year 6 production, which through dress rehearsals has shown the talent and dedication of the children and staff in ensuring it's a huge success for all the parents to watch.

The annual End of Year Service is always both bitter and sweet. The staff and Year 6 say a fond farewell to each other and everyone looks forward to their next chapter in their lives.

'On May 15th ten people from year 3 & 4 represented St. Mary's at Huntswood Golf club. We played Tri-Golf and it was a great experience for us all. There were also three other schools playing for a spot in the finals. In Huntswood there were nine stations and we got to play on each station for five minutes and tried to get as many points as possible. Out of three schools we came second but we left with our heads held high.' Written by Year 4.



Pupils try their hand at Tri-Golf



On June 12th selected year 5 students attended a rounders tournament at Burnham Park Academy. Unfortunately, we lost our first game. We all had our heads down for the second game and tried really hard to get to the semi-finals and guess what, we won! The score was 9 ½ to 9 rounders. After that game we heard exciting news that we were in the semi-final. The semi-final went well and after winning that match, we were in the final, which we also won against a Year 6 team at another local school. Thank you to Ms Daywan and Mrs Howman for taking us. Written by Year 5.

Open Gardens

Twelve gardens in Farnham Common and Farnham Royal were open to the public on Sunday 25 June to raise funds for the Farnham Common Community Library. **Pat Marshall**, who coordinates this event and had one of the gardens on show, tells us more.

We had a wide variety of gardens open this year, from large country gardens to small cottage gardens. One garden in East Burnham was developed from a field and the owner even had beekeeping demonstrations on the day.

My grandchildren helped in various ways, selling plants and homemade cakes. Joshua, aged 10, conducted guided tours around my garden. The weather was very kind to us, and we had a steady flow of visitors.

There were five new gardens this year, and although the gardens on show were quite spread out some people managed to get around all of them. And I'm pleased to say that the event raised just over £1,200 for library funds. We had some great feedback too.

- "Just wanted to say that we had such an enjoyable day visiting all of the gardens for the Farnham open gardens day."
- "An eclectic mix of really beautiful gardens that will give inspiration to everyone, and with the proceeds going to the community library it's a worthwhile event as well as an exceptionally enjoyable day in the village bringing many people from the community together. Looking forward to the next open day."

The next open garden day will be in June 2019.



One of the gardens open to the public



From large country gardens to small cottage gardens, they gave inspiration to everyone.

Burnham Beeches Bulletin

Chris Morris is the senior ranger at Burnham Beeches. Here he shares with us the great news of returning species, thanks our volunteers for helping, and invites you to get involved.

In 1880, the City of London bought Burnham Beeches saving it from development. It isn't often that you'll find such a superb example of ancient, semi-natural woodland that is incredibly important for wildlife so close to a major town. The contradictory needs of the two environments provide people with great opportunities to explore a unique

volunteers that we are able to achieve the breadth and depth of things that we do.

Volunteer projects often involve managing areas of young trees and scrub which grew up after management practices changed. In the past, local people turned their livestock onto the site to graze and collected fuel for



A team of keen hardworking volunteers

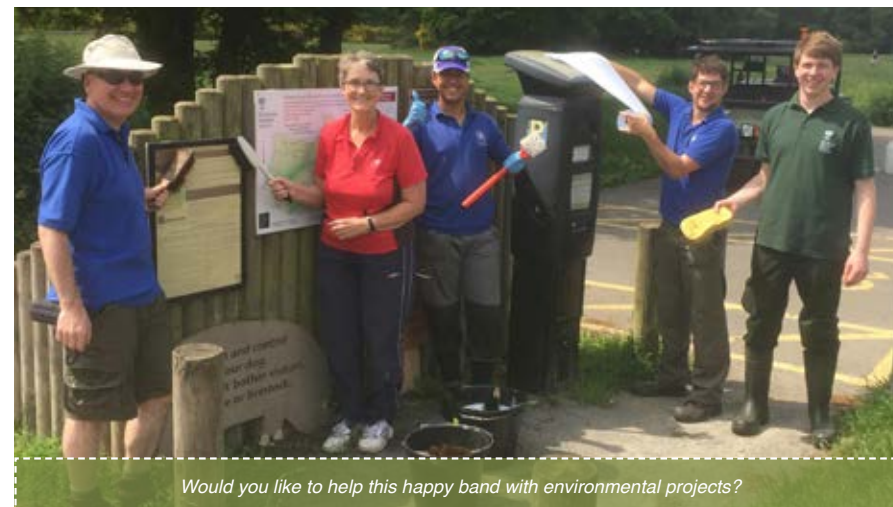
piece of countryside, but also present many management challenges in achieving a balance between the needs of both nature and people.

We are fortunate in that Burnham Beeches has a team of staff with the necessary skills and knowledge to manage the many, complex conundrums created by the history and character of the site and the volumes of visitors it attracts – recent surveys showed we have 580,000 visits per year. Each member of the team has a specialist area of responsibility (livestock, ancient trees, filming, byelaws, ecology, information etc.) as well as carrying out the 'typical Ranger duties', but it is only thanks to the support provided by our large group of dedicated

firewood; as the need for this declined and then stopped, young trees and scrub grew up and began to crowd out some of the less aggressive species, many of which are now scarce or absent from the site. The Victorian fashion of planting rhododendron, which spreads easily, outcompetes the more delicate native ground flora, suppresses other plants through its toxic leaf litter and can harbour the fungus that causes sudden oak death, has also given our volunteers (like many more across the UK) plenty of work to be getting on with. Over the past 25 years or so, the Burnham Beeches volunteers have done an amazing job of re-opening areas that had been swamped by a sea of scrub and cleared nearly all traces of rhododendron from the site.

The fantastic news is that, thanks in great part to the efforts of our volunteers, species that hadn't been seen on the site for many years are now making comebacks: the fascinating insectivorous sundew that disappeared 40 years ago has returned to the re-opened wet heath; in early July this year, there were several sightings of the silver washed

Volunteers also help with events, walks, distributing maps or suggesting a good walk to new visitors. They help with administrative work in the office, pick up litter, participate in Natural England's captive dormouse breeding programme, or simply act as our eyes and ears, letting us know if they spot a problem on site.



Would you like to help this happy band with environmental projects?

glades; muntjac deer have been common for some time but now roe deer are frequently also seen; and buzzards, kites, tawny owls, kestrels and sparrow hawks can now all be regularly nesting and hunting on site.

Volunteering at the Beeches is not just about the practical projects. We also have a team of 'Eco-volunteers' who help us to survey the developing habitats and monitor for signs of change. This is crucial to not only let us know if things are going well, but also to warn us of any threats like environmental change, erosion and potential damage caused by nearby developments, such as the nearby quarry site. They spend hours on their hands and knees, or looking through a microscope to identify individual species. One project, for example, involves seeking out and monitoring tiny specimens (as small as 5mm) of a very rare moss which can only be found on the roots of ancient beech trees like the pollards on site.

our practical work both at the Beeches and Stoke Common. Volunteering offers a great day out, with the chance to meet new people and take exercise in beautiful surroundings. It's made all the better by the knowledge that you are looking after an internationally important site for nature conservation and helping make sure future generations can enjoy these wonderful places too.

Mid-week tasks take place every Thursday and run from 9am until 4pm. Weekend tasks are monthly, running between 10am and 3pm. You can either stay until lunchtime or for the whole day – it's up to you. There's plenty of tea, coffee and biscuits but bring a packed lunch if you plan to stay all day. All tools and safety equipment are provided but you'll need suitable outdoor clothes, stout footwear and waterproofs.

