



# Fleet & Church Crookham Society Newsletter – Spring/Summer 2010

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initiative

## FLEET & CHURCH CROOKHAM SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 21 April 2010 at 7.30pm  
Crookham War Memorial Hall, Sandy Lane, Church Crookham

Speaker: Elizabeth Brightwell from  
the Fleet Town Centre Project

**Please support your Society:  
come along to our AGM and  
let us have your views on  
any issues of concern**



**Fleet Town  
Centre Project**



*Working together for the benefit of the whole community*

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### Welcome to our New Members

Since our last newsletter, 33 new members have joined the Society. Welcome to everyone!

Mrs P Bennetts	John & Jill Machray
Mr & Mrs Anthony Bourgoing	David & Allyson Millen
June Britton	Mr & Mrs G E Mist
Andy Burstow	Barbara Pedley
Mr & Mrs M J Bye	James & Sheila Pinder
Mr & Mrs P Cashin	Mr & Mrs Rick Robinson
F Cheney	Michael & Ingrid Rowbory
Jean Credland	Liz Shickle
Michael Ford	Gill Staley
Peter Gilmour	Antony & Barbara Strudwick
Doreen Healy	Paul & Anne Taylor
Gordon Hilton	Lez & Jean Warren
Mr & Mrs R E Hurst	Mrs Kathy Wilson
Linda Ingham	Andy Webber
John & Pauline Kirk	George Whibley
Peter Leigh	Bob Wyatt
Hugh Lunghi	



Photo from Colin Gray

**For more photos of snowy Fleet & Church Crookham, see page 6**

*The views and comments expressed in this Newsletter are those of the contributor and not necessarily those of the Fleet & Church Crookham Society. Neither the authors nor the Society accept responsibility for any use to which the information contained in this Newsletter may be put.*

## Chairman's Introduction

2009/10 has been 12 months in which a number of big consultation processes have surfaced. Hart Council has been asking local people to comment on a whole range of issues from how we want them to spend our money (of which they do not have enough for the services we need) to how much we are prepared to see the whole community of Fleet and Church Crookham change.

We saw an exhibition as part of the consultation for the Vision for Fleet Town Centre. Consultants Stillwells produced some interesting concept designs including a totally new layout around Gurkha Square. Sadly it would require a lot of demolition and rebuilding work that the Council could not afford and therefore envisaged selling off more of our assets. The Society felt this an unwise solution. Better use could be made of existing buildings and retention, redevelopment and leasing could present options to increase income for the local authority, which they sorely need. [For the Executive Committee's full response to the consultation, see page 8.]



*A VISION FOR FLEET*

Running almost concurrent, but still live as I write, is the consultation on the characterisation study of all the main settlements in Hart District. Character maps have been produced for all areas of all the urban settlements but they are very generalised. The ward in which I live, Fleet Pondtail, for example, is characterised as 'post war'. Now it depends to which war this refers of course, but many bungalows and houses in Pondtail are early 20<sup>th</sup> century, 1920s and 1930s, which would elsewhere be classified as 'interwar years'. This generalisation could be a cause for concern as this consultation process will include an assessment of which areas could accept increases in housing density. This is not just replacing one house with a large garden with five houses with little or no garden, but also house conversions to blocks of flats which has already happened with several plots

in Pondtail as elsewhere. It is important therefore that we look very carefully at the implications of this consultation.

The questionnaires put out with these consultations tend to be of the 'tick a box' kind. This is for ease of assessing public response as tick boxes can be analysed by computers but they do not give very much space for our reasons to agree or disagree. If you want to say 'yes but only under certain conditions' a tick box cannot take account of that! The Society accompanies tick box consultation papers with a letter giving reasons, alternatives and what we hope are constructive criticisms and we would advise members to do the same.

Two big outstanding issues are the HGV and warehouse base planned for Pyestock, which the ever-diligent SPLAT group has challenged in the High Court and, at last notice, is to be heard in May, and the appeal into TAG Aviation's plans to increase their aircraft movement limit from 28,000 to 50,000 per year. With this would come increases in annual weekend movements from 5,000 to 8,900 and thus more noise and disturbance to our weekends in the garden. Alongside these hovering threats to our quality of life is the Rushmoor Borough Council's Core Strategy and Airport Area Action Plan in which they are considering, among a lot of other issues, removing aircraft movement limits altogether in favour of a noise limit. Since noise limits are based on averages they take no account of the frequency in which aircraft fly over your home, the main disturbance element of aircraft activity.

Queen Elizabeth Barracks (QEB) had been quiet for some months but has returned with a new proposal from developers Taylor Wimpey. This time they are consulting local people about the proposals before submitting an application which is a very welcome change of tactic. They are also asking for ideas on what community facilities local people feel are most needed to serve not just the new houses but the existing adjacent residential areas. This has allowed us to raise again the need for more school places and particularly lack of capacity for secondary education. We must watch closely how they propose to manage the traffic that will be generated and if the long-awaited junction improvement at the Redfields Lane/A287 junction will be addressed this time.

Having experienced the public fury over proposals to close car parks along the Bourley Road, this no longer forms part of the QEB plans. Those who enjoy the freedom to walk the Defence Estates' lands will be pleased about

Photo from Ken Blockwell



**Photo of QE Barracks taken in July 2004**

this but their delight might be short-lived. These DE lands are all Special Protection Areas under the European Bird Directive. The Directive requires measures to be put in place to control and reduce human disturbance to rare and endangered ground nesting birds and the DE might still be required to reduce capacity at the existing parking areas. Don't crack open the champagne yet.

Looking back through my diary for 2009 it is very clear how much I have relied on our committee to attend meetings, formulate written reports and responses and generally keep Fleet & Church Crookham Society active in the important local issues and debates. My time

has been increasingly taken up under my other hat as chairman of Fleet Pond Society. The Pond, as you will know from my previous utterances, is badly silted. Fleet Pond Society has decided we must launch a major awareness and fund raising campaign to try to save the Pond from deteriorating into a large boggy woodland with lots of shallow muddy pools for the mosquitoes but little else of value to wildlife and people. This will take more of my time in 2010 and beyond. If members decide to re-elect me as chairman of Fleet & Church Crookham Society at our next AGM this **must** be my last year. I already feel I am unable to allocate the time to FCCS that the Society needs and deserves.

