

THE FARNSFIELD FLYER

THE FARNSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



MARCH 2023

From March 2023 we are trialling a new format for the Farnsfield Parish Council publication with a 'Council Matters' section edited by a member of the Council itself and a 'Community Matters' section edited by a volunteer from the community. We are scheduling a minimum of four editions a year with the 'Council Matters' sections focusing on specific areas of interest and the 'Community Matters' section providing a balanced view of community activities across the village. Additional special Council Matters issues may be added to the program where necessary.

Annual Council Communications Plan				
	Jan	April	May	September
Key newsletter focus	Works completed in past 12 months	Progress against key policies	Strategic plan update	Update on Parish council finances
Special issues as required to reflect major council initiatives				

Works Completed by Farnsfield Parish Council in the last 12 months

It is worth reminding ourselves that the first three years of the current Councils tenure were mainly concerned with carrying out much needed improvements to the Village Centre including: critical fire alarm and fire door upgrades, roof replacement, window replacement throughout the building, complete redecoration, addition of roller blinds, the replacement of carpets and the renewal of the upholstery to the lower hall fixed seating. These and other improvements, carried out across the village, were completed during a period in which the Covid 19 pandemic posed a significant barrier to progress. Nonetheless we now have a Village Centre which is one of the best in the area and offers excellent facilities to its users at a very competitive cost.

The last twelve months have been an exhausting period for Council staff and Councillors as they have fought to deliver existing services as normal and also deliver a stretching programme of improvements for the village. For a large village with many facilities, funds received from the tax precept are not high, our employed staff are part time, and our operations depends heavily on the goodwill and contributions of our body of Councillors.

The Council has worked to implement projects across the village but has necessarily focussed on those areas where it owns land and is able to influence the maintenance and provision of existing and additional public amenities. The largest project completed over the year saw the fruition of the new Hadleigh Park Play Area which has been widely acclaimed as a great success. One of the smallest projects listed is the replacement of broken tiles on the Lock-up roof which despite sounding simple to organise required sensitivity to ensure the architectural heritage of the building was maintained. Highlighted on the next page are improvements which have largely been facilitated by funding made available from housing developments across the village.

A significant amount of the work has required Councillors to dedicate time to planning projects, obtaining quotes, managing works and, in many cases, personally working to bring the projects to realisation. We set ourselves stretching targets and would have like to achieved more over the past year, sharing a frustration with residents that the Hadleigh Park car park extension, new football pavilion, and wheeled facility have not progressed at a faster pace. However, at a time of scarce resources we are mindful of our need to ensure all our projects are effectively planned, conform with relevant legislation, and take account of stakeholder needs across the village and all its special interest communities.

The Village Centre:

- New boiler specified and installed in lower hall
- Flooring in upper and lower halls stripped and refinished
- Long standing significant water leak resolved
- Upgrade of security system and enhanced WiFi
- Replacement of chairs in upper hall
- Replacement of lights in lower hall with energy efficient LEDs
- Rear fence repaired after storm damage



Around the Village:

- Organisation of jubilee lantern and New Hill street party
- Organisation of Hadleigh Park play area opening event
- Staging of annual outdoor Shakespeare event
- Operated the Tour of Britain decorated bike contest
- Installed poppies for Remembrance Day parade
- Christmas lamp-post lights introduced
- Noticeboards across village refurbished
- Broken tiles replaced on the Lock-up roof
- Double yellow lines added to increase road safety
- Vehicle speed check completed along Station Lane



Wilson's Field:

- MUGA refurbished and new lighting fitted
- Children's shelter refurbished and re-sited

Lady Goodwin Park:

- Instructions for use of fitness equipment installed
- Roundabout play surface replace



The East Side:

- Addition of commemorative plaques to area entrance
- Orienteering course prepared for spring launch
- Copses within Hadleigh Park improved
- Wildflower bund established around Hadleigh Park
- New playground seating and bins added to Hadleigh Park
- Story Glade and QR code story link installed on Hadleigh Park
- Extension of playground car park on Hadleigh Park progressed
- Disabled access path created from Parfitt Drive onto Hadleigh Park
- Damaged fencing along perimeter of Reynolds Field repaired
- Petanque lanes added to Reynolds Field for spring launch
- Installation of the wheeled facility on The Acres
- Junior football pitch installed and both The Acres pitches improved
- Defibrillator installed at the Acres Pavilion