If you'd like to join us please call the office: 01753 647358 or email

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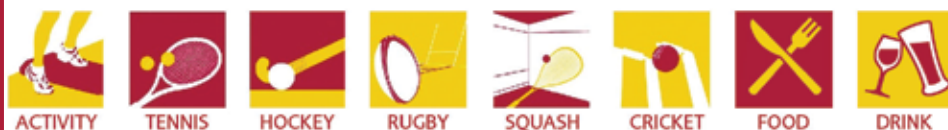
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Parish Fete

*Our fabulous Village Fete was on 8th July, our Editor, **Paula Morris** went with her daughter and gives us a review.*

I have always been mildly obsessed with tombolas. (My daughter was nearly called Lola Tombola Morris until sanity kicked in.) The table of prizes, the picking of the tickets and the anticipation to see if there is a five or a zero at the end of the number, I was always quite lucky and won heaps of prizes. I am pleased to say that this luck and love of the game has passed down to my daughter. Her first pick, pink 75, won us a bottle of Teacher's Whisky! I quickly relieved her of that burden and even though I don't drink the stuff we were both giddy to have won.



The Reading Brass Band kept us entertained on a very hot afternoon

We moved on to watch the fantastic Punch and Judy show and then to the face painting passing various stalls selling fish and chips and homemade cakes while the sun was beating down on us. It was a perfect British summer's day and the excellent brass band playing Abba while we walked in lifted our spirits. The donkey rides were great fun and the bouncy castle a huge success.

Raffle tickets with fab prizes were on sale (alas, no luck for me – I have never had the same luck as on the tombola). Walking around with my daughter who had been transformed into a puppy with face paint, I did wonder where people were. I did not see many families with young children and I was a little sad that more people had not supported this event. It was a quintessentially British village fete, the weather was kind and we had a fantastic time.

I truly hope next year more of you join us for a fabulous day. Just don't win all the tombola prizes before I get there.



The children loved the Punch and Judy Show



Dr Helen Read, fundraiser for 'Toilet Twinning' an initiative to provide sanitation in less developed countries, with the Revd. Graham Saunders (right), and Jerry Houdret (centre) holding a certificate.

1st Hedgerley Scouts



District Camp, by Simi Chavda, Patrol Leader

Being in Scouts is fantastic. This was once again proven when I attended the Scouts District Camp.

This year's camp was Star Wars-themed and my friends and I had a great laugh. There were around four groups of Scouts from each Scouts District. As a Patrol Leader, I was the group lead for the Star Wars Olympics. Each group went around the large campsite competing in a variety of activities including bread making, ball balancing and rifle shooting. Each activity had 20 points up for grabs. We came close to getting 20 points across all activities. My poorest performance was in the bread making competition, where even I wouldn't eat the bread that I made!

A winner was announced at the end of the Camp. Our district competed well, achieving good results across all activities. Our highlight was Mathew Ault reaching the podium in rifle shooting. And Michael Agass read a text to all of the districts by himself. Overall, it was a great weekend and a good opportunity to make new friends. My friends and I really enjoyed ourselves and look forward to attending again next year. Arrival was the hardest



The First Bivi by Matthew Smart, Patrol Leader, Hedgerley Scouts

thing. My dad and I drove past the entrance twice but the third time we finally got the correct turning. Down the enclosed road we went with trees drooping over, giving us a real sense of a dense forest. This was short-lived as the road opened out at the end into a field.

After handing in my permission slip, I walked over to the other Scouts and waited for everyone to arrive. Not knowing what to expect, I helped unload the van. When I say 'helped', I mean I joined the end of the queue and everything was taken by the time it was my turn to help!

Once all the equipment was gathered we were given our first task: To arrange ourselves in groups of 3-4 WITHOUT ruining friendships. We eventually got our groups together, then we had to pick a spot. Many 'I-wish-we-picked-that-spot-earlier' moments later, we finally settled on a patch. Then my group grabbed the groundsheet, tarpaulin and a bunch of rope and we started to build. We strung some rope between two trees, and secured them with what I would call some dodgy knots, then precariously hung the tarpaulin over the ropes. It wasn't much, but it was just about recognisable as some sort of shelter.

Some wide games came next. Man hunt and sardines were popular votes, but to my enjoyment, we didn't have to play them. Instead we played a game where you had to get to the pole without the person at the pole shine his torch at you. To be honest, I found it more fun than I should have.

Games were over, it was hot chocolate and cake time. I grabbed my mug and got my hot chocolate and cake, but being impatient, I burnt my tongue. I am sure that many other people did this, but no one else admitted to this feat of stupidity.

As time went on, it became more apparent that soon we would have to retire to our 'shelters'. This time finally arrived and I clambered inelegantly into my sleeping bag and started to sleep. Well, I mean tried to sleep. I think I got to sleep at around midnight and slept until about 6am, not too bad seeing as I had made this shelter. At around 7:30am everyone else had risen and we packed up our stuff. Surprisingly, we weren't the last to finish packing up.



Finally came breakfast, the best meal of the day. And what's better than a bacon butty on a Saturday morning? Not just one but two – in my mind, that was the best part of this excursion. We had made our own shelters, slept in them, tidied them away and filled our stomachs. It was now time to go home.

A celebratory dinner

Henri Toone, a former 1st Hedgerley Scout and Young Leader, attended a celebratory dinner in recognition of gaining her Gold Duke of Edinburgh and Queen's Scout awards. She was accompanied by Odi, her retired Hearing Dog, who is already an honorary 1st Hedgerley Scout, having attended six annual summer camps. She was made an honorary Buckinghamshire Scout, and was presented with her own Necker.



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JAWS

Improving fitness, socialising and eating plenty of cake – Richard Flower shows that's what JAWS is all about!

"Let them eat cake." So declared Brian Webber to the 20-plus JAWS runners and supporters assembled after the Vitality London 10km run. Sure enough, the delicious cakes baked by Phil and Brenda Cox were much enjoyed, accompanied by champagne in a sunny corner of Green Park round the corner from the Ritz – sheer decadence! Brian had already been singled out on the PA system, being described as 'Marathon Royalty', referring to his 17 years work as a central figure within the London Marathon organisation.

JAWS (Joggers and Wheelers) is a friendly club based in Farnham Common with the object of promoting fitness, particularly through running and cycling in addition to other activities, including golf and walking, plus a very active social side.

Every year JAWS members are inspired to enter the London Marathon along with 35,000 other runners from around the globe, pounding through a traffic free London. This year seven of our members took part ranging in age from 35-69. It was a great day and a band of supporters from the club waved the JAWS banners and cheered our heroes to the finish line enjoying the carnival atmosphere. All were highly pleased with their results and the elation of finishing one of the world's biggest Marathons made all those training miles seem worthwhile.

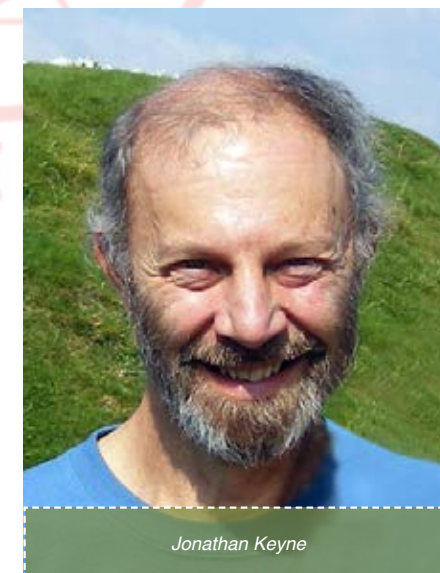
The Burnham Beeches Half Marathon and 10k is another big event on our summer calendar where JAWS operate the water stations and field around 20 runners. The event will be followed by a joint celebration party for Paul Naish and Brian Webber who are both turning 70 this year and running better than ever despite the extra portions of cake!



For the Golfers, the monthly competition at some of the area's best courses and the annual tournament on 5 August will be hotly contested. In JAWS sporting tradition of course, a barbeque follows and plenty of cake no doubt!