That the committee has been so active and determined to make a mark in local issues deserves special thanks. We have become known on a wider circuit of discussion groups, local authority and local service committees and, despite a rather modest level of membership, they listen to our views. Our committee is a keen and dedicated team and the Society has a stronger voice because of them.

We would have an even stronger voice if we had a larger membership so please talk to neighbours and friends and persuade them to give us their support.

**Colin Gray**

## *We Will Remember Them*

For the first time in almost a decade there was a Remembrance Sunday parade through Fleet town centre, led by the Royal British Legion band from Farnborough. At the war memorial the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire the Earl of Malmesbury, Hart Chairman Cllr Sharyn Wheale, and local MP James Arbuthnot laid wreaths.

Members of the Executive Committee marched in the parade, and laid a wreath on behalf of the Fleet & Church Crookham Society. It was a very dignified and well-organised occasion, with a full church for the service beforehand.

As the parade walked up Fleet Road, many of the bystanders started walking along the pavement to join the parade at the memorial. Altogether, 28 wreaths were laid, accompanied by the band playing. When they struck up the National Anthem at the conclusion of the ceremony, everyone sang spontaneously.

The Prince Arthur PH kindly laid on free tea and coffee after the ceremony, which was very welcome in the cold winter afternoon. We feel that this is an event that we will include in our calendar in future years.



Photo from Stuart Bates

## Church Crookham Hart Health Walks

**Are you looking to take some gentle exercise? Would you like to meet other people? If so, the Church Crookham Hart Health Walk is for you!**

The Church Crookham Health Walk meets every Tuesday at Wickham Court sheltered accommodation, Wickham Road, Church Crookham at 11am at no cost.

Health Walks are approximately 50-minute walks aimed at people who would like to walk at a gentle pace in a safe and social setting. We encourage people who may be rehabilitating after an illness, who would like to begin to take gentle exercise or who would just like to walk as a social activity to meet people. We provide short walks for those who are less able and everyone can walk at their own pace with a trained leader always at hand to walk with you should you wish to go at your own pace.



them. Although I suffer from a bad knee, I am still able to do the full walks, although a shorter walk is always possible instead. It is an enjoyable couple of hours, and a chance to meet people.'

The Church Crookham walk is part of the Hart Neighbourhood Centre Hart Health Walk scheme. We currently have four walks a week across Hart, in Hook, Odiham and Hartley Wintney, as well as Church Crookham, with others due to launch in Yateley and Crondall this spring. We did have until recently a Fleet walk, but due to varying factors this has been temporarily postponed and will be relaunched from the new sheltered accommodation at Campbell Close next year.

The Hart Neighbourhood Centre is a charity based in Hook and is proud to be an accredited Healthy Walk scheme provider which is part of the 'Walking the way to Health Initiative'.

The walks are led by volunteer walk leaders; all leaders are given free full training and the support of the Hart



Neighbourhood Centre. Leaders lead on a rota basis so commitment from just one walk a month is all that is required. Local knowledge is not essential as all walks will be planned in advance.

We are looking to recruit walk leaders for all our walks now! To become a walk leader, no specialist experience is necessary, just a willingness to be involved and sociable.

The walks are free, and if you wish to join us please come along 10 minutes early and introduce yourselves to a walk leader – you can't miss them as they will be wearing the bright yellow tabards! Once you have registered at a walk you can come along to any of the walks as and when you wish. Please see the box (left) for details all Hart Health Walks, or please call Emma on 01256 760800 or e-mail [emma@hartnc.org](mailto:emma@hartnc.org) for any further information.

Photos from Hart Health Walks



Our Church Crookham walk is coming up for its first anniversary. We meet each week at Wickham Court and from there we are able to take advantage of lovely walks along the Basingstoke Canal and various footpaths. The group, as with all our walks, is a friendly, welcoming group of people of all different ages, from all different backgrounds and always welcomes new participants. We return to Wickham Court after the walk for a well-earned rest and a welcome cup of coffee.

One of our walkers says, 'I try to go to as many walks as I can as I thoroughly enjoy

### Hart Health Walks

**Hook:** every Monday (except bank holidays) 11am from the Hart Neighbourhood Centre

**Church Crookham:** every Tuesday, 11am from Wickham Court sheltered accommodation

**Odiham:** every Thursday 1.45pm from The Parish Rooms, Bridewell Centre

**Hartley Wintney:** every Friday (except bank holidays) 11am from Rosefield Court sheltered accommodation

Emma Barnard



Registered charity no: 1126242

## Local Clubs and Associations: Accessible Boating Association

The Accessible Boating Association (ABA) (formerly known as Boats for the Handicapped Association) was formed in 1985. We are a local registered charity (No. 295034). All our members give their time and expertise free of charge and are

dedicated to providing the opportunity for people whose physical/mental disabilities would otherwise prevent them from the relaxing pleasure of canal cruising.

Administratively we are based in Fleet, we have a committee of nine and an overall membership of approximately fifty. We currently operate two specially designed boats named 'Madam Butterfly' and 'Dawn' which ply the Basingstoke Canal (jointly owned by the Surrey and Hampshire County Councils) from our mooring base at Galleon Marina, Odiham.

The 'Madam Butterfly' was commissioned in July 1995, is a seven berth 63 foot narrowboat fully equipped for weekly (or more) hire with two lifts, gang plank specially designed for wheelchairs, central heating, full cooking facilities, bed linen, crockery, TV and radio, disabled persons shower and toilet facilities and a hospital-type bed with adjacent berth for a carer. In the boating world 'Madam Butterfly' has an international reputation resulting in bookings from many countries as well as all over the UK. These hirings are mostly taken by families with disabled members who had not previously enjoyed the opportunity of either accompanying and/or fully sharing a family holiday together.