Of course, many improvements have involved the efforts of many contractors and volunteers from outside and within our community, and we would like to thank everyone who has contributed to these projects, which are helping to create a vibrant and engaging village environment which will be a legacy for the village for many years to come. We would also like to thank sporting clubs including tennis, bowls and football, the allotment association and village centre users who care for and make effective use of Council provided facilities.

COMMUNITY

NEWS

COLLECTED BY: MAURICE SHAKESHAF

Voting News!

The Government has introduced a requirement for voters to show photographic identification when voting at a polling station at our local elections taking place on Thursday 4 May 2023.

You may already have a form of photo ID that is acceptable. You can use any of the following:

- Passport
- Driving licence (including provisional licence)
- Blue badge
- Certain concessionary travel cards
- Identity card with PASS mark (Proof of Age Standards Scheme)
- Biometric Immigration document
- Defence identity card
- Certain national identity cards

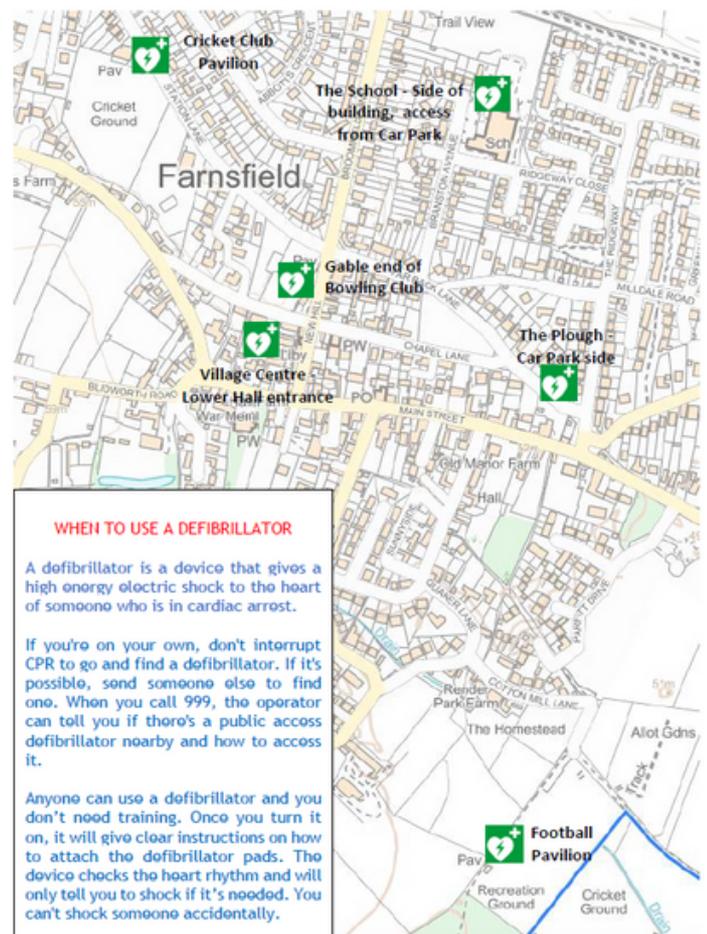
You can still use your photo ID if it's out of date, as long as it looks like you.

If you don't already have an accepted form of photo ID, or you're not sure whether your photo ID still looks like you, you can apply for a free voter ID document, known as a Voter Authority Certificate. You can apply for this at voter-authority-certificate.service.gov.uk

Alternatively, you can complete a paper application form by contacting voting@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk

THIS IS A MAP OF THE LOCAL PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE DEFIBRILLATORS IN FARNSFIELD

You must first call 999 to arrange for help. As well as guiding you through CPR, the call operator will be able to advise you if there is a defibrillator nearby. If there is, they will ask you to stay with the patient and continue CPR but ask someone around you to find the defibrillator.