Sadly, in May, one of our very long-standing, committed and active members passed away after a brave struggle with cancer. Jonathan Keyne was fully involved in all JAWS activities and will be sadly missed by his very wide circle of friends and all of us at the club.

Membership of JAWS is currently open to local people who want to enjoy and improve their running or cycling, including beginners, so please don't be put off by talk of Marathons - we all start as beginners and don't forget the cake! Contact Richard Flower on 07767 828884 to find out more.



Jonathan Keyne

Wimbledon stars play tennis at Farnham Common

Paul Morgan reflects on the fabulous summer at Wimbledon and wonders if we may have some rising stars.

We've got players who originate from Wimbledon, Surbiton, South Wales, the North of England, abroad, and indeed Farnham Common. The fact that we are such a mixed bag makes for a fun playing environment at Farnham Common Tennis Club. We cater for all standards of players, from Andy Murray types to the more elegant older member through to those who are picking up a tennis racquet for the first time. For the competitive amongst us there are three men's teams, two ladies' teams and two mixed doubles teams. For the more sedate there is plenty of social tennis: Mondays for ladies, Thursdays for men and Wednesdays and Sundays for mixed doubles. Throughout the week you will also find lots of "social" fours on the courts. All can complete their tennis outing with a refreshing drink or meal at our club bar, which is very popular with members.

The club has a thriving coaching section which includes weekday and weekend coaching as well as several links with local schools. Our junior teams are doing well right now in the LTA leagues. We have an exceptional coaching team and are lucky to have the highly rated Stephen Wright as Head Coach, together with assistants.

Stephen ran summer camps throughout the summer. Hope you managed to make it along. If not, put your name down for next year.

We'd would love to add some new places of origin or indeed local residents to our growing list of members, and for the youngsters there is no better place to learn than Farnham Common. For further information, please contact Paul Morgan on 07824 366666 (**paul@brandevo.com**) or for all categories of coaching, contact Stephen Wright on 07946 491696 (**s.wright@internationaltenniscoaching.com**).



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Agnes Canning and the Role of the Women's Legion in WWI

Lisa Edwards, of the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies, discovered the story of Agnes Canning whilst working on the Great War in Buckinghamshire project. The Women's Legion, which Agnes joined, was amalgamated into the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps in February 1917 and the surviving service records give a rare glimpse into the changing lives of women.

I knew that women had been called up for munitions work during World War One but I hadn't realised that thousands of ladies joined the Women's Legion; an organisation created by the Marchioness of Londonderry in July 1915. Women were recruited to work as cooks and waitresses in army camps as well as gardeners and drivers. One such lady was Agnes Canning of Farnham Royal.

Agnes, the daughter of Henry and Elizabeth Canning, was born in the village of Winterbourne, Berkshire, on the 30th June 1890. She was the eldest of three children

and had a brother (Edgar) and sister (Gertrude). Their mother died in 1898 and the 1901 Census shows a housekeeper listed to help look after the family. By 1911 they had settled in Spring Lane Farnham Royal, and Agnes was working as a kitchen maid in London for George Dance, a Theatre Manager and Dramatic Author of some repute.

"I know how small and slight she was, what size shoes and jackets she wore and the physical scars she had on her skin"

Agnes enlisted for home service in the Women's Legion Military Cookery Section on the 24th May 1917. On her application she gives her occupation as 'cook', a job she had done for six years, having started as a kitchen assistant.



Women munitions workers at the works of the Yorkshire & Lancashire Railway Company at Horwich, Bolton in 1917. Imperial War Museum Picture Q 109907



A worker baking biscuits at an army biscuit factory in Lancashire, 1918. Imperial War Museum Picture Q 28311

After enlisting she was sent to Starhill Hostel in Farnborough. Although not under Government control, the Women's Legion adopted a military style and so like all new recruits Agnes had to complete training that included roll call, route marches and drill

On 1st June 1918 Agnes was transferred to the military camp at Borstal Heath and billeted at the hostel in Woolwich. She was posted to Aldershot in October 1918 and finally discharged from the army on the 19th August 1919 at the Connaught Club in London, then the headquarters of the Queen Mary Army Auxiliary Corps (into which the Women's Legion and the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps had been absorbed).

From the service records I can trace her life through 1917-1919. I know how small and slight she was, what size shoes and jackets she wore and the physical scars she had on her skin, but I don't know what she looked like. From the Parish Registers I have discovered her burial in St Mary's Church Yard on the 21st December 1931, aged 41 years, and I know that she has a marked grave, but there are so many gaps left to fill.

If any readers of the Farnhams Magazine remember the Canning family of Spring Lane and Agnes in particular, please get in touch, as it would be lovely to put some personal information to the biography I am writing about her for the Great War in Buckinghamshire's website. ledwards@buckscc.gov.uk

Working Mummy

*What's your 'because I'm worth it' moment? Farnhams resident, hard-working wife and mum of two **Amanda Silvey** reminds us to take a bit of time for ourselves.*

We all need something that's 'just for us', that little reward that reminds us to switch off and relax. A bubble bath, a glass of wine, a hard gym session. Whatever works! It took a trip to Chicago nearly two years ago with my hubby to make me realise that I had lost that ability to do something just for me and 'because I'm worth it'. I have always enjoyed running, but being in Chicago at the World Triathlon Championships with so many fit people whichever way you looked, made me realise that my own fitness was at the worst it had been for a long time, and I was missing out on something I knew I loved! So I started to run again. I ran with my hubby admired the Chicago sights in my trainers, then different sights a week later in Brazil where we were celebrating his 40th.

Then back home and back to reality where I was determined to keep it up. I joined the Park Run Movement – 5K every Saturday morning with 88K other fans across parks in the UK. I found a friend about the same fitness as me to run with to get a bit of competition going. But most importantly I started to feel that running was my 'because I'm worth it' moment, and that I was a better person for making the time for it. Calmer at work, less shouty at home, and overall more relaxed and in control all at the same time and all of the time!

Two years on and I'm still running and still a better Mummy, Wife, Friend, Boss for it. I use my runs for thinking time, chill out time, working things through time, and sometimes just chatting with my run buddy time. I'm out in all weathers, and totally buy into the approach of 'there's no such thing as bad weather only bad kit', so I plan my kit each night based on the weather forecast, and have become obsessed by my data and how quickly I can run the first 1K uphill from my house to my usual running haunts.

At this time of year there are lots of runners out and about and I admire every one of them for whatever reason they're running for. But for me, now I've worked out how to get running back into my life, and can feel the difference it is having, I'm determined to keep it as 'all about me'.

Everybody deserves a 'because I'm worth it' moment. What's yours? If you don't have one then perhaps now is the time to make it a priority.



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Community Service – Not Just For Criminals

Victoria Veninga takes the plunge to support Farnham Common Village Hall.

“And so I nominate Victoria to become a Trustee. All those in favour?”

Crumbs. I gulp a little and hope all these experienced committee members (most of whom only met me 20 minutes ago) will put their hands up. How embarrassing if they say no. Can you imagine?! And I've already forgotten one of their names and accidentally misread the form going around and written my name down incorrectly!!!! Good start....

Actually, I felt flattered to be invited to the AGM by some of the existing committee, who were looking for new volunteers. Sitting there, I gained real insight into the workings of this precious community hub and those who work tirelessly to keep it going. I was humbled by their service and motivated to get stuck in and help them preserve this important village space for generations to come.

Well, luckily they said yes. Of course they did, as every organisation needs more help. My community service starts here. It's going to be a learning curve for me. But how lovely to have one so fun and worthwhile.

Apparently, one of my new jobs will be to write articles such as this one. I haven't found it easy. What if you don't like it? What I AM finding easy though, is to throw my time and support behind this thriving hub of activity, for the benefit of our community not only today but also tomorrow. With clubs and events running for all ages, there truly is something for everyone at Farnham Common Village Hall. How lucky we are.

