

# Farnham Town Crier

AT THE  
HEART OF  
THE LOCAL  
COMMUNITY



The newsletter of Farnham Town Council

March 2009

## Diary Dates

### March 2009

05 Annual Meeting of Electors  
22 Farmers' Market

### April 2009

18 Community Safety Event  
26 Farmers' Market  
29 Town Council Meeting

### May 2009

07 Annual Council Meeting  
09 Spring Festival  
24 Farmers' Market

## Town Councillors

### Weybourne & Badshot Lea

D J Attfield 689238  
G M Beel (Mrs) 323330  
(Town Mayor)

### Bourne

C A Cockburn (Mrs) 715529  
D Le Gal (Ms) 717265

### Firgrove

R D Frost 728663  
G P Hargreaves (Ms) 723188

### Shortheath and Boundstone

C Storey 07970574479  
J A Ward 715617

### Rowlage and Wreclesham

P M Frost (Mrs) 728663  
C G Genziani 793851

### Upper Hale

V Duckett 711271  
A J Lovell 722118

### Hale and Heath End

J E Maines (Mrs) 711271  
S J O'Grady 350570

### Moor Park

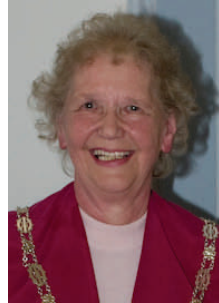
R J Steel 724344  
A P Thorp 727695

### Castle

L Fleming (Mrs) 716764  
(Deputy Town Mayor)  
S L Hill 712764

Larger Text Versions  
available on request—

Contact :01252 712667



Aldershot and Farnham Camera

## The Mayor's Message

As I walked up South Street earlier in the week, I stopped at the wall of the "Famous Names of Farnham". It was whilst admiring the flowers and reading the plaques, that I thought about the exceptionally talented people who live and have lived in the town. The Town proudly honours William Cobbett, Harold Falkner, Mike Hawthorn, Jonny Wilkinson, to name but a few.

Last year, for the first time, a lady's name was added to the wall - Rachel Morris, winner of the gold medal in the Paralympic Games in Beijing. I have seen Rachel, on many occasions, training on her handcycle in the town. Her determination to win is plain to see and an inspiration to all those who meet her. Since the Games, on top of her strict regime of training, Rachel has found the time to encourage local children by visiting schools, Cubs and Brownies. Hopefully some of these young people will one day go on to emulate her determination and be added to our "Famous Names of Farnham"

*Gillian Beel*

Town Mayor of Farnham



Rachel training in her hand cycle (British Cycling)

## Ask the Town Mayor at the Annual Meeting of Electors

The annual meeting of the Farnham Electors will be held on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm. Come and meet the Council and find out what it has done over the past year for you and the community of Farnham. This is your chance to ask the Mayor questions about local matters relevant to Farnham and the Town Council.

### ANNUAL FARNHAM TOWN ELECTORS' MEETING

to be held in

The Council Chamber  
South Street, Farnham

on

Thursday 5 March 2009  
at 7.00 pm

## What do you get from Farnham Town Council?

Making Farnham a better place to live and work, is the aim and focus of all 18 Councillors and 15 members of staff at Farnham Town Council.

...and you can see the results as you walk around the town and surrounding areas. Would you believe that for **just 99p per household, per week**, Farnham Town Council will be providing or managing all of the following during 2009/ 2010:

## All this for the average price of a loaf of bread!!



- Allotments at 8 sites in and around Farnham
- Annual Meeting of Electors
- Band concerts x11
- Banners across the highway
- Burial and bereavement services
- CCTV
- Enhancements at 4 cemeteries
- Christmas Lights - provision
- Christmas Lights Switch-on event
- Civic Events
- Community Safety Event
- Farmers' Markets—monthly
- Farnham in Bloom - Entry into the South and South East Region Competition
- Festivals - Spring, Garden and Food
- Gostrey Meadow additional lighting
- Graffiti removal
- Grants - community and revenue

- Hanging Baskets in the town centre
- Library Gardens
- Library Gardens tennis courts – no charge
- Litter and cigarette bins
- Mayor's Coffee Mornings x 15
- Notice Boards
- Public conveniences at 3 locations
- Gostrey Meadow contribution to planting
- Remembrance Sunday
- Seats and benches
- South Street Trust
- Tourism and Visitor Information
- Town Crier
- Town Guide
- Town Piper
- Tourist Information Points
- War memorials
- Web site - Farnham on-line
- Wreclesham Community Centre

.....an increase of just

**3p**  
per week

## Did you know:



The Council is only funded by residents – not local businesses.

All Farnham Town Councillors work voluntarily for Farnham and do not draw any expenses

The Mayor undertakes between 250– 300 civic engagements each year – in addition to his / her council duties

Just 15 staff deliver all the Town Council services— 4 of whom are Part time!

Farnham Town Councillors keep the town tidy by regularly litter picking.