WHATS HAPPENING IN FARNSFIELD

Tea at Two – Farnsfield Methodist Church, Chapel Lane. On alternate Mondays, 2-4 pm

March 6th and 20th, April 3rd and 17th, May 1st, 15th and 29th. £1 for tea/coffee/chat and nibbles.

Call annie on 01623 472455 to offer/request a lift or for more info.

·Play group – Farnsfield Methodist Church, Chapel Lane.

Baby Bops - Music and Movement Sessions for Babies

Every Wednesday morning (term time only) 10am Farnsfield Methodist Chapel £4 per Session.

www.beckysyson.co.uk/becky-bops



Toddle Bops - Music and Movement Sessions for Toddlers

Every Friday morning (term time Only) 9.30am Farnsfield Methodist Chapel £5 per Session.

www.beckysyson.co.uk/becky-bops

Farnsfield Cricket Club Acoustic Jam Session

Every second Friday of the month from 8pm FREE ENTRY all styles, abilities

and ages welcome. Non-members welcome. www.beckysyson.co.uk/singer-songwriter

Farnsfield Choir

Do you enjoy singing? Research has proven singing to be healthy for body & mind! Why not join us on Thursday nights at St. Michael's Church, Farnsfield 7.15-8.15pm? As well as performing at Church services and weddings the choir perform 2-3 concerts per year for the village. Concerts have included 'Jesus Christ Superstar', 'Phantom of the Opera', 'Les Misérables', the Queen's Platinum Jubilee', BBC Radio Nottingham's Christmas Carol Service at the White Post Farm & we're currently rehearsing a concert for the King's Coronation, May 4th, featuring folk songs from England, Ireland, Scotland & Wales. Jackie Smith 07763 776574

St Michaels School

Our school motto is: 'love to learn, learn to love'. Our mission is to instil a passion for learning in all our children; teaching them to work together and follow the commandment: 'love one another as I have loved you'.

As stated in our most recent SIAMS inspection, 'This is a school where lives are transformed because its vision and values enable pupils and adults to flourish.'

Please take a look at our school website to watch our welcome videos and find out more about our wonderful school. www.fsmp.org.uk/ourschool.

The Farnsfield St. Michael's Parent School Association (PSA) are interested in supporting the school in hosting the grand end of term Summer Fayre. However the PSA can't do this without you.

We're looking for a dedicated team of people to form the Great Summer Fayre committee. With the support

of the PSA, this team of volunteers will be responsible to planning and organising this summer event for the school.

If you're interested in being a committee member for this special event or you would like some further information on what's involved please drop the PSA an email. farnsfieldstmichaels-psa@hotmail.com



Royal British Legion

Following the RBL's centenary, 2022 was the year we focused on further developing the membership offer and started to establish the foundation for the future of membership to ensure we are ready for the next 100 years. We look forward to sharing more of this work with you later this year.

In 2023 we will continue our work on improving the membership experience.

Village events raised: Motown £260.96 + £320 stock, Xmas lights £119.00, New Year's Eve £559.02 + £400 stock.

Next event is 20th May 7pm-11.30pm

We thank all for a successful year, with help from Farnsfield Parish Council and the community. The Poppy Appeal will be the same as last year with the addition of Aldi supermarket at Mansfield.

The main RBL event this year will be similar to last year, on 18th July at Reynolds Field.

Farnsfield Allotments Association

There have been allotments in the village for many years, often on privately owned land and vulnerable to being closed down when the land was required for other purposes. Following the closure of the last site on Tippings Lane, the village was left without allotments until a group of residents asked our Parish Council to identify a new site in 2016. By 2017 we had started work on Reynold's Field, between Hadleigh Park and the Acres football ground.

It has been a challenge. The field is in the village flood zone and it can get very wet as the subsoil does not let much water through. In contrast, the topsoil is sandy and stony and can dry out very easily during hot dry weather. It is not all bad. The soil is fertile and we have access to water. We have 28 plots, many divided into two. All are occupied and cultivated with varying degrees of enthusiasm and success. All sorts of people are involved, it is not just for old men. We also have a community allotment and orchard area looked after by members who don't have time to manage a full plot, and a few people who are on our waiting list for a larger plot.