The 'Dawn' was commissioned in April 1999, is a 33 foot long by 13 foot beam self-drive day boat taking a maximum of twelve people each trip including up to six wheelchaired



passengers. It is equipped with a lift to a spacious lower deck seating twelve people, a gang plank specially designed for wheel chairs, central heating for cold occasions and windows that can be rolled up to give plenty of fresh air on warm days, full toilet facilities

for disabled persons and basic cooking facilities. The 'Dawn' goes out every day – sometimes twice – from the start of the season at Easter through to the end of October. The main customers for the 'Dawn' come from day and residential care homes, hospices and individual families with disabled members from all over southern England and also Rushmoor Rotary Club who sponsor local clubs etc and hire the boat directly for that purpose. Some of these organisations will hire the boat three times in a season.



Photos from Accessible Boating Association

ABA is also a registered training centre for the National Boating Community Association and is qualified to train aspiring canal boat handlers to national standards. Amongst these are the Rushmoor Rotary Club to whom we give annual 'refreshers', all of which we do free of charge.

Without labour costs to consider we deliberately only charge hirers a token fee which is within their modest budgets but which covers our fuel costs, mooring fees, etc. Adopting this policy enables the ABA charity to achieve its objective, that is to provide a leisure outlet for those less fortunate than ourselves who would otherwise be prevented because of their disabilities from doing so.

**Tony Carter, Chairman**  
Tel: 01252 615785



## Snow comes to Fleet!



Linkway, Fleet



A snowy Fleet Pond

The snowfall we had in December and January may be distant memory now, but here's a reminder of how Fleet and Church Crookham looked in the first week in January.

Fleet featured in coverage in newspapers and news websites around the world – including the *New York Times*!

Thanks to Exec Committee members for sharing their photos.

The New York Times

January 5, 2010



Andy Rain European Pressphoto Agency  
TWITTER  
 SIGN IN TO RECOMMEND

A train station in Fleet, Hampshire, on Wednesday.

Fame on the *New York Times* website



Volunteers feed the cattle on the SPA



A volunteer work party at Fleet Pond



Reading Road South

Photos from the Executive Committee

## CSI – Civic Society Initiative: Civic Voice

Members might recall that the Civic Trust, umbrella body for the country's civic societies, went into liquidation in 2009. There followed a campaign to save the close network between civic societies that the Trust had established. This was the CSI. Assessment of the need for a sustainable staffing level and funding to continue the work that the Trust had maintained showed that the new organisation would need around £350,000 income per annum. There was then a consultation process on how this would affect the civic societies in terms of the annual facilitation fee in order to retain access to the help and advice, knowledge and experience of the CSI staff.

After consulting member societies, it was decided that the new organisation should be called **Civic Voice**.

It was decided that a fair way of meeting the administration and advisory costs would be to levy an affiliation fee based on the number of members in each society to be set at £2.00 per member. This would be affordable by the larger societies with a strong financial base and activity that included fund raising. For FCCS however £2.00 per member would be almost half our annual income, leaving inadequate funds for our activities. One option would be to increase our annual subscription by £2.00 per household, but would this be justified when all this would go to the new organisation? **Civic Voice** gives the following benefits to affiliated societies:

1. A voice lobbying and campaigning on the national policies and issues that you can't change locally.
2. Use of the logo of the new national body and the authority and recognition from saying you are a member.
3. A profile raised by a higher media profile for the movement.
4. Access to tailored information bulletins and a lively website.



5. Information about what other civic societies are doing and opportunities to meet and debate with them.
6. Guidance on where to find support on issues like fundraising, finding volunteers and addressing legal questions.
7. Members of member civic societies will be offered a free day access pass to the National Trust (worth up to £14) and if you are already a member this can be given to a friend or relative who isn't.
8. Access to the tailored insurance policy provided by Bluefin.
9. Members of member civic societies will be able to take out personal health insurance and household/motor/pet/travel insurance with Bluefin at good rates and this will financially benefit your local society.
10. More attractive to new members because you will offer more for your membership.

In all this you will become part of a wider movement championing the importance of the places where we all live.

The benefits include some attractive elements, but are they of sufficient value to Fleet & Church Crookham Society members for us to increase membership fees by £2.00? Your Executive Committee feels we should give the new organisation the chance to settle in and demonstrate that the service provided would justify an increase for the purpose of continued affiliation with **Civic Voice**. Our existing financial resources can bear the affiliation fee for the first year.

Your views would be welcomed on whether an increase in our £5.00 annual subscription to possibly £7.00 or £7.50 would be acceptable, given that a proportion would pay for **Civic Voice** annual affiliation fee.

Colin Gray

## ***Society's View on a Vision for Fleet Town Centre***

***The Fleet Vision is a project looking at the long-term strategic development of the town centre. It seeks to establish a blueprint for the future development of the town and will act as a guideline for future planning applications. Once it is finalised, the Fleet Vision will be formally adopted by Hart District Council and will become part of the statutory legal framework for planning. It will also impact on any future investment in the town.***

***Members of the committee attended a public exhibition about the Vision held in December, and following this the Chairman wrote the following letter to the Council. We thought it would be of interest to members to reproduce it in full in this newsletter.***

To: Mr Viv Evans  
Hart District Council

Re: A Vision for Fleet Town Centre –  
Comments on behalf of the Fleet &  
Church Crookham Society



We refer to the recent 'Vision for Fleet Town Centre' public consultation that was undertaken in December 2009 that included a public exhibition illustrating a number of suggestions for the future development of Fleet's town centre. Whilst individual members of our Society will doubtless wish to use the Public Consultation Questionnaire to comment on the topics listed in that questionnaire, as a Society we would like to make a number of specific comments, for example, regarding the suggestions for the future of the land at and adjacent to Gurkha Square and to the buildings and facilities presently located thereon.

But first, we would make a more general comment. The Vision puts forward specific proposals in the form of ideas or suggestions. The Society believes it would have been better if an initial public consultation had been undertaken in order to establish the aspirations of both residents and businesses for the future of the town. Such information could have been used to inform the preparation of the proposals that could then have been the subject of further public consultation.

The Society also feels that the scope of the study does not go wide enough. The present study is essentially limited to land adjacent to Fleet Road that extends only as far as Church Road. We believe the land further along Fleet Road as far as Kings Road should have been included. Sites such as the BT site and the empty offices sites are, we feel, important to the future vision of Fleet and probably provide much better opportunities for enhancing the facilities in the town. The Town Health Check that we have undertaken has confirmed that residents have expressed a strong desire for a cinema, a department store and a wider range of shops and markets. The commercial viability of such would, of course, need to be established.

