



ARCHITECTURE GROUP

NEWSLETTER: September 2023



WELCOME



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A very warm welcome to those both new to the Group and rejoining. It is good to have you aboard and I look forward to meeting up in person at our first meeting of the year on **19^h September starting at 10am.**

Accompanying this brief Newsletter you will find a copy of this year's programme. I am indebted to all those who have kindly offered talks etc. You will see there is a diverse range of topics and I hope there is something for everyone to enjoy and participate in. Everyone is encouraged to actively join in.

Apart from talks we also have Group discussion sessions and it is hoped to also include a couple of additional trips this year. For many year's now we have had a lively dicussion on the shortlisted entries for The Sterling Prize. Only rarely agreeing with the judging panel. I have included in this year's programme a session to look at Brightwell's Yard. The most significant development in the town centre for sometime. It is hoped by the time we meet to discuss this in March the development will be complete, or very nearly so, and will have had a chance to have bedded in with the cinema and a good number of the units let.



I know how controversial the scheme has been. Rather than look over the past history, which we can no longer change, I thought we should concentrate on the built form, how it links in with the town as a whole, the merits of the spaces created and things like the materials and detailing used.

WHAT'S IN THE NEWS

Architecture and public art can take various forms. This recently took on a whole new dimension in Newcastle when a huge building made entirely from cardboard boxes popped up in the city centre. The structure, which towered above trees and streetlights and measured 45ft (14m) tall, was built outside the Civic Centre.

It is an art installation and part of the Novum Summer Festival, which is making its debut in the city. Hundreds of volunteers, including children helped to make more than 1,500 parts over several days.



Designed by French visual artist Olivier Grossetête, the towering building was erected without any machinery on 11 August, before being toppled by hand on Sunday 13 August, when the festival ended.



"When the people are together, it's possible to make beautiful things," said Mr Grossetête. "The finality is not this [the structure], but what is happening around this. It is beautiful to see it [being torn down] too."

The life-size structure has been designed to mimic a four-storey hall, although Mr Grossetête is known for basing other cardboard structures on real-life buildings.

In recent years he has recreated landmarks including Donnington Castle, while he has been commissioned to recreate a currently unknown Ipswich venue later this year.



Volunteers spent several hours piecing the boxes together with brown tape in relatively dry weather, earlier.

WHAT ELSE IS GOING ON?

There are opportunities to see and learn more about architecture in all its forms. For those who have access, *Sky Arts* from time to time has some interesting programmes including *The Art of Architecture* series. Otherwise programmes such as *Grand Designs* (Channel 4), *George Clarke* (Channel 4) and some of programmes featured on BBC Four.

Soon there will be many opportunities to explore things locally. **Heritage Open Days** is a national event run in September offering an opportunity to view buildings. It offers the prospect of getting behind the scenes and view sights which may not be generally be open to the public. Many other organisations, such as the National Trust, English Heritage also have select openings during this time free of charge.



In Farnham the Event is organised by The Farnham Society and runs 8 – 17 September.

For details of the properties, events and booking arrangements (where relevant) see the website.

[Heritage Open Days 2023 - The Farnham Society](#)

Printed brochures are also usually available to pick up around town, for example Farnham Town Council Offices and Library.

For details of events and properties further afield use the national link.

[Homepage](#) | [Heritage Open Days](#)

In London, the same opportunities arise where it runs from 6 – 17 September and goes under the title of London Open Festival City.

Use this link for more information.

[Open House Festival](#)

If you are aware of other architectural activities that are likely to be of interest to the Group, let me know and I can circulate more widely.

Mike Grundy, an outside speaker who will be familiar to many members of the Group, is giving a couple of talks as part of the upcoming Farnham U3A Programme.

Monday 11th September – Mornington Crescent (Monthly Meeting)

Friday 22 September – Berlin (Theme Meeting)

See the U3A Programme for more details.

Other Activities

We have been regular participants in the Quiz Evenings run by Farnham U3A. I regret I was too slow off the mark to enter a team for September where there is a full house. **The next Quiz will be on Friday 3rd November.**

TAKING PART



We are an active, participatory Group. Everyone is encouraged to get involved. Most of our meetings are based around talks. We use Microsoft PowerPoint, as the mechanism for illustrating them. No prior technical knowledge is required. Help is readily on hand if needed, either through the Group, or the **Speakers and Presenters Workshops** run each term. See page 40 of the Programme or contact Alan Freeland for more details of these workshops arfreeland@gmail.com

I am always looking for behind the scenes help, with setting up and putting away equipment, arranging visits etc. So, if speaking in front of a friendly

audience is not necessarily your thing, there are plenty of other ways of getting involved. Please do get in touch.

MEETINGS

Some Useful Tips

1. We generally meet in The **Barley Room** (occasionally the Long Kiln Room). Both are located on the first floor, accessible by the stairs/lift in the main foyer. If you do not require the lift and can manage the slightly steeper stairs, the Long Kiln room is best accessed independently via the stair in the right-hand corner of the main reception area. **PLEASE ALWAYS CHECK** the notice board opposite the Box Office as on rare occasions The Maltings may need to alter the room allocation late on for operational reasons.
2. We aim to start **promptly at 10am**, as there is a lot to pack in the 2 hours available. We take a short refreshment break and finish at 12 noon.
3. Our meeting quite often coincides with events in the Great Hall. If coming by car, please leave extra time to ensure you get a space at The Maltings. Alternative parking is available in Waggon Yard, a short walk away (slightly more expensive). **For a more relaxed session why not splash out an extra 80p for 3hrs parking enjoy what The Maltings has to offer and avoid the stress!!**
4. If you have kindly offered to make a presentation, please use Powerpoint and save it onto a memory stick which then works smoothly with the U3A equipment. Help is at hand if you do not have access to Powerpoint or need guidance.

ABOVE ALL, IT'S A FUN GROUP. ENJOY

I hope you have found the information contained in this Newsletter helpful. If you have suggestions or ideas for activities which you feel would benefit the Group, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Looking forward to catching up at a future meeting.

John Townsend
(Architecture Group Leader)