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Sunday 26th January 2025

Afternoon Reception For The Dedication of our  
Wall of History to Marilyn

# THE VILLAGE

## C I N E M A

13<sup>th</sup> February



13<sup>th</sup> March



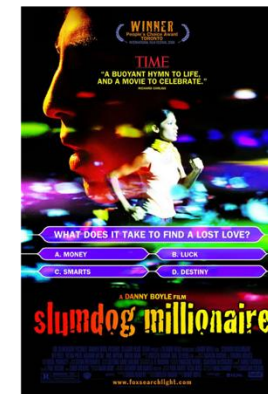
24<sup>th</sup> April



8<sup>th</sup> May



12<sup>th</sup> June



All