

Annual Parish Meeting

22 May 2023

Written Reports

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St Mary's Farnham Royal CE Primary

As the new Headteacher of St Mary's Farnham Royal, it gives me great pleasure to be welcomed into such a wonderful community. Although I have only been in post for the last half term, I have felt welcomed and supported by our whole school community immensely and I am excited for what the future holds for life at SMFR. It is vital for me that every child enjoys coming to school and arrives and leaves with a smile on their face. I am passionate about ensuring the curriculum we offer as a school is fun, engaging and fills children with positive memories of school. As an avid reader, I am keen to continue promoting the importance of reading and instilling lifelong readers within our school and am very excited to work on upgrading our library within the school.

I am keen to create links with the local community and welcome any visits from local residents and the wider community and am looking forward to building positive relationships with the Farnham community.

Sports Gold Award

St Mary's have been awarded The Bucks and Milton Keynes School Games Mark Gold award for the quality of our sport/PE provision. SMFR offers a variety of differentiated sports opportunities, the daily mile initiative, interschool competitions and ensures every child is active for at least 30 minutes a day. We have been working very hard as a school to further develop and improve the sports provision we have and we are so pleased with the dedication and hard work of our PE subject leader for being a passionate teacher. Amazing. Well done everybody!

Christmas Fete

The children at SMFR ran our Christmas Fete by selling items and creating games in each year group. Parents and the wider school community visited the school in the afternoon moving around and visiting each year group. We were even supported by members of the Burnham Rotary Club who came to spend money and were impressed and interested in how the fete had been run by the children and staff.

Britwell's Big Clean-up

Members of our school community marked the most recent bank holiday by volunteering in Britwell to help clean and revamp the space we have. We were very keen to get stuck in and help clean up and we were even interviewed by the BBC! We are looking for more opportunities like this in the future.

Shane Broderick
Headteacher



Farnham Common Girl Guiding - Guides, Brownies and Rainbows.

Girl Guiding is about empowering women by helping them develop the skills and confidence to become the young women they want to be. Our new motto is **'We help all girls know they can do anything'**. In the village we have an active, fully subscribed, Rainbows (4-6 year olds), Brownies (7-9 year olds) and Guides unit (10-14 years old). All our units are full and have waiting lists, which means we can't support every girl we would like to support. Things do change so it's always important to register daughters on the Girl guiding website as soon as you think they may be interested in joining.

At 1st Farnham Common Guides, we combine Girl Guiding traditions with following the current Girl Guiding program but also include exciting events and adventures to push our boundaries and learn about and try new things. We also work in 'Patrols' to mix things up a bit.

We run a fun, balanced activity program each term. This year we have been very busy and some of the activities we have been up to include, Scatter Art, studying artists such as Jackson Pollock, we built recycling monsters, learned macrame, crocheting, did tie dying and made our own chocolate. We went climbing, abseiling, tomahawk throwing and did the gladiator challenge. We went on a 'night noises' walk ending at the chip shop, plus had a Christmas bonfire with songs and s'mores. We have looked at the Guiding promise, looked at being part of the WAGGS and investigated some of our older Guiding traditions.

In the community we took our flag and were part of the remembrance service, joined the Orchard Community Day running a Tombola and offering eco glitter tattoos and contributed and decorated a Christmas tree for the Christmas Tree Festival.

We entered two teams into the regional Guiding competitive 10k walk from Ellesborough Guide Centre and were very excited to come in 3rd and 4th place. We also joined our regional Girl Guiding 'Thinking day event' and much, much more.

We are currently planning a residential for next term.

2nd Farnham Common Brownies is our biggest group of girls run by our most experienced leader. They have also had a busy year with plenty of fun events to support local girls including rainy walks, chippy walks, making scones using lemonade, spa night, celebrating and learning about Eid, pancake making, nature self portraits and a large talent show which the brownies planned and designed themselves and invited all their parents along to. Community wise, they helped plant bulbs around the grounds of Inglelen so that the residents could all enjoy them in the spring.

Rainbows in Farnham Common is a thriving unit of 4 - 6 year olds determined to have fun, try new things and make the most out of every meeting! We are hugely oversubscribed and would welcome anyone willing to make a temporary or longer term commitment so we can grow our unit.

