

Coming Together at the Christmas Lights Switch-on



Message from The Chairman: Celebrating Community



Bob Schofield

The word community has been splashed across the headlines this summer, but not always with the best news. The definition of the word "community" has changed in the 21st century to include a more intimate aspect of identity, in addition to the traditional definition of a group of people living in the same place. A not unobvious change: communities are more diverse than ever before. In Fleet we have our retail community, the school community, the volunteer community, our social media communities and many more. Part of the challenge of the Town Council is to serve all these diverse groups. What brings the whole community together? It is usually in celebration or responding to adversity and the residents of Fleet have come

together to respond to both. We experienced great turn outs for our events to mark our late Queen's Platinum Jubilee and latterly the coronation of King Charles III. Fleet residents certainly know how to celebrate. But in adversity, during Covid, we witnessed some amazing personal and group initiatives to support our more vulnerable community members. The night of the switching on of the Christmas Lights and the Christmas Festivities brings out a fantastic cross section of our community, young and old, all in great spirit. Fleet Town Council will continue to strive to provide the facilities and support the activities that are hopefully appreciated by many in our ever more diverse community.

WHAT'S INSIDE:

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You're invited to chat with The Chairman and share your views at our next Councillor's Coffee Morning Saturday 23rd November, 10.30am, The Harlington.

COMMUNITY UPDATES



WELCOME, TO OUR NEW TOWN CLERK

Rita Tong

To me, community is about connection, shared values, and working together to improve where we live. While higher authorities manage housing, roads, and schools, the heart of the community shines locally. Fleet Town Council exemplifies this by offering parks, green spaces, and fostering a sense of belonging. I've had the pleasure of meeting many dedicated individuals who enrich Fleet through music, entertainment, and events. Their efforts make Fleet a vibrant, welcoming place. It's this spirit of collaboration and care that makes me proud to be part of this community.

A WINNING COMMUNITY

Congratulations to **Community Photo Competition winner** Ana Peiró Muñoz for the spectacular photos of the fireworks displays at Fleet's Coronation and Platinum Jubilee Celebrations. These perfectly depict the power of community coming together.

'The success of these displays depends on the active participation of a number of local organisations and businesses, raising funds for local charitable causes'



-To view all photos submitted, please visit Fleet Town Council's Facebook and Instagram pages

The Story behind OLLIE'S ORCHARD



The orchard at The Views was originally created in December 2022 as part of The Views development plan, which included a sensory trail around the park, with the orchard being the 'taste' element. Then in July 2023, we held a competition across schools to help generate ideas on how to make Fleet greener. Ollie won

with his forward thinking and inclusive ideas which had future implementation potential, including reducing water usage by rainwater flushing and green living walls. To further recognise the invaluable role young people play in building a healthier, more vibrant, and forward-thinking Fleet for all, we recently re-named the orchard 'Ollie's orchard'.



GET TO KNOW, NEW COUNCILLOR

Samantha Neves

What motivated you to join the local council?

I was driven to empower myself on local issues impacting the residents of Fleet, and help others become more engaged.

What's your favourite thing about Fleet? Access to nature through a range of green spaces and facilities.

Which local projects are you most excited to work on? With my energy sector background, I want to contribute to the council's focus on translating the national net zero emissions ambition into meaningful, local level programs.

Outside of council work, what are some of your personal interests? In my free time, you'll find me volunteering, gardening, reading the latest Fleet Book Club recommendation or with my kids at the local playgrounds.

Any advice for others who want to get involved in local issues? Engagement is vital and I welcome your input! If you have suggestions or areas of concern to raise, please come along to the next council meeting or contact me directly via my details on the Fleet Town Council website.

3 WAYS TO GET TO KNOW YOUR COUNCILLORS:

1. Follow Fleet Town Council on Facebook and Instagram.
2. Visit www.fleet-tc.gov.uk
3. Come along to a Councillor's Coffee Morning.