There are events to plan and noticeboards to fill. My next task, though, will be to get to grips with the hall's Facebook page. You could wish me luck, but a quick “like” would be equally welcome and better for you. There will be events you won't want to miss...!

The small print: Naturally, other committees are available. There are many in our midst; all working hard to keep our villages thriving, fun and connected. Please support them.

Note from the editorial team: Thanks Victoria, we completely agree we could not run this magazine without the full staff of Volunteers – We'd love you to get involved any way you can. Fancy writing an article? Taking some photos? Submitting a recipe? The Farnhams Mag needs you!!

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Rotary Club of Burnham Beeches

Another busy spring and summer for the Rotary Club of Burnham Beeches raising funds and working with the local communities.

In May we had the 26th annual Donkey Derby in Burnham Park. It was a fantastic day with a tiny bit of rain but lots and lots of sun! The donkeys and their riders were fabulous again this year and the event itself was bigger than ever with hundreds of stall holders turning up to join in. A wonderful day was had by all and a huge sum was raised for our charities.

In June, for the seventh year running, the Club supported the national literacy programme with their Dictionary for Life project. Education is a priority for Rotary and the project enables Year Six pupils in local schools to be given dictionaries that they keep for life. The Club donated over 350 dictionaries to schools in the Farnhams, Burnham and Taplow. Other schools involved were St Mary's Farnham Royal, Lent Rise, Priory School and St. Peter's in Burnham and St Nicolas, Taplow.



Pupils at Farnham Common Junior School wave their new dictionaries

New Rotary Year – New President

Michael Holehouse, a long-time resident of Farnham Common, took over as Club President on 1 July from Ray Dance. Michael has inherited a vibrant club in a positive financial position that contributed over £20,000 to local and national charities over the last year using funds raised from the Donkey Derby, the Caldicott Musical Evening, the Burnham Beeches Run and other events. Our membership was bolstered by several new and enthusiastic people and Michael is looking forward to adding more in the coming months.

Rotary Burnham Beeches Run 5K and 10K

Our annual Burnham Beeches Run takes place on Saturday 4 November. In addition to the 10K for over 16s we have a 5K run which in addition to adults is also open to youngsters 12 and over. Spot prizes for Fancy Dress – Guy Fawkes theme – and prizes for positions in each race.

This year we are offering free entry for runners committing to raise £100 or more by sponsorship for Thames Valley Adventure Playground. See the website for details www.burnhambeechesrun.co.uk.

As ever, please come and join us one night – all are welcome at the Tudor Barn, Burnham, Thursday Evenings, 7.30pm for 8.00pm dinner.



Past President Ray Dance



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Slough Rotary Club

Slough Rotary Club met at a local restaurant recently to raise funds for local charities and to enjoy a good night out. Long-serving Rotarian Ram Bedi organised the event and persuaded most of the Slough members to join him, one couple even enjoying their wedding anniversary. Interestingly, guests met and were reintroduced to old friends met long in the past.

The evening was planned to replace the usual weekly meeting of perhaps two hours, but no one seemed to want to leave. In the end President Terry had to suggest a second raffle to get everyone to go home.

Service was excellent, and the restaurant did a great job in providing a super meal that all enjoyed. Several hundred pounds were raised for local charities and community was seen to be supported by Slough Rotary.

Thank you to Slough Rotary and to Memories of India in Farnham Common.



L. to R.: Mr. Nash (Manager), Mr. Chouhan (Director),
Ram Bedi (Past President-Slough Rotary), Terry Pattinson (President Slough Rotary),
Mr. Shamin Ahmed (Director)

Travel Broadens the Mind

By Lucy Matthews

When my husband retired from work, we decided to return to Farnham Common, where we had raised our three children. Our return to Farnham Common went smoothly.

Farnham Common has fabulous access to London, where our son lives. Heathrow Airport is also close-by, which is useful as we often visit our elder daughter who lives with her family in Australia.

Our original family home had been close to Burnham Beeches where we enjoyed many pleasant walks, as a family with our Springer Spaniels, and with friends who came to visit. We had barbecues each summer when friends and family and their children would join us, and many New Year's Eve parties when the children were teenagers. Most of those teenagers are now parents themselves, and we tease them about the joys in store when their children become teenagers.

The house was set back down a long drive, the garden mainly lawn. Leading down from a small patio outside the lounge were steps and a rockery covered with plants and flowers. At the bottom was a pond, and each spring groups of frogs from Burnham Beeches would come hopping down our drive to spawn. Our children were delighted to see the baby frogs hopping around the pond and garden.

In Australia, we see many kangaroos munching the fresh green grass in our daughter's garden. In spring the Joeys may be seen peeping out of their mothers' pouches. Gradually they pluck up courage to hop out and eat the grass too. We often hear the 'boom, boom' from a frequent visitor – a koala bear who curls himself around the high branches to sleep during the day, and ventures down once it is dark. We see noisy galahs flying overhead, pretty rainbow lorikeets

and pink rosellas. Agapanthus, crepe myrtle and kangaroo paws are a few of the many varieties of plants that grow in the garden.

We have travelled widely around Australia over the years, and one experience regarding the wildlife stands out particularly. Driving up a very dusty highway between South Australia and the Northern Territory where there was usually very little traffic, we suddenly found ourselves in a queue. Gradually the cars pulled across to the right side of the road, and moved forward. Fortunately not an accident: the traffic had been stopped by an emu mother crossing the road, followed by her young. Definitely one for the memory bank.

Our lives in Farnham Common and Australia are vastly different. Yet each is filled with nature, beauty and happiness.



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Hedgerley Historical Society

John Lovelock tells us about the treats in store this winter.

We return after our summer break on Wednesday 20 September when **Dr. David Lewis** will present a talk on Medieval Windsor.

Although in many respects Windsor in the Middle Ages was a typical small town, with its assortment of craft and artisan occupations, in other ways it was extraordinary. It expanded during the Black Death when other towns declined, it hosted an extraordinary assortment of high status occupation, serving the needs of those within the Castle, and it was consistently a wealthy place. Windsor was also famous nationally, attracting immigrants from distant parts of the country, whereas all other towns, with the exception of London, drew their population from a radius of no more than ten miles. It became a self-governing borough from 1277, although its roots are of much greater antiquity, and can be traced to a riverside site about three miles from the modern town. Windsor's decline in the early modern period mirrored the change in notion of monarchy, the medieval military castle being an incongruous setting for enlightenment princes, who aimed to project an image of learning, refinement and good taste. Windsor has been a castle town throughout its history, and so it remains today.

In 2003 David embarked on a PhD to study medieval Windsor, the first such research work ever completed, with the degree being awarded in 2006.

Post-doctoral work followed with the Historic Towns Trust, studying Windsor and Eton over a longer timeframe, from c. 800 to 1860 and the production of an Historic Atlas. David is currently writing a history of

medieval Eton and Windsor.

For our October meeting on Wednesday 18th October **Sean Kelly** will describe the history of USA bases in South Bucks.

Sean Kelly is author of *Home Bases: Memories & Stories of US Military Bases Around London*, which looks at the many US military installations located in and around London going back to World War I but particularly during WWII and the Cold War. It is a book that, for the first time, puts the spotlight on the history of many of the US Military's lesser known command and support bases - several of which were located in Buckinghamshire.

There are two special events in October the first on Saturday 21st October when **Christian Wolmar** will present his talk on *Global Conquest: How Railways took over the world*. Booking required Tickets £5.

Christian Wolmar will take us through the history of the railways, demonstrating their importance in stimulating economic and social progress. The railways changed the world in so many ways but their role has often been underestimated and forgotten. His talk will show just how much modern life owes to the invention of the railways and how they spread quickly around the world transforming people's lives.

