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Arena

Issue 128 • Summer 2024

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A busy summer ahead

Paul Shackley, Chief Executive of Rushmoor Borough Council

Welcome to the summer edition of Arena. As you receive this magazine, we are only two weeks away from the general election and this means that as a council, we must abide by election rules around publicity. So for this edition, you're hearing from me, rather than the leader.

As well as the council's chief executive, I am also the acting returning officer for the Aldershot constituency. It takes a dedicated army of staff and volunteers to make sure our elections run smoothly and that it is as easy as possible for you to vote.

If you have a postal vote, we will be sending out the initial postal packs from 20 June. As with the local elections, the easiest way to return it is by Royal Mail. If you hand deliver it to the offices or a polling station, you'll need to fill in an extra form to confirm your details.

If you're voting in person at your local polling station, don't forget you now need to bring photo ID with you - see page 4 for more details.

The summer is always a busy time for us, and this year is no exception as the council marks its 50th anniversary of

serving the communities of Aldershot and Farnborough. The borough has changed so much over the last 50 years, and we reflect on just a few of these changes on page 13.

One thing that never changes is your love for Aldershot Lido. It's currently open at weekends, but from 1 July, it will be open daily - here's hoping for lots of warm days ahead! We are delighted that Fido at the Lido will be returning in September, this time for two days. It proved very popular last year, so make sure you book early - see page 7 for details.

With the better weather, it's also an ideal time to get outdoors and explore the many parks and green open spaces on our doorstep on foot or by bicycle. If you're not sure where to start, why not join in one of Rushmoor Voluntary Services' healthy walks or build your confidence on two wheels with the free sofa to saddle cycling scheme (p11).

July sees the return of the Farnborough Airshow (p9) and as always, there are plenty of free events and activities to enjoy in our town centres (p8).

Finally, thanks to everyone who took part in the local election in May. You can find details of all our councillors on page 12.

Paul

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as an mp3 file and is available free. It is also available in large print. If you have any problems receiving Arena please don't hesitate to call Gill Chisnall on **01252 398 744** or email her at gill.chisnall@rushmoor.gov.uk

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nextdoor



Voting at the general election

With the general election on Thursday 4 July, you should have now received your poll card telling you where to vote on the day.

If you have a postal vote, you should receive your postal pack from this week. We'd encourage you to fill it in and pop it in the post as soon as you can rather than putting it aside 'to do later' - we want to make sure everyone gets the chance to vote.

Returning your postal vote by Royal Mail is the easiest way to get it back to us. This is because although you can still drop your postal vote into the council offices or at a polling station on election day, you will have to fill in an extra form to confirm your details and why you are handing it in.

If you're planning to vote at your polling station on 4 July, remember that you also now need to show original photo

ID to our election staff before they give you your ballot paper. They are not able to accept photocopies or phone images.

There are lots of different photo ID you can use including a passport, driver's licence, military identity card, a blue badge or older persons' bus pass.

If you don't have the correct ID don't worry – you can apply for a free Voter



Authority Certificate (VAC) up to 5pm on Wednesday 26 June by going to **www.rushmoor.gov.uk/voterid**

For more information on voting, visit **www.rushmoor.gov.uk/elections**. You can also email the team at elections@rushmoor.gov.uk or call on **01252 398 824**.

To check if you're registered to vote, go to **www.rushmoor.gov.uk/register tovote**



New town square for Farnborough

Plans for a new town square in the centre of Farnborough are moving ahead, thanks to a package of external funding.

The proposed new square, on the site opposite Trespass, is expected to be completed by March 2025 and will help transform an important part of the town.

It will be designed alongside improvements planned for the Vue cinema end of The Meads.

We will share our initial designs for the new town square on social media once they are ready, so you have the

chance to feed back your thoughts and suggestions.

The new square will create a fully flexible area to host events, markets and craft fayres, improving the gateway into the town centre from the north and the area between Princes Mead and The Meads. The designs will also seek to reflect Farnborough's aviation heritage.

