

Dear Maltings Member

This year our Annual General Meeting (AGM), will be held in the Tindle Studio at Farnham Maltings on **Saturday 26 November at 11am**, and we look forward to welcoming you here.

The AGM will give you the opportunity to meet both trustees and staff, hear about the work of Farnham Maltings, ideas for the future, and have a chance to ask questions.

You can find the relevant documents at [farnhammaltings.com/agm](https://farnhammaltings.com/agm), including a proxy form, so that you can register your vote, even if you are unable to join the meeting.

The Annual Report and Accounts set out the performance of Farnham Maltings for the year ended 31 March 2022 and I would like to add a few additional thoughts.

As we look to the future, our objects and our core values are unchanged:

- Community centres for the benefit of the inhabitants of the town of Farnham and the neighbourhood, without distinction, for the advancement of education and the provision of facilities, in the interests of social welfare, for recreation and leisure-time occupation, with the object of improving the conditions and life of us all.
- To promote and encourage the arts, for the public benefit, including the musical, visual, dramatic, cinematic and applied arts.
- To encourage, promote, undertake or carry on the arts and strengthen the bonds of community life.

The results of the past year show that we are turning the corner, and we are seeing normality returning across a wide range of our activities. However, Covid is still having an impact on every aspect of our lives and work. The work that started in response to Covid, continues to today. Farnham Connect still brings the main local groups together for the benefit of everyone in Farnham. Uncertainty remains as we go into the winter with the challenges of the current economic climate. It will be a long time before we achieve 'business as usual', that said, we are in a good position and with your support, we will get there.

We will continue to invest in Farnham Maltings to increase the range, quality and audience for theatre across the region. Much of this is in response to feedback from the public. The new sound system in the Great Hall is an example of this investment.

Apart from our work in the Maltings' building in Farnham, we support the South East region's venues to adapt, share knowledge and find practical solutions to surviving the pandemic. We invest in artists to continue to make work in these extraordinary times, reframe how artists and companies might think and work internationally, and consider how we better enter the digital world.

On behalf of you all, I would like to express thanks to the staff and volunteers who make Farnham Maltings such a great place, so central to the community of Farnham. We will continue to support a wide range of activities for the benefit of our town, local and regional communities.

We would also like to thank 'you' the membership for supporting the many varied events we programme.

Our thanks also goes to Arts Council England (ACE), Waverley Borough Council and Farnham Town Council for their ongoing support. We appreciate the generosity of all our funders and individual donors. We were very pleased to hear on Friday 04 November that we had secured funding from ACE for a further 3 years – we are most grateful to them for their continued support and encouragement.

A final and special thanks go to my fellow Trustees who feely give their time to Farnham Maltings.

As we head into 2023, we will have a new Chief Executive – Peter Glanville - joining us in January 2023. We have said goodbye to Gavin Stride and our thanks go to him for his leadership of the team over the past 20 years. Emma Haigh stepped in as interim CEO and has provided continuity for us. Emma is well known to the board of directors, having been a trustee until the middle of 2022.

We have kept our responsibilities as trustees under regular review and recently held an Extraordinary General Meeting to approve new Articles of Association. These will help us to continue to properly manage the resources of the Farnham Maltings, a great local charity.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the forthcoming AGM. As usual, you will hear from Emma with an update on how we are managing in these times. Do bring your comments and suggestions if you have them.

I look forward to seeing you on Saturday 26 November at 11 am.

Yours sincerely

**Michael Maher**  
Chair