There is much to enjoy. Fresh air and exercise in a scenic part of the village, the company of other plot holders and passers-by and of course the pleasure of home grown fresh fruit and vegetables. It is a great place to observe nature. Some plot holders also donate excess produce to the food bank.

Although we have a long waiting list at the moment, we are always happy to talk to anybody who may be interested in joining us, either as a plot holder or as a community plot member. Contact information is on a small notice board by the pedestrian gate.

Farnsfield Local History Society (FLHS)

Farnsfield Local History Society was formed in 2002 to research and promote interest in the history of our village and its surroundings. We meet at 7.30 pm on the second Wednesday of the month in the lower hall of the village centre and offer a programme of talks, most with a local Nottinghamshire theme. In addition, we run trips to local places of interest and have two social events a year.

Our next meetings are:

8th March: AGM, followed by the 1950's film of Farnsfield made by Reverend Keith Frampton,

12th April: Friendly Societies. How they changed both our social and political life for ever, Bob Massey

10th May: To be confirmed, due to a speaker cancellation

14th June: A Thread in the web of Time. 18th century Cotton Mills in the Leen Valley of Nottinghamshire. Steven Walker

Annual membership costs £15 and runs from February each year. Non-members are very welcome at meetings for £3 payable on the door. Tea and coffee is included after the talk.

Further details can be found on our website along with historical documents, records and a fantastic archive of old photographs www.farnsfieldlhs.co.uk or from Gill Sarre secretary@farnsfieldlhs.co.uk

Inspiration - St Michael's Church Charity Shop

The Charity Shop on Main Street is an important place in the centre of the village!

We help support St Michael's Church and other charities. It is also the "go to" place for many people when they want bits and pieces not available in other village shops.

We rely on public donations and so sell a varying, wide range of useful and, often, high quality items for very reasonable prices. People regularly come from surrounding towns to see what is available. The window displays are a source of fascination for many people.

The shop is open five days each week - Tuesday to Friday from 10am to 4pm, and Saturday 10am to 3pm.

Donations are gratefully received whenever the shop is open but, please, don't leave items outside the shop when it is closed.

St Michael's Church

It's been a full and exciting start to the year at St Michael's Church. Our two Sunday morning services continue to develop well and it's been lovely to continue to welcome new faces and families into our church (alongside all the familiar faces too). People often comment about how welcoming and friendly they find church when they come on a Sunday which is always wonderful to hear. Our after-school church Connect (which meets on Thursdays at St Michaels school) has been great fun too and we are looking forward to another fun-filled 'Good Friday Trail' in the run up to Easter.

Alongside our existing events and activities, it's been great to see some new initiatives beginning to emerge too. Andy, our Children and Families Minister, has recently launched a new Toddler Group called Shining Stars which meets on Tuesday mornings in the Methodist church. This has been really well received so far and is a great thing to be able to offer to young families in our village and surrounding areas. The church has also been involved in setting up the Warm Hub network in Farnsfield and the Ark coffee morning (Fridays 10-12pm) continues to provide a warm and welcoming space for people to drop in as part of that.

A new 'Refugee Support Group' has begun to meet to discuss ways of supporting refugee families and their hosts locally, and we are also in the process of establishing a new 'Visiting Team' - a group of people from St Michael's who are available to visit people in their homes, either just for a chat and cuppa or to offer prayer, home communion, or other pastoral support. If this is something that you or someone you know may be interested in then please do be in touch.

Another area 'under development' is a new church website (www.stmichaelsfarnsfield.org) which should be up and running in the next month or two and will hopefully make it easier for people to keep up to date with all our services, events, and activities. We will keep you informed and let you know once it's all gone 'live' - in the meantime do keep an eye on our Facebook page, or if you'd like to join our mailing list then do get in touch and we'd love to link you in.

Finally, just to say, I remain hugely thankful to all those who give of their time, money, and skills to support the work of the church and Inspiration Charity Shop. It's a real team effort and I am very excited to see how things continue to develop in the time ahead and we continue to work together.

