

## 2008 AGM – don't miss it!

This year's AGM will be held on Saturday September 27, 2.30pm at the United Reformed Church main hall in South Street, Farnham and promises to be both significant and entertaining. Do please spare an hour or two of your time and show your support.

Hear the latest news on the East Street development and of Waverley's continuing machinations; any update on CNS' financial position and how that may affect the development; the intriguing new proposal for the F & C Cinema/Theatre site from Max Lyons and associates; our attempts to get the County Auditor to investigate Waverley's possible misdeeds; hear of increasing support for FTA from so many in the theatre and the wider field for our campaigns and of a meeting with the new Dean of the University of the Creative Arts. At the AGM you can also see a display of theatrical material.

Your FTA wishes to strengthen its Board and to that end the formal business will include the opportunity for members present to vote on the potential re-election of existing directors as well as the addition of new proposed names, to bring the total up to 7.

If you would like to help in this way and are prepared to stand for election please ensure your name and details are forwarded to the Chairman by 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2008. All Contact information is at the foot of this newsletter.

The agenda will propose the formal adoption of the 2008 set of accounts for the unincorporated Association and the Company.

### Excerpts from Jeremy Hunt's speech to the Culture Focus group This is the Conservative keynote speech on Arts Policy.

"When art and politics clash, art wins. Politicians beware.

You could have paraphrased Tony Blair's farewell speech on the arts as "arts began in 1997" and nothing came before. That is not to say there are not things that Labour cannot take credit for. The most significant change has been a willingness to put arts at the centre of social and economic policy. Arts can have a transformative effect in regeneration policy, education policy and many other areas. **There is not a Council in the country – that doesn't understand the importance of the arts in regeneration policy.**

But the arts do something else as well. Alain de Botton, in his recent book on architecture, said that Good architecture is what helps you thrive and not just survive. I would argue the same is true of arts in general. In an increasingly competitive, pressured and demanding life, arts are what help us thrive and not just survive. It's what David Cameron has called General Well Being.

The arts in Britain are a huge success. I have only one task. To help you make them even better".

**"We must take him and Waverley up on education and regeneration" says Anne Cooper**



### Redgrave one of the top ten theatres 'At Risk'

Farnham's Redgrave Theatre has joined other key venues on the list of England's most endangered buildings. Conservation body the Theatre's Trust has published its annual Theatre Buildings at Risk register which includes 34 venues that are currently under threat. The Redgrave - and two other entries - have now joined the Trust's top ten.

They replace 3 others that have been saved from last year's Register, the Lonsdale Cinema, The Theatre Royal, Hyde and the Doncaster Grand, which is in the process of being sold to a local support group.

For over 10 years, the Redgrave has been under the control of Waverley Borough Council and according to the Trust, it is under threat because, "no money has been spent on maintaining the building which is slowly deteriorating."

"The fact that three of last year's top ten have been saved shows what can be done - there is still hope yet for the Redgrave" says Anne Cooper.



### CNS and East Street: amended application WA/2008/0279

Crest Nicholson have submitted amendments to their existing plans for East Street following the Environment Agency concerns about flood risk. The new submission removes the balancing pond and replaces it with a grassed amphitheatre. This is not a replacement for the Redgrave and has several drawbacks - lack of facilities for both public and performers, closeness to apartment blocks, traffic noise from the bypass, a public art feature sited in the centre and a footpath between the performance and seating areas. As the central 'sunken gravelled performance area' forms part of the drainage system for the underground stormwater tank, there are concerns over whether this will be effective in all circumstances and will not become waterlogged.

If you feel strongly about any of these points please write to The Head of Planning, Waverley Borough Council, the Burys, Godalming GU7 1HR. Remind your Councillors that when considering the appropriateness of these applications, the previous Chief Planning Officer advised, 'It is entirely up to you to come to your own view'.

You can view the amended plans on [www.waverley.gov.uk](http://www.waverley.gov.uk) or at the locality offices, South Street, Farnham.

## Campaign conclusion

3008 objections to the CNS Listed Building Consent Planning Application WA/2008/0280 to demolish the Redgrave Theatre have been received by Waverley Council; FTA feel that is sufficient to make the point.



