



Preserving the past, shaping the future.

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Newsletter

Issue 4: August 2010

Rushmoor in Bloom

There's not much time left to submit your nominations for The Farnborough Society's first ever Rushmoor in Bloom award. Please send photos along with an explanation for your choice. You have complete freedom, as long as it is in Farnborough, so take your camera with you wherever you go and try to find something truly worthy of acknowledgement. It might be a shop front, a business's landscaping, creative use of colour or form in a garden, clever use of a small or difficult site, or perhaps a remarkable effort by children or disabled people.

Presentation Night is 27th September at Princes Hall, Aldershot, and we are enormously proud to be given this opportunity to acknowledge a special contribution to Farnborough.

Please send your nominations by 31st August to Barbara:
barbara@pbhurst.com.

Civic Voice

Following the demise of the Civic Trust, a new body was formed named Civic Voice. The Farnborough Society has become one of the founder members. In partnership with the National Trust, Civic Voice is able to offer our members a free pass to the National Trust property of their choice. This pass can be downloaded from:

www.civicvoice.org.uk/nationaltrustcivicvoiceoffer

Another benefit of membership of Civic Voice is regular newsletters, which are forwarded to those TFS members with e-mail. Anyone who would like to receive these newsletters by post should call Barbara.

We also benefit from the sharing of ideas on campaigns. If there is an issue with which you think The Farnborough Society ought to engage, please let us know.

Above all, Civic Voice gives us the benefit of numbers should we decide to fight an issue. Whether by joining forces with other local societies on local issues or with the whole of Civic Voice on national issues, we now have considerably more power at our disposal: a louder Civic Voice.

Member of



Litter Survey

The results of the litter survey conducted on the website have been submitted to Colin Aldborough at Rushmoor Borough Council, who was particularly pleased that TFS members had identified so many specific problem areas.

We would like to thank all those who responded

New Webmaster

When Steve Optix stepped down as Webmaster at the AGM, we knew that he would be a hard act to follow. His hard work in setting up the website and managing it for two years had given us a valuable resource, but none of us was equipped to take over. Into the breach stepped the redoubtable Jo Gosney, who took it upon herself to learn how to manage the website. In spite of all her research, publishing and involvement in the community, Jo is now ready to accept contributions. It has been a remarkable achievement.

We shall endeavour to post new material regularly, on events and other matters in which TFS is involved, but if you have ideas on how to make the website more attractive, please contact Jo. She's very keen to practice her newly acquired skills.

Recent Events

Coffee Morning

The first event to take place since the last newsletter was a coffee morning with guest speaker Cllr Sue Gadsby, who gave a very interesting talk about her role as a Rushmoor Borough Councillor. Seeing herself as liaison between her constituents and the council, Sue described her committee activities and her wide-ranging casework. She went on to answer a variety of questions. It was generally agreed that more coffee mornings with guest speakers ought to be considered.

Runways End Scout Activity Centre

A small group of members relived their childhoods by touring the Scout Activity Centre and trying their hand at some of the activities. Archery proved particularly popular; sadly nobody could be persuaded to scale the climbing wall, which would undoubtedly have provided a very interesting photo. Although Father's Day commitments restricted turnout, we were fortunate to arrange a visit before work begins on a £6m refit. We hope to organise another visit when the new centre opens.



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Farnborough Police Station

TFS Executive members Brian Fyfe and Jo Gosney were not totally thrown by the failure to appear of the guest speaker, the local Police Inspector, when 20 members and new faces turned up at the Council Offices as arranged to hear about local policing issues and to visit the police station. Jo gave an impromptu talk on policing in Farnborough's past. Then we set off to the police station to solve the mystery. A broken wrist and a communication failure were responsible for our guest speaker's failure to appear. Nevertheless, we were warmly welcomed and shown the duty area, the cells, the police vehicles and the Road Policing unit. Then a presentation on how things are organised from a policing point of view in Farnborough raised lively debate.



Some 15 members attended the Pot Luck Lunch, kindly hosted by Jo and Michael Gosney. The weather was kind, the food provided delicious and the company convivial. We hope to make this an annual event so that our members can meet socially and get to know one another. We would have liked to have included a photo of the lunch, but those taken were lost in a computer crash. Isn't technology wonderful?

Members' Pot Luck Lunch

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Aeronautical and Automotive Academy



TFS members were treated to a conducted tour of Farnborough College of Technology's new Academy by Head of Engineering Stuart Head. This facility aims to equip Farnborough's young people with the skills

to take advantage of high-tech job opportunities locally, something TFS is keen to support since far too many of those jobs are currently filled by people from outside the area.

Cancelled Events

The visit to the Basingstoke Canal Centre and the Giant Chess Tournament and Barbecue were both cancelled due to lack of interest. Clearly, our intention is to offer events that will be of interest to our members, so if you have suggestions, please let us know. Some good ideas were put forward at the coffee morning, such as a tour of the Prince Consort's Library and the Royal Catering Corps facility near Winchester, both of which we are trying to arrange. Perhaps you were unable to attend one of our events and would like it repeated. Whatever your views, we would like to hear from you. After all, TFS is *your* society.

Forthcoming Events

The next event will be a walk and talk on Cove Brook Greenway on September 27th. Meeting at Blunden Hall at 10.00am, we will be given a presentation before setting out to explore the brook with our guides.

On October 10th, Jo Gosney will conduct a tour of North Camp for those who missed it last year. It will begin at 2.00pm and last about two hours.

Also in October, on 20th, there will be an Open Meeting devoted to traffic, when there will be a joint presentation by Rushmoor Borough Council and Hampshire County Council. The focus of their talk will be the Town Access Plan, currently being developed.

In November, an Open Meeting will be devoted to Town Twinning, a surprisingly wide-ranging topic of great interest to TFS because of its implications regarding civic pride.

Planning Group *Town Square Proposal*

The Planning Group submitted its proposal for a town square/arts complex to Rushmoor Borough Council in response to the consultation on the Core Strategy. Following the presentation by Brian Fyfe, Diane Fyfe and Barbara Hurst at the AGM, we have decided to actively solicit support from the largest local employers. In addition, we shall be seeking opportunities to make presentations to community groups and committees. We feel passionately that Farnborough, with its illustrious history deserves a town centre of which we can feel proud, so if you are involved in any such organisation and feel that your colleagues or members might be interested, please contact Brian Fyfe: brianbfyfe@gmail.com or 01252 541226

Fruit Trees

The Planning Group put forward a suggestion to Rushmoor Borough Council that they consider planting fruit trees around the town, so that people could help themselves. Andy Ford, Grounds Maintenance Manager liked the idea, kept it in mind and has decided to plant fruit trees alongside the Cove Allotments. He has invited TFS to help with the planting during National Tree Week, 27th November-5th December. If you would like to help, let Barbara know: barbara@pbhurst.com (01252 405149).

Partnership with RBC

Arrangements are going ahead for regular meetings between the TFS Planning Group and planning officers at Rushmoor Borough Council to scrutinise current planning applications in Farnborough. Like Aldershot Civic Society, we hope to earn the right to have our opinions seriously considered, so that we can influence planning decisions that affect the people of Farnborough.

If you are interested in planning matters, and would consider joining the Planning Group, please contact Brian Fyfe: brianbfyfe@gmail.com or 01252 541226.