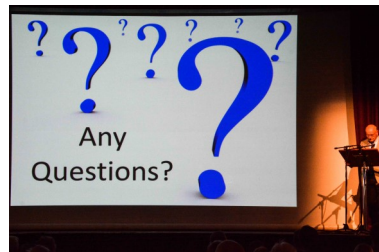




TOWN TALK

The newsletter from Fleet Town Council

Come along
 to the **Annual Residents' Meeting**
Tuesday 22nd March
7.00 for 7.30pm
at The Harlington, Fleet
ALL FLEET RESIDENTS WELCOME



We want to start this Town Talk with an invitation!

Last year as you may remember, we were unable to hold an Annual Residents' Meeting because of the Pandemic. We tried to keep you up to date in the best way we could, with an online award winning video accompanied by a Zoom Q&A session.

The video gave an overview of the effects that COVID-19 had on our community; the help that the Town Council had been able to offer through providing The Harlington as an important vaccination centre; an update on our parks and open spaces; an overview of the impact that new developments are having on our town, our town centre and our community; and a round-up of some of our plans for future expenditure on The Harlington, our local play-areas and parks.

We hope you managed to watch the video but if you haven't already seen it, you can watch it on our YouTube page, just visit [www.youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com/search?q=Fleet+Town+Council) search 'Fleet Town Council' and the video should pop up in the results.

This year, we are able to meet in person again and we very much hope you will join us **at The Harlington at 7 for 7.30pm on the 22nd March** for what will be the last Annual Residents' Meeting of this particular Council (more on that later!)

So, what have we got on the agenda this time?

1. **Presentation of a Special Community Award**
2. **A GP's Perspective – one of our local GP's will be taking to the stage**
3. **Meet with a representative of our local Police Force (subject to their availability)**
4. **Fleet's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations**
5. **Round up of the last 4 years of the Town Council**
6. **Upcoming Elections**
7. **At the end of the meeting - your opportunity to ask questions**

More detailed information on the following pages!



In this issue

Annual Residents' Meeting

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Including details on Elections and The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

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Who Does What, Useful Numbers, Councillor Contacts

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Follow us on Social Media ...



1. Special Community Award



We will start the evening with the first ever award of the 'Freedom of the Town' to a very special member of our community. We will say no more until the 22nd!

2. A GP's Perspective

Because COVID-19 has been such a huge part of all our lives for the past two years, we are very pleased to invite one of our local GPs to join us and to guide us through her perspective of our community's reaction to the biggest vaccination programme in our country's history and what the future of our medical services will look like.



3. Meet with a representative of our local Police Force



Subject to availability, one of our local police force will give us a perspective of how Fleet compares to other parts of the County, what pressures the team are under in responding to our requirements and what the future of policing in the Fleet area will look like.

3. Fleet's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations – 2nd to 5th June 2022



The official Platinum Jubilee emblem

A small group of local volunteers, coordinated by Fleet Town Council, is working with local groups/organisations to bring together a 4-day programme of events to mark the unique occasion of the Platinum Jubilee. The events will run from the 2nd to the 5th June 2022.

The group form the "Fleet Platinum Jubilee Committee" which includes representatives from the local British Legion, Hart Lions, Fleet Lions, our local Schools, Scouts, Guides, our local Churches and representatives of both Fleet Town Council and Hart District Council. They all feel strongly that we need to do everything we can to, not only celebrate our longest reigning monarch, but to help our community recover from the last two years. The Platinum Jubilee Celebrations give us a wonderful opportunity to do just that.



FACEBOOK

@fleetplatinumjubilee

You will be receiving much more information about the programme of events but, in brief, the four days will run as follows:

Thursday 2nd June The lighting of a beacon in Calthorpe Park, in line with the beacons being lit throughout the UK and across the Commonwealth. The beacon lighting will be accompanied by a short fireworks display, a Fun Fair and a children's lantern parade.

Friday 3rd June A Day of Sport, including Bike Rides, Fun Run, archery, football and much, much more, accompanied by a regatta and paddle-boarding on the Basingstoke Canal.

Saturday 4th June A Jubilee Parade and Premier & Vintage Car Procession through the town centre. The Parade will include our local scouts and guides, as well as many other local groups and organisations.