This past year we have enjoyed learning about camping, first aid, leadership and are currently working on our Reflect badge looking at community, mental health, friendship and celebrating ourselves. We love to get out of the meeting place and have enjoyed trips to Legoland, Burnham Beeches, Stoke Poges and the cinema! We relish a challenge badge and have learnt about Campfires and road safety, celebrated Earth Day, World Thinking Day, Eid and Chinese New Year and were very excited this year to have our very own badge to celebrate 20 years of Rainbows in Farnham Common!

We are also excited about restarting 'Rainbow Camps' and having a one night camp later this year!

We always need more volunteers and new leaders so we can support every girl in the village that would like to join our organisation. If anyone would like to come along and see what we do at either Rainbows, Brownies or Guides, please get in touch. We are also always looking for more funds to keep providing fun, empowering activities for our local girls. Any donations or pointers towards grants are always welcome. Please email 1fcguides@gmail.com with any questions.

Claire, Jamie and Ella
Section Leaders



Farnham Common Community Library

It's been quite an eventful year, many routine activities, lots of new ones and several challenges some of which we are currently battling with.

Books – we've continued to add new books bought with our own funds and now have most of the latest titles plus of course the Bucks Library Service offering.

Children's activities – our arts and craft sessions and outdoor activities are extremely popular, bringing in adults and children and adding to the number of library members and book issues. The garden in the raised beds by the front entrance encourages children to participate in growing flowers and vegetables and sunflowers around the village. Our weekly Lego club continues to be extremely popular.

Events – We've had a busy programme throughout the year have including:

- Coffee mornings - raising money for Samaritans, Macmillan and the library
- The annual quiz in November
- A regular Luncheon Group
- Christmas Supper – the next one will be a Lunch event
- Outings, Theatre visits, talks - Air Ambulance talk plus others scheduled
 - With lots more planned for the next year

Other activities include:-

- The Farnhams Open Gardens organised by Pat Marshall was held at the end of June raising funds for the library and Thames Hospice
- The Annual Summer Reading Challenge and World Book Day
- Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme volunteers
- The Farnhams & Hedgerley Community Church is based at the library
- The Chiltern and South Bucks health visiting team hold weekly clinics for children
- Working with Burnham Beeches Rotary for the last two years we have provided 'Dictionaries 4 Life' (D4L) to pupils in Farnham Common JS, St Mary's, Farnham Royal and Stoke Poges School
- We provide a regular Newsletter and contribute to the Farnhams magazine and local press
- We host a collection point for the Food Bank
 - And we are introducing a Computer Help Club to offer advise with online security and online shopping and other IT issues

Challenges

We are a registered charity run entirely by unpaid volunteers and funded by Bucks Council grants, Friends donations and income from the use of library space. Our biggest cost is energy and in the last year we've seen our annual electricity charges almost treble to nearly £28,000 at a time when income has fallen. We are taking urgent steps to reduce this bill by changing our heating system. However, we will need to find ways of increasing income in order to maintain a reserve fund to ensure the long-term viability of the library.

We are fortunate in having over 300 Friends of FCCL supporting us with annual donations and a group of 40+ unpaid volunteers who help us to provide a free service to the community. However, we do need someone to help us with fundraising. Anyone willing to devote even a small amount of time will be welcomed into our friendly group. Not only would you be helping us to provide a library service, but you would gain a new circle of friends and help ensure the continuity of an appreciated service!

Michael Mills
Chairman



Farnham Common
Community Library

The Farnhams Magazine

About the Farnhams Magazine

The Farnhams Magazine is published by the Farnham Royal Parochial Church Council. It is published quarterly at the beginning of March, June, September and December.

Each issue is distributed by Royal Mail and is provided free of charge as a public service to readers in 3,500 homes in the Farnhams and Hedgerley and includes news, information and opinion from a wide range of individuals and organisations in the area. It is the only regular printed publication designed to reflect the interests of local people in these communities.

The current Chair of the Editorial Committee is Revd. Chloe Willson-Thomas, the Rector of the United Benefice of Farnham Royal with Hedgerley. Jerry Houdret served as Acting Chairman through to December 2022 and is now the Deputy Chairman. Farnham Royal Parish Council is represented by its Chair on the Editorial Board.