St Michaels Church
Priest in Charge
Reverend Chris Pearse
07505 963759
chris.pearse04@gmail.com
Children & Families Minister
Andy Proffitt
07942 943118
andy.w.proffitt@gmail.com



Weekly Sunday Services

St Michael & All Angels' Church, Farnsfield
PRAYING | SINGING | SERVING | GROWING

9.15am - Traditional Service
Alternating between Holy Communion (1st & 3rd Sundays) & Morning Praise (2nd & 4th)

10.30am - Contemporary Service
With children's groups, informal feel, and coffee & chat to start (worship begins at 10.45)

Everyone welcome! For more information or for details of our other events and services please see our notice boards



Tuesdays
at Farnsfield Methodist Church,
Chapel Lane.

Singing
Craft
Toys & Chat
Bible Story

Shining Stars

Singing time starts at **9:30am**
£2 per family

For toddlers, babies and their carers.

St Michael & All Angels' Church, Farnsfield
PRAYING | SINGING | SERVING | GROWING

Farnsfield Pre-School

'Farnsfield Pre-School is open 9am to 3pm Monday to Friday during term times. We offer places for children from 2½ to 5 years on a sessional or full day basis. We offer sessions on a first come, first served basis and these can be a morning, afternoon or full day or a combination of days. We typically have play time, snack time, stories, varied activities and extra special activities, such as a sports instructor or Becky Bops. We love our community and particularly enjoy our Little Explorer sessions where we go to the park, the Trail or just look for things around our village. We like to hunt for treasure in the charity shop or pick up some ingredients to make a snack in the Co-op. We love to go and sing for the Friendship Club too!



We also run a Babies & Toddlers session from 9am till 11am every Thursday (term time) in the upper hall at the Village Centre. Everyone is welcome and babies are catered for from birth up to school age. Pre-School staff run this group and it is very welcoming. There are activities and toys for the children, snack time, songs etc and tea and coffee for the adults. It costs just £3 for the 2 hour session and is a great way for parents and carers to meet others and socialise.

More information about Pre-School and Babies & Toddlers can be found at www.farnsfieldpreschool.org

Farnsfield Library

Farnsfield Library - your local friendly village library – not just for books but computer/wifi access, printing/photocopying and information – or just call in for a chat – or even for a breather on your way up New Hill!

We are open Mondays and Wednesdays 9am-12.30pm, Fridays 2pm-6pm and Saturdays 9am-1pm. Courtesy of the Parish Council, you can have a free drink during any of our open times as part of the village 'Warm Hub' initiative – just ask!

We have a friendly informal Reading Group which meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at 10.30am – to discuss the monthly book provided by the library and most importantly, catch-up on local news of course!

We also have a community jigsaw - ongoing – come in, put in a piece or two and watch it gradually get finished.

Did you know that you can also borrow digital items such as your favourite magazines, newspapers, audible books etc? – choose from thousands of eBooks, eAudio, eMagazines and eNewspapers – FREE for library members. **Library membership is free for everyone to join**

If you are not a member you can join by calling in and completing a simple form - bring along proof of ID (something which includes your name and address ie driving licence, recent bill etc).

If you cannot visit us for health reasons and you would like access to e-resources or for us to deliver books to you in your own home please do get in touch.

If you need any more information on what's available call the library on 01623 883917

The Farnsfield Friendship Club

The Farnsfield Friendship Club meets at the Cricket Club, Station Lane, 2-4 pm alternate Fridays.

Feb 24 – Tea & Natter, Quiz

March 10 – Street Children in India, Lynn Matthews

March 24 – You in the future of the NHS, Jilly Hagen

April 7 – Games afternoon

April 21 – Tea & Natter

May 5 – Southwell Garden Centre

Farnsfield Community Spaces

We are an environmental/community group who typically litter pick, look after some Green Spaces to encourage Biodiversity and deliver information to those residents who may be house bound or not on the Internet. We are a constituted group who raise money for a range of local, national and international causes. Much of our fundraising is done through the Community Plant table on Broomfield Lane, and coffee mornings.