Sunday 5th June The four day programme will conclude with a morning Act of Worship in Gurkha Square, followed by a giant street party and entertainment along our high street, with street food stalls and live performances from a stage in Gurkha Square.

These four days will be a wonderful opportunity for us to come together to celebrate our recovery from the loneliness and isolation that has been part of the last two years and to acknowledge the 70 years of service of our Queen.

The Queen's Official Royal Programme

THURSDAY 2ND JUNE

-The Queen's Birthday Parade (Trooping the Colour)

FRIDAY 3RD JUNE

-St Paul's Cathedral: Service of Thanksgiving

SATURDAY 4TH JUNE

-The Derby at Epsom Downs
-Platinum Party at the Palace

SUNDAY 5TH JUNE

-The Big Jubilee Lunch
-The Platinum Jubilee Pageant

5. A Round Up of the Council's last four years of activity



A pictorial round up of the achievements of the Town Council, including a review of the impacts of COVID-19 restrictions over the last two years.

6. Elections

This May marks a very special time in the life of Fleet Town Council. It is the end of the four year term of the Council and every Councillor will have to stand down and put themselves up for re-election, if they so wish, and a new Council will be formed.

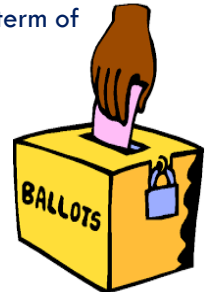
If you want to make a difference to the town you live in, and hopefully love, this is the chance to put your name forward to become a Town Councillor. Too often, seats on the Town Council are unopposed.

In 2022 it would be wonderful to see every Council seat contested. All 18 places will become vacant and this is your opportunity to become a Councillor and really have the opportunity to say that you did something for your community. So, please think about it. Two of our new Town Councillors will talk about their experience of being part of the Council team and what they feel this opportunity gives them.

What do you need to do if you are interested? Firstly, please contact the Elections team at Hart District Council, who will be able to provide you with all the necessary forms and information.

You can Email: elections@hart.gov.uk or telephone 01252 774073 / 01252 774157 / 01252 774158.

If you stand, you will be expected to come along to regular meetings. It would be good if you had already been involved in community projects, although this is not essential. Please give this some serious thought!



7. Questions from our residents



One of the most important parts of the evening, your turn to ask about any aspect of the Council's activity and tell us what you want the future of our town to look like.

We very much look forward to seeing you on the 22nd March!

And onto some other updates...

The future of Fleet's Saturday Market

Our Saturday Market has had a chequered career over the past several years and we think that we will all agree that it needs a fresh approach.

We are pleased to tell you that in January 2022, the Council agreed that a Community Interest Company (CIC) should be formed to operate a new weekly Saturday Market, plus a specialist Sunday Market once a month. Two of our new Councillors have been heavily involved in taking forward the plans for this revival and the Annual Residents' Meeting gives you the opportunity to question the plans for the future of the market.



Fleet Saturday Market

Chairman's Coffee Mornings

Each month, prior to the pandemic, our Chairman, Bob Schofield, together with the relevant Ward Councillors, hosted a Residents' Coffee Morning. Those invited were randomly selected from all residents living in a particular Ward within the Town Council area.

These events have proved to be a really great away of finding out what people think about living in Fleet and is not restricted to talking about only what Fleet Town Council does in the town, but what is good and not so good over a far ranging set of topics.


Probably one of the most consistent questions is "who is responsible for what around the Town". We have hopefully helped clarify the situation and the panel on the back page of this newsletter sets out the headline responsibilities of the County, District and Town Councils.




Chairman's Musings

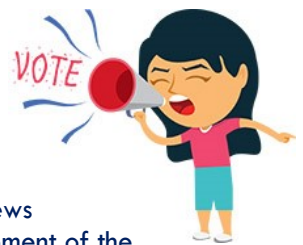
" This is the last Town Talk of the third, four-year term of Fleet Town Council. We must have been enjoying ourselves because the time has just flown, but equally it has been virtually a two-year term with the COVID-19 chaos of the last two years. We had to cancel all our meetings and close down The Harlington and Ancells Farm Community Centre but at least we were able to keep our parks and playgrounds operating so you could all take your daily exercise. The parks became little oases of sanity.