FESTIVE FLEET

YOUR GUIDE TO A MAGICAL CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

27th November, Fleet Town Centre, 2pm-9pm

The magic of Christmas comes alive as the town is transformed for the season's grand kickoff! Twinkling lights will illuminate the streets, while over 100 festive market stalls will offer delicious food, warm drinks, and unique gifts. In the heart of Gurkha Square, joyful choirs, carols from local schools, and the enchanting Panto cast of "Cinderella" will take to the stage. Wander through community stalls, visit a live Nativity, and meet animals from the mobile farm. With a funfair at The Emporium, craft market with Santa's Post Office in The Hart Shopping Centre and Santa's Grotto in The Harlington, it will be pure Christmas wonder everywhere! See you there!



CHRISTMAS LUNCH

25th December, The Harlington, 12noon - 4pm

Fleet Town Council will once again be holding a free Christmas Day lunch for those in Fleet, Elvetham Heath and Church Crookham who would otherwise spend Christmas alone. Transport can be provided to The Harlington.

If you or anyone you know would be interested in attending the event, please contact us on the following Email: info@fleet-tc.gov.uk or Tel: 01252 625246 so you can be kept up to date with plans.

What's on when

Come and join the celebrations

- ★ Christmas light switch on
Wed 27th Nov, 6.30pm
- ★ Christmas Market
Wed 27th Nov, 2pm - 9pm
- ★ Community Stalls & Live Nativity
Gurkha Square
Wed 27th Nov, 2pm - 9pm
- ★ Santa's Grotto
Wed 27th Nov, 10am - 6pm
Sat 14th Dec, 9am - 1.15pm
Sat 21st Dec, 9am - 1.15pm
Booking Recommended
- ★ Christmas Panto - Cinderella
Fri 13th - Sun 29th Dec
Various Times & Tickets
- ★ Carols in Basingbourne Park
Fri 13th Dec, 6pm

Santa's Grotto

Back by popular demand following positive feedback from last year, Santa's Grotto will again be in The Harlington. Hosted by Funtime Dance and Drama with all profits going to the childrens' charity Stepping Stones DS.

- Reindeer food making
- Biscuit decorating
- Letter writing
- Christmas colouring
- Gift from Santa



To book and view all details please visit The Harlington website, using QR code (to right) or visit www.theharlington.co.uk



Fleet's Christmas tree

A big thank you to **Natta** for kindly sponsoring this year's Christmas tree in Gurkha Square, **Cedardale Arboricultural Specialists** and **Buckland Farming and Contracting** for their professional service and for once again agreeing to undertake the installation of the Christmas Tree and finally to **Hart District Council** for allowing the tree pride of place in the square!



Award winning

Fantastic news! Despite the challenge of clearing Basingbourne Park after a trespass incident, with special thanks to all involved, we are pleased to announce that we have again achieved Gold in the South and South East in Bloom Awards 2024 for both Basingbourne Park and Basingbourne Conservation Area. In total our play areas and green spaces have won four Gold awards, four Silver Gilt awards and a Silver award.



Wellbeing boost

We're excited to share updates on our parks! New gym equipment has been installed at Ancells Play Area for residents to enjoy. Following a recent survey, we're also planning renovations at Edenbrook Play Parks, alongside ongoing regular maintenance of all our parks. Your feedback continues to shape our parks for the future, Thank you!



Thinking back &

to Fleet Town Council highlights

Greening Fleet, together we've achieved:



- A regular Repair Cafe, running once a month. With a saving of £8000+ and 1333kg of CO2 over 6 months.
- An active Greening Fleet Facebook with greater awareness of dwindling numbers of hedgehogs and shared information on how to support population growth.
- Thermal imaging across 30+ houses with more planned in for this autumn/winter.
- Fantastic uptake on three litter picks.
- Identification of pollinator corridors and spaces for nature with the help of Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust.
- Challenge card pledges made, with a quantified saving of £37,206 and 45.5 tonnes CO2, that's equivalent to 45 hot air balloons.



Thank you to all who made it possible by giving their time and passion for creating a Greener Fleet. To find out more and to get involved in future projects please scan above QR code and join... **Greening Fleet Facebook**

Music on The Views

August bank holiday saw Fleet's first ever outdoor live music festival, supported by Fleet Town Council, The Harlington & music loving volunteers. Hundreds of people came to listen to 9.5 hours of family-friendly live music on The Views. From ABBA Fever, Pop Gods of the 80s & 90s, City Funk Orchestra, Quo Connection, Sapphire, The Farleys, Chanelle Aristide – and these fabulous musicians were backed by Andy Stedman, the popular MC and comedian.