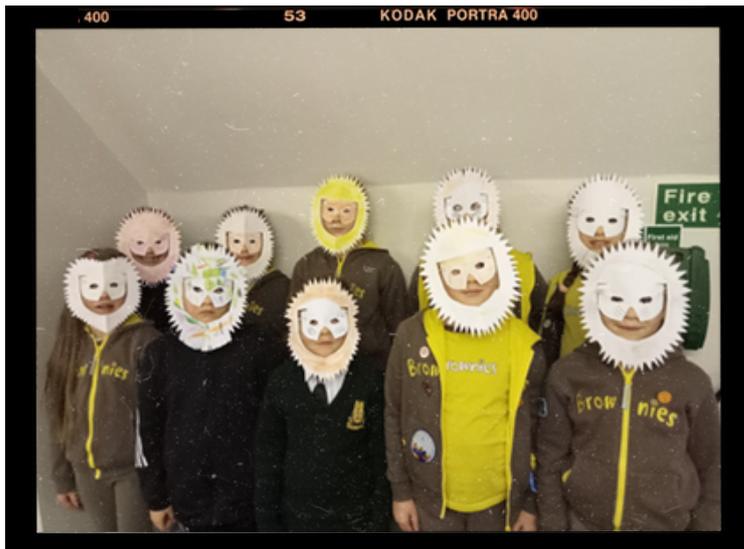
Communication on topics such as recycling, wildlife and volunteering opportunities in the locality is done via the Community Spaces Facebook page, you can also find us on Instagram : Farnsfieldcs
Future Events include, The Great British Spring Clean 17th March-2nd April 2023, Seed Swap and Autumn bulb planting - Date TBA. Gardening and watering on green spaces is ongoing. We are also awaiting confirmation of the return of the Best Kept Village Competition. Farnsfield are holders of the title since 2019 (Covid postponed this annual event). If you would like more information please contact Lesley Healy - 01623 882252



Brownies/Rainbows

The Brownies in Farnsfield meet on Friday evenings in the village centre and is for girls aged 7 to 10 from Farnsfield and the local villages.

Recently we celebrated Chinese New Year and made origami rabbits as it is the year of the rabbit.



Following this, we enjoyed a delicious Chinese buffet from the China Rose in Rainworth.

We made lion masks recently to support the Southwell Lions and their brand new challenge badge.

Highlights for us recently have been a trip to Tilly Pots in Rainworth and a visit to White Post Farm. Eight of the Brownies enrolled at the farm, helped by farm manager, Anthony Moore, who is now an honorary Brownie! The girls collected food for the animals and this was delivered to the farm. We were delighted to get a mention on the White Post vlog.

Our future plans include an evening of celebrating inspirational women like Marie Curie and Rosa Parks, pancakes, and a treasure hunt looking for Easter Eggs in the park.

Guides

Farnsfield Guides is a thriving unit for 10-14 year old girls from the village and surrounding areas. We get up to lots of fun things every week and have recently been working on our Be Well theme, keeping fit, eating well and looking after our mental health – last term it was our Vlogging Badge! We were delighted to be invited to help with the coffee morning at the Methodist Church in January and also organised a collection for the Food Bank as part of our Community Action badge. March will see us taking part in a dance class and working on our Mixology Badge – there's never a quiet moment!

Rangers

So what happens after Guides? Rangers! Farnsfield Rangers has been running for 3 years and although small, is a mighty group of 14-18 year old girls. We plan and run our own activities (often involving food...) and love meeting up with friends we don't usually see at school. In February we organised a trip to Hobbycraft and then spent the next week compiling a unit scrapbook. And in March we're joining the Monopoly Live Challenge in London with 5,500 other people – as well as a weekend away on the East Yorkshire Coast!

SPORTS IN FARNSFIELD

Pétanque pits

An informal small user group has been started. Anyone interested in using the Pétanque pits is welcome or if you want to join and develop the interest, perhaps with the Twinning Society. There are plans for the installation of picnic benches associated with each one.