Christian Wolmar is an award winning writer and broadcaster specialising in transport and is the author of a series of books on railway history. He is a frequent speaker at conferences and railway events, and regularly appears on TV and radio. He has spent nearly all of his working life as a journalist, and his interest in transport began at *The Independent* when he was appointed transport correspondent in 1992. He writes regularly for a wide variety of publications including newspapers such as *The Times* and *The Guardian* and numerous magazines, such as *The Oldie*. Christian is acknowledged as one of the UK's leading commentators on transport matters. He broadcasts frequently on radio and TV. Among his numerous feature TV appearances, he has been on *Coast, Julia*

Bradbury's Railway Walks and the railway programmes presented by Ian Hislop and Michael Portillo, and more recently the series on BBC4 about how the railways made modern Britain. On radio, he has frequently appeared on *Today* as well as other news programmes such *World at One* and *World Tonight*. He features regularly on Jeremy Vine, LBC and Talk Radio.

His history of Britain's Railways, *Fire and Steam*, was widely praised and in 2009 he published *Blood, Iron and Gold*, how railways transformed the world. His latest history book is *To the Edge of the World* the history of the Transsiberian railway, published in 2013. He is currently writing the history of Indian railways due to be published in September 2017.

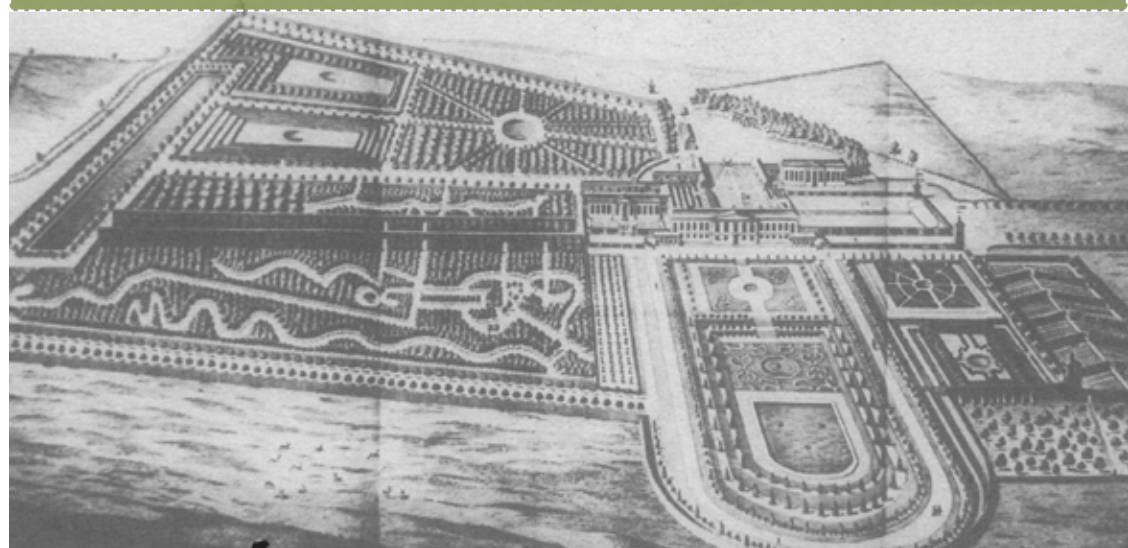
The second special event a week later on Saturday 28th October will be our annual Autumn Lunch which will be followed by a talk by local writer and historian **D J Kelly**. Booking required for the lunch but admission to the talk is free.

'Bulstrode – Magnificence and Scandal on our Doorstep' – The once grand mansion of Bulstrode is nowadays hidden from view

to the passer-by and its formerly extensive lands are now greatly swallowed up by Gerrards Cross and Hedgerley, but this recently sold off treasure has been home to some fascinating residents, including the philanthropic, the romantic, the scandalous and the murderous.

Chalfont St Peter based **Denise Beddows** has a background in research, investigation and intelligence analysis with the Home Office. Having taken early retirement at the rank of Chief Immigration Officer in 2010, she nowadays writes – both as Denise Beddows and as DJ Kelly – non-fiction, biographical fiction, plays and screenplays. A member of the Society of Authors and the Society of Women Writers and Journalists, she regularly contributes articles to local, national and international press and journals and undertakes voluntary research for local history and heritage group The Celfunde Inheritance and for The Chalfonts U3A Local History Group. A trained and experienced public speaker, she regularly gives talks on different topics to a variety of community groups and at literary festivals. She actively supports Chalfont St Giles Literary Festival and also Words for the

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There are two talks in November the first on Wednesday 15th November when **Anthony Poulton-Smith** will present What's in a Name (Place names).

When his twenty-year career in light engineering came to an end, Anthony turned to writing full time including over seventy books which reflect his keen interest in etymology and in particular place names, although this has spilled over into examinations of transport throughout history, collections of ghost stories, and also a brief look at the history of the toilet. Anthony is currently researching further works on different aspects of history, from coaches to canals, ghosts to gore, and escapees. Aside from his professional life he is also chairman of Tamworth Literary Festival, volunteer for the local Talking Newspaper, and have recently become a mature student studying ancient

languages. He is a member of MENZA, a magistrate, and an active member of several other groups in his home town of Tamworth Staffordshire.

The last autumn event is on Wednesday 22nd November when **David Barber** will describe his life as the Queen's Swan Marker. The talk covers the history of Swan Upping, the boats used, the ecology of the mute swan, the work carried out by the Swan Uppers during the week and the conservational/educational benefits of Swan Upping. David has worked on the Thames for his entire adult life and served his apprenticeship at Andrews Boatyard. He runs a marine company at Cookham and has been Swan Marker for 23 years.

Hedgerley Historical Society meet at Hedgerley Memorial Hall Kiln Lane Hedgerley SL2 3UZ. Further details from **John Lovelock** 01753-647187 jdlovelock@btinternet.com.



David Barber gently marks a swan in this ancient tradition

Royal British Legion



*The Branch held another very convivial Lunch at The Victoria in Farnham Common for members and friends this Summer, writes **Naomi Arnold** when it was good to chat over an excellent buffet.*

Although November may seem to be far away, plans are already in hand for the annual Poppy Appeal, in which our Farnham Common Branch always participates wholeheartedly. Last year we topped £24,000, so we will need to put in a lot of work this year. When one recalls that the Royal British Legion currently spends £1.5 million a week to help ex servicemen and women and their dependents, it will be appreciated why it is vital that we maximise the amount collected during the Poppy Appeal fortnight.

With the added facility of collecting at the Beaconsfield Motorway Service Area, we invite would-be collectors to join us, as this has proved to be a most fruitful site, with excellent financial rewards for the Appeal, and with two collectors at a time, working under over, it is also found to be enjoyable by our Poppy People.

We continue to collect house to house and also outside the major shops in our area in the Poppy Appeal period from Saturday, 28 October to Saturday, 11 November. If you feel able to give us even half an hour of your time to help us as a Poppy person, please contact **Naomi Arnold** - Branch Chairman on 01753 - 663305 (naomi.arnold33@gmail.com).

Helping fundraising as well is the collection of used postage stamps, and we are pleased to advise that these can now be handed in at The Spirit Hair Company in Robin Parade, Farnham Common who have kindly agreed to act as a collecting point for the Branch.

Please remember too that membership of the Royal British Legion is open to one and all - there is no need to have any services link, which is a popular misconception.

Mothers' Union



Our garden meeting and cream tea held at Helen Bone's home was held before the hot weather, so unfortunately we had to stay indoors, but this did not stop us enjoying our fellowship together. We welcomed The Revd Lady Denis Browne, our Diocesan Chaplain, in June when we explored our "faith in action", a lively and encouraging afternoon. July took us to Dorchester on Thames to visit the Abbey there, a wonderful old building (parts of which date back to the 11th century). We were warmly welcomed and given a guided tour, and I found the "Jessie" tree window the most fascinating.