Let's hope we see it back in 2025!



D-Day - 80 years

The Fleet community came together this year on June 6th, to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the D-Day Normandy landings which took place on 6th June 1944. The bugle played, wreaths were laid and all paid tribute to the bravery and sacrifice of all those who risked and lost their lives for peace and freedom.



Remembrance Sunday

It is always an honour to play a part in Fleet's Act of Remembrance each November. Remembrance Sunday will take place Sunday 10th November, with a service at All Saints at Church, 2.30pm, followed by a parade at 3.30pm ending with wreath laying in Gurkha Square. Refreshments will be available at The Harlington for all in attendance to enjoy.



Helping nature bloom

We are committed to creating a greener environment whilst making the right decisions for our community. After considering 'No Mow May' and advice from Greening Fleet, we've decided to introduce permanent pollinator corridors as the preferred approach to support wildlife. We welcome your input. Please use the QR code provided to share your thoughts.



NEW-LOOK WEBSITE, coming soon

Now in the final stages, our new website is looking great! We can't wait to launch and share a new mobile friendly, more accessible site with you. Staying updated and navigating will be much easier for everyone. If you are on Social Media, please also follow us on Facebook and Instagram for the latest community updates and Fleet Town Council news.

Looking forward

to exciting events and initiatives

CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL



Sue Tilley

Councillor Sue Tilley is one of a small group of volunteers who form the Fleet Christmas Festival Committee, the largest event in Fleet's calendar. This year, it will be held on the 27th November, 2024, and open to the public from 2pm – 9pm.

"Each year we are amazed by the support we get" says Sue, "not only from the wonderful businesses and local organisations, who sponsor this great event, but also from the thousands of people who come along to enjoy all the festive magic and sparkle on offer. The Christmas Festival really marks the kick-off to the festive season so we hope to see you there! Come and say 'hello'!"



Gift a year of fun, with a TENNIS pass

Looking for innovative Christmas presents? Why not surprise everyone with a gift that promotes health, bonding, and endless enjoyment on the court. With a year-long tennis membership, your family can learn, play and create memories together.

With a household pass for £40.83, your whole household can enjoy tennis for the full year!

The Harlington RENOVIATION

The Harlington provides and hosts a range of activities for the community. From fitness and dance to community events, charities and meetings, all alongside a great entertainment line-up. To us it's part of the beating heart of this town. Which is why with the security of a long term lease we could start work on essential renovation needed.



The Harlington is home to, and supports a wide variety of organisations, activities and events for the benefit of the Community. These include:

- Various music, drama, dance and fitness classes for a range of ages including: *Monkey Music, Rock Choir, Ceroc, Funtime Dance & Drama, Rebecca Fraiz Classical Ballet, Salsa Steps, Bodyline Aerobics, Over 50's Aerobics* and *Vicky Ewen Fitness*. More details can be found online.
- **NHS Baby Weighing Clinic** Book in service (most Tuesdays) - Tel: 01252 813842 or Email: hp-tr.fleetandyateley@nhs.net
- **National Blood Donors** You can check your eligibility and register to give blood at myblood.co.uk
- Clubs/lectures such as: **Fleet Townswomen's Guild** (www.the-tg.com) held every 1st Wednesday of the month
The Arts Society (www.tas-hart.org.uk) every 2nd Wednesday of the month
U3A (<https://flu3aweb.wixsite.com/fleetu3a>) every 3rd Wednesday of the month
- **Sasha's Project** is a drop-in crisis centre for young people who are struggling with their mental health
 Tel: 07741 117655 or Email: angela.forster@sashasproject.charity
- **Fleet Phoenix** A local charity that co-ordinates music projects, youth clubs and mentoring projects as well as community outreach programmes to youths within Hart. Tel: 01252 812308 or Email: info@fleetphoenix.co.uk
- Not for profit, committee run events such as **Fleet Film Club** and **Fleet Jazz Club** (more information on these below)
- **Santa's Grotto** will be visiting The Harlington on various dates in November & December. Step into Santa's Magical Workshop and embark on a heartwarming journey with the assistance of our jolly Funtime Dance & Drama Elves! All profits go to Stepping Stones DS.



