

October 2018

Dear Member,

As Chair of the Council of Management, I am delighted to invite you to attend the Farnham Maltings AGM, which will be taking place on 24 November 2018 at 11 a.m. in the Barley Room. Please join us for refreshments which will be served from 10.30 a.m.

You can view or download all the following documents from our website at:

<https://farnhammaltings.com/join-us-and-support-us/annual-general-meeting>

- Chair's letter
- Notice of Annual General Meeting
- Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2018 for Farnham Maltings Association Limited
- Biography for proposed new trustee
- Form of Proxy

This is my second AGM as chair of the Board of Trustees and I am very pleased to report that Farnham Maltings goes from strength to strength seeking exciting and interesting ways to improve people's quality of life by encouraging them to be socially and creatively active in the broadest sense whatever their age, gender or background.

Our community work, theatre production, the events and fairs and the people who use the Maltings, or witness its output further afield, are all very diverse and it is impossible to include everything we do in this letter but a brief snapshot is given below.

As part of our community engagement programmes we have many activities, within the building and beyond as outreach programmes: celebrating age and working with older or socially isolated people; young carers; looked after children; those with dementia or mental health issues; various youth projects, and many more besides.

This year we were able to replace the cinema screen we inherited after the closure of the Redgrave in 1997 – a long wait but well worth the investment given the popularity of our film offering and live broadcasts which include theatre, ballet, opera and art exhibitions.

Booking for events, making donations and other transactions via the website are noticeably slicker following the installation of a new ticketing system. It also provides us with better audience information and a more integrated payments system.

We continue to improve the estate, which is a challenge given its age and design. Recently the roof to the east wing turret had to be repaired. The installation of four new lifts has meant that the entire building, including the stage, is accessible for all. The Great Hall has been put to greater use by differing the configuration allowing for more imaginative programming.

A sign of continued confidence in the vision and capabilities of the theatre team has been the renewed four year funding by the Arts Council of England to support this important work that brings contemporary theatre to audiences across the south east, promotes young talent and enables independent theatre makers to showcase their work.

This enables theatre companies and individuals to flourish such as Little Bulb Theatre who we are commissioning to make a new musical show for village halls that will tour next year and they are also returning to

(continued overleaf)

Bridge Square  
Farnham  
Surrey GU9 7QR  
t 01252 745444  
f 01252 718177

info@farnhammaltings.com  
www.farnhammaltings.com

Charity No: 305034  
Registered in England No: 954753  
VAT Registration No: 293 6758 08

Battersea Arts Centre with their acclaimed show 'Orpheus' this Christmas; Bucket Club making work for young/family audiences; a year of dance programming for eight venues across the south east being piloted by house, a regional touring initiative that we lead; and Flintlock Theatre to tour 'Enemy of the People'.

The work of the Maltings isn't confined to Farnham. We tour home produced theatre to village halls and the like across the country, finding new audiences with shows such as 'Brilliance' and 'Brave Folk'. Through caravan we delivered a showcase in Shanghai which led to further work with the British Council, focusing on female artists. We have two advocates in Seoul and Vancouver supporting English theatre and have just launched a Canadian partnership with British Council Canada and the High Commission of Canada to better connect England and Canadian based artists.

In the summer we celebrated the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the museum building – Wilmer House - with a party in its beautiful garden. This event together with a donation, raised enough to purchase a Bronze age gold ring found locally which will be displayed in the Museum. Our work with schools and the Young Archaeology Club continues to attract an enthusiastic younger audience.

Our craft festivals are becoming must attend events, including Quilters Fair, Unravel, Festival of Crafts and Thread - which may run over two days next year such was its popularity. The first Saturday of the month sees the building filled with stalls selling anything and everything at the Monthly Market. We continue to host the Lion's Beerex Festival and for the second year running Farnham Town Council's Gin Festival.

Dance in the Meadows featuring performances by youth, community, adult and professional companies was held on a very hot June day on Gostrey Meadows. To end this round up of activity on a high note – our resident dance company, New Adventures, created a piece inspired by Matthew Bourne's 'Cinderella'. Performed by a group of over 55s, some of whom had never danced before, they were invited to be the curtain raiser before 'Cinderella' in front of the sold out audience at Woking Theatre in June.

We are eternally grateful to our supporters: Arts Council England, British Council, Waverley Borough Council, Farnham Town Council, Surrey County Council, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, our patrons and charities and of course the many volunteers without whom we would struggle to achieve half the things we do.

Thanks must also go to Gavin and his committed, enthusiastic team who strive to ensure this is a happy, healthy and safe place to live.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the forthcoming AGM and please bring any comments and suggestions you may have.

Yours sincerely



**Lisa Hennessey**  
**Chair**

PS If you are receiving this letter by post and are willing to receive future notifications of documents, information and notices by email then please email [sue.ellis@farnhammaltings.com](mailto:sue.ellis@farnhammaltings.com) giving your full name and address. This will reduce our costs for managing the membership scheme.