



The Farnham Society

77th Annual General Meeting

Heritage Open Days

During 2023 / 2024 our work consisted chiefly of running the September 2023 HODs festival, followed by preliminary planning of the 2024 festival.

Each year the National Trust, as national organisers, nominate a theme, and for 2023 it was Creativity Unwrapped. This was intended to be wide ranging and to encompass all aspects of art and design. It guided us to supplement our programme of favoured local heritage buildings with some more focused events.

It inspired the inclusion of the University for the Creative Arts, the first time they have participated in the festival. Guided tours of their studios and workshops showed the wide range of subjects taught, from the ancient craft of glass blowing up to state of the art digital film production. We hope that this will lead us to build a stronger working relationship with the University.

A themed walk covered the Bourne Woods, now used as a location for filming.

We featured a special exhibition of works by the artist and illustrator Pauline Baynes, who had worked at Farnham Castle during WWII and subsequently lived in Dockenfield. Pauline illustrated books including the Narnia Chronicles and some works by Tolkien. A relative in Italy now holds her personal collection, some of which was brought across for an exhibition in Farnham Town Hall.

A final thought about Creativity Unwrapped. Our brochure for 2023 featured on its cover an image of the sculpture Millenium Child by Sue Broadhead. When we held our Thank You party at Farnham Town Hall in February, Sue was present for the unveiling of her repaired sculpture Farnham Made Fair.

Simon Bradbury
September 2024