We joined with other Branches to listen to the Rev'd Peter Blackshire, Lead Chaplain at Wexham Park hospital, talking about his work and how the Chapel is used by all faiths and those with none; and how the multi-faith leaders work together to ensure support is available 24 hours a day to everyone.

At our October meeting we welcome our Diocesan President, Mrs Alison Bennett who will talk about the Mothers' Union work in the Children's ward at The John Radcliffe hospital, a charity which Hedgerley Mothers' Union support by donating toiletries, sachets of tea, coffee, chocolate, small packets of biscuits, soft toys, tea towels. If you would like to contribute, please leave in one of our three churches marked for Hedgerley Mothers' Union and they will reach us.

In November we have a visit from Biblelands to update us on their work and their Christmas cards with be on sale. We end the year with our party.

From October we hope to move our monthly meetings to The Youth Club (opposite Hedgerley shops). Our meetings and events are open to everyone, lifts can be arranged and a warm welcome will await you. You are also welcome to our monthly TLC morning on the 4th Tuesday in the month at Ben-Venue from 10am

For further information, please ring **Mary Lane** on 01753 646926.



Members of Hedgerley Mothers' Union visit Dorchester Abbey

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From the Archives

You may remember, writes **Elisabeth Mills**, that our last look through back copies of the parish magazine ended in March 1950, with considerable worries about the lack of funds to pay for the curate's house in Farnham Common. However, things must have moved faster than anticipated, because in May 1950 we learn the following:

'The priest in charge is now installed in the new house and a very considerable amount of hard work has been done by the men of St. John's in making the surroundings more presentable. Strength to their tired elbows! We are justly proud of the new house and record our grateful

thanks to all who have contributed to the materialisation of our hopes and aspirations. We are particularly grateful to the architect, Mr David Hartley, and the builders, Messrs Hartley and Sons, for having done such a magnificent job at such low cost'.

In the April 1950 edition the curate, Mr J C Richardson, now living in St. John's House with his family, gives news of St. John's Tennis Club:

'Mr and Mrs E C Jubb have very kindly offered the use of their tennis court on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Saturday afternoons and evenings to anyone who wants to play tennis. It is suggested that we form a St. John's Tennis Club so that the best

possible use may be made of this offer. There will be a small subscription for members which will be reduced for holiday members. The money so raised is to be given to the St. John's Building Fund'.

Then in June comes the report of the blessing of St. John's House on Sunday 7th May, by the Bishop of Buckingham. The congregation assembled on the lawn and St. Mary's choir joined that of St. John's. It was noted with pleasure that it did not rain!

There is news of the Farnham Common Women's Institute. 'There are now over a hundred members of this branch, of which Mrs. Sanders is president. It meets on the second Wednesday of each month to transact business and enjoy a talk, competition or demonstration. Outings are arranged from time to time to places of interest or beauty. For instance, this month a party went by coach to see over the biscuit factory at Reading, by kind invitation of Messrs Huntley and Palmer'.

The Farnham Common Young Wives' Club also gets a mention. They had an open meeting February when they had a talk giving them 'much useful and time-saving advice on cookery'. Then in March several new members were welcomed and Mrs Pusey 'gave a helpful talk on Radio for Children, stressing the potential value of radio programmes as a source of common interest in the family'.

Hedgerley W.I.

The year is racing away and we continue to enjoy our meetings with good speakers, and visits to places of interest.

Our August outing was to Bentley Priory Museum and Park, Headquarters for Fighter Command during the Battle of Britain. The Museum tells the story of this beautiful Grade II listed building. Our members toured the museum of memorabilia and viewed the plotting table where incoming enemy aircraft were tracked. Also in August, the W.I. Bucks Federation organised a trip to Lacock Abbey and Fox Talbot Museum in historic Lacock Village.

We enjoy taking part in Bucks County events and were fascinated by the Science Day when the anatomy of a Cream Tea was discussed. Jenny Harper-Jones attended the WI Fair at Alexandra Palace and was delighted to win the draw for a day's tuition at the Royal School of Needlework at Hampton Court. Several of us celebrated the fine weather with a Pimms and tea party at Hall Barn.

At the BFWI Autumn Event in September, John Benjamin from the BBC TV Antiques Road Show will be our Guest Speaker and will also give informal valuations of our jewellery.

A Craft and Chat Club will start at Stuart Lodge, our Headquarters in High Wycombe, in September, where we can share ideas and skills and plan for the future of the Group.

Hedgerley W.I. will be hosting the annual Beeches Group Meeting in October, when we invite members of Stoke Poges, Taplow & Hitcham and George Green for a talk, the topic being "Straight jacket, corset & cribs – all about Princess Charlotte, the Queen who never was". Each Institute will report on their past year's events, followed by, of course, the pleasure of tea and chat and tasty treats!

We meet on the 3rd Thursday each month at 2.30pm in the memorial Hall, Hedgerley, and a warm welcome awaits – please ring Jenny Harper-Jones on 01753 643872.



President Jenny Harper-Jones gives flowers to Vera Hines on her 90th Birthday

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Southmead Surgery

*Practice Manager **Sue Hazell** tells the latest news from surgery and reminds us it's time to book our flu jabs.*

The surgery was re-inspected by the CQC on 13 March and found to be GOOD in all areas, a huge relief to everyone. We hope that this is a true reflection of the level of care we provide.

A **BIG** thank you to all those children from Farnham Common Junior School who painted the lovely pictures which are now decorating our walls. If any other children would like to contribute artwork we would be delighted to display it. Please hand in to reception.

The PPG is now fully up and running, meeting for an hour approximately once a month on a Monday evening at 6:30pm. Anyone wishing to join please let a member of staff know and we will pass on your details. Even if you do not want to join the PPG, please feel free to give us any suggestions you may have which could improve the service we offer.

During the summer months bookable appointments "book on the day", to help us for any inconvenience.

It's time to book your flu jabs.

we will have fewer pre-available, the majority will be meet demand. We apologise

During this holiday period, it may not always be possible to see your preferred doctor. We offer a number of telephone consultations daily, however, reception, or the secretary, may be able to help instead. Please give full details of your query, you may be able to receive a faster response that way.

If you are travelling abroad and think you may need immunisations, please allow plenty of time before you travel to fill in our travel forms, hand back to reception and call us about 10 days later to see what you need. Injections need to be given at least two weeks before you travel.

It is important for your health that the surgery has up-to-date contact details – please make sure we have your mobile number and email address, where available.

We hope everyone is enjoying the summer! However, the season of flu jabs will be upon us soon. Please call us mid-September to book an appointment.



Library Update

*Have you ever considered volunteering at the Library? Our library is run completely by volunteers who generously give their time and commitment to support us. But why do they do it? What do they get out of it? We asked one of our long-serving volunteers, **Eric Harris**, to tell us more*

How long have you been involved with the library/been a volunteer?

I have always loved reading, but only joined the library in 2014 I quickly found that I was visiting the library at least twice a week. So as I was in there regularly, I thought I might as well volunteer..!

What made you become a volunteer?

I was very impressed by the volunteers, their willingness to engage with people and the way in which they went about helping them.

Why do you enjoy volunteering at the library? What's the best thing about it?

As a volunteer, you are the face of the library, and it is great meeting people and helping them. The library has a thriving children's section and it is wonderful to see children developing a love of reading which hopefully will stay with them all their lives.

Do you do the same shift every week?

My external work is a bit irregular, which makes it difficult to commit to a 2-hour shift far in advance. Insofar as I have a regular shift, it would be Saturday morning. The rota is very flexible to enable volunteers to fit shifts around their own commitments.

What does a typical shift involve?