## Whats happening in our cemeteries.....



West Street Cemetery

Farnham has 4 cemeteries, all of historical interest. Dating back to the 1860's, Hale, Green Lane, Badshot Lea, and Farnham West Street cemeteries, cover an area of over 100 acres with 25,000 graves and 16,000 memorials!

Up until 1974, the cemeteries were owned and managed by Farnham Urban District Council and when the Council was disbanded, Waverley Borough Council took over the role of the Burial Authority. It was in 2004 that WBC transferred the cemeteries to Farnham Town Council.

Since then, FTC has been striving to make safe and enhance all aspects of the cemeteries making them places of beauty and tranquillity to visit and reflect. A programme of work has been designed for all the cemeteries and is expected to take several years to complete.

## How we are achieving this.....

### Finding Friends.....



Memorial Rubbing

Farnham cemeteries are not only a place for reflection and remembrance. They are a major part of our local heritage, and should be maintained for future generations. As well as preserving the memorials we also need to safeguard the haven that the cemeteries provide for flora, fauna and lichen.

To help with this a Friends of the Cemeteries Group will be set up to undertake such activities as memorial rubbings, bug hunts, general maintenance, organising open days, tours and other such projects.

### The way ahead is improving ...



Over the years, some of the footpaths in the cemeteries have deteriorated and are beginning to pose a risk to cemetery visitors. This, in the main, has been caused by tree roots growing through

and breaking up the paths. FTC has now dug up the surface roots and re-laid sections of the footpaths at both Badshot Lea and Hale Cemeteries. If you have been to either of these cemeteries recently, you will see what a huge difference this has made. Further work will be carried out on footpaths in Green Lane Cemetery during the coming year



his grave.  
A & FCC

**Harold Falkner** (1875 – 1963) will best be remembered for the many buildings he designed in and around the Farnham area. The Town Hall Building at the corner of Castle Street and The Borough is just one of his legacies to Farnham. Harold Falkner is also buried in West Street Cemetery and his grave is planted out twice a year and maintained by Farnham Town Council.

### A Time to Reflect .....

Since taking over the cemeteries, FTC has wanted to be able to offer local residents the choice of either being buried or having their ashes scattered in a Farnham cemetery. Up until now, it is only burials that have been allowed. However, this is about to change! The Council is now in the process of planning a Garden of Reflection for the West Street Cemetery.

A footpath, winding its way through newly planted shrubs, will lead to a Stone Book of Remembrance. It is on the brass plaques affixed to this Book that residents of Farnham can be remembered by future generations.



Typical stone book of Remembrance

Visitors will be able to sit and reflect in this beautiful and peaceful Garden on one of the many benches to be installed.

### Looking after the brave...

For many years, FTC and previously WBC have been working with the War Graves Commission maintaining graves of those who lost their lives in the service of this country. FTC undertakes the routine day-to-day maintenance of these graves whilst the War Graves Commission ensures the headstones remain in good condition.



### .....and the famous

One of Farnham's most famous residents was **Mike Hawthorn** who tragically died in a car accident on A31 in 1959. Mike Hawthorn came to fame when he became World Champion in 1958.

Mike is buried in Farnham's West Street Cemetery and FTC regularly maintains his grave planting it out twice a year to bloom in the spring and summer. On Sunday 25 January, Mike Hawthorn was remembered by thousands of people at a memorial service in St Andrew's Church followed by parade of classic cars around Farnham. The parade then travelled up to West Street Cemetery where wreaths of remembrance were laid at



## Your health and safety is important to us



Unsafe memorial

In recent years there has been concern about the safety of toppling gravestones and badly kept graves. As a result, councils are duty bound to carry out Health and Safety Inspections every 5 years.

If a memorial is found to be unsafe, the Council will contact the Owner of the Exclusive Rights of Burial (the grave owner) or their next of kin. They will be asked to take the necessary remedial action as they are responsible for the upkeep of the memorial. Researching the ownership of graves is a long and laborious job, with some owners impossible to locate.



Dangerous grave

## .....the total to date



At the Badshot Lea and Green Lane Cemeteries, 391 memorials have been found to be unsafe and after intensive research, 221 owners have been located and letters sent out. However, 170 grave owners are still untraceable. To date, 50 memorials have been rectified. The option to lay down memorials rather than making them safe has been taken up by the owners of 3 graves.

## We've got it right!

The Ministry of Justice has recently published "Managing the Safety of Burial Ground Memorials - practical advice dealing with unstable memorials". This publication sets out a sensible approach to assist burial authorities meet their legal responsibilities. It outlines good practice making cemeteries safe places in which to visit and work.

However, Farnham Town Council didn't need this guidance! The procedure put into place over a year ago confirmed that the Council had 'got it right'. Additionally, the councillors felt it was very important that any remedial work to reduce risk of serious injury did not cause unnecessary distress to the bereaved families.



## Raising the standards



Concern for the health and safety of visitors to our cemeteries has recently been brought to light after a planned programme of inspections revealed that many of the memorials are unsafe.