The scheme is being funded as part of a £1 million package of external funding, which we are using to support a range of local projects in both our towns.

Transformation of crematorium begins

Our beautifully restored Redan Chapel in Aldershot is now being used for funeral services as the major refurbishment of the crematorium gets under way. Although the crematorium building is closed to visitors, cremations continue to take place there, and the grounds remain open as normal.



www.rushmoor.gov.uk/crematoriumrefurbishment

Union Yard opens its doors

Our exciting new flagship development in Aldershot, Union Yard, will be open for business this summer!

After three and a half years of building work, the development will officially open and bring 12 flexible retail units, along with eight furnished shipping containers (pictured) creating a makers' yard with spaces for independent businesses to showcase and sell their goods.

In September, we are looking forward to welcoming the first students from the University for the Creative Arts in Farnham, who will be taking up residency in the 128 student units we have on site.

Union Yard also includes 82 one and two-bedroom apartments for private rental, 18 affordable homes for those aged 55 and over, to be managed by Vivid, and a new public square linking the High Street and Union Street.

Across the whole development, there will be ten wheelchair-accessible apartments and eight wheelchair accessible studios in the student accommodation.



Demolition work on the £40 million scheme began in February 2021, with £6.2 million of external funding helping towards construction costs.

Independent business who would like to find out more about taking a unit in the makers' yard should visit www.union-yard.co.uk

The High Street is closed from this week until Monday 19 July between Court Road and the car wash to allow for completion of road works associated with the development. Local traffic and pedestrian diversions are in place, although access to the car parks remains open. The bus stops opposite the Princes Gardens GP surgery are out of use, with temporary

pick-up and drop-off points on Princes Way.

For more information, visit www.rushmoor.gov.uk/highstreetroadworks



Leisure and cultural hub latest

Thanks to everyone who took part in our latest consultation on the design proposals for Farnborough's new leisure and cultural hub.

More than 200 of you came along to our three drop-in consultation sessions. Many of you also filled in our online survey to give your views on how the new centre could look and feel.

You told us that having a facility that would help improve the physical and mental health and wellbeing of local people was important to you.

This included making sure the new leisure offer was affordable and accessible for all. Popular suggestions

included classes to tackle special health issues, meditation sessions for mental wellbeing, and spaces for local groups to meet.

There were mixed views on the building's design, with some feeling it looked too much like the old leisure centre.

You supported more opportunities for cultural activities and events in the town centre.

We heard very clearly that you want us to get on and build the new development, but we need to make sure our proposals are affordable, particularly as costs have risen

substantially with inflation and the council's ability to fund development has changed.

Over the summer, there will be an independent review of the projected costs of the scheme and the funding available. Once this is finalised, we will have a better idea of what we can include and will let you know.

As the part of our wider civic quarter regeneration, demolition of Pinehurst car park is due to start this summer, with the Sunday car boot sale now moved temporarily to the Aldershot High Street multi-storey car park.

Tell us what you think about where you live!

Do you enjoy living in Aldershot or Farnborough? What's important to you about where you live, and would you like to see anything improved?



These are just some of the questions in our latest residents' survey.

We want to hear from you about what it's like to live where you do and if you feel part of your community.

Over the last year, we've been busy with activities to improve our town centres, including organising more local events and boosting our markets and craft fairs using external funding.



We'd like to know if you've taken part in these activities and if you think they're making a difference to our towns.



It is important for us to know what you think to help us develop the council's priorities and inform how

we deliver our services.

Our survey runs until 12 July and is available on our website at www.rushmoor.gov.uk/currentconsultations. You can also call us on **01252 398 399** for a paper copy of the survey.

In August, we are running another survey to get your views on our local open spaces and recreation facilities so we can get a better understanding of how you are using them. This is part of the work we are doing to prepare a new Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study, replacing our 2014 one. We'll promote the survey and how you can take part nearer the time on our social media channels.

Support local good causes and win!

