

Dear Member

This year our AGM, on **Monday 30 October at 16:00hrs (4.00pm)**, will be held at the Farnham Maltings and we look forward to welcoming you there.

This has been a year of change and consolidation. We appointed our new chief executive - Peter Glanville who started with us in January 2023, after Gavin Stride left. We asked Emma Haigh, who had been a trustee of the Maltings, to step in to provide continuity for us. Emma is well known to the board of directors, and our thanks go to her. Our thanks also go to Gavin for his leadership of the team over recent years.

As part of this year's meeting, Peter Glanville will give you the opportunity to hear about the work of the Maltings, his ideas for the future and the chance to ask questions. This is an important way that Members can keep up to date with our work.

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

The report and accounts set out the performance of the Farnham Maltings to the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 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.

I am pleased to say that, in many areas, the Maltings is returning back to normal business following the massive interruption created by Covid.

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This has been achieved by our staff and volunteers who all work hard to deliver these objects. On behalf of you all, I would like to express thanks to them - it is the staff and volunteers who make the Maltings such a great place. A place which is so central to the Farnham Town community. We will continue to support a wide range of activities for the benefit of our town, local and regional communities.

There are some elements of our reaction to Covid that still form an important part of our community. Farnham Connects was established in 2020 to bring the main local groups together for the benefit of everyone in Farnham. This group still meets and is a wonderful way to unite the entire community together on key social issues. I would like to express our thanks to all involved and assure everyone that this will continue.

A special thanks to you as Members for supporting the many varied events we run and to the other members of the public who, whilst not yet taking the step forward to become members, nevertheless support our activities. We offer a wide range of activities, that sets out to meet the needs of our entire community.

I would like to single out our Craft department. Our team are active locally and in the World Craft Town community. The offering to the public is not just limited to the local area but is renowned throughout the Southeast. Thanks to the team and all who support them.

Thanks also to the Arts Council England, Waverley Borough Council and Farnham Town Council who support our activities and we appreciate their support. We were very pleased that we had secured funding from the Arts Council England for a further 3 years - we are most grateful to them for their support and encouragement.

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

As we look back at the past year, the Maltings is well placed to continue going forward and as said above, we are seeing normality returning across a wide range of our activities. However, for many of our service users, confidence is taking a long time to come back. Covid still impacts every aspect of our lives and work.

We will react to ensure the best, varied and flexible services are provided.

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

Apart from our work in the Malting's building in Farnham, we support the South East region's venues to adapt, share knowledge, investing 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 use the digital world.

We have kept our responsibilities as trustees under regular review and the extraordinary general meeting in October 2022, approved new Articles of Association. These will help us to continue to properly manage the resources of the Farnham Maltings, a great local charity.

We have updated our governance model. The board has established three committees to look at the key areas of our business. This ensures the board has a good understanding of all aspects of our operations. We are also in the middle of a visioning exercise to ensure that our offering to the public is kept under constant review.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the forthcoming AGM. As usual, you will receive 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 30 October 2023 at 16:00hrs.

Yours sincerely

**Michael Maher**  
Chair