THE FARNHAMS MAGAZINE is inclusive and non-discriminatory and aims to address all sections of the community.

Editorial Content

Each issue of the magazine focuses on local issues and includes several pages of information from the Farnham Royal Parish Council as well as material of public interest provided by the Beeches Community Board, Buckinghamshire Council and Burnham Beeches & Stoke Common.

Recent issues have paid particular attention to the Neighbourhood Plan for the villages of Farnham Common and Farnham Royal as well as the work of Buckinghamshire Council to support refugees from Ukraine.

THE FARNHAMS MAGAZINE also provides a unique communication medium for local schools, the Community Library, sporting and social activities, and charities as well as organisations dedicated to promoting the arts in the area.

It aims to interest a wide range of readers in our villages with topics of interest for all age ranges and invites contributions from individuals and organisations throughout the coverage area. We are grateful for the quality of articles and photographs provided by our regular contributors.

We thank Paula Harrison for her dedicated work as editor for more than five years until December 2022 and Dan Harrison who served as Advertising Manager, both in an entirely voluntary capacity. They were succeeded by Barry Clarke OBE and Eva Silva Costa respectively in January 2023.

Finance

The 80-page magazine in full colour has been wholly funded by advertising and we are grateful for the continuing support of local organisations and businesses who have enabled the magazine to continue as a free public service.

The editorial and advertising team work on a completely voluntary basis and so expenditure is almost entirely attributable to printing and household distribution. Advertising revenue covered most but not all the costs through 2022/23 and the magazine will need to draw on its limited reserves to produce all four issues in 2023/24 to supplement advertising revenue.

The publishers will continue to seek additional advertising revenue but are reviewing the business model for the magazine and will endeavour to develop new sources of income through 2023 and 2024.

For the third year running, very sadly, the Parish Council are unable to support us with their usual very generous magazine grant.

Normally we would receive anything between £1000 and £3000, making a huge difference to meeting our costs. Thankfully, since the Magazine is the main promulgator of Parish and Parish Council news, this will be reviewed by them in 2024.

Jerry Houdret

Deputy Chairman of Editorial Committee

Farnham Common Village Hall

2022 was a get back to normal year for us we were able to start our regular monthly Thursday cinema sessions from May which was well received by all. We love to see everyone who attends and it would be great to see more attending the showings. There is a great atmosphere, amazing homemade cake and the films shown are very current and entrance fee remains at £5. We are hoping to start some evening showings from September. Come and join us all are welcome.

Bookings were slower than usual in 2022 due to the gradual recovery after Covid which was only to be expected. We are pleased that we have some new regular hirers which has added an even wider mix to the activities at the Village Hall. Please note we have not increased our rates for several years as we want as many people as possible to use the Village Hall.

In March we were pleased to welcome to the Village Hall Farnham Royal Parish Council they now have a room, as an office at the Village Hall which is great for the community as it provides easy access to all - no more steep stairs to climb.

We are very grateful to the Beeches Community Board for providing us with a grant to contribute to the upgrade of our kitchen and replacement of some of our external doors. We are planning on commencing the upgrade very soon. We have already added broadband to enhance our facilities.

Unfortunately, we still have a daily issue with residents parking on the pavement at the hall which significantly restricts our parking availability and is a great concern to us as we pride ourselves on offering the best of facilities to our hirers and this is preventing us from doing so.

A big thank you to our caretaker Peter Pratt for ensuring that we are keeping the hall and its grounds well maintained and greeting our hirers. Also, a very BIG thank you to all our hirers the hall is only funded by the hire of the hall and the more users we have the more facilities and enhancements to the Village Hall we can do. Thank you.

Marilyn Rolfe
Trustee

Farnham Royal Village Hall

Whilst the Pandemic is behind us, Village Halls, like us, continue to be affected by substantial rising energy costs and reduced activity due to customers having to be mindful of their outgoings.

Despite this we continue to promote our long-standing residents:- the Wise Owl Preschool and the Farnham Royal Social Club, both of whom have capacity to accept new members.

