



Newsheet July 2024

Events through July

Visit to Member John Holton's Garden

On Wednesday 3rd July several members were treated to a tour of John's beautiful garden whilst enjoying a Pimm's. Some met for lunch beforehand at the Lost Boy and some of those walked from there to John's, seeing a little bit of Bishop's Meadow on the way.



New Rotary Year, New President

On Thursday 4th July Ann Foster, after a successful year, handed over the baton to the new President, Sarah Moss, wishing her all the best for 2024-25.



Talks Through July

Thursday 11th July Planning Update by Member Mike Conoley



Mike updated us since his last presentation 12 weeks ago. He told us that in December 2023 the then government decided they would stop housing development where it was not wanted locally, through changes to the national planning process. They promoted the change as providing more housing in the right location. At face value this looked like a good idea. However, it prevented housing development as major house builders, on the publication of the new process, downgraded their plans for building houses from 200,00/year to 80,000/year.

Within these changes, if a local authority didn't specify a 5-year supply, which has been the

case with Waverley, planning rules would no longer apply. As a result we have been getting developments on the fringe of Farnham, particularly Cranleigh, Dunsfold and other areas. Also, if you take the whole of Farnham, the changes meant that any planning application after 2023 for housing within that area, but outside the settlement zone boundaries, would not be granted consent.

The Labour government in their manifesto (first time a party has ever had anything about planning in their manifesto) said they would immediately update the national planning policy framework to restore mandatory housing targets and ensure tough action against planning authorities that do not provide a 5-year supply.

The new government has also introduced the concept of 'grey belt' – not very nice areas within designated 'green belts'. Development will now be possible within these areas.

He also referred to 'clean energy' development. The development of onshore windfarms, which recently came to a halt, should now be able to go ahead, when new legislation is introduced. We should also anticipate revision to regulations pertaining to CIL – Community Infrastructure Levy.

Thursday 25th July Helen Arkell by Hazel Radnor



Hazel Radnor, Jon Curtis and Jacqui Priddle

Hazel explained that the Charity relies on fundraising and payments for its services to fund its activities. It moved to its West Street location about 2 years ago and the new location has enabled it to engage with the Farnham public

more easily and it has recently participated in the Walking Festival and the Literary Festival.

Those with dyslexia have difficulty with reading, writing, spelling but it is not linked to intelligence.

She gave a few facts about the condition:

- Around 4 in 10 of those using Job Centres are dyslexic;
- Around 50% of prisoners are dyslexic;
- Many families are left behind because of dyslexia;
- 80% of children with learning difficulties have undiagnosed dyslexia;
- 69% of teachers have less than half a day's training on dyslexia;

Many children with dyslexia will not be able to reach their full potential.

The Charity's aim is to give such individuals the tools to help them succeed. Over the last year they have had contact with over 4,000 clients and have been working:

- with the Channon Trust on a pilot project in prisons;
- with the homeless;
- partnering in training teachers and teaching assistants;
- providing 1 to 1 training to children and other clients, and
- working with parents of dyslexic children.

Some examples of their current activities are:

- FAST a Families and Schools Together project;
- Free Teacher training to 44 Teachers and Teaching Assistants;
- Awareness Training to workplaces involving 417 employees;
- Research with The University of Surrey on maths and mental health difficulties;
- Development of a new website and a new on-line booking system.

The Charity is extremely grateful to its supporters and fundraisers and for the opportunities to explain what Helen Arkell does and how they can help individuals with dyslexia.

The Following questions were raised:

- What about Dyscalculia?
Helen Arkell is aware that some with Dyslexia also have problems with Maths. The two conditions are thought to be linked.
- Is Speech Therapy used?
Helen Arkell will refer clients for Speech Therapy if that is required.
- Is there screening for Dyslexia?
Some schools can screen for dyslexia, but this is not a formal diagnosis. There is no National Screening programme.
- Are there any grants available from Helen Arkell for equipment, eg computers?
No, but they can advise clients on obtaining grant.

Finally, Jacqui Priddle, on behalf of the Club thanked Hazel and presented a Cheque for £2,000 to the Helen Arkell Charity.

Lunchtime Talks in August

Thursday 8 th August	Hugh Alford, introduced by his brother George, on 'The Music of 1924'
Thursday 15 th August	Brian Thomas, 'Three Years in the USA'
Thursday 22 nd August.	Roy Waight, 'the second Domesday book'

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 on the Monday before, saying whether you would like fish, meat or vegetarian, pudding or fresh fruit. We start gathering at The Bush, Farnham from 12.30pm for lunch at 1.00 pm with the talk at 2.00pm, finishing at 2.30pm.