We note the suggestion that the current Council offices might be demolished on the grounds that they are too big for the Council's needs, noting, for example, that the Council has considered mothballing the top floor. We feel it would appear to be a severe waste of money for this imposing building to be demolished. We would suggest that its conversion to flatted development would be preferable.

The Society would object strongly to the loss of the Harlington Centre unless any redevelopment of the properties adjacent to Gurkha Square was to include a large, multi-purpose community centre, with a full-time manager tasked with making much better use of the building for entertainment and community activity. The community centre must, we feel, remain facing onto Gurkha Square, such that it remains a focal point for the community.

It is our view that Gurkha Square exists as a central feature within the entertainment centre for the town and that it should remain as such. While the Society favours use of Gurkha Square as a community gathering amenity rather than a car park, the lost car parking must be found close by. A double storey car park on the current staff car park to the west of the Civic Offices would seem more appropriate than one at the Victoria Road car park.

The Gurkha Square open space would be maintained as a centre for the community if all the community facilities were to be faced onto this open area. These would include the Library, an enhanced community hall and The Point Youth Centre. It is doubtful that the building of residential flatted development facing into this central gathering space would be appropriate and could be avoided by use of the Civic Offices, as suggested above, for residential conversion. Council services retained in Fleet could be located above The Point and Library buildings.

Since the Vision includes redevelopment of properties not owned by the Council e.g. W C Bakers, Prince Arthur PH, it would seem unlikely these property owners would be willing to sell and compulsory purchase would be a very expensive option. We feel it would be better if use was to be made of existing district and county owned properties and if privately owned properties were omitted from the Vision.

Regarding any future development of Fleet's town centre, the Society believes account needs to be taken of the proximity of community leisure areas close to the town centre, eg the Basingstoke Canal, Calthorpe Park.

We understand that some Victoria Road residents have expressed concern about the idea of a car park above the site of the current large car park. Should additional car parking be provided at the Victoria Road site, we believe these concerns could be partly avoided by building a part-subterranean car park which would lower the overall structure and reduce impact on residents.

Regarding the Hub idea, we think this would seem to be unnecessary. The new Gurkha Square would provide the same type of public space as the Hub and there are, of course, a number of other cafes in Fleet Road that provide places where people can meet. Further public consultation should establish what people want to see in the high street.

The Society favours the suggestions for creating the East and West Walks. However, the suggestion for the Walks does not seem to make best use of the opportunity since it does not relate to existing pedestrian routes behind Fleet Road and alongside the old Post Office building. The whole area is an opportunity that has been identified previously and could be linked with potential redevelopment proposals. Therefore, there are further opportunities here that need inclusion. As a general point, we feel that all community groups that take a wider interest in the town need to be fully consulted. These would, of course, include Fleet & Church Crookham Society and the organisations that are served by Hart Voluntary Action.

Regarding any suggestion to pedestrianise Fleet's high street, our Society doubts this would be an acceptable idea without a viable alternative route for traffic. A one-way system should be reconsidered as this would mean shops could continue to benefit from passing trade. However there is already too much traffic on Albert Street and the creation of an inner relief road is no longer possible. We believe it would be a good idea if other options to route through traffic were to be considered.

We consider that there was an advantage in having the skateboard park near The Point, as it meant all those who work with young people could be close together. Consideration should be given to relocating it to Calthorpe Park as part of an upgrading scheme for all facilities which could include a CCTV facility to ensure safety at a relocated skateboard facility. The Society would not want to see any further erosion of The Views open space. Some enhancements could be made in terms of more seating and flower borders, provided these enhancements would not restrict The Views from use for the Fleet Carnival, funfairs at bank holiday times or other events requiring a wide open space not available elsewhere in close proximity to the town centre. Moving the skateboard park further onto The Views would not be appropriate use of this valued open space.

Finally, we would like to reflect a concern by some local residents and others concerned at retaining important architectural buildings in Fleet with regard to the buildings close to the Church Road car park. A PCC minute had been passed by All Saints Church to support its listing as a historical asset. In addition, an attempt had been made to have the house named Alvecote in Church Road, LISTED and the buildings around it designated as historical assets. The Fleet Town Vision extends as far as the Church Road and there is concern about the potential effect of future development on the surrounding buildings. We feel the Vision needs to take account of these concerns. It is noteworthy that the North Fleet Conservation Area Character Appraisal and Management Proposals, following review, have recently been approved and should now provide more robust protection. Alvecote was identified as a building of note in the North Fleet Conservation Area's Character Appraisal. There is further historical information available through the archivist of the Fleet and Crookham Local History Group.

We hope that the feedback obtained as a result of the recent public consultation on the Fleet Town Centre Vision will serve to inform the further development of the Fleet Town Centre Vision that will command the support of a majority of our local residents and businesses. Our Society for its part will be ready to play its part in achieving this objective.

Yours sincerely  
**Colin Gray, Chairman**  
On behalf of the  
Executive Committee



## Frimley Park Hospital Trust: Five Years On

# Frimley Park Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

On 1 April 2005 Frimley Park Hospital became an NHS Foundation Hospital and invited local people to become Foundation Trust Members so that they could have a greater say in how the hospital was run. In support of this invitation, the Fleet & Church Crookham Society produced an article in our Spring 2006 Newsletter on how to become a Foundation Trust Member, and enclosed an application form with each copy of the Newsletter. At that time the Trust had recruited 6,600 members, and hoped to reach 7,300 by the end of 2006. How things have progressed in 5 years! At one of the Trust's regular public meetings held in Fleet on 20 January 2010, a representative of the Trust's Board of Governors proudly announced that the membership had reached 14,400. This is more than double the number in Spring 2006, and represents 3.25% of the Trust's patient catchment area of nearly half a million people and well above the required level of 2%.

There are certain benefits in becoming a member of the Trust, as those who are already members will know. To begin with there are the regular newsletters. These contain a wide range of informative articles about the hospital and its activities. From time to time the Trust

such as the one on 20 January given by Dr Peter Clarkson, Consultant Cardiologist.