The Council felt it was important to ensure that the memorials in any of its cemeteries must be installed to the highest standard. To achieve this, as of 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2009 only BRAMM (British Register of Accredited Memorial Masons) registered memorial masons will be able to work in FTC's cemeteries.

Customers using one of the BRAMM registered masons can feel assured that their stone mason has met the very high standards set by this organisation.

## At your service

### We're listening .....



Over the last year or so, customers have been saying that they would prefer the Bereavement Services Department to be open longer each day.

As of September 2008, the Council extended its service hours. The new hours of business are :

**Monday to Thursday** 9am – 4.30pm  
**Friday** 9am—4pm

Additional staff have been trained and will be available during these times.

Contact:  
Bereavement Services Dept:  
01252 712667



### ...and on-line

The Council has been keen to support the work of the undertakers and is now offering them the opportunity to make provisional bookings for burials on line..

This will prove to be very helpful to undertakers meeting clients outside the Council's normal office hours as they will be able to provisionally book burials 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

However, to date, only two undertakers have asked to be registered. This new on-line service and full training is offered to undertakers free of charge,



## We're still Looking.....

As part of Farnham Town Council's policy to make its cemeteries safer, all the burial plots in Green Lane have now been inspected and the unstable memorials have been recorded. The Council is now trying to make contact with the last registered deed holders or the next of kin for these graves with unsafe memorials.

## Can you help!

Do you know of any families who have relatives buried in Green Lane? If you do, please ask them to contact Wendy Coulter on 01252 712667, look on our website, [www.farnham.gov.uk](http://www.farnham.gov.uk), or pop into the Council Offices to get a copy of the list of graves where the memorials require remedial work. If the Council does not hear from these deed holders or next of kin, the unstable memorials may have to be laid down – an action the Council would not wish to take.



# AT THE HEART OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

## Council Officers

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Larger Text  
Versions are  
available on  
request

[www.farnham.gov.uk](http://www.farnham.gov.uk)

## Here to help you help you

### Who does what in Farnham?

.....the most frequently asked questions

#### Farnham Town Council

- Allotments
- Annual Town Mtg
- Civic events
- Christmas Lights
- Closed Circuit TV
- Cemeteries & Burials
- Farmers' Market
- Farnham in Bloom
- Graffiti removal
- Grants – Community and Revenue
- Library Gardens
- Notice Boards
- Public Conveniences
- South Street Trust
- Tourism
- Town Crier
- Town Guide
- Town Mayor's Office
- Town Twinning - Andernach
- War Memorials

#### Waverley Borough Council

- Abandoned Vehicles
- Building Control
- Bus Permits
- Car Parks and Fines
- Council Tax Enquiries
- Electoral Registration
- Gypsies and Travellers
- Housing/Homelessness
- Leisure Centres
- Licensing
- Museums
- Noise Pollution
- Parks & Rec Grounds
- Pest Control
- Planning
- Recycling / Refuse / Special Collections
- Street Cleaning / Litter
- Taxi / Private Hire Licensing

#### Surrey County Council

- Education
  - Pre-school
  - Infant
  - Junior
  - Secondary
  - Further
  - Higher
  - Adult
- Highways
- Footways
- Street Lighting
- Environment
- Libraries
- Social Services
  - Adult
  - Children
- Transport
- Trading Standards
- Waste Disposal
- Minerals

### Useful Information

Adult Education, West St.	01483 518558
Births and Deaths Reg.	01483 782071
Marriage Reg.	01483 56284
Citizen Advice Bureau	0844 8487969
Council Tax	01483 523135
Electoral Register	01483 523333
Environment Agcy-Flood	0845 988 1188
Farnham Castle	01252 721194
Farnham Herald	01252 725224
Farnham Hospital	01483 782000
Farnham Leisure Centre	01252 723208
Farnham Police	0845 125 2222
Hoppa	01252 727711
Inland Revenue	0845 3667825
Land Registry	0191 301 2345
Library—Farnham	08456 009009
MP—Jeremy Hunt	01428 604520
Maltings	01252 745444
Museum of Farnham	01252 715094
Rubbish—Special coll.	01483 523419
Rubbish Tip / Dump	01252 726316
Social Services	08456 004555
Surrey County Council	08456 009009
Town Mayor's Secretary	01252 823192
Waverley Local Partnership	01483 517530
Waverley Borough Council	01483 523333
WBC - Farnham Locality Off	01483 523521
WBC – 24 hour Emergency	02392 242161

### Council Update

#### Bandstand Update

The bandstand is on schedule and work will commence during March.



#### Farnham Town Guide

The new Town Guide includes information on the town's heritage and cultural attractions, the beautiful parks and gardens, shopping, local walks, surrounding villages and sporting facilities. Included within the publication are maps of the town, travel information, events and an accommodation section, which will replace the Council's existing paper directory.

Town Guides are available from the Library, the Maltings and Town Council Offices.

#### Farnham in Bloom—going for gold again!

Watch out for the next edition of the Town Crier to find out how you can help Farnham win the Gold Award again. For more information, contact Sheila Rayner: 01252 712667



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