The basics revolve around issuing, renewing and returning books on the system and to the shelves, signing up new members. The fun comes from the questions that you get asked by the library members: "Do you have any books by.....?", "What's the name of this book – I think it's by someone called Smith (or possibly Jones) and has the word "love"

in the title?", sometimes be involved in making this happen.

Would you recommend others to volunteer and why?

Absolutely. After every shift you come away thinking that you've made a difference for someone (even if it's something quite small). Also you will have had conversations on a wide variety of subjects, and for sure you will have learned something! In my opinion, the library is a real "jewel" within the Farnhams community, and I would recommend it to anyone.

We are always in need of new volunteers so if you are curious and think you might be interested, just pop in and talk to us or contact Richard Beckingsale on 01753 642060.

Coming up, on 17 September we have a great trip to "Salute to the '40s" at Chatham Historic Dockyard, followed by our Annual Quiz on 30 September. On 14 October we have excellent tickets to see "Million Dollar Quartet", the worldwide smash hit musical about rock 'n' roll icons Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis and Carl Perkins, at High Wycombe Swan Theatre.

Our Christmas celebrations start on 22 November with Christmas at Waddesdon Manor, followed by the ever-popular John Rutter Christmas Celebration Concert on 6 December, and finishing with our always sold-out Christmas Supper on 16 December.

For details of any of our events and activities, please visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/farnhamccl, our website at www.buckscommunitylibraries.org/farnham-common/, pop into the library and watch out for our regular newsletter.

Book Review



Carola Donovan shares the book groups later review and invites you to read the next book to be reviewed, even if you can't get to the library

American Author Elizabeth Gilbert is best known for her memoir of a year of self-discovery 'Eat, pray, love' published in 2006 and made into a popular film in 2010 set in Italy, India and Bali and featuring Julia Roberts.

The novel 'The signature of all things' is a multi-generational saga set in the 18th and 19th centuries and tells the story of the Whittaker family. Father Henry born in England makes a vast fortune from the quinine trade in Philadelphia and the Mother Beatrix is Dutch born and very interested in plants. Their only longed-for child, a daughter, Alma is born in 1800 and another daughter Prudence adopted in 1809. Alma is a plain child, fiercely intelligent who becomes a gifted botanist, forever questioning and exploring but finding love only in later years when she meets talented artist Ambrose Pike.

The novel is 500 pages long, with extensive historical detail and set during the time known as the Period of Enlightenment, spanning well into the Industrial Revolution. Elizabeth Gilbert has an easy prose style and is a natural story-teller with a recognised love for foreign travel and is a thorough and talented researcher. This interesting and energetic story of love, adventure and eventual self-knowledge and belief for Alma, is set in a past where a thirst for new ideas, discoveries in science, religion and social change are well defined and delivered. Much knowledge of this period was gained by the reader without it feeling like a dry history lesson, but delivered with charm and humour.

The Book Group members felt that the main characters were very well drawn and the novel had a strong story line. Perhaps the secondary characters, although amusing, were less believable and in some cases not essential to the plot. The descriptions of the travels undertaken by Alma were delightful, roaming from the glasshouses at Kew Gardens via Philadelphia, Peru, Amsterdam and on to the breathtaking beauty of Tahiti. The detailed descriptions of plants, butterflies and fauna left our members with an urge to revisit Kew Gardens and experience the charm and beauty there, as most of us cannot hope to make it to Tahiti!

The next book the Group will discuss is 'Bel Canto' published in 2001 by another American Author Ann Patchett. Why don't you read along with us and see if you agree with our review, or submit a review yourself!

The Book Group dates for meetings in the Autumn/Winter are
Mondays at 2.00pm in the Library on 25 September, 6 November and
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Local Artist

John Heywood, who lives in Farnham Common, will be exhibiting there this month. Here he tells a little about himself and his work as an artist.

I was brought up on the North Devon Coast, within sight and sound of the sea. The interaction of light on the sea, or on a lake or river, in different weather conditions and different times of the day still holds a fascination for me and demands to be painted.

I have lived in Buckinghamshire for nearly fifty years but I only moved from the Chalfonts to Farnham Common in 2014. Here I paint local scenes of the Chilterns and the Thames Valley, taking advantage of our beautiful local woodland and river scenery.

Our family has had a cottage on the Scilly island of St Mary's since 1990 and I also go to the Greek islands every year - the quality of the light in both places is amazing! So some of my paintings are coastal scenes from Scilly and the Greek islands.

I have exhibited for nearly thirty years now in galleries in Scilly, mainland Cornwall and the home counties. I was elected a member of the prestigious Buckinghamshire Art Society in

1998 and was Chairman of that Society from 2003 to 2005. Today my work is to be found in Europe, North America, and Australia.

I love to paint in the open air on my old French Easel, but this is seldom without incident. One day last summer, when painting by a pond in Burnham Beeches, some little girls came by with their mothers to look at what I was doing. One little girl said that she could not see a duck in my painting although there definitely was one on the pond. I know how strict little girls can be, having one daughter and three granddaughters myself, so, obviously, I had to paint one in!

Recently I decided to avoid the pressures of gallery work and to simply concentrate on two solo exhibitions a year here in Farnham Common, a Spring Exhibition in April and an Autumn Exhibition in September, giving 1/3 of all proceeds to the Thames Valley Air Ambulance.

I paint solely because I enjoy it; I hope that people who come to my Autumn Exhibition (see opposite) will equally enjoy the results!



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Concerts and Events

Slough Philharmonic Society

Saturday 11 November 2017 - 7.30pm at St Bernard's, Langley

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Berio	Ritirata notturna di Madrid de Boccherini
Ronald Binge	Concerto for Alto Saxophone
Rachmaninov	Symphony No 2



Saturday 16 December 2017 - 7:30 pm at School Hall, Eton

Puccini	Messa di Gloria
Vaughan Williams	Fantasia on Christmas Carols
Hely-Hutchinson	Carol Symphony (extracts)
Carols for Choir and Audience	

For full details and booking information visit: sloughphil.org

The Society reserves the right to change programmes, dates or venues

Royal Free Singers

**Saturday 2 December at 7.30pm
at Windsor Parish Church, High Street Windsor**

Beethoven Mass in C
Song of Mary - premiere of an especially commissioned piece by Jonathan Willcocks
Conducted by Jonathan Willcocks
Orchestra: Southern Pro Musica
Tickets: £15 (concessions for children) from 07434 626045 www.rfs.royal-windsor.com

The Royal Free Singers is an un auditioned community choir, based in Windsor. We perform a wide range of music - from classical to contemporary, from opera to folk songs. Our recent concert programmes included Mozart Requiem; Vaughan Williams Five Mystical Songs; Elgar: The Music Makers; Rutter: The Sprig of Thyme and an evening of opera choruses.

We are a friendly choir and welcome new members. Please contact: Jenny Carey (Membership Secretary) 01753 771875

Voci Chamber Choir

The next Voci concert is part of the Windsor Festival, on 24th September at 7.30pm in St Stephen's church, Windsor, SL4 5EA. Our 5th Anniversary concert on 11th November will be The Armed Man, also at St Stephens, at 7.30pm.



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Stoke Poges Singers

Winter 2017 Programme and Concert

Stoke Poges Singers will start rehearsals for the Winter 2017 concert in September (Thursday 7th), and as always new members will be made very welcome. We are a mixed voice adult choir, singing for pleasure a range of music old and new, classical and popular.



This range of musical styles was much enjoyed in our previous Summer concert with a variety of pieces connected under the "Wing and a Prayer" theme. This saw Purcell performed alongside Bon Jovi, Brian Wilson with Mendelssohn. The voices of the choir together with piano and string quartet, coupled with the fine acoustic of St John's Church, Farnham Common produced a magnificent and uplifting sound.

