



Notice is hereby given that the 2020 Annual General Meeting of Farnham ASSIST will be held at Farnham Baptist Church, GU9 7HA on Monday 27th September 2021 beginning at 1015 (coffee served from 10am)

The Agenda for the meeting will be as follows:

1. To receive and accept any apologies for absence.
2. To approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2019 held remotely
3. To receive a report from the Chair of Trustees on the activities during 2020.
4. To present the independently reviewed accounts of Farnham ASSIST for the period to 31st December 2020.
5. To receive and respond to any questions raised by Members and other attendees.
6. To confirm the appointment of Independent Examiners Ltd as our Independent Examiner for the 2021 accounts.
7. To elect Directors for the forthcoming year. The following are proposed to be Directors for the coming year:-
 - Mrs Alexandra Burn
 - Rev. Sandra Clarke
 - Mrs Margaret Daniels
 - Mr Brian Kurton
 - Dr Mary Riggs
 - Mr Kenneth Wickenden
8. To confirm the appointment of Dr Mary Riggs as Chair and Mr Kenneth Wickenden as Treasurer for the forthcoming year.
9. To confirm the appointment of Mr Rodney Bates as Company Secretary.
10. To discuss any other business as notified to the Company Secretary at least 2 working days before the AGM (deadline being 5pm on 22nd September).

Following the formal business, Mr Rodney Bates will give a verbal update on the plans for 2022.

The Mayor of Farnham (Cllr Alan Earwaker) will then be invited to give concluding remarks as one of his Mayoral Charities for 2021/22 before closing the proceedings.



FARNHAM ASSIST

Chairman's Report for 2020

2020 was a very challenging year for Farnham Assist as all our planned activities were cancelled due to the lockdown.

As a board we had 2 main aims:-

1. To maintain contact and provide the maximum support we could to all our clients, especially those who were living alone.
2. To stay financially viable as a charity so that our work could go on as soon as the pandemic permitted.

I am pleased to report that both these aims were achieved by the dedication commitment and imagination of our manager, June Trantom, helped by our team of volunteers who pulled out all the stops.

Contact was maintained with clients by regular phone calls and deliveries of regular food gifts and imaginative "goodie bags" allowing doorstep contact and backed up by regular telephone contact coordinated by June.

Assist has stayed financially viable despite a lack of fundraising events by tough decisions. One member of staff had independently found another job which in retrospect was a blessing, but a second member had unfortunately to be furloughed and then made redundant. In addition, June offered to reduce her own hours to half time, to save us money. Our thanks go out to June and to all our supporters who have continued their regular financial support at this difficult time.

Finally, we are pleased to have recruited a new Manager, Rodney Bates to replace June on her retirement on 31.12.20 and welcomed him in November.

It was a really busy year for our trustees and I am grateful to all my colleagues for the time and effort given to keep our charity on the road.

Mary Riggs



FARNHAM ASSIST

A summary of 2020 from the Manager of Farnham ASSIST

As with all charities, this was a challenging year where lots of well-made plans had to be hastily changed. The pandemic meant that the popular ASSIST programme of activities and events and even the simple act of gathering together with friends and families would simply not happen for most of the year.

The first two months of 2020 involved the usual busy programme of lunches, pub visits and groups as people gathered throughout the winter. Unfortunately, these had to be stopped abruptly at the start of the pandemic and could not resume until 2021.

However, Farnham ASSIST with the wider family of volunteers and supporters adapted quickly into this changing world and continued to build relationships and contacts in new and innovative ways. Clients received regular phone calls, cream teas were delivered and some clients received practical help with their medication or shopping. The Charity was a key part of the wider community response to the pandemic within Farnham and this close partnership working remains today.

Whilst some charities had to hibernate for many months, the need for Farnham ASSIST was shown to be even greater. Many people across wider society experienced loneliness and isolation for the first time. We know from conversations from our clients that these were hard times but punctuated with moments of joy. The value of a kind word, a smile, a thoughtful phone call or encouraging card pushed through a letterbox was priceless. We were particularly pleased that around 20 of our clients were able to receive a Christmas Day meal lovingly cooked and delivered by kind families across Farnham and arranged by our friends at Right at Home.

As Farnham ASSIST is a wider family, it is important to note that a number of clients have sadly passed away during 2020. Whilst we mourn their loss, we were also uplifted when hearing from their families and friends at the fun and enjoyment they experienced with us during those twilight years.

Finally, a report on 2020 could not end without acknowledging the hard work and dedication of my predecessor, June Trantom, who retired on 31st December after several years as the Manager. Recognition and acknowledgement should also be given to Alison and Susie who left the charity during 2020 and to David who retired from his role as Trustee. We wish all of them well in their future endeavours and thank them for their time and commitment serving our older community in Farnham. I would also wish to record a public thank you to our volunteers that continued to support our clients throughout the challenges of 2020. The collective efforts of all those within Farnham ASSIST made a difference into the lives of many in the community.

Rodney Bates

Manager of Farnham ASSIST