We hope to be able to organise sessions for members to turn up and maybe operate some form of Pétanque ladder or league for those of a more competitive nature. We are reaching out to any residents who would like to be involved with the organisation, or would like to participate.

Please e-mail either Maurice at M@CBAL.biz or Ian at lan@farnsfield-pc.uk

Yoga - Why Yoga?

Yoga invites us to study our physical, mental and emotional wellbeing; to exercise, make small adjustments to posture, breathing and levels of awareness. We can begin to inhabit our bodies and lives more comfortably and confidently.

Yoga has been available in the village for nearly 20 years with the same British Wheel of Yoga qualified teacher! It is suitable for all, regardless of age, gender and current health status (except Covid or other transmissible illness).

There are in-person sessions in the Upper Hall of the Village Centre or online (Tuesday 0930-1100, mat-based). Emphasis is on free functional movement - strengthening and mobilising in conjunction with helpful breathing and meditation/relaxation.

All aimed at seeking freedom and comfort to enhance our overall feelings of wellbeing.

On Wednesday afternoon (2-3pm) there is a chair-based class in the Lower Hall of the Village Centre specifically for those with mobility issues, or recovering from surgery/illness or experiencing some loss of functionality/balance.

Join a friendly group to work on your stability, mobility and wellbeing - we even have tea and biscuits occasionally!

Contact Sally Alvey - sallyalveyyoga@gmail.com or call 01636 816909. Booking is essential.

Toning and Yoga/ relaxation – with Paula

One off, sessions, 1-1 and also family groups and during summer months. I offer outdoor yoga sessions

A regular programme of toning class 9:15-9:45 am then Yoga/ relaxation 9:45-10:45 am, Fridays, Upper Hall of the Village Centre, New Hill, £7, for yoga, £10 for both, suits all levels. Monday evening, yoga/relaxation, Methodist Church, Chapel Lane, Farnsfield, £7, all levels. Message Paula for more info, 07742 003857

Dancing

Dancing is great! Good for mind and body. A good laugh and interesting as a bonus. 'Learn to Dance' Ballroom, Latin, Rock 'N' Roll & Salsa. Private tuition or a course of lessons. Courses start in September. Call Ashley Turton (01623 794443)

Tennis Club

Spring is almost upon us and hopefully we can look forward to plenty of tennis! We have recently had an increase in members and are always keen to welcome new people to the club - of all ages and standard of play, including beginners! We have a great coach, Matt Benford who runs weekly junior coaching sessions on Wednesdays from 4 - 8pm. Matt also does private coaching for adults and juniors. Our sessions include:- Ladies night Mondays 6-8, Mens night Thursdays 6-8 and cardio tennis on Tuesdays 6-7pm. We also have two daytime social tennis sessions on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 10-1, as well as mixed social tennis on Friday evenings.

Our open day will be on Saturday 20th May, but please come down anytime and give tennis a go! If you would like more information contact Joyce at jshakeshaft31@hotmail.com/07971 834181 to find out more!

Bowls Club

Bowls opens for outdoor play on 24 April. Indoor play happens on Tuesday (pm) & Thursday (am)

Members of Farnsfield Bowling Club are looking forward to the new season, which starts on April 22nd 2023. The club holds informal roll-up sessions on Tuesday afternoons and Thursday evenings. Members also play in matches against other local clubs and in competitions within the club.

Our qualified coach, Paul Ritchie, will be holding a free course for non-members, or current members who wish to brush up on their technique, starting on Tuesday 16 May. This course will be held on Tuesday evenings, from 6-8 pm, for 6 weeks. Bowls equipment can be provided free of charge. You will need to wear flat soled shoes (trainers).

Anyone who wishes to take part should contact the club secretary. After this course any new participants can join three Tuesday afternoon or Thursday evening sessions free of charge. They can then become full members for a reduced fee for the remainder of the year if they so wish.

The Club plans to hold "Village Matches" in May and September. All the organisations in the village are invited to enter teams of four players. Only one experienced bowler is allowed in each team, the rest can include people who have never bowled before. If you can't make a full team, we will find someone to play with you, even at the last minute. No-one will be turned away.