Dr Clarkson started his presentation at a packed meeting at the Lismoyne Hotel, Fleet, by saying that it was nice to see so many familiar faces! He then went on to give a presentation about coronary angioplasty and stenting in 2010, supported by several slides of coronary arteries both before and after the medical procedures.

He explained the angiogram technique (which provides an x-ray picture of the heart to show where the arteries have narrowed), and the angioplasty treatment (which improves the blood supply through an artery by inserting a short tube called a stent). The presentation included the developments that had already taken place in the cardiology department, and the hospital's ambitions for the future.

After the presentation Dr Clarkson responded to many questions and comments from an audience who had obviously appreciated such a fascinating and reassuring talk. The Chairman of the Trust, Sir Mike Aarson, also addressed the meeting.

A closer bond between the Trust and the people it serves must surely be formed when the consultants who actually carry out the medical procedures take a break from their busy routines, as Dr Clarkson did, to explain things to an audience of Trust members. Such presentations are an excellent example of what membership of the Frimley Park Hospital Trust is all about.



**Presentation by Dr Peter Clarkson, Consultant Cardiologist, at the Lismoyne Hotel**

**Stuart Bates**

seeks the views of members via surveys, such as the recent questionnaire about visiting times. This gives members the opportunity to make their views known before decisions are taken.

Another significant benefit of Trust membership is the issue of invitations to attend constituency meetings at which presentations are made by the Trust's consultants and staff,

Foundation Trust Office email:  
[foundation.trust@fph-tr.nhs.uk](mailto:foundation.trust@fph-tr.nhs.uk)  
Tel: 01276 526801

## ***Farnborough Airport and the Farnborough Aerodrome Consultative Committee (FACC)***

### **Update on the Plans for the Future of Farnborough Airport**

It has been another busy season with regard to proposals for Farnborough Airport. On 11 November the latest TAG Aviation planning application was considered by the Development Control Committee at Rushmoor Borough Council (RBC). TAG had applied to increase overall flight movements from 28,000 up to 50,000 movements per year. As you can imagine this was met with strong local public opposition from residents, who are finding the current level of movements disturbing and who fear that the detrimental effects of any increase will not be suitably controlled or mitigated.

The whole meeting was dedicated to this one application and public turnout was high, despite the meeting also being broadcast via the internet. After careful consideration and representations from members of the public and local representative groups, as well as from supporters for the TAG application, the committee decided by a decisive majority vote to refuse the application. In fact, the FCCS were one of the groups that made representation to the committee to urge them to refuse the application on grounds of lack of convincing evidence of adequate mitigation for the impact on the amenity of local residents and on safety related grounds.

There was relief that RBC had listened to local people and we all waited to see how TAG would respond. Not surprisingly, TAG has made a formal appeal to the Planning Inspectorate and there is now to be a 7 week Planning Inquiry in public at the RBC offices, starting on 18 May 2010. The FCCS intends to apply to speak at that appeal, to represent local people who feel strongly that this increased level of flight movements will cause detrimental impact on their quality of life, and alongside that there are factors of safety that have not yet been explained. The applicant has suggested that the Public Safety Zone (PSZ) can remain the same size for an 87% increase in flight movements, but has not explained how this can be done. I think that we will have some long days sitting in on the appeal; it will be an interesting few weeks during the summer...

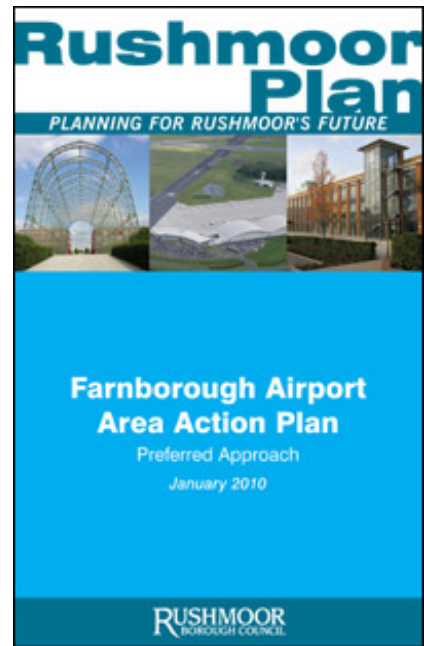
Meanwhile, RBC is also progressing with plans for the future development of the local area through the Local Development Framework (LDF), which includes its Core Strategy and Farnborough Airport Area Action Plan (FAAAP). At the start of this year there

was a 6 week public consultation on the LDF, the first of a series.

Alarming just a few weeks after the refusal to allow the planning application to increase flight movements at Farnborough, RBC debated and decided on preferred options for the Core Strategy and FAAAP

which included the removal of the overall annual flight limit constraint at the airport, voting to favour of the mitigation of flight impact by 'other' measures. The Society's committee was so concerned by this proposal that we made a statement to the decision-making Cabinet meeting in mid-December to ask them to reconsider this option. We believe this preferred option to remove the annual flight limit was not justified and may even jeopardise RBC's defence at the forthcoming planning appeal. In reply the Chief Executive Officer at RBC made effort to reassure the Cabinet members that this was not a problem and they were entitled to propose this preferred option without risk.

RBC has now carried out its consultation, which included this preferred option (the deadline ended at the end of February). FCCS sent in a detailed comment to the consultation, with particular objection to the lifting of the annual movement limit as the Society is not convinced that 'other' measures will provide suitable or effective constraints. I have to say that I am not as convinced as the CEO for RBC that the legal representative for TAG will not make as much of this mixed message from RBC as he can, at the appeal hearing. He will inevitably try to persuade the Planning Inspector that RBC is inconsistent and unreasonable to refuse planning application to increase flight movements while proposing to do away with the same restriction just a few weeks later. We will have to wait to see what happens at the appeal, with some anxiety.



**TAG Aviation telephone complaint/enquiry line: 01252 526001**

Anyone who has concern about a particular flight, the direction, height, noise or timing should ring this number to register their concern. The complainant must provide their name and address to receive a written explanation, as well as details of their concern, time, date and description. This line is serviced by an answer phone out of office hours.

TAG has now also introduced a new contact system for e-mail:

**[complaints@tagfarnborough.com](mailto:complaints@tagfarnborough.com)**

Complaints received will be recorded and reported in the same way as for the telephone complaint line; however, it will allow for quicker responses to be submitted by return of email.

