



Rotary club of Farnham

## Newsheet April 2024

### Events through April

#### Bridge Lunch

64 enthusiastic bridge players joined in our Rotary Bridge lunch at St Thomas-on-the-Bourne on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April for three sessions of bridge - two in the morning and one in the afternoon. Players from as far afield as Alton and Fleet joined the fun and friendly competition and were treated to coffee and biscuits and a delicious lunch. One participant said 'this was the best bridge lunch they had ever had' - boeuf bourguignon courtesy of Cook with in-house cooked vegetables and homemade blackberry and apple crumble.

We thank all those who participated and those who gave generously in support of the raffle, both in terms of prizes and ticket sales. As a result, we are very pleased to say that the day raised a little over £1,500, which will support Disability Challengers and other local charities.



Kath Slape who was in charge of lunch arrangements



Mary Cooper and Tricia Conway in charge of the raffle



A full room of players having fun

## President's Evening

A very successful and enjoyable evening was had by all those attended the President's Evening at the Hoggs Back Hotel on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April. We were entertained by Iain Lynch, Town Clerk, bringing us up-to-date very eloquently with the Town Council's plans for the forthcoming year and more.



## Quizz Lunch

On Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April Rotary Member, Richard Drummond taxed our knowledge on key events during the 60's and 70's. Necessarily some fared better than others but it was good fun!

## Talks Through April

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April Youth Activities in Farnham by Tracy Yates, Youth Lead, Youth Centre, Hale Community Centre



Tracy began by saying a little about herself. She has considerable experience - over 17 years - of working with young people from areas of multiple deprivation. She also has experience as a parent support adviser. For a number of these years she worked in Rushmoor supporting vulnerable children, young people and their families.

She joined Hale Community Centre in 2021 following the Centre's successful bid to Reaching Community for a 5-year grant for supporting children and young people in Sandy Hill and the surrounding area. Work began in the Scout Hut down the road from the Centre - a walking challenge for the youngsters - whilst Surrey County Council worked on renovating an old nursery building behind the Community Centre. This purpose-built centre was opened in April 2022 and is now from where all the youth activities are run. Before this the only youth support available was provided by Surrey County Council from a 'hut' on the field in Sandy Hill with none during the Covid years. From one session/week there are sessions now on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Fridays with:



Junior & Senior Girlz Club  
Boys Night In  
2 Open Access Sessions - boys & girls



Girlz Club Winners  
at Hale Carnival



Boys Night In

She referred to 'ghost children' - youngsters who are not going to school at all and in significant numbers. It is affecting children from across the board, but more so those from vulnerable families. Some are being 'home schooled' but for many families this is not an option, as basically proved to be the case during the Covid lockdown.

In order to address this issue, The Centre has been running weekly sessions over a period of time for those struggling to participate in school activities - Might Oak Alternative Learning Experience. The first course is now coming to a close with very positive feedback from pupils and the school. All those attending now have significantly less behavioural issues and are engaging much more positively with school activities. As a result of this course, Tracy is now working with Heath End School to offer one-to-one support to some of the most challenged young people.

As she explained a number of the youngsters come from dysfunctional families where drugs, alcohol and mental health problems are serious issues. So it

may not be surprising that a number of the young people take drugs - with marijuana the most common one, followed by cocaine. She told of two 14 year young girls who had appeared for the first time at the Youth Centre drunk. What was good about it was that they had come to the centre where staff were able to look after them and ensure they got home safely. A major aim of great importance is for the Centre to be seen as a 'safehaven', for without that, trust cannot be built up to enable work to be undertaken to help the young people expand their horizons and aspirations.

Before the youth work began social misbehaviour was a problem on the estate, but the police now say that, as things stand, it no longer is. Another anecdote Tracy told was of a family which was said to be 'trouble', but now the young people from this family are setting a good example for the rest, illustrating what can be achieved.

She referred to Farnham Town Council's priority for youth -£90,000 for this financial year - with £15,000 of this coming to the Youth Centre for outreach/detached work which will begin shortly, initially on Sandy Hill. This will provide an opportunity to work with youngsters who do not recognise the Youth Centre as for them, but through contact might come to see things differently.



Out reach on Sandy Hill

## Lunchtime Talks in May

- Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May** Jo Watson, History of the Olympics, introduced by President Ann Foster
- Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May** AGM
- Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May** Gin Tasting at Rotary Member's residence
- Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May** Dr Simon Curtis, Associate Professor University of Surrey on his latest book 'The Belt & Road City', introduced by Rotary Member Jon Curtis
- Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> May** Rotary Member, George Alford 'Life in Baskets from Cradle to Coffin'

If, as a Friend, you are interested in coming along to any of the talks and for lunch (£22) please email [lunches@rotaryfarnham.co.uk](mailto:lunches@rotaryfarnham.co.uk) on the Monday before, saying whether you'd like, fish, meat or vegetarian, pudding or fresh fruit. We start gathering at The Bush, Farnham from 12.30 for lunch at 1.00 and the talk at 2.00, finishing at 2.30 pm.