Fleet Film
 Mon: November 11th & 25th 2024.
 January 13th & 27th, February 10th & 24th, March 10th & 24th, April 14th & 28th, May 12th, June 2nd & 16th & 30th and July 14th 2025 at 7.30pm

Fleet Film is an award-winning film society serving Fleet and district with a unique programme of films from around the world, including many acclaimed films that rarely reach mainstream cinemas. We also show short films, annually present awards to local film students and have other special events, including outdoor cinema. Why not come along and see how different we are from the average cinema?



Fleet Jazz Club
 Various artists
 3rd Tuesday of the month
 8.00pm

Fleet Jazz Club holds monthly jazz performances from some of the UK's finest jazz musicians on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, in a "jazz club" environment at The Harlington in Fleet. The club has an enthusiastic and growing membership since it started in January 2013, and we are always very happy to see new people.



DIFFERENT SIZED ROOMS FOR A RANGE OF USES:

Meetings | Conferences | Productions | Classes | Rehearsals | Training
Networking | Private parties | Recording | Promotional shoots

FACILITIES INCLUDE:

Wifi | Licensed bars | Stage sound & lighting | Production assistance*
Up to 7 camera recording/live streaming system | Technical support
Entertainment booking service | Projection | Full size cinema screen | Helpful & friendly team

*our technical team can work with you to create a bespoke package to make your event run to plan



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Shaun Ryder
Sunday 17th November
7.30pm

He's the wild man of rock who became a national treasure. Happy Mondays and Black Grape frontman Shaun Ryder is hitting the road for a new, spoken word tour. He's touring in support of his new book: Happy Mondays - and Fridays and Saturdays and Sundays. Fans can look forward to a carnival of excess, wild tales, and improbable truths, as they enjoy the talents of a unique rock'n'roll star dubbed Britpop's answer to WB Yeats.

"This is me at my most honest; nothing is off the table - expect the unexpected and prepare for me to twist your melons, man."



Purple Zeppelin
Friday 22nd November
8.00pm

Come and experience the excitement of Deep Purple and Led Zeppelin in one mesmerising show! Featured in the BBC TV documentary "The Joy of the Guitar Riff" (alongside Brian May, Tony Iommi & Dave Grohl) Purple Zeppelin are proud to pay tribute to the two greatest Rock Bands of all time, Deep Purple and Led Zeppelin!

In a "full on" two and a half hour show complete with costume changes for each band, you'll hear more than 30 classic songs - basically THE BEST BITS, OF ALL TIME!



The Big Party with
The Shane Nolan Band
Saturday 23rd November
8.30pm

Join us for the ultimate party night! Over the last five years the Nolan Band, fronted by Shane Nolan Jnr, has fast become one of the most in demand covers bands in the UK, covering a selection of hits from all eras including Bruno Mars, Kings of Leon, Mick Jagger and Olly Murs.

Get dressed to impress and start the party season with a bang alongside The Shane Nolan Band and DJ to take you all the way to midnight.



80s Rewind - The Christmas Party
Friday 29th & Saturday 30th November
8.30pm

80s Rewind is the ultimate night out for any 80s fan with a hunger for partying. Blast back to the past with live music from the UK's best live 80s party band 'Wild Boys'. Their live renditions of all your favourite 80s records includes massive hits from Prince, Def Leppard, Elton John and more. There really is something for everyone!

Remember to sharpen your shoulder pads and dust off those legwarmers, with a DJ and bar to keep the party going till 1am!

The Annual
Mainly Madness Christmas Party
Friday 6th December
8.30pm



Back by popular demand, this group of Two Tone loving musicians are bringing the Madness experience to The Harlington this December for the Annual Mainly Madness Christmas Party!

Not only are Mainly Madness a tribute to the great band itself but also a celebration of Two Tone and Ska, which include such inspirational bands as The Specials, Bad Manners and The Beat to name a few. This fantastic genre of music manages to make you smile and stomp your feet to the rock steady beat.



Christmas Stand Up
For Saturday Comedy Club
Sunday 17th November
7.30pm
With live music from Congakeyz

Coming to The Harlington each month (excluding August), Stand up for Saturday Comedy Club is a fantastic night of live comedy entertainment. With new guest stars each month the show is a massive hit and often sells out in advance - so be sure to purchase your tickets early!"

Tables can be reserved for groups of 6+ people if booked under the same name.