 We were temporarily allowed to hold virtual meetings and the most frequent phrase to kick-off every meeting was "you're muted". Just when we had honed our virtual meeting skills, the Government said we had to return to live meetings and there was no choice but to comply.

 We are now seeing things slowly return to some semblance of normality, if that is what pre-Covid was, but it is understandable that there are mixed feelings about suddenly throwing caution to the wind - we are experiencing some of the clubs and activities returning with great support and others being more cautious. And of course, there are the last-minute disruptions such as Blondie (or at least our version) testing positive for COVID-19 the afternoon before the show, ouch!

It is not long now to the end of April when every Town Councillor has to stand down and, if willing, put themselves up for re-election for a further 4 year period, but new blood is always welcome. If you have strong views or are just passionate about our Town why not consider becoming a Town Councillor and help shape the future of Fleet? Details of how you can put yourself forward as a potential candidate are included on Page 3.



We had hoped, as ever, that we could offer you some news on the future of The Harlington and the potential development of the Civic Quarter. The initial public engagement was meant to start at the end of February, but because of a critical resourcing issue, Hart District Council has put the public exhibition and conversation off until May, after the elections. Let's be optimistic and say that "no news is good news".

Talking of good news, I hope that many of you saw that Charlotte Harris, a FLEET resident, together with Jessica Oliver, from Gloucestershire, set a new record, by 5 days, for rowing across the Atlantic. Our sincerest congratulations on such an amazing achievement. I wonder if Jessica practised her skills on the Basingstoke Canal?

As our lead article (Pages 1-3) states, we will be hosting a live Annual Residents' Meeting this year, and all being well it will be live streamed for those who are unable to physically attend. It will be an opportunity for you to hear some interesting information, not just from the Town Council, but also from one of our local GPs and a representative of the police, but equally importantly it is a chance for you to tell us your views and ask any pertinent questions.

Finally, I feel very privileged to have chaired Fleet Town Council for the last 4 years and particularly to have witnessed the commitment of so many residents volunteering for a wide variety of activities to support their fellow residents: it is part of what makes Fleet such a real community. " - Bob Schofield



Bob Schofield
Chairman of FTC

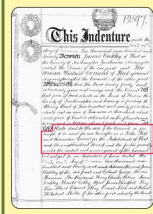
Centenary Tree Planting

Early on a sunny Sunday afternoon in early November, the Friends of Oakley Park Committee, along with Bob Schofield, Chairman of Fleet Town Council, planted a commemorative tree (Acer Cappadocium 'Rubrum') in celebration of the centenary of James Oakley's gift of Oakley Park to the people of Fleet in February 1920.



OAKLEY PARK


James Oakley's Generous Gift to Fleet



His act of generosity was a thanksgiving for the signing of the peace treaty at the end of the 1914 - 1918 war.

An extract from the Deed of Gift, dated 25th February 1920 reads:

"Unto and to the use of the council in fee simple to be used for ever hereafter as a public park and recreation ground for the inhabitants of Fleet and neighbourhood thereof and the public generally under the control and management of the council"



"Mr James Oakley built a house and shop near the junction of Fleet Road and Upper Street; he twice enlarged these premises and incorporated a clock tower. When completed this establishment had 100ft of shop window in Fleet Road and 60ft in Upper Street; it was really a departmental store, and sold everything from groceries to bicycles, millinery to furniture, also an off-licence and a funeral furnishing department." The photographs show Mr James Oakley, aged 80, and his Emporium.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - Fleet Town Council Meetings

A full list of Fleet Town Council meeting dates is available at www.fleet-tc.gov.uk

March	April	May	June	July
2 - Council	6 - Council	9 - Planning	1 - Council	6 - Council
14 - Planning	11 - Planning	18 - Council	13 - Planning	11 - Planning
16 - RLA	25 - Planning	23 - Planning	15 - RLA	20 - Policy & Finance
28 - Planning		25 - Policy & Finance	27 - Planning	25 - Planning