With the internal decor and facilities remaining at a high standard, we shall now be concentrating on refurbishing the large Car park area and upgrading the external signage and lighting. We are also reviewing our website. All of which we hope will make us more visible and appealing to visitors.

Ballet classes, Karate, Baby Sensory, and Pilates continue to use the facilities with the addition now of "Moo Music" for toddlers, Dog training and the Scouts. And the Friday night "Jive" evening is becoming even more popular. As always, we also welcome any bookings for Weddings, Children's Parties, Wakes, Meetings and Charity events.

We welcome all to the Hall, which is there to serve the whole Community throughout the Year.

We are also always looking for volunteers to help our management team.

<https://www.facebook.com/Farnham-Royal-Village-Hall-852740968144383>
www.farnhamroyalvillagehall.co.uk

The Management Team

Southmead Surgery

This year we have welcomed a new Partner to the surgery, Dr Sara Crick.

Sarah qualified as a doctor from the University in Leeds in 2008. After the initial few years of hospital rotations, she chose GP specialist training and worked her registrar year at Southmead Surgery, almost 10 years ago. She has since worked in a couple of practices across London, most recently in South Camden. Sarah is passionate about the role of primary care within the NHS.

Sarah has a side interest in musicians and the arts, she completed a master's degree in 'Performing Arts Medicine' at UCL a couple of years ago. She is married to an orchestral musician, and they have two young boys. Sarah is with us Monday – Wednesday.

Following the upgrade of our telephone system, we are now in the process of looking at our appointment system. We wish to continue offering a mix of telephone & face to face appointments plus the ability to book in advance. Once this has been decided we will let everyone know of any changes.

We now have a Facebook and an Instagram page, just another way of keeping everyone up to date. Please follow us. We have focused heavily on our Social Prescribers and their role. Jane & Emily will be attending the AGM to give you an overview of what their role entails.

We are in the process of organising a Community Champion Event (date to be confirmed) & we are also looking to re-instate our PPG. This is to help our GPs create a Community Hub.

We always welcome feedback!

Sue Hazell
Practice Manager

Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common

1. Introduction

2022/23 saw a return to normality following the Coronavirus pandemic. However, whilst visitor numbers have returned generally to their normal pre covid level, at The Beeches and Stoke Common, some impacts from covid patterns of use will still be visible for many years to come, such as newly formed paths, widening of paths and trampled edges. The team & volunteers have repaired some particularly damaged paths and improved path surfaces, bringing them back to more normal widths, and this work will continue.

At the Beeches seasonal path and area closures will be a necessary and ongoing part of protecting the important features of this very special place. We ask local visitors in particular, many of whom visit nearly every day come rain or shine, to help by keeping to made up paths as much as possible and not creating new paths and desire lines. The challenge of protecting the unique nature of the Beeches and supporting public access will always involve difficult decisions and compromise.

Visitors to Stoke Common can take positive steps to support the wildlife there by also keeping to main tracks as much as possible when visiting particularly in the bird nesting season March - August.

2. Finance

Burnham Beeches is a registered charity, owned and managed by the City of London since 1880. As ever the charity relies on grants, income and the non-taxpayer funded, City of London funding, for delivery of core services and works. The Beeches received some welcome filming income last year as the industry started to get back to normal operations.

City funding is subject to an ongoing review and budgets remain under considerable pressure. The Beeches team will continue to look at ways to reduce running costs and raise income to care for these two unique nature reserves whilst ensuring the features that make them special remain protected. The City has also restructured its operations and is undertaking a charity review to look at how best to support the Beeches and Stoke Common in the future

2022/23 achievements/projects

3. Stoke Common

With completion of the final part of the large-scale heathland restoration at Stoke Common SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest), in 2021/22 we moved to the ongoing maintenance and habitat development phase of the management plan. Key to this is the continuation of the successful grazing programme at the Common and the fantastic efforts of the Friends of Stoke Common and other volunteers.

Wildlife surveys continue to guide and support practical management on the ground. In addition to regular monitoring of birds, reptiles and vegetation this year the Friends took on regular bat transects for national bat monitoring programmes. The common supports important populations of birds, invertebrates, amphibians and reptiles and plants associated with the uncommon heathland habitats being restored at the reserve.