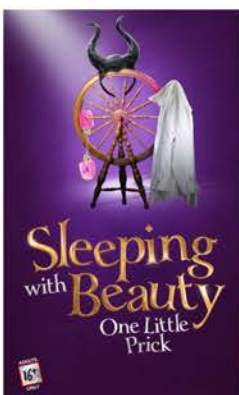


Cinderella with Starburst
13th - 29th December
Various times

You shall go to the ball this Christmas with Starburst Foundation!

Cinderella is a sweet and sassy young girl with big dreams and bigger problems in the form of her wicked stepmother and downright dirty step-sisters, Zoflora and Lenore.

She might be down on her luck, but with the help of her best friend Buttons and her Fairy Godmother-in-training, she meets a mysterious, handsome stranger with royal connections who can help make her dreams come true.



Sleeping with Beauty (One Little Prick)
Saturday 4th January
5.00pm & 8.00pm

Note: Strictly 16+ (All under 18s need to be accompanied by an adult)

Introducing "Sleeping with Beauty (One Little Prick)" - The Horniest Pantomime in Town!

Dive into the funniest, filthiest, most wickedly fabulous pantomime that's anything but a fairy tale!

A side-splitting, adults-only twist on the classic Sleeping Beauty where we follow Princess Awhorin and her friends as they 'sleep around' and fight against the devilishly horny Carabosse.



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HELP!

Which Council to contact



0300 555 1375

www.hants.gov.uk

- Adult and Childrens Services
- Bus permits
- Blue badges
- Education
- Highways and pavements
- Libraries
- Street lighting
- Trading Standards
- Transport
- Waste and recycling



01252 622122

enquiries@hart.gov.uk

www.hart.gov.uk

- Abandoned vehicles
- Bin collections, fly tipping & street cleaning
- Car parks and parking fines
- Council Tax
- Electoral registration
- Environmental Health
- Hart Leisure Centre
- Housing
- Planning consent and building control



01252 625246

info@fleet-tc.gov.uk

www.fleet-tc.gov.uk

- Ancells Farm Community Centre
- Christmas lights
- Community grants
- Fleet Cemetery and burials
- Floral displays
- The Harlington events and hire
- Neighbourhood planning and statutory planning consultee
- Playgrounds, parks, pitches, courts and pavilions at: Ancells Farm, Basingbourne, Calthorpe, Oakley, Edenbrook and The Views



Key diary dates

- 2 November** Fleet Lions Firework Fiesta
- 2 November** Fleet Repair Cafe
- 10 November** Remembrance Day
- 23 November** Councillor's Coffee Morning
- 27 November** Fleet Festivities
- 25 December** Christmas Day Lunch
- 11 March** Annual Residents Meeting
- 16 March** Fleet Half Marathon

For Town Council meeting dates visit www.fleet-tc.gov.uk

Contact us

Details of your Town Council Chairmen below.

Cllr Bob Schofield
Council Chairman
Development Control Chairman
01252 621373
bob.schofield@fleet-tc.gov.uk

Cllr Paul Einchcomb
Vice Chairman
RLA Committee Chairman
01252 662720
paul.einchcomb@fleet-tc.gov.uk

Cllr Leslie Holt
Policy & Finance Committee Chairman
01252 624814
leslie.holt@fleet-tc.gov.uk

Cllr George Woods
Establishment Committee Chairman
07966 138416
george.woods@fleet-tc.gov.uk

For the full listing of your Town Councillors by Ward visit www.fleet-tc.gov.uk

How to find us

Fleet Town Council, The Harlington, 236 Fleet Road, Fleet, GU51 4BY

search 'Fleet Town Council'

@fleettowncouncil

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SUPPORT LOCAL & VISIT SANTA'S POST OFFICE

Delivered by the Fleet Business Improvement District, Love Fleet, and funded by local businesses, Santa's Post Office returns to the Hart Shopping Centre this Christmas.

This is a FREE magical attraction all the family will love.

lovefleet.co.uk



If you're struggling in the cost of living crisis, you can find help on our Cost of Living Support Hub

Scan now

www.hart.gov.uk



Hart Lottery

Raise money for good causes in Hart

Search "Hart Lottery" at hart.gov.uk

- Tickets just £1
- Win up to £25,000