Continuing this theme of bringing together pieces across different music genres, Music Director Andy Langley is compiling a programme for the Winter 2017 concert based around two legends of their day. Both were child prodigies, one a prominent figure and influence on popular music in the second half of the 20th century, and the other often thought of as one of the "Three B's" of classical music (together with Beethoven and Bach). So expect such hits as "You are the Sunshine of My Life", "Superstition" and "For Once in My Life" with selections from Liebeslieder Walzer, Volkslieder and Romanzen.

Yes, Stoke Poges Singers will present "Wonder Brahms!" featuring music by Stevie Wonder, Johannes Brahms and contemporaries in their Winter 2017 concert on November 25th at St John's Church, Farnham Common. Be sure to put the date in your diary. For more information on concerts or if you would like to come along and sing with us please visit www.stoke-poges-singers.org.uk



"The Proms at St John's"

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On Sunday 23rd July, Thomas William Darby was baptised at St Mary Hedgerley. With him are his parents, Jo and Mark and their elder son, James.

From the Registers (January to March 2017)

Baptisms:

St. John Farnham Common	Dawson Seedel
	Cali Seedel
St. Mary Farnham Royal	Sofia-Mae Jago

Weddings:

St. Mary Farnham Royal	Andrew Tawse & Christine Dixon
	Steven Gardiner & Shirley Murphy
St. Mary Hedgerley	Stuart Agass & Linling Song

Funerals:

St. Mary Hedgerley	Robert Allan (Thanksgiving Service)
St. Mary Farnham Royal	Leslie Pearce

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The Farnhams Magazine continues to expand and develop and now offers some great opportunities for people interested in joining us and helping us move forward. Gender, age and experience are immaterial, but enthusiasm and drive are necessary, and talent always helps. Training and follow-up support will be given and be ongoing.

All jobs are very part time, requiring involvement on a quarterly basis, although staying in touch with the group will be necessary throughout the year. These are voluntary positions, but expenses incurred will be refunded.

Additional Distribution Manager

Our busy Distribution Manager seeks an active and personable assistant. The job requires interaction with local businesses, the professional distribution company and its tracking facilities (no physical household deliveries are necessary), and a small number of volunteer distributors. Some posting to advertisers is involved.

Editors / Asst. Editors

We now have a new Asst. Editor, but would still like to hear from more people who want to develop an interest in magazine production under our Editorial Advisor, a published author and magazine journalist.

Roving Reporters

We already have one enthusiastic participant, but are seeking more people to cover all areas. These are flexible roles, requiring short reports of 2-300 words on anything of general interest to the community that comes their way, and should include a quality, high resolution, photograph if possible.

Social Media 'King' or 'Queen'

Developing this important area is a must. So we are looking for someone with a good knowledge of social media and Facebook, Twitter etc. This person will have a free hand in developing our presence on Social Media in general.

Secretary

As we grow, we need someone to help manage us and our administration. This not very onerous role will include receiving / disseminating information from committee members, agreeing the Chairman's agenda items, taking and circulating minutes of our quarterly meetings and generally being a good egg!

If you are interested in any of the above – or would just like to hear more without commitment, then please do get in touch. CONTACT Barrie Luscombe barrie1806@gmail.com or on 01753 645 900

Parliamentary & Council Information

Member of Parliament for Beaconsfield Constituency

Dominic Grieve MP 02072 196220 email: grieved@parliament.uk

Buckinghamshire County Councillors

Stoke Poges & Farnham Common Ralph Bagge 07472 042035
Email: cllr.ralphbagge@gmail.com

Farnham Royal & Burnham Beeches Linda Hazell 01628 661024
Email: linhazell@btopenworld.com

South Bucks District Council

Council Office sbdc@southbucks.gov.uk 01895 837200
Farnham Royal &
Hedgerley Ward David Anthony
Stoke Poges Ward Dev Dhillon
For Councillor contact details visit Ralph Bagge & Trevor Egleton
www.southbucks.gov.uk/councillors

Farnham Royal Parish Council Councillors:

Chairman	Trevor Clapp	643623
Vice Chairman	Bob Milne	642149
Finance Committee Chairman	John Hodges	646500
	Brian Bilgorri	642980
	Neil Hodgkins	626930
	Roger Home	642078
	Clive Robinson	642124
	Paul Rowley	643300
	Richard Thomas	642210
	Victoria Thompson	648124
	Judy Tipping	644831

FR Parish Clerk – Mrs Hilda Holder 648497

Email: clerk@farnhamroyal-pc.gov.uk Sherriff House, The Broadway, FC SL2 3QH

Website: www.farnhamroyal-pc.gov.uk

Parish Council Meetings are open to the public and press. Public comment may be made, at the invitation of the Chairman, during the first 15 minutes of the meeting. Letters concerning parish matters should be sent to the Parish Clerk who will bring them to the attention of the Councillors. Residents who have matters to bring to the Council's attention are advised that it is more effective to attend meetings in person.

Next Meetings - (starting at 7.30pm)

September 25, 7.30pm	Full Council Farnham Royal Village Hall
October 23, 7.30pm	Full Council Farnham Common Village Hall
November 27, 6.30pm	Finance Committee Farnham Royal Village Hall
November 17, 7.30pm	Full Council Farnham Royal Village Hall
January 22, 2018, 7.30pm	Full Council Farnham Common Village Hall



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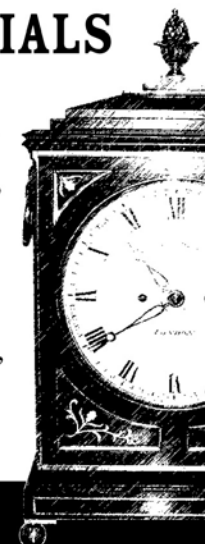
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Church Information

The United Benefice of Farnham Royal with Hedgerley (Anglican)

St Mary Farnham Royal

11:00 am Holy Communion (1st, 3rd, 4th, 5th Sundays)
 11:00 am Family Praise (2nd Sunday)
 Baptisms on 4th Sunday of the month

St John Farnham Common

08:00 am Holy Communion (1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays)
 09:30 am Holy Communion (Every Sunday)
 Baptisms on 1st Sunday of the month

St Mary Hedgerley

08:00 am Holy Communion (2nd, 4th Sundays)
 11:00 am Holy Communion (1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays)
 11:00 am Church Family Worship (2nd Sunday)
 11:00 am Family Praise (4th Sunday)
 Baptisms on 1st Sunday of the month

St Mary's Hedgehogs Toddler Group – Thursday in term time 10:00 am at Scout HQ

The pattern will vary slightly depending on circumstances and patronal festivals. For further information, please contact Rev Graham Saunders on 01753 643233. To receive a weekly email bulletin (E-pistle) of our services and activities, email Graham revghs@gmail.com.

Clergy

The Revd Graham Saunders	The Rectory, Victoria Road, FC	643233
The Revd Gordon Briggs	52 Freemans Close, Stoke Poges	662536
The Revd Jan Clark	55 Cranwells Lane, FC	646546
Mr John Turkington – Licensed Lay Minister		

Church Office

St John's Vestry, Victoria Road, FC	644130
Open usually Wednesdays 9:30am-12:30pm	
unitedbeneficeoffice@gmail.com	www.farnhamroyalchurches.org.uk
www.facebook.com/ubfarnhamroyalwithhedgerley	
For Baptism, Banns and Wedding enquiries ring Revd Graham Saunders	643233

Church Wardens

St Mary FR	St John FC	St Mary Hedgerley
Mr J Houdret 643610	Mr P Brooker 710865	Mrs R Brogden 892076
Mr A Martin 647528	Dr R Neale 645631	Vacancy

Other Denominations

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 Sundays: 10:30 am at FC Infants School – Pastors Barry & Vicky Thompson
 Fridays: 10-11:30 am 'Pop-In' for parents and toddlers – FC Village Hall
 Office Address: 1st Floor Ashley House, The Broadway, FC 648124

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