



Preserving the past, shaping the future.

www.thefarnboroughsociety.org.uk

Newsletter

Issue 2: August 2009

A Busy Year

Since our last newsletter, The Farnborough Society has hosted a wide range of events that continue to attract new members. As we seek to engage actively with local issues, we have been extremely gratified by the willingness of our guests share their experience and expertise with our members. Clearly, the Farnborough Society is now recognised as a valuable community resource whose members can be relied on to address local issues seriously.

In January, Farnborough Technical College invited us to tour their facilities, paying particular attention to those available to the non-student community. This was followed by a talk by The Farnborough Society's very own Jo Gosney, local historian and author of several books on Farnborough, on the history of the town. Some thirty members attended the event, and found the tour and Jo's talk both interesting and illuminating.

April's open meeting featured guest speaker Keith Holland, Head of Planning Services for Rushmoor Borough Council, who gave a comprehensive presentation on the development of the town centre. Mr Holland generously stayed for the duration of the meeting to answer the many questions our members wanted to put to him.

Later in April, The Farnborough Society were the guests of Abbot Brogan at St Michael's Abbey. Beginning in the church, we were given a highly entertaining talk about the Empress Eugenie, the foundation of the abbey and the construction of the mausoleum. Then, we went down into the crypt to view the tombs of Napoleon III, Eugenie and the Prince Imperial, before



ending our visit in the gift shop.



A warm, sunny day in May was the perfect time to visit Farnborough's allotments, which proved to be very impressive indeed. The RBC allotments officers, who were our guides, explained the history

and the allocation system, before allowing us to wander among immaculate plots full of developing fruit and vegetables, and to talk to plot-holders about their experiences.

Sadly the weather wasn't so kind for June's photographic walk with local photographer Nick Lewis. The resulting low turnout meant insufficient photographs for the planned exhibition at the library, which will now take place after a further walk has taken place, hopefully in the near future.

A large group braved inclement weather for our July Open Meeting featured guest speaker Brandon O'Reilly, CEO of Farnborough Airport. Mr O'Reilly gave a presentation on the proposed airport expansion, outlining the possible benefits to the town and the measures taken to minimise noise, pollution and potential danger. Afterwards, he answered questions from the floor, many expressing opposition to the proposed expansion.

July and August saw two tours of the airfield, which included visits to the hangars, the radar room and the control tower. Our guide, Tony Knight, who has worked at the airport some fifty years, was a wealth of information about the development of the airport,



its day-to-day operations and the associated environmental issues.

In August, we were invited to Rowhill Nature Reserve for a presentation by Kathy Spinks, who later conducted a walk through the reserve, and another by Christine Reeves of the Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership, who accompanied us to Hawley Meadows afterwards. We thus saw the Blackwater both at its source and as it meanders through its flood plain, as well as learning a great deal about the history and ecology of the river valley.



What's Coming Up in September Fire Station Tour

Next on the agenda is a tour of Rushmoor Fire Station to take place on Saturday, 5th September.

Beginning with a PowerPoint presentation by Station Manager Tim Vile, showing the activities of a fire fighter, you will then be split into four groups for a tour of the four different areas of interest:

- Fire Engines and Tenders
- Fire Hoses
- Fire Practice Building
- Fire Station

This is a hands-on tour, giving you the chance to sit in a fire engine, use the hoses and experience going into a burning building to rescue a victim. It will be great fun for all ages, but there is a limit of 30, so be sure to book your place quickly by calling Sam: **01252 541401**.

Open Meeting: Airport Expansion Opposition

Following the great interest generated by our Open Meeting in which Brandon O'Reilly put the case for expansion of the airport, we have invited Geoff Marks, Chairman of

Farnborough Aerodrome Residents' Association, to put the opposition case. This will take place at Farnborough Baptist Church Hall, Queen's Road, on Tuesday, 15th September, at 7.00pm. Everyone is welcome.

Photo Gallery

We have recently added a Photo Gallery to our website and invite you share your photos of The Farnborough Society's events with other members. Please send your pictures to Steve: steveoptix@hotmail.com

2009/2010 Calendar

Date	Time	Event
27th August	4.00pm	Financial Advice
5th September	10.30am	Fire Station Tour
15th September	7.00pm	Open Meeting: Airport Expansion Opposition
24th September	4.00pm	Financial Advice
29th September	7.00pm	Open Meeting: Development of Town Centre
18th October	2.00pm	Guided Walk Around North Camp
23rd October	10.00pm	Air Accident Investigation Branch Tour
29th October	4.00pm	Financial Advice
17th November	7.00pm	Open Meeting: Farnborough's Environment
26th November	4.00pm	Financial Advice
26th January	7.00pm	Open Meeting: Local Flora and Fauna

Ideas Wanted

Over the past year, we have endeavoured to offer our members a wide range of events. Some have enabled us to get out and discover Farnborough's rich history and wildlife, while others have brought guest speakers along to share their knowledge and to answer our questions. However, we are constantly seeking fresh ideas, so that we can continue to provide interesting and exciting activities and lectures.

If you have any ideas for future events, please contact us. Perhaps you have an interest or hobby that you would like to share with our membership, or know of an inspirational speaker we might invite to one of our meetings. Or perhaps there's a local issue that you would like The Farnborough Society to address. If so, let us know.

We are always mindful that this is *your* society, so it is important to us that the events we organise will appeal to you. We urge you to give this some thought and share your ideas. Call or e-mail Barbara:

01252 405149,
barbara@pbhurst.com

TAG Environmental Fund

Rushmoor Borough Council has funds available for environmental projects as part of its agreement with TAG. The Farnborough Society is keen to find a project to support for the benefit of the town. If you have any ideas for improving the environment of Farnborough, we would like to hear from you.

FEEDBACK

We want to hear from you. This is *your* society and we want to know what you think, so please take a few moments to respond to our questionnaire. You can either submit it by cutting and pasting into an e-mail: barbara@pbhurst.com or by sending it to: **Barbara Hurst, 6 High View Close, Farnborough, Hampshire, GU14 7QD**

	Yes	No
Do you attend TFS's events?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you approve of our Calendar of Events?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you prefer activities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you prefer Open Meetings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you like both?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you visit the website?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are you satisfied with the website?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are you satisfied with TFS generally?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Would you be interested in helping?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please use the space below to tell us how we can improve