Dates for your Diary

- **Fleet Half Marathon**
20th March 2022 — Around Fleet
- **Annual Residents' Meeting**
22nd March 2022 — The Harlington
- **Platinum Jubilee**
2nd to 5th June 2022 — Fleet
- **Fleet Carnival**
2nd July 2022 — Fleet
- **Remembrance Sunday**
13th November 2022 — Fleet
- **Fleet Christmas Festival**
23rd November 2022 — Town Centre
- **Christmas Day Lunch**
25th December 2022 — The Harlington

Action Days

In October and November, two Action days were held at Calthorpe Park and Fleet Cemetery to plant crocus bulbs kindly donated by Fleet Rotary Club to support World Polio Day - we hope you enjoy them when they flower. The door was also repainted on Calthorpe Park Pavilion to improve its appearance. Thank you to all the volunteers that helped out!

On a similar note, if you would be interested in joining a Park 'Friends of Group' who hold Action Days, social events etc. the contacts are as follows:

Friends of Oakley Park - oakleypark@live.co.uk

Friends of Ancells Farm - committee@ancellsfarm.org.uk

Friends of Basingbourne Park - info@basingbournepark.org.uk

Friends of Fleet Cemetery - cemetery.clerk@fleet-tc.gov.uk

Christmas Day Lunch 2021

Fleet Town Council in collaboration with Churches Together, once again organized a free Christmas Day Lunch for those in Fleet & Church Crookham who would otherwise have spent Christmas Day alone.

Fleet Town Council would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the wonderful volunteers that helped out on Christmas Eve and/or Christmas Day and the following generous sponsors: The Harlington, Waitrose & Partners, Imagination Displays, Fleet & Church Crookham Society, Sugarplum Boutique & Home, Elvetham Heath Parish Council, Church Crookham Parish Council, various Councillors and several members of the public. We really couldn't have done it without you!



Cemetery Planting



Calthorpe Action Day Volunteers



Christmas Day Lunch set-up

Tennis in Calthorpe Park



Calthorpe Park Tennis Courts

If you're wanting to exercise outdoors why not buy a Tennis membership for Calthorpe Park?

You can play Tennis as much as you like for just £42 per year! The membership fee entitles each household to a unique 4 digit code that can be used to access the Courts after making a reservation online!

To purchase membership visit www.calthorpeparktennis.com and set up an account. Pay to Play is also available too!

Coaching

Tennis Coaching is now also available. If you're interested please contact the coaches directly on Email: calthorpeparktennis@gmail.com

THE HARLINGTON

VENUE UPDATE

The majority of local people will be aware that the venue was used as a vaccination centre throughout most of 2021 and thanks to all the NHS doctors, organisers and vaccinators, supported by an army of local volunteers, tens of thousands of people in the area have received their vaccination. The building is currently still being used for boosters/vaccinations although these are now being administered in the café area allowing more user groups to use the main auditorium.

2021 saw some venue re-decorating and improvements including two large screens in the Auditorium which will give audiences a better overall experience and enables us to offer live-streaming on selected shows using a new seven camera system, record live band videos and take our conferencing services to the next level.

Whilst we are following all COVID-19 regulations, if you are still a bit wary keep an eye out on our social media and website to find out which shows will be live streamed so you can join in the fun from your own living room!

Below we have highlighted some of the upcoming shows — visit the website for details of the full programme!

www.theharlington.co.uk

STAND UP FOR SATURDAY



COMEDY CLUB

Featuring the top acts from the UK comedy circuit

Normal Tickets £13 in advance

SATURDAY

19th March

9th April

14th May

18th June

Show: 8:30pm



A Social Cinema Group showing award winning films from around the world

Tickets available on the door £6

Membership available - £45 / year

Information visit www.fleetfilm.co.uk

MONDAY

14th & 28th March

11th & 25th April

9th & 23rd May

13th and 20th June

Starts: 8:00pm

FLEET JAZZ CLUB

Featuring some of Britain's finest Jazz musicians

3rd Tuesday of the month

Please visit www.theharlington.co.uk for prices

TUESDAY

15th March

19th April

17th May

21st June

Show: 8:00pm



Totally TINA

From Nutbush to Wembley Stadium with The Queen of Rock'n'Roll! Come shake a tail feather with the UK's official No.1 Tina. . . Justine Ridloch and her talented cast.