The main survey carried out on Stoke Common in 2022 was for the National Vegetation Classification. The habitats on the common were mapped, which involved recording the species found in specific areas and using the frequency of different species to determine the classification according to a national system. The presence of several rare and unusual plant species was confirmed. Following the heathland restoration process, some of the areas are still in the early stages of development but a large part of the area could be classified as subcommunities of H2 (heather and dwarf gorse) or communities of U (acid grassland). The woodland fringe is mostly W10 or W16 (both types of oak woodland).

4. Phenomenal Nature Reserves

It is easy to take the Beeches and Stoke Common for granted when they are on our doorstep and visited very regularly. These nationally and internationally important nature reserves are small islands in an ever changing, increasingly developed, landscape and also a haven for visitors from the local area, all over the UK and beyond – the value as place to escape to has been brought home even more so in the last two years.

At Burnham Beeches one of main surveys commissioned in 2022 was looking at the saproxylic species in the old pollarded trees, a repeat of something similar that was done approximately 30 years ago. A new species to Britain was found, a tiny beetle (*Cis rugulosus*) which has probably been overlooked rather than being introduced recently. A large number of rare and threatened species were found and the Index of Ecological Continuity, which is a measure of how important an area is for these rare and threatened species, was recalculated. Burnham Beeches is now the third highest site in Britain, the

only places with higher values are Windsor Forest and the New Forest. It is astounding to think that Burnham Beeches can compare so favourably with nature reserves that are so much larger and really highlights how special it is.

Several evenings were spent with specialist bat workers and remote bat detectors were also placed across the nature reserve for several days in the summer. The number of bats caught was not especially high but a good range of species were confirmed, including Serotine, Leisler's bat and recordings of Barbastelle.

Regular surveys confirmed several pairs of Lesser spotted woodpeckers. The charity, Plantlife visited again to check the very rare lichens that were transplanted from a tree that was dying/dead to suitable host trees nearby. Annual monitoring of butterflies and plants are carried out.

The crab apple project continued in the autumn with the Ecovolunteers measuring and recording details of lots of apples, as well as leaves. Some of the trees were sampled for their DNA and this work will continue throughout 2023.

Together with Thames Water we commissioned some work to look at the impact of sewage pollution on the Nile stream, regarding both invertebrates and mosses & liverworts. Both studies showed that there was a negative impact, although the seasonal nature of the stream means that it wouldn't be expected to support large numbers of invertebrates.

Survey work coming up includes:

Following a training day from Plantlife it is planned for the Ecovolunteers to look in detail at the lichens growing on the twigs of oak trees using an established system for using lichens as an indicator of air quality. This will be used along with the more accurate ammonia and NO2 monitoring funded by the power station in Slough.

5. Site protection

As reported previously, the local planning authority is required to protect Burnham Beeches SAC from harmful impacts of development locally via a range of methods. One includes collecting payments from developers adding new dwellings between 500m and 5.6km from the Beeches to be used for mitigation against the detrimental impacts of extra visitors. This money is now being collected by Bucks Council and has started to be used for agreed projects. The first of this is to look at visitor impacts in the Beeches to see if there are any trigger levels in terms of numbers of visitors and their impact on soils, trees, other vegetation, birds etc - this work made good progress in 2022/23. We also recruited an additional Ranger, in January 2023, funded by developer contributions, who will be out and about talking to visitors and trying to help them to minimise any negative impacts of their visits.

We continued to work with Slough BC and Natural England to find a suitable long term solution to mitigating the impact of development within 5.6km of the Beeches that falls within the Slough BC boundary. We received developer contributions from Slough Borough Council, one funding the air quality work (mentioned above) the other for a 5 year ranger post, who like the other ranger above was also appointed in January of 2023.

6. Young & Old pollards and wood pasture

In the last year over 100 young beech tree pollards were cut again on rotation. These trees are the future replacements for the unique, ancient pollard trees found at the Beeches and this cutting work is essential to create ancient trees for the future. New pollards were also created as part of wood pasture restoration works.