If you'd like to support local community projects and charities right here in Rushmoor, but don't fancy the odds of scooping the top prizes through other lotteries, the Rushmoor Community Lottery may be for you!

A weekly draw takes place every Saturday and for every £1 ticket you

buy, 50p will go to a good cause of your choice and 10p to the Rushmoor Community Fund.

There's a one in 50 chance of winning a prize, and cash prizes are from £25 up to £25,000.

Since 2017, the lottery has raised more than £220,000 for good causes and paid

out more than £42,000 in cash prizes.

From Scout groups to charities, community gardens, voluntary groups and schools, the lottery is part of a growing family of worthy causes grateful for your support.

To find out more go to www.rushmoorlottery.co.uk

Join us for fun in the sun at Aldershot Lido

Summer is here and our lovely lido in Aldershot has thrown open its doors to welcome in a new season of fun and outdoor swimming.

With the weather warming up, and (hopefully) a long summer ahead of us, Aldershot Lido is the perfect place for some early morning lane swimming to get you moving into the day, or an ideal spot to cool down and chill out.



Following a fabulous launch day of activities organised by The Friends of Aldershot Lido, the lido is open weekends in June and every day in July and August.

And this season, following our very successful first Fido at the Lido dog day last year, there will be double the opportunities for dogs and their owners to make the most of the cooling waters when our Fido sessions return on Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 September. Make sure you book early to get a ticket for you and your faithful friends!

Aldershot Lido boasts three water flumes, a diving platform and a toddler paddling pool and sandpit, as well as nine acres of grounds, a basketball area, and hot and cold food to provide everything you need for a day of making precious family memories or just kicking back and cooling down.



You can also now read all about the history of the lido thanks to four new information boards in the grounds celebrating the lido's heritage.

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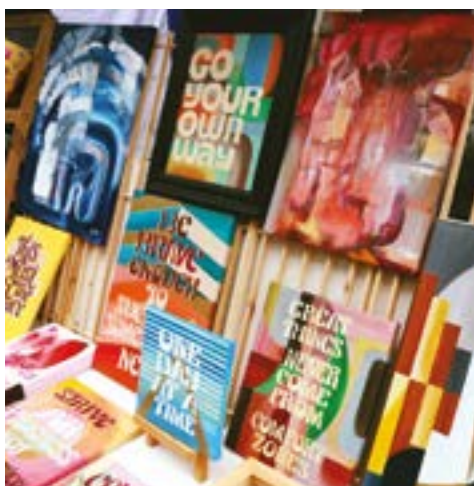
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Enjoy a summer packed full of events

We love how much you enjoy our events, and we've got another packed summer of free days out and activities for you to enjoy.

Show your support for our armed forces and enjoy an afternoon of music at our Armed Forces Prom in the Park on Saturday 22 June, from 2pm. Look out for special discounts around the town for military personnel.



Find gorgeous gifts and creative inspiration at our summer craft fayres in Farnborough town centre on Saturday 6 July, 3 August, and 7 September, and in Aldershot town centre on Saturday 17 August. Plus, don't miss the continental street market in Farnborough from 11 to 14 July and in Aldershot from 5 to 8 September.

Playfest is an action-packed day of hands-on fun and games for families in Aldershot town centre on Saturday 24 August.



The Rushmoor Heritage Festival will celebrate the history of Aldershot and Farnborough from 6 to 15 September. Look out for guided tours, walks, and talks as part of the national Heritage Open Days scheme, plus street theatre and other town centre activities.

Details of all our events are available at www.rushmoor.gov.uk/artsandvents

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KIDS ZONE & OTHER ATTRACTIONS

Manor Park • Aldershot

A 'roarsome' time at the Princes Hall!

Get ready to rub shoulders with royalty and come face to face with dinosaurs from millions of years ago this summer at the Princes Hall!



Horrible Histories makes a popular return on 26 July, bringing with it the most outrageous rulers and eccentric monarchs from Britain's wild history! Would you be wooed by Richard the Lionheart? Would you be shaken or stirred by

Richard III? See Mary Tudor knock the spots off Mary Queen of Scots! It's history like you've never seen before, with the nasty bits left in!

