

Roaring success for Lions' evening

THE Lions Club of Farnham staged a highly successful Summer Spectacular on July 8 in support of four local youth-based charities: Challengers, 40 Degreerz, the Ridgeway School and Frensham Pond Sailability.

The event, which also celebrated the 100th year of Lions International and the 50th year of Farnham Lions, took place at a private motor museum near Churt and was attended by 690 guests, many of whom arrived dressed in the styles of the 1920s.

On a warm summer evening the guests were greeted with a glass of bubbly, courtesy of Wright's Lion Brewery, and had the opportunity to view the motor museum exhibits before dinner, during which they were entertained by internationally renowned singing group Urban Blue. More music and dance followed, including two energetic and choreographed dance sets entitled 'The Jazz Age' and 'The Golden Age', per-

formed by West End dancers Charlotte Gooch, Lucy-Jane Adcock, Alan Burkitt and Matthew Goodgame.

A little later, Rachel Palmer and her team from The Dance Movement performed an energetic Charleston routine, followed by a number of Farnham Lions, supported and trained by Rachel Palmer, who took to the stage with their own interpretation.

James Knight of Bonhams conducted an auction which was well supported, as were the silent auctions and raffle.

As darkness fell, under clear skies and the gaze of the full moon, the guests were treated to the sight of members of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment Freefall Parachute team making a descent, followed by a fireworks display. Andrew Lodge, this year's president of the Lions Club of Farnham, offered his thanks to all guests for their support, to the organising committee and fellow Lions for their contribution, and was



Inside a packed marquee.

presented with a gift by Dietrich Tripp and Thorsten Sponholz, members of the Frankenberg Lions Club, twinned with Farnham, who had flown in to support the event.

Baroness Bottomley of Nettlestone rounded off the formalities

of the evening with a speech about the contribution that the Lions have made to Farnham during the last 50 years. More music and dancing followed before carriages home, thus bringing to an end almost two years of planning and hard work.

Hale is a 'good' school

HALE School has been declared a 'Good' school according to the latest Ofsted report.

The report follows an inspection on June 27 and 28 at which the inspectors found the school to be good in all areas.

In the previous inspection in 2015, the school was given a 'requires improvement' grading. However, the 2017 report stated that the school had been "transformed" by the head-teacher Serena Hemmings, who arrived just before the 2015 inspection, and that her "compelling positive vision for an inclusive school," is shared by governors, staff, parents and pupils.

The inspection found strong moral values underpinning the school and a real understanding of what pupils need to learn and develop. This has been reflected in pupils' behaviour, progress and in their outlook on life, and the inspectors believed the school

prepared children well for life in modern Britain.

The school has also been placed on a sound footing for the long term both financially and in terms of leadership.

Serena Hemmings told the *Surrey & Hants News*: "I am incredibly proud of the school. It has been a real community and collective effort by the children, the governors, the parents and the staff, both teaching and support. The children deserve this. Every child does matter and we have shown that inclusive education equals excellent education. The school is in a secure place and our values underpin everything we do."

Serena Hemmings is now stepping down as head for family reasons and Ann Wheeler, the deputy, will become acting head.

To read the report visit www.hale.surrey.sch.uk/key-information/ofsted.



Fireworks.

A Gostrey gathering

AROUND 1,000 people gathered in Gostrey Meadow on July 9 for an ecumenical service which celebrated some of the ways that churches in Farnham seek to help those in the town.

'The Gathering' was arranged by Farnham Christian Community Trust (FCCT) and those assembled saw presentations by inter-church projects such as Farnham Parenting, Farnham Food Bank, Farnham Assist, Farnham Money Advice, Farnham Friends Together Bereavement support, Signposts and Cohesion (schools work) and Love in Action, a campaign for

Christians in Farnham to pray and to make a positive difference in the community. There were songs, stories, reflections and talks about Jesus Christ, activities for children, and many people stayed to picnic afterwards.

Sean Gubb, leader of Jubilee Church and a trustee of FCCT, told the *Surrey & Hants News*: "People have enjoyed doing projects together which make a difference and through working together we find we have more in common than that which divides us. This was also a way of celebrating Jesus outdoors."

For more on the work of FCCT and the projects it supports, visit www.fcct.support.



The crowd listening at 'The Gathering'.

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nationaltrust.org.uk/swanbarnfarm

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The Princess of Wales Royal Regiment Freefall Parachute team making a descent.

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