Following the severe drought in summer 2022/ it was decided to postpone planned work actually cutting the ancient pollard trees in the winter of 22/23. Each of the old trees has its own individual work plan, tailored to its current condition. Work to prop up particular trees and give them more light and space were carried out – and indeed the propping techniques were shared and developed along with other City managed sites and RHs Kew. The propping also attracted interest from visiting tree experts from Europe.

As ever the aim of the work plans is to keep the old trees alive for as long as possible, so that the particular habitats they provide for wildlife continue to be available in future years and so that the younger pollards, created in the last 25 years, have time to develop the valuable habitat before the older ones finally die. This is expensive work and grant funding only pays for a small part of it – if you want to help look after these remarkable trees you can donate directly toward their care by following the link - www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/donateBBtrees

Ongoing wood pasture restoration work continued in two locations around the Main Common and just north of Lord Mayors Drive. The aim of this partially grant funded work is to join up isolated patches of existing wood pasture ensuring this important habitat is as robust as possible and is better connected across the SAC.

7. Livestock grazing at Burnham Beeches

The use of invisible fencing continued in 2022/23 with around 80% of the Beeches grazed by cows and ponies. The agreed vision for the site, as expressed in the management plan, continues to be that as much of the remaining un-grazed area as is practical will also be grazed in future. In 2022 we also trialled a new satellite based invisible fence system and will develop its use alongside the existing buried cable-based version for the coming year. The new system should allow some remaining un-grazed areas to be included in the grazing areas in future.

8. Events and volunteers

A normal programme of site run and community events took place at the Beeches in 2022/23 from meet the ranger days, historical walks, night walk, running events, orienteering and many school visits to name just a very few

Volunteers provided over 4500 hours of support each year at Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common. This included practical support of habitat and site management work, livestock lookering, litter picking as well as helping at events – we have a never-ending list of jobs!

A particular highlight was the volunteer support to help the Rangers replace 2 boardwalks at the Beeches. During 7 days in May the 55m long 'pigloo' boardwalk was replaced with a new all plastic one. And over 2 weeks in July and August they helped replace the 120m long main boardwalk across the mire (including during the week of very hot weather in July) – it was fantastic effort ensuring the boardwalks will provide access for everyone, whilst protecting areas of sensitive habitats, for many years to come. To build the Mire boardwalk the teams used 190 recycled plastic bearers, 120 support timbers, 925 top boards, 11200 screws and nails, 650 galvanised L support brackets and over 4000 coach screws!

The Eco-volunteers have carried out projects on the crab apples and they have also spent the winter writing up projects carried out last summer including looking at the amount of browsing pressure on trees and woody plants and mapping and analysing the size and distribution of the wood ant nest in Burnham Beeches. As usual volunteers have helped with annual monitoring of plants and insects.

The support of all our volunteers is greatly appreciated and helps make the nature reserves the lovely places they are for everyone to enjoy.

9. Celebrating History

The Hillforts project 'Beacons of the Past' returned to the Beeches this year, after a covid enforced absence, to continue investigations and celebration of the Iron Age Hillfort at the Beeches called Seven Ways Plain. In April 2022 a two-week public dig was held along with an Iron Age themed event day. Both of these were public events and well attended. The project is due to finish this year and final projects will involve improved interpretation of the Hillfort for visitors.

10. Forthcoming projects

With the repair of the Middle Pond embankment in 2022 it is now possible to look at further pond restoration as identified in the current management plan and how this can be achieved. We hope to carry out some dredging to remove silt and excess vegetation over, we hope, the next few years.

The Beeches Grazing project will continue to use invisible fences in 2023 and look at future expansion towards the long-term vision of grazing as much of the Beeches as is practical this will include sections of the main common.

In 2023 the team will undertake consultation on the proposed renewal of Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) at the Beeches. Burnham Beeches Special Area of Conservation is one of, if not the, most densely visited sites of high nature conservation interest in the UK with over 550,000 visits made by people and 150,000 by dogs each year. The management of such a dense mixture of dogs and general visitors on such a relatively small nature reserve provides a major challenge for the team if they are to ensure that all visitors have an equal chance to enjoy the site, with or without a dog.