Tickets: £22.00 (Seated) / £19.00 (Standing)

FRIDAY

4th March

Show: 8:30pm



GUNS.2.ROSES

Authentic stage outfits and stage performances down to the last detail. Their ability to emulate classics has been approved by members of the original and current lineup of Guns N Roses. Playing many songs from Appetite For Destruction, GNR Lies, Use Your Illusion I & II, Spaghetti Incident? and even tracks from Chinese Democracy.

Tickets: £18 Standing

SATURDAY

5th March

Show: 8:00pm



@harlington.fleet



@theharlingtonfleet



@TheHarlington



Voodoo Room: A Night Of Hendrix, Clapton & Cream

Celebrating the incredible music of Jimi Hendrix, Eric Clapton & Cream. Voodoo Room are a stunning high energy 'power trio' featuring some of the UK's finest musicians.

Tickets: £17.50 Seated / £15 Standing

FRIDAY

11th March

Show: 8:30pm



The Ultimate Commitments & Blues Brothers Experience

Take a trip down memory lane as you hear the best songs from The Commitments and The Blues Brothers in a full live-band experience. The stage show includes state of the art audio visual effects as well as iconic scenes from both cult-classic films.

Tickets: £17.50 Seated / £15 Standing

SATURDAY

12th March

Show: 8:30pm



NORTHSYDE *Plus John O'Leary's Sugarkane*

Northsyde are no ordinary band and almost impossible to categorise, attracting rave reviews wherever they play. They can best be summed up as a grooving combination of rock, funk, blues, jazz and soul, hitting the stage like a whirlwind.

Tickets: £17.50 General Admission

FRIDAY

25th March

Show: 7:30pm



Geno Washington and the Ram Jam Band

Whether it's Geno Washington and the Ram Jam Band or Geno Washington and the Yo Yo's you can be sure of one thing and that is a barnstorming live show that never lets up in intensity or excitement and delivers the goods every time!

Tickets: £20 Seated / £17 Standing

SATURDAY

26th March

Show: 8:30pm



★ ★ **ULTIMATE ELTON** ★ ★

Some tribute artists look like their idol, some sound like their idol. Paul Bacon as Sir Elton John does both! Close your eyes and you won't believe your ears, open your eyes and you won't believe them either!

Tickets: £17.50 Seated / £15 Standing

FRIDAY

1st April

Show: 8:30pm



Rock for Heroes

The UK's No.1 touring Rock Show! Performed by a full live rock band and our incredible singers, complete with brilliant personalities and hilarious comedy value, this really is a night out unlike any other!

Tickets: £22 Seated / £19 Standing

FRIDAY

8th April

Show: 8:30pm



THE JAMES TAYLOR QUARTET

For more than 30 years, The James Taylor Quartet have set the standard for the coolest sounds in funky acid jazz. JTQ stands with one foot planted in 2019, and other, just as firmly, somewhere south of the 1970s.

Tickets: £20 Cabaret Unseated / Standing

FRIDAY

29th April

Show: 8:30pm



PAUL ZERDIN HANDS FREE

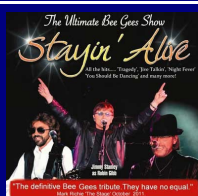
Winner of America's Got Talent! As well as his hilarious characters 'Hands Free' features Paul giving us a glimpse into his own world showing us what it's like to be able to throw your voice in everyday situations where anything and everything can talk back!

Tickets: £20 Theatre Reserved

FRIDAY

6th May

Show: 8:00pm



Stayin' Alive

Stayin' Alive, a tribute band that's been touring around the world for some 15 years, and which has been recently voted best Bee Gees act in the UK. Full vocal character, snippets of all the hits you'd expect, and almost eerie authenticity.