If you are interested in joining Farnsfield Bowling Club or would like further information, please contact our coach Paul Ritchie (lin.paulritchie@btinternet.com) or our Secretary, Nadina Lincoln (nadina.lincoln@gmail.com). New members are always welcome.

WILDLIFE IN FARNSFIELD

Hogs of Winterfell - Hedgehog rescue.

It has been a relatively quiet winter for hedgehog rescue. A hoglet, 'Buddy', came to us just before Christmas and has reached a size for release back to Crabnook Lane. Some have briefly emerged because of the warm spells but most have been of a safe size to be let go again. There are some hoglets that came to us late in the season that were very small and have grown through the winter. They should be OK to be released as the weather gets properly warmed up.

We are always open to support and will need materials for hedgehog houses when the time comes for hogs and hoglets to be released. We are 'responsive' to hedgehog needs as villagers find distressed hogs so our garage normally gets very full after bad weather when the hoglets are young, and in the spring as the hogs emerge from hibernation. The next months will be interesting...

There was a session before Christmas with the Young People at St Michaels teaching about hedgehogs and their needs. Many young people completed assessments to see how hedgehog friendly their family garden was. The results were promising!! Hedgehogs are the gardener's friend and we need to make sure that we look after them. Please make sure your fences have a couple of hedgehog sized holes (100mm/4inch diameter) at the bottom so they can munch on your slugs and other nuisances...

Contact Darren on Facebook through 'Hogs of Winterfell'

Birds - Birds will be starting to nest soon.

Please get all your hedge trimming done as disturbing nests is not a good idea later in the season.

Birds still require a bit of food and, believe it or not, water as the ground may still be too hard for worms and lots of seeds have already been eaten.

Frogs, Toads & Newts - Frog and toad spawn will soon be coming to a pond near you so be careful and watch out. All the aquatics will be coming out of hibernation in the next month or so!

GOOD CAUSES IN THE COMMUNITY

•Farnsfield Walk For Parkinsons

A “Farnsfield Walk For Parkinsons” event is being held this year on Saturday 22nd April. The 8.3 mile route commencing at The Plough, Farnsfield at 10.30am. Families and dogs on leads are welcome to join in. There is a registration fee of £15 which will provide a donation direct to Parkinsons UK and cover cost of the food at Norwood Park Golf Club. A cap of 200 walkers is being set for this years event on a first come first serve basis.

Last years event was a great success which raised £5131 and has given us the platform to make this year's event even better



More information or queries can be raised through John Butler on 07870 948297 or Bruce McDowall on 07759 137634.

Farnsfield Foodbank Support Group

It was an amazing 2022. We very nearly matched last year's figures with over £3,367 collected in total from donations and street collections including the massive raffle at the Christmas light event (which itself raised over £1,000). Plus, a staggering 4,072 bags of food and personal items which were delivered up to the Community Action Response (CAR) at Life Spring Church in Ollerton. If we count each bag as just £5 (and most are much more than that) that is a staggering £21,000+ worth of food donated. As most people know we don't run the food bank distribution in Farnsfield ourselves. All our donations are

delivered up to Ollerton by the committed group of 20 volunteers who take it in turns to take the delivery every Monday morning.



So now we say thank-you to the people of Farnsfield and surrounding villages. Your donations make a massive difference to so many people. We know it's not over! We will be working hard this year to try to deliver even more to those who need help.

We have now got a Facebook page running @farnsfieldfoodbank and www.farnsfieldfoodbank.co.uk - our website Take a look and "like" us – it's still work in progress but we hope you approve.

How can you help? Please take any food donations into the church porch at St Michaels, or go to Atherley's or Hamilton's and give cash to convert into food which is collected by the food bank team, or buy something extra at the Co-op and leave at the checkout. We're also pleased to announce that giving at Hill's Nursery will be possible from 6th March this year. Simply give some cash at the till when shopping at Hill's and they'll pack up fresh vegetables to go to the foodbank.

You can now also donate using a button linking to PayPal at www.farnsfieldfoodbank.co.uk

Please also remember that the Pharmacy offers 6 items for £5 and, if you can afford it, makes a great contribution!