But the excitement doesn't stop there. On 29 July, join our fearless rangers for an electrifying Dinosaur Adventure in the brand-new thrilling show, Trouble on Volcano Island. Prepare to meet the awe-inspiring



Triceratops, the mischievous Spinosaurus, the adorable baby dinos, and the colossal T Rex as we follow in their monumental footsteps.



For the little ones we have Milkshake Live! back on 31 August, while adults can look forward to a

programme that includes Showaddywaddy on 5 July



and the Johnny Cash Roadshow on 19 July.



Take a look at our summer programme and book your tickets today online now at: **www.princeshall.com** or by calling **01252 329 155**.

Farnborough Airshow is back!

The Farnborough International Airshow returns from 22 to 26 July, bringing some spectacular flying displays to our skies as well as a huge boost to our local economy and businesses.

On Friday 26 July, the show will open its doors to the public for Pioneers of

Tomorrow, a careers-focused day to inspire a new generation of aerospace leaders. Adult tickets are £36, young people aged 16-21 can get in for free. To help make sure life continues as smoothly as possible locally, there will once again be road closures and parking restrictions in place, as well as a one-way system around Lynchford

Road in the morning leading to and from the Blackwater Valley Road. The Park Road one-way system will also be reversed for the week.

For more details on the show, as well as local road and parking changes, go to **www.farnboroughairshow.com/visit/faqs**

Wildlife walks at Wellesley Woodlands

Explore the trails around Wellesley Woodlands, Aldershot in search of evening wildlife on Wednesday 26 June.

All are welcome on this leisurely walk, meeting at the Duke of Wellington car park at 7pm (but booking is required). There will be plenty of stops to explore

nature along the woodland's Beech and Plane trails as dusk falls.

To find out more and book your free place, go to **https://wellesleywoodlands.co.uk**

A weekly health walk also takes place every Friday at 10am, with different

locations to explore. This is a great chance to meet new people, spot wildlife and enjoy the summer weather. Look for the Wellesley



Woodlands page on Facebook or email **wellesleywoodlands@tcv.org.uk** if it is your first time.

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Get out and about in the borough

We know that getting out and about is good for our wellbeing, and there are lots of free local activities this summer to help you find your feet (or wheels!).

A series of healthy walks, organised by Rushmoor Voluntary Services (RVS), takes place on Mondays at Moor Road recreation ground in Farnborough at 1.30pm (not bank holidays); Tuesdays at Southwood Country Park (meet at the cafe) at 11am and at St Peter's Church, Farnborough at 1.30pm; Thursdays at Southwood Country Park, (meet at the cafe) at 11am and on Fridays at Aldershot Park (meet in the car park) at 1.30pm. Please call **01252 398 450** if you'd like to join a walk.

A new walking group for men has also been launched. 'For Men to

Talk' promises to be a "a journey of camaraderie, support, and well-being". The walking group meets for two walks each month on Sundays and offers a unique opportunity for men to engage in conversations, connect with people, and take steps toward improving their mental and physical health. For details, email **luke@formentotalk.co.uk**

There are also many self-led and guided walks in Aldershot and Farnborough, including our heritage trails. Or if walking is not for you, how about cycling?

A free initiative aimed at women living in Rushmoor who would like to learn to ride a bike meets at BikeStart, Browning Barracks, Aldershot, on Thursdays, with coaching sessions



from 10am to 10:45am or 11am to 11:45am and a social-led ride from 12:30pm to 2pm. Free bike hire is available. Courses can be booked by emailing **balanceandride@gmail.com**

A free 'Sofa to Saddle' cycling scheme also aims to build confidence on the bike through enjoying cycle rides together. Email **riderushmoor@gmail.com** for details.

Get fit by helping out!

Are you looking to volunteer with a group that takes action to improve the community around you? Well, the Aldershot GoodGym could be the perfect fit for you!

