



Preserving the past, shaping the future.

www.thefarnboroughsociety.org.uk

Newsletter

Issue 3: February 2010

Rushmoor Fire Station

In September, The Farnborough Society was again invited to visit Rushmoor Fire Station. Following a PowerPoint presentation by the Watch Leader showing the sorts of emergencies his team deals with, their duties and responsibilities, we were given a thorough exploration of the equipment carried aboard the fire engines. We were then taken into the building used for practice and given a taste of the dark and dangerous conditions in which the fire crews routinely work. Finally, we were taken to the hoses and given the opportunity to experience the difficulty of aiming water at high pressure, a real treat for our young guests, (and some of our not-so-young guests, too).



Farnborough Airport Expansion

Following the enormous interest generated by Brandon O'Reilly's talk at July's Open Meeting, in which he presented the case for increasing the number of movements at Farnborough Airport from 28,000 to 50,000 annually, we invited Geoff Marks to present the case for the opposition in September. Citing noise, risk and a lack of clarity regarding airport capacity, Mr Marks contended that the TAG application should be denied on the grounds that the Rushmoor Local Plan is insufficiently robust to protect residents from negative environmental and economic impacts.

Subsequently, the expansion application was turned down, though TAG has lodged an appeal against the decision.

The Local Plan is now under review, so the safe-guards that Mr Marks seeks may well be put in place.

Town Centre Development



optimistic that Farnborough will eventually offer a vibrant shopping experience.

Also in September, The Farnborough Society were the guests of The Meads, where manager Andy Wynn presented an update on the town centre development. Although progress has slowed, Andy remains

However, some members expressed disappointment that nothing can be done to improve the quality of the retailers attracted.

To encourage shoppers, Andy has initiated a small committee comprising retail managers and community leaders charged with increasing 'footfall' with fresh ideas. Their first success was getting Christmas lights put up in Queensmead.

North Camp Walk

Local historian and author Jo Gosney conducted a guided walk around North Camp in October, taking in much interesting architecture and such diverse sites as a former gravel pit, the site of an airship crash, a burial mound and a Boer War memorial. This area has a particularly rich history because of its association with the Army. The Wavell School, for instance, was not only the site of barracks and squares, but of a popular racetrack and polo grounds. Sharing memories during the two-hour walk helped to bring this fascinating area to vivid life.

Jo will repeat this walk in October for those who were disappointed in 2009.

Farnborough's Environment

David Quirk, then Head of Environmental Services at Rushmoor Borough Council, was guest speaker at November's Open Meeting. Covering a wide range of issues including waste, recycling, street cleaning, ground maintenance, air and noise pollution, David gave a comprehensive overview of his department's activities and responsibilities.

By special request, he also spoke of various plans for the Victoria Road Cemetery Chapel, something that is of great concern for The Farnborough Society's Planning Group.

Afterwards, David answered a great many questions and took away copious notes on issues raised by our members, leaving him in no doubt that we really care about our environment.

Army Medical and Dental Event

Eight lucky members were offered the opportunity to visit a field hospital in Aldershot in January. After a briefing by the commanding officer, there was a demonstration of a Field Hospital Emergency Department (Resuscitation Bay), followed by a walk through the hangar where equipment is stored, and a particularly interesting demonstration of a revolutionary tourniquet to be used by soldiers on themselves.

The feedback on this tour was very positive and we hope to organise a similar tour, for rather more participants, in the near future.

Air Accident Investigation Branch

Our January tour of AAIB was extremely interesting. The first hour consisted of a presentation detailing the kinds of accidents, aircraft and situations the Branch investigates. It included a discussion of procedures, risks, the kinds of forensic evidence gathered and the different agencies with whom AAIB works.

The second hour consisted of a tour of the hangar where wreckage is brought for analysis. Our guides gave comprehensive explanations of accidents involving microlites, helicopters and different kinds of planes, and their investigations. Since most we fatal, it was sobering, but also fascinating.

We had hoped to arrange a further tour, but unfortunately AAIB will only offer them to businesses with whom they do business from now on.

The Rushmoor Plan

Rushmoor Borough Council has drafted a new Core Strategy for the Local Development Framework, which is currently in the consultation phase: www.rushmoor.gov.uk/rushmoorplan.

Under the chairmanship of Brian Fyfe, the Planning Group is preparing, on behalf of The Farnborough Society, a response. After a briefing by RBC, and in light of subsequent discussions, we have arrived at an exciting vision for a new focus for Farnborough, a town square incorporating a range of cultural facilities to attract both residents and visitors. We hope to persuade RBC of the enormous benefits this could bring to the town.

Brian and his wife, Diane, have drawn up a proposal which has been distributed to those members who have e-mail for comment. Members who do not have e-mail may request a copy from Barbara: 01252 405149. The final draft must be submitted by March 1st, so it is vital that we receive your comments quickly.

EVENTS CALENDAR

Date	Time	Event
10th March	11.00am	Coffee Morning: Cllr Sue Gadsby <i>Being a Borough Councillor</i>
8th April	7.00pm	AGM: Open Meeting A Cultural Vision for Farnborough
May	TBA	Basingstoke Canal Centre
12th June	TBA	Members' Pot Luck Lunch
20th June	2.00pm	Runways End Scout Centre
7th July	7.00pm	Open Meeting/Tour: Policing
August	TBA	Aeronautic & Automotive Academy
27th September	10.00am	Cove Brook Greenway Walk/Talk
10th October	2.00pm	History Walk with Jo Gosney: North Camp

To book your place, call Sam: 01252 541401

Events are subject to change. Look out for mailings and posters as confirmation that they will take place, or contact Barbara:

Tel: 01252 405149

E-mail: barbara@pbhurst.com

The Extra Mile Award

In December, the Executive Committee decided to initiate the *Extra Mile Award*, presented by The Farnborough Society to the company or organisation that provides truly exemplary service that deserves to be recognised.



The 2009 award was presented by TFS Chairman David Jennings to Adam Doll and his team at the Household Waste Recycling Centre in Eelmoor Road, who not only offer help promptly and politely, but also

keep the site surprisingly clean; the choice was unanimous. Representatives from Hopkins, the site operator, and Hampshire County Council were on hand for the presentation.

The recipients of the *Extra Mile Award* from now on will be chosen by you. If you experience exceptional service and feel that a company or organisation is making a valuable contribution to the quality of life in Farnborough, send your nominations, by December 1st, to Barbara:

Tel: 01252 405149

E-mail: barbara@pbhurst.com

Rushmoor in Bloom

The Farnborough Society has been invited to present an award, specifically for a floral display in Farnborough, at *Rushmoor in Bloom's* presentation night, on September 27th. Preferably, we should like to recognise something unique that does not fall into any existing category, particularly clever recycling, for example, or a quirky colour combination. So, we ask you to keep your eyes open throughout the year for something truly special, large or small, that deserves recognition. Take photos if possible. Look for the unusual, the surprising, the creative, and let us know:

01252 405149 or barbara@pbhurst.com

Keep in Touch

If you have ideas for events, we want to hear from you. You may have a hobby or interest that you would like to share with the members, or perhaps there is a local issue that you would like aired. If it interests you, there is a good chance it will interest others.

We would also like to hear from you if you are interested in joining the Executive Committee or the Planning Group. At this critical time in Farnborough's development, with the new town centre finally taking shape and Rushmoor Borough Council formulating its plans for the future, there is plenty happening locally of interest to The Farnborough Society and its members. You could play a vital part in determining the Society's role in the community.