### Conservative Councillor Mike Causey comments in his blog

#### "Inspiration, Aspiration.

I'm going to join the Farnham Theatre Association. I've been pondering this on and off over the weekend, as on Friday, I was inspired by Anne Cooper and Abigail McKern. Listening to their passion for theatre, the positive impact on a town and its culture, and the potential for youth involvement, I couldn't deny what a good aspiration it was to have a professional, commercial, and successful theatre in Farnham.

But, it's not that I'm a buff: much more that I was captured by Anne and Abigail's passion and aspiration. And, my support is independent of whether the Redgrave is retained.

I simply like the idea of an active theatre in the town, and all that it could bring".

## F & C new proposal

Anne has written to F & C to ask for a meeting to discuss ways in which the theatre/cinema complex would satisfy the requirements of the Theatres Trust and FTA.

Last October Jeremy Hunt MP met Anne and David Wylde, with Gavin Stride of Farnham Maltings, Cllr. Roger Steel and Mhora Samuel of the Theatres Trust to discuss the possibility of a theatre in Farnham which might not involve Waverley Borough Council. Anne hopes that a meeting with F&C might bring this issue to the fore once again.

## UCA Potential link with the University of the Creative Arts?

A meeting has been offered with Paul Coyle, the new Dean of the University of the Creative Arts and a date is being arranged to discuss with FTA the possible involvement of UCA with the theatre project.

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## Charitably raised issues and WBC

A meeting took place with Waverley's Deputy Chief Executive, Paul Wenham, to discuss Waverley's handling of charitable raised assets - the Castle and Redgrave Theatres. FTA left him with a number of questions to be answered.



## A Cry of Players

### Support from Michael G. Jones

It was very pleasing to see support from local professional actor, Michael G. Jones, performing at The Maltings with A Cry of Players - this will counteract any WBC spin!



## Your support for FTA

Thanks to all those who have offered help and also contributions to our fighting fund; these are very much appreciated. Please forgive a brief reminder. Campaigning does not stop - it is a continuing process! The FTA cannot afford to rest on its laurels and constantly needs your support in two main ways:

### ■ Financial

We are an active campaigning organisation and activity does cost money. All help is really appreciated so please send donations to the Treasurer, address at the foot.

### ■ Practical

Can you offer any time with practical tasks—high street campaigning, fundraising or help at shows and fetes? It's never onerous and often good fun, meeting the public who are almost invariably supportive.

If you have offered your help in the past we do need to update our records of volunteers and helpers' skills, so please get in touch. Contact please through the website or email.

## email not snail mail please!

If you are on email or have access to it ,FTA really does need to send you information that way. It' gives you so much more than by post, it's faster and most importantly, **saves FTA money!**

Your help is valued; please email your address to the Editor.

## **AGM Reminder**

Don't forget that Saturday September 27 at 2.30pm is the date for this year's AGM to be held at the United Reformed Church rooms in South Street, Farnham. Don't miss it!

**2.30pm meeting opens with Chairman's Report, followed by the Company Secretary's report**

**3.00pm Election of Directors**

**3.30pm Open Session**

**4.00pm Tea**

**4.30pm Entertainment**

**5.00pm Close**

## **The Appointment of Directors**

The Charity may by ordinary resolution:

- appoint a person who is willing to act to be a Director; and
- determine the rotation in which any additional Directors are to retire.\*

No person other than a Director retiring by rotation may be appointed at any general meeting unless:

- he or she is recommended for re-election by the Directors; or
- not less than fourteen nor more than thirty-five clear days before the date of the meeting, the Charity is given notice that:
  - is signed by a member entitled to vote at the meeting;
  - states the members intention to propose the appointment of a person as a Director;
  - contains the details, if the person were to be appointed, the Charity would have to file at Company House; and
  - is signed by the person who is to be proposed to show his or her willingness to be appointed.

Note: \* as this AGM is the first since FTA became a Company limited by guarantee and registered at Companies House, all the Directors must retire from office on this occasion.

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