The new group is part of a national network that encourages local people to get active by taking part in practical tasks to help local community organisations. Members can also choose to meet up to walk, run or cycle to a task location.

These tasks could include:

- Cleaning up or painting community buildings
- Clearing an outside space to make it useable again - such as the garden at a community centre or a GP surgery
- Gardening and tree planting
- Collecting donations and sorting tins and produce for foodbanks
- Joining local litter picks
- Being marshals at local events

A small core group is already in place, but more volunteers are needed to join the group. Suggestions for tasks are also needed, with the aim of having a community task to meet up and help with every week. GoodGym is completely free to join, and all fitness levels are welcome.

To join, or simply to find out more, please email: **debbie.aslin@energiseme.org** or visit: **www.goodgym.org/proposals/aldershot**

Chatty benches

Five new Chatty Benches are being installed in Queen Elizabeth Park (QEP), in Farnborough, in memory of Kathryn Stuart, former chair of the Friends of QEP, who sadly died last year.

Volunteers from the community group, friends

and members of Kathryn's family unveiled the first Chatty Bench earlier this year, dedicated to Kathryn.


Each bench has a plaque inviting people to sit and spend time chatting with other passers-by, inspired by the television series 'After Life'.



"Kathryn chaired our group for five years during which she worked tirelessly to protect the trees in Queen Elizabeth Park and organise

a full schedule of family-focused events," said Sue Runciman, spokesperson for Friends of QEP, "so this is for her."

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	Labour
	Liberal Democrat
	Independent

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Deputy Mayor Calum Stewart calum.stewart@rushmoor.gov.uk	

Rushmoor Borough Council turns 50!

It's a golden anniversary for Rushmoor Borough Council, with 2024 marking our 50th year of serving the communities of Aldershot and Farnborough.



The official formation of Rushmoor Borough Council took place in April 1974 when Aldershot Borough Council and Farnborough Urban District Council joined together.



The name Rushmoor comes from the area of ancient heathland to the west of the borough, which once covered the entire area between Farnham and the edge of London.

From royal visits to freedom parades, jubilees, and coronations, Rushmoor has much to remember and celebrate.

To mark this significant milestone, we have been putting together a digital memory book containing information and photos from the past 50 years.



Since 1974, the population of Rushmoor has grown from around 75,000 to more than 101,000 today. Aldershot has seen significant changes and welcomed new residents with the Aldershot Urban Extension which we now know as Wellesley. Farnborough has seen change too with new homes, multinational businesses making the town their base, the transformation of the former RAE to Farnborough Airport, and a new country park at Southwood.



The memory book will be available this summer on our website, www.rushmoor.gov.uk/rushmooris50



Get your garden ready for summer!

With the better weather now here, it's the perfect time to sign up to our garden waste recycling service and get your garden summer ready!

For just £47 a year, we'll give you a large 240-litre wheelie bin you can use to recycle grass and shrub clippings, weeds, windfallen fruit and dead



leaves. You can also buy compostable paper single sacks from us that you use as you need them.

We'll collect your garden waste every fortnight, so there will be no more hassle of having to book a trip to the dump!

For more information and to sign up, please go to: www.rushmoor.gov.uk/joingardenwaste

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GOLF VENUE

If interested, please contact the club using the details below.



ENGLAND
GOLF
CHAMPIONSHIP
VENUE

Interested in Joining? Some reasons why you should

- 18 Hole course, with, Purple, White, Yellow, Green, Red and Blue ability tees.
- A friendly club with a thriving membership within all categories that offers a welcome to all.
- Army Golf Club — a 100% private members club.
- Junior golf programme.
- Academy for beginners and the experienced golfer.
- Professional shop offering customised fitting, extensive equipment range, high-quality clothing, all at competitive prices.

For more details, please call
Richard Lloyd

on

01252 337272 (opt 5)

email: mansec@armygolfclub.com

or visit

www.armygolfclub.com



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