Tickets: £20 Seated / £16 Standing

SATURDAY

7th May

Show: 8:30pm

Your Councillors

Ancells Ward

Cllr George Woods Tel: 07966138416
george.woods@fleet-tc.gov.uk

Cllr Jonathan Wright Tel: 07909797167
jonathan.wright@fleet-tc.gov.uk

Calthorpe Ward

Cllr Grahame Chenery Tel: 01252 617033
grahame.chenery@fleet-tc.gov.uk

Cllr Leslie Holt Tel: 01252 624814
leslie.holt@fleet-tc.gov.uk

Cllr Sue Tilley Tel: 01252 668848
sue.tilley@fleet-tc.gov.uk

Courtmoor Ward

Cllr Paul Einchcomb Tel: 01252 662720
paul.einchcomb@fleet-tc.gov.uk

Cllr Alan Oliver Tel: 01252 679235
alan.oliver@fleet-tc.gov.uk

Cllr Sharyn Wheale Tel: 01252 616080
sharyn.wheale@fleet-tc.gov.uk

Cllr Roy Fang Tel: 01252 596688
roy.fang@fleet-tc.gov.uk

Fleet Central Ward

Cllr Alan Hope Tel: 07946292557
alan.hope@fleet-tc.gov.uk

Cllr Richard Robinson Tel: 01252 614590
richard.robinson@fleet-tc.gov.uk

Cllr Robbie Richmond Tel: 07887953053
robbie.richmond@fleet-tc.gov.uk

Cllr Kumar Kuntikanamata Tel: 07715673881
kumar.kuntikanamata@fleet-tc.gov.uk

Pondtail Ward

Cllr Kathy Jasper Tel: 01252 629667
kathy.jasper@fleet-tc.gov.uk

Cllr Bob Schofield Tel: 01252 621373
CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL
bob.schofield@fleet-tc.gov.uk

Cllr Peter Wildsmith Tel: 07501439660
peter.wildsmith@fleet-tc.gov.uk

Cllr Ben Willcocks Tel: 07891030322
ben.willcocks@fleet-tc.gov.uk



What are the different Councils responsible for?

Fleet Town Council

- Ancells Farm Community Centre
- Cemeteries and Burials
- Christmas Lights
- Floral Displays
- Fleet Link
- Grants
- The Harlington
- The Harlington Coffee Shop
- Parks & Play Equipment at: Ancells Farm, Basingbourne, Calthorpe, Oakley Park, Edenbrook & The Views
- Pavilions at: Ancells Farm, Calthorpe, Basingbourne and Oakley Park
- Planning Application Consultations
- Annual Residents' Meeting
- Skate Park at The Views
- Tennis Courts in Calthorpe Park
- War Memorial
- Football Pitches
- Notice Boards

Hart District Council

- Abandoned Vehicles
- Building Control
- CCTV
- Car Parks and Fines
- Council Tax Enquiries
- Electoral Registration
- Gypsies and Travellers
- Housing / Homelessness
- Fly Tipping
- Leisure Centre
- Licensing
- Noise Pollution
- Pest Control
- Planning
- Recycling / Refuse / Special Collections
- Street Cleaning / Litter
- Taxi / Private Hire Licensing

Hampshire County Council

- Bus Permits
- Blue Badges
- Education — Pre-school, Infant, Junior, Secondary, Further, Higher and Adult
- Environment
- Highways and Footways
- Libraries
- Minerals
- Social Services—Adult/Children
- Street Lighting
- Trading Standards
- Transport
- Waste Disposal

Useful Telephone Numbers ...

Ancells Com Centre	07702 834701	Frimley Park Hospital	01276 604604
Basingstoke Hospital	01256 473202	The Harlington	01252 811009
Birth/Death/ Marriage Reg	0300 555 1392	Hart District Council	01252 622122
Bus Permits	0300 555 1376	Hart Leisure Centre	01252 629879
Citizens Advice Bureau	03444 111 306	Hart Shopping Centre	01252 811834
Council Tax	01252 774444	Hart Voluntary Action	01252 815652
Electoral Registration	01252 774077	Library	0300 555 1387
Fleet Cemetery	01252 625246/ 07880 722941	MP –	
Fleet Link Bus Service	01252 398451	Ranil Jayawardena	01256 702468
Fleet Town Council	01252 625246	Police	101
Hants County Council	0300 555 1375	Refuse	01252 622122
		Hart Response Hub	0333 370 4000
		NHS Helpline	111