It is important that people notify TAG of their concerns so that this data can be recorded and reported. It is part of their agreement with the local planning authority that they keep track of public concern.

**Farnborough Aerodrome Consultative Committee (FACC)**

It was clear from the reports at the last two FACC meetings that there has been a drop in flight operations at the airport, explained by the impact of the recession. The annual flight movement level has dropped from 25,504 in 2008, to 22,758 for 2009 (following 21,365 in 2006 to the peak level of 26,507 in 2007).

Meanwhile, the number of heavy flight movements has been gradually increasing, year on year, up to 500 in 2009, although this is still only a third of the annual flight movement limit permitted for the heavy 50–80 tonne aircraft. It should also be noted that the weekend flight limit is also increasing and has almost reached the new maximum level of 5,000 flight movements per annum. Alarmingly most of the flights that generate complaints from local residents at weekends have been given permission by Air Traffic Control to abandon noise abatement procedures. This is really concerning as this is happening at current levels of flight movements. It goes to show that the airspace around Farnborough is very busy at weekends, even during the winter months which are generally much quieter. Such a significant number of disturbing flights being given permission to fly over residential areas is simply not acceptable to local residents. This is usually explained because there were other flights in the area that the pilot needed permission to avoid, so they are given permission by ATC to abandon noise abatement procedures on safety grounds. This begs the question as to what impact there would be if TAG were to be given permission to increase numbers of flight movements, which

would include a proportional increase in weekend flights too.

The Chief Executive of TAG also announced that work had started in preparation for the next Farnborough Airshow, and is being arranged to take place in July. The report they had received from the organisers was that they were hoping for an even more successful event than their last Airshow event in 2008, which had itself been noted as their most successful year to date.

**Quiet Flying Programme (QFP)**

We still have not seen any real progress on work to make sense of the noise measurements for the trial movements to compare the southern route and normal flight path route for departures on runway 024 over Church Crookham and Ewshot. These were taken during the Autumn of 2008. We hope this work will be done in time for the next meeting in May.

The three local interest group representatives, including one for the FCCS, had not agreed that the QFP report that was published in March 2009 could be used to seemingly support TAG's planning application for more flights. They have sent a letter to the Planning Inspectorate to make that clear, especially as there are no clear conclusions that can be drawn from the results as they have not yet been properly analysed.

At the QFP meeting in December the new Manager of Air Traffic Control at Farnborough Airport, Dan Foster, was introduced to the group. He has experience of introducing expanded controlled air space at Bristol Airport, and this seems to be a project that TAG is seriously considering for Farnborough Airport too. It is currently completing a Scoping Report with regard to considering expanding controlled air space at Farnborough but it was noted that this would not be an easy task due to the complexity of airspace in this area. If TAG were to follow this up by a formal application to expand controlled air space it would be a costly and lengthy task, with no guarantee of success. However, it may help to enable more control of flight movements and therefore the chance to reduce noise impact for residents. It was also said that it should help to improve flight safety and overall impact on the local environment.

It was also agreed at the last meeting in December that new trials will be started on new flight routes for helicopters and these are expected to start shortly. The new flight routes should allow helicopters to approach the airport at reasonably high altitudes, along known noisy routes, such as along the motorway or other



busy roads, and then make a quick descent to three landing sites. It is hoped that these new procedures will be effective, but helicopter flights only apply to 5% or less of the overall flight movements at the airport.

The next QFP meeting has been arranged for early May.

### Next FACC Meeting

FACC meetings, which are open to the public, are held 3 times a year, in March, July and November. The next scheduled meeting of the Committee will take place on 1 July at 2pm at the Park Centre BAE Systems. The FACC also provide an informative website [www.facc.org.uk](http://www.facc.org.uk).

Please feel free to contact me if you have any issues or questions that you would like to be raised at future FACC meetings.

**Jenny Radley**

Tel: 01252 628751; [jenny@jradley.com](mailto:jenny@jradley.com)

## Fleet & Church Crookham Town Health Check

The final results and report from the Town Health Check survey are nearing completion. All questions have been analysed and a schedule of responsibilities and actions is being completed. The draft report will soon be posted on the FCCS website for public comment prior to publication of the final report. The results of the study are very interesting and they will help to understand people's aspirations for the area. The information will be particularly useful to the newly formed parish councils and we hope they will put the information to good use.

The topics included in the study cover a wide range of issues including the countryside and public spaces, the town centre, transport, housing, youth, local public services, sports and health.

Although some topics have predictable answers, for example people's like for the

natural environment around us and the dislike of development pressures, the answers have quantified this and put it in context. Also some results are surprising such as the strength of support for bus services and cycling. Most people who comment about housing also comment about the lack of infrastructure.

The report has taken longer to produce than expected for several reasons, not least the size of the task. However, with the formation of the parish councils it is very timely. The production of Town Health Checks normally is done by parish councils and they will have a document which they can refer to from day 1.

If anyone would like to help with the final stages please contact me.

**Andrew Macallan**

[macallan@ntlworld.com](mailto:macallan@ntlworld.com); Tel: 01252 668076

**From the archive...**the Society once again opens the dusty vault containing the minute books and archives of the Society going back to the first committee meeting on 16 December 1961.

20 years ago: **Colin Gray** accepts nomination for Hon Secretary at the AGM of 27 February 1990 (and is now the Society's longest serving committee member). Well done Colin!


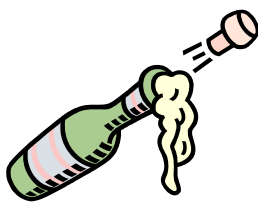

Coincidentally, at the same meeting, **Dr David Fearn** was first nominated as committee member, and later became Chairman of the Society until his untimely death in 2007.

Colin first appears in the minute book in October 1986, under the pseudonym of Colin Grey (with an 'e'). It was not until March 1988 that the minute book correctly spells Gray (with an 'a').

Previously, **Brigadier Montague Champion-Jones**, was the longest service committee member of 22 years, being first elected in 1962, shortly after the Society was formed, until moving out of the area in February 1984. Brig Champion-Jones was Chairman for many years and later became President. A Google search reveals that a Major M. Champion-Jones from the Royal Engineers was captured during the war and was held at the Colditz camp from August 1941 until March 1943, only to be recaptured in June of the same year.

