



**The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service**

The MBE for volunteer groups



A Christian organisation supporting
older people

FARNHAM ASSIST MAY 2021

Manager Update



This May newsletter has come out later than usual as we have a number of important updates to send out. This includes some dates where we are aiming for activities to return.

This will start slowly and with the intention of cautiously building, but will at least mean that we can begin to meet up again in some ways.

Activities Officer

The interview panel met earlier this week and I am pleased to say that a provisional offer has been made to a candidate and accepted. However, there are further checks and paperwork that will need to be undertaken before this can all be formally confirmed and announced and this will probably take a few weeks. As soon as this is completed, we will let you know along with the start date.

This role will be the initial lead for our various groups and activities as they begin to return. I hope to inform further in June's newsletter.

Activities returning

Trustees met earlier this week to consider our return to activities and I also met with our lead volunteers yesterday. We are currently working on the assumption that 21 June will see the end of restrictions or at least that there will be a further loosening. However, we know that the situation can change quickly and will be following Government guidance.

Our current thinking is therefore as follows: -

- *Pie & Pint* - To meet as a small group (less than 6) on 7 June and then restart as before on 21 June.
- *Ladies Lunch* - To restart on Monday 28 June and then Monday 26 July.
- *Knit & Natter* - To restart in early July
- *Befriending* – Ongoing but to consider phasing in home visits where client and volunteer agrees.
- *Hale & Central Lunches* - Aiming for a restart in September (Sunday 12th and Saturday 18th Sept for now)
- *Understanding Computers* - to be confirmed - possibly September
- *Outings* – No current plans but advertise seaside trips by others.
- *Praise & Worship in care Home visits and Silver Service* - No dates yet but perhaps September or October.

It must be stressed that there are significant issues that will need overcoming, such as minibus transport and reduced staffing hours from before the pandemic. Therefore, we may need to make some changes from how it was done before. These will be considered further and worked out over the coming weeks.

New Mayor of Farnham



I was absolutely delighted to attend the Mayor making Ceremony on Thursday 20 May along with Brian Kurton who is one of our trustees. The new Mayor is Cllr Alan Earwicker and he has very kindly announced that Farnham Assist will be one of his two charities for his mayoral year. Alan has been a great supporter and friend of Farnham Assist over many years and we are delighted to be working with the new Mayor over the next 12 months.

Waverley Borough Council update

Earlier this week, the Chair of Trustees and I had our Annual Review with officers from Waverley Borough Council. The Council provide around 20% of our funding at present as part of a Service Level Agreement.

Despite the obvious challenges to local government funding going forward, we were delighted to receive positive feedback in respect of the activities that we were able to provide during the pandemic. They also commented about the professional and positive nature of the Charity and that they had encouraged other organisations to use some of our Charity ideas going forward.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – STREET COLLECTION

On Saturday 12 June, we will be having a street collection day in Farnham. We are looking for volunteers who would be prepared to do an hour anytime between 9.30am and 3.30pm. Our

locations are outside Sainsburys, Boots and Elphicks.

This is a great opportunity to highlight the work of Farnham Assist to the wider public and of course raise funds which has been harder this year without events.

If you are able to help for an hour, please let me know by calling the office on 01252 717710 or emailing Rodney.Bates@farnham-assist.org.uk

Volunteers Week

The 1st to 7th June is Volunteers Week and this gives us a particular opportunity to thank all of our volunteers for the work that you do for the Charity. I know that many of you have missed the physical meeting up with others but it is your time in making phone calls, deliveries or other support that makes such a positive difference to the lives of others. **THANK YOU!!**

Diary Date

Sunday 25 July – Music in The Meadow Tea Tent between 1pm and 5pm.

We will be looking for volunteers to help with both of these events and I will send out more details nearer the time.

Future Volunteer Meetings

The next Volunteers Zoom meeting is planned for **Wednesday 9 June between 1pm and 2pm** with the Zoom link sent out next week.

RODNEY BATES – MANAGER

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