

Dear Member

This year our AGM, on **Mon 25 November at 18:00hrs (6.00pm)**, will be held in the cellar bar at Farnham Maltings and we look forward to welcoming you there.

This meeting is an opportunity for you, to hear the results for the last financial year, to receive an update on current activities and our plans going forward.

We have updated our governance model to continue to properly manage the resources of Farnham Maltings, a great local charity. 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.

Our new chief executive, Pete Glanville, has settled in very well to his role and has made a substantial impact.

With the full support of the board, he has introduced a new approach to managing the organisation, as a whole. We are a more collaborative organisation, allowing many voices to be heard in shaping our offering to members and the wider public.

The new executive and management teams have been working closely with trustees, via Board meetings, work in committees and regular Away Days. This is a vital part of our new style of governance which allows for ideas to be discussed in an open and constructive way.

Last year, we advised that we were undertaking a "visioning exercise", involving all the staff and trustees. This has reinforced our core values and has resulted in clarity about what we aspire to be, namely:

Collaborative and Courageous, always with Integrity.

During the AGM, Pete will give you the opportunity to hear about the wide range of 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. This gives you an opportunity to express your thoughts and ideas, which are all appreciated.

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VAT Registration No: 224 9626 03

The relevant documents, including the reports of the Trustees and Financial Statements, will be uploaded to farnhammaltings.com/agm after our board meeting on Mon 04 November. There you can also find the proxy form so that you can register your vote, even if you are unable to join the meeting.

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.

A great deal 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 strive to support a wide range of activities for the benefit of our town, local and regional and international communities.

There are some elements of our reaction to Covid back in 2020 that still form an important part of our community. Farnham Connects, under Gavin Stride's initial leadership, was established in 2020 to bring the main local groups together for the benefit of everyone in Farnham. We still coordinate this group which meets on a regular basis 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 Patrons and Members for supporting the many varied events we run. We are fortunate that our members and the general public support our activities.

We offer a wide range of activities, that sets out to meet the needs of our entire community. We encourage all members to invite people they know to become a member; there are benefits to being a member, in addition, there is advice about upcoming events that is sent well in advance.

Thanks also to the Arts Council England, Waverley Borough Council and Farnham Town Council who support our activities and we appreciate their support. We secured funding

from the Arts Council England for a further 2 years – we are most grateful to them for their support and encouragement.

A final and special thanks go to my fellow Trustees who freely give their time to 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.

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 lighting system in the Great Hall.

Apart from our work in the Maltings' building in Farnham, we support venues in the South East region to adapt and 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.

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 Mon 25 November 2024 at 18:00hrs.

Yours sincerely

Michael Maher
Chair