After a long-standing voluntary agreement with dog walkers had clearly failed to deliver the necessary improvements, Dog Control Orders were introduced in 2014 and were replaced by PSPOs in 2017. The PSPOs were introduced simply to help ensure a balance for all users, the majority who visit without a dog around and the minority who visit with one or more. The Orders have resulted in an ongoing reduction in nuisance dog behaviour at the Beeches including a significant reduction in dog fouling across the national Nature Reserve though, still much better in the on lead than the off-lead areas. Since the introduction of the orders there has been an increase in visits by children and families.

The Conservation Officer will continue to liaise with local planning authorities and Natural England to ensure the needs of the Beeches are considered in future development plans. 2023 will see the impact of the mitigation strategy on site with delivery of various mitigation projects and the two new mitigation rangers developing their roles and influence.

Martin Hartup
Head Ranger



Burnham Beeches Rotary

We have continued to hold in person meetings at Burnham Park Hall, where we meet at 8.00 pm on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month. President Michael Adigun has officiated throughout the year and Louise Dance, a resident of Burnham, will be taking over on 1st July. Come and join us!

Our efforts to make our Club more accessible and attractive for prospective new members have paid dividends and membership remains at over 40.

We continue to prioritise helping the local community and supporting young people, but also during the year made significant donations to ShelterBox's Ukraine support fund. ShelterBox helps those suffering in disaster situations all over the world. During the year we have pushed ahead with many projects. These have included:

- Providing continuing hands-on support for Burnham Youth Club and Burnham Grammar Interact Club
- Distributing 'Dictionaries for Life' to local schools
- Hosting the Rotary Young Writer, Young Photographer and Young Environmentalist competitions at local schools
- Raising around £12,000 for Children in Need working with local schools
- Commenced working with Arbour Vale School and local employers to facilitate work placement and employment opportunities for special needs children.
- Providing support for Burnham Care & Share Food Distribution Project
- With financial support from the Beeches Community Board at Buckinghamshire Council, sourcing, packaging, and delivering around 320 Xmas food parcels to disadvantaged children and families. We worked with Burnham Care & Share, St Peter's School Burnham, Lent Rise School, Farnham Common Junior/Infants and St Mary's Schools
- Donating around £7000 to local good causes including Alexander Devine, Thames Valley Adventure Playground, South Bucks Riding for the Disabled and Burnham Youth Club.
- Working with local schools and community groups to promote the avoidance of single use plastics and staging litter picking events
- Staging our annual Burnham Beeches Virtual Charity Run which encourages families, including the dog, to participate together in healthy exercise
- Organising and helping at Xmas events including the St Peter's Church Carol Concert
- Continuing to collect disability aids for onward shipment those in need overseas through PhysioNet

We also staged several community events, including the Farnham Common Orchard Day and 'Almost the Donkey Derby' in Burnham Park. We are busy planning our 2023 Donkey Derby event which takes place on 27th May this year.

We have an active Social Media presence and have worked with the local magazines and press to keep the local community informed about our activities.

Michael Adigun

President, Burnham Beeches Rotary



Royal British Legion Farnham Branch

Your local Royal British Legion Branch are proud to announce that with your monetary generosity and kindness of the volunteers in giving up their time and passion of the committee members, the Poppy appeal last year has raised almost £29,349, over 47 million nationally. An amazing amount.

A major recognition for all of us as a community and winners of the Sir John & Lady Hall Trophy and certificate for the branch without a club with the highest increase in monies raised.

We will be considering talks and small socials for anyone interested in the summer and beyond but otherwise will be gearing up for the next appeal in the autumn.

Chris Leister-Crow
Poppy Appeal organiser

Manesh Patel
Chairman



Farnham Common Sports Club

The Sports Club continues to provide the community with sport and entertainment.

This year membership has grown substantially in both the Tennis club and the junior Cricket section. In all, we have nearly 700 members who play sport or use the club socially and a further 300 associate parent members. This demonstrates how important the club is to the Parish.

We continue to grow our partnership with the Farnham Common Junior School, by allowing them to use our facilities for sport. We have also agreed to install an artificial Cricket pitch at the school that can be shared by the club and school.

The club bar area is currently undergoing a long overdue refurbishment programme which will be completed in June.