## Fleet & Church Crookham Society Activities October 2009 – March 2010

Note: Attendances at routine meetings are not reported below, e.g. the meetings of the Planning Advisory Group, the Planning Committee of Hart DC, and six-weekly Society Committee meetings, and monthly Planning Group meetings of NE Hampshire CPRE.

- |              |  |  |                         |  |                         |
|--------------|--|--|-------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| 15 October   | <b>Curtis Court Exhibition.</b> FCCS represented by Jenny Radley.  |   | Photo from Stuart Bates |  |                         |
| 20 October   | <b>Hart District Council Scrutiny Committee meeting with South West Trains.</b> Society represented by John Pearson, who raised the Society's concerns about vehicle and cycle parking at Fleet Station (see last issue). At the meeting, Network Rail agreed to attend these twice-yearly meetings and Cllr Crookes announced he would set up a working group to address the parking issue at Fleet station, having noted our recent letter. South West Trains confirmed plans to install additional secure cycle storage capacity. |  |                         |  |                         |
| 30 October   | <b>FCCS newsletter delivered to all life members of the former Fleet Residents' Association</b> with a second invitation to become life members of the FCCS. 61 households have accepted the invitation.   |  |                         |  |                         |
| 8 November   | <b>Remembrance Sunday Procession,</b> Fleet. FCCS represented by Gillian Wain and John Pearson (see page 3).   |  |                         |  |                         |
| 9 November   | <b>Hart Voluntary Action meeting.</b> FCCS represented by Stuart Bates, and a presentation on Fleet Pond was given by Colin Gray.  |  | Photo from Stuart Bates |  |                         |
| 10 November  | <b>Hart Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) Housing Theme Group meeting.</b> FCCS represented by Jenny Radley.   |  |                         |  |                         |
| 11 November  | <b>Rushmoor Borough Council Development Control Committee meeting</b> on TAG's planning application to increase flight movements. Jenny Radley made a statement to the committee to oppose TAG's application (see page 11).  |  |                         |  |                         |
| 12 November  | <b>FCCS membership reaches 200 households</b> – much celebrating! (Membership stands at 214 households at time of going to press.)   |  |                         |  |                         |
| 19 November  | <b>Fleet Festivities marshals' briefing,</b> attended by Colin Gray and John Pearson on behalf of FCCS.  |  |                         |  |                         |
| 25 November  | <b>Fleet Festivities marshal duties</b> performed by Colin Gray, John Pearson and Jenny Radley on behalf of FCCS.  |  |                         |  |                         |
| 26 November  | <b>Hart District Council Full Council meeting</b> attended by Colin Gray, who gave a presentation on Fleet Pond.   |  |                         |  |                         |
| 30 November  | <b>Farnborough Aerodrome Consultative Committee meeting.</b> FCCS represented by Jenny Radley.   |  |                         |  |                         |
| 1 December   | <b>Hart and Rushmoor Passenger Transport Forum.</b> FCCS represented by Jenny Radley and John Pearson. Matters covered included a presentation by South West Trains on improvements at Fleet station, a presentation from Hants County Council on the pressures facing key transport services, and revised bus and train timetables.   |  |                         |  | Photo from Stuart Bates |
| 2 December   | <b>Hart LSP Housing Theme Group Tour.</b> FCCS represented by Jenny Radley, who joined the tour of Rural Exception sites.  |  |                         |  |                         |
| 3 December   | <b>Hart District Council Cabinet meeting,</b> attended by Colin Gray. At this meeting the Basingstoke Canal Conservation Area Review was discussed. Furthermore, plans were revealed to sell three small areas of open space (in Durnsford Avenue, Elizabeth Drive and Netherhouse Court) to an affordable housing agency. (For the FCCS's response to this, see entry on 17 December.)  |  |                         |  |                         |
| 4 December   | <b>Quiet Flying Programme meeting</b> for Farnborough Airport. FCCS represented by Jenny Radley.   |  |                         |  |                         |
| 4–5 December | <b>Fleet Vision Exhibition</b> in Fleet, attended by most members of the FCCS Committee (see pages 2 and 8).   |  |                         |  |                         |
| 15 December  | <b>Tour of Farnborough Airport</b> for FCCS members.   |  |                         |  |                         |
| 15 December  | <b>Rushmoor Borough Council Cabinet meeting.</b> Jenny Radley makes representation to RBC Cabinet regarding preferred option paper for Core Strategy that proposes to remove the overall flight movement limit at Farnborough Airport. Cabinet decided to publish anyway (see page 11).  |  |                         |  |                         |
| 17 December  | <b>Response to HDC's proposal to sell three small areas of open space</b> (in Durnsford Avenue, Elizabeth Drive and Netherhouse Court) to an affordable housing agency. Letter sent to HDC by Colin Gray on behalf of the FCCS to object to this proposal.   |  |                         |  |                         |