The club committee is made up of unpaid volunteers from the community however our one full time member of staff is leaving at the end of May. Jackie, our steward has been with us for over 10 years and we wish her well in her retirement.

Rugby

Grassroots Rugby faces many challenges and all small clubs are finding life difficult. Our Rugby section Drifters RFC had a great season winning their league and were promoted. In September they will be celebrating their 60th anniversary with a ball at the club. Mini Rugby on Sunday mornings continues to be very well attended with over 150 boys and girls attending.

Cricket

We entered 3 teams into the Thames Valley Cricket League and all performed well with the 1st XI narrowly missing out on promotion. The junior section under Scott Wilcox's management continued to grow, Friday nights during the summer has become a social highlight of the week.

Squash

Our squash courts remain a secret to many in the community, we have 2 courts that are underused during the week, new members are welcome. The junior section is very healthy and the coaching by Matt Davies is excellent.

Tennis

Tennis has seen its membership numbers grow substantially since the pandemic. We are now nearly full. Our long standing coach Stephen Wright left the club this year but Allison Sharpe has joined us as our new club coach, she is a great addition to the club and has put in place a number of initiatives to improve all our members tennis skills.

Lacrosse

Lacrosse train on Monday nights and currently field one mixed team in the league. They are a new club but are growing steadily.

The club doesn't stand still and in addition to the refurbishment of the bar we are funding the installation of an artificial cricket pitch at the junior school. We are also raising money to extend the floodlights to 2 more tennis courts. In September we will be holding 2 major fundraising events to pay for these items and to replenish club funds.

I would like to thank the Parish Council for their continued support and the unpaid club committee who give up their time to run the sports club.

Richard Thomas
Chairman



FARNHAM COMMON SPORTS CLUB

Farnham Royal Cricket Club

2022 was a stable year for FRCC. Although neither cricket team did as well as we would have hoped in the league, we witnessed some good games both home and away and, as always, our Social side provided great entertainment on Friday evenings. Our First XI dropped down to Division 4b in the Thames Valley league but our 2nd XI retained their place in Division 7b.

We are proud to announce a new sponsor for our 2 league teams for the next year. Lords Builders Merchants have kindly offered to support the teams for the next 2 years. Look out for the new club shirts.

We saw entertaining games from visiting sides using our ground as their home last season and this is something we will endeavour to continue this season. As a cricket club, it is important for us to have games through the season on as many days as possible – especially every Saturday and Sunday. If it means we have to look outside of the club to do this then we will do so. This year Ramzan CC will be using FRCC as their Home ground for games in the South East Shires League Premier Division.

Our crib and ladies darts teams had good seasons too and at the beginning of this Spring the Royal Roamers were again crowned crib league champions.

As always, the social side of the club is what keeps us open. We are one of the few cricket clubs to stay open all year and provide entertainment for members by way of a welcoming bar, live sports and social events. Our events are regularly published on the club's website and Facebook page and we try to forward this out to the Farnham Community Group too.

Our clubhouse and grounds are also available for hire either for corporate functions or private events such as parties and wakes which also helps keep the club going.

At our AGM in April there were some changes to the Committee structure.

- Michelle King stepped down as Welfare Officer after a number of years in that role. We would like to thank Michelle for all her hard work and support.
- Ruth Wildman stepped down as Secretary to take over from Michelle.
- James Moore takes up the reins as Secretary.

As we look forward to the season ahead (although postponed due to a damp start!) we would like to welcome all Parishioners to visit the club and see what we have to offer. We are a little hidden oasis and aim to provide a welcoming and friendly haven for all.

James Moore
Club Secretary



Farnham Common Open Gardens

I have organised the Farnham Common open gardens for almost 20 years. I really enjoy doing it despite the hard work and the day has got so popular since I first started organising it.

The proceeds have gone to various charities over the years. Farnham common community library has been our beneficiary in recent years. In 2022 I decided to split the proceeds between the library and Thames hospice, We raised over £3,000 last year which was a record.

I usually have a plant sale a couple of weeks before the event and last year this raised almost £500.

We have decided to have a year off this year but will be back in 2024 with at least 8 gardens opening.

I intend to have a plant sale later this summer.

We have an open gardens website which I update with the latest news.

Pat Marshall
Organiser