- 21 December **Response to consultation proposals for car parking in Fleet Road.** Letter sent to Stilwell Partnership (conducting the consultation on behalf of HDC) by Colin Gray on behalf of the FCCS to comment on the proposal.
- 7 January **Hart District Council Cabinet meeting** included the decision on the sale of three small areas of open space to an affordable housing agency. The sale of space at Elizabeth Drive and Netherhouse Court was approved, but space at Durnsford Avenue was withdrawn from sale.
- 12 January **Hart LSP Housing Theme Group meeting.** FCCS represented by Jenny Radley.
- 20 January **Site visit for new Queen Elizabeth Barracks (QEB) development proposals.** FCCS represented by Colin Gray and Jenny Radley, who joined the site tour.
- 20 January **Presentation on new QEB development proposals,** attended by Jenny Radley and Andrew Macallan.
- 21 January **Hart Local Strategic Partnership.** FCCS represented by Stuart Bates.
- 25 January **Hart Voluntary Action meeting.** FCCS represented by Stuart Bates.
- 26 January **Hart District Council Scrutiny Committee meeting with Thames Water/Environment Agency.** Local sites of flooding concern in the district were discussed by interested parties. Society represented.
- 29–30 January **Hart District Council Budget Roadshow.** FCCS represented by Jenny Radley.
- 1 February **HDC Fleet Urban Characterisation Roadshow** in Fleet. FCCS represented by John Pearson.
- 1 February **Presentation on Grove Farm proposals for SHLAA.** FCCS represented by Jenny Radley.
- 2 February **Old Peoples' Welfare meeting.** FCCS represented by John Pearson.
- 5 February **Hart Road Safety Council meeting.** FCCS represented.
- 21 February **Response to consultation on the Vision for Fleet Town Centre.** Letter sent to HDC by Colin Gray on behalf of the FCCS Committee (see page 8).
- 22 February **Fleet Carnival Association EGM.** FCCS represented by Colin Gray.
- 26–27 February **Presentation on new QEB development proposals,** attended by the majority of the FCCS committee.
- 28 February **Response to RBC Core Strategy and Farnborough Airport Area Action Plan consultation.** Letter sent on behalf of the FCCS by Jenny Radley.
- 3 March **Hart District Parish Planning Forum meeting,** which included a presentation on the Local Development Framework. FCCS represented by Colin Gray.
- 4 March **Farnborough Aerodrome Consultative Committee meeting.** FCCS represented by Jenny Radley.
- 4 March **First public meeting for new Church Crookham Parish Council.** FCCS represented by Jenny Radley.
- 11 March **Hart Voluntary Action meeting,** including vetting & barring workshop. FCCS represented.
- 15 March **Response to Hart LDF Urban Characterisation and Density Study.** Letter sent on behalf of Society to HDC by John Pearson.



Queen Elizabeth Barracks

Photo from Ken Blockwell

## Local Health Matters

The Government has decided to allow patients to choose their GP practice, abolishing the current practice of having catchment areas for GP practices. This would allow patients to choose the practice which best suits their needs, eg one near their place of work, or one whose opening hours best suit their lifestyle. It is holding a public consultation about the best way to do this. You can take part in the consultation at [www.gpchoice.dh.gov.uk](http://www.gpchoice.dh.gov.uk). The closing date is 28 May.

The Hampshire Local Involvement Network ("the LINK") held its first AGM in Winchester in February. This was followed by a question and answer session with senior personnel from Hampshire health and social care services, covering topics such as ambulance waiting times, care in hospital, GP opening hours and respite for carers.

Additional NHS funding has been given to Elvetham Dental Centre allowing it to more than double its number of patients and that the dental centre has both the capacity and trained staff to take those patients. This is very good news for the people of Fleet, who have been complaining for a long time about the shortage of dentists and the difficulties of registering for NHS treatment. The decision to give extra funding was taken by Hampshire Primary Care Trust to reduce treatment waiting times in the area.

Judith Sutherland

## Diary of Forthcoming Events

Sat 10 Apr	Meet the local history detectives: advice and information about local history, 10am–12.30pm, Fleet Library <i>Also on Sat 17 April, Sat 24 April and Sat 1 May</i>
<b>Wed 21 Apr</b>	<b>Fleet &amp; Church Crookham Society AGM, 7.30pm, Crookham War Memorial Hall, Sandy Lane, Church Crookham</b>
Mon 3 May	Lions' Motorcycle Rally, Civic Offices car park, Harlington Way, Fleet
Thu 6 May*	Elections for new parish and town councils
Sat 22 May	International Biodiversity Day at Fleet Pond, 11am to 4pm. Guided walks, pond dipping and tree shaking for children, insects close up and through the microscope. For more information call Colin Gray 01252 616183.
Thu 1 Jul	Farnborough Aerodrome Consultative Committee meeting (see page 13), 2pm, Park Centre, BAE Systems, Farnborough
Fri 9–Sun 11 Jul	Fleet Carnival. Theme: World of Sport
Sat 14 Aug	Lions' Beer Festival, Ancell's Farm Community Centre, Fleet

\*Elections for new parish/town councils will take place on 27 May instead if a General Election takes place on 6 May

If there is no address label covering this box, you are almost certainly reading a complimentary issue of this bi-annual newsletter. If you would like to receive this newsletter on a regular basis, please apply for membership by visiting [www.fccs.org.uk/membership.html](http://www.fccs.org.uk/membership.html)



### Acronyms used in our newsletter

BC	Borough Council	PCT	Primary Care Trust
CC	County Council	QEB	Queen Elizabeth Barracks
DE	Defence Estates	SANGS	Sustainable Alternative Natural Green Space
FACC	Farnborough Aerodrome Consultative Committee	SINC	Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation
(H)DC	(Hart) District Council	SPA	Special Protection Area
LDF	Local Development Framework, which is currently being drawn up to replace the Hart District Local Plan	SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
(H)LSP	(Hart) Local Strategic Partnership	TAG	Farnborough Airport operating company
PAG	Planning Advisory Group [of Fleet & Church Crookham Councillors]	RBC	Rushmoor Borough Council

### FCCS Committee Contact Details

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<b>Secretary:</b>	Judith Sutherland
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Stuart Bates
<b>Executive Committee:</b>	Judy Armstrong, John Pearson
<b>Membership Secretary:</b>	Stuart Bates, Fleet 621141, email: <a href="mailto:membership@fccs.org.uk">membership@fccs.org.uk</a>
<b>Co-opted Members:</b>	Jenny Radley (FACC Representative), Fleet 628751, email: <a href="mailto:jenny@jradley.com">jenny@jradley.com</a> Phill Gower (Planning Matters), Fleet 624506, email: <a href="mailto:phill.gower@fccs.org.uk">phill.gower@fccs.org.uk</a> Andrew Macallan (Town Health Check)
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We welcome suggestions of topics for inclusion in this twice-yearly Newsletter, and events for listing in the diary. Please send contributions to [newsletter@fccs.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@fccs.org.uk) or phone Gillian Wain on Fleet 677536. We encourage members to receive the Newsletter by email instead of printed copy. Please let Membership Secretary Stuart Bates know if you would like to receive the Newsletter by email only.

*The views and comments expressed in this Newsletter are those of the contributor and not necessarily those of the Fleet & Church Crookham Society. Neither the authors nor the Society accept responsibility for any use to which the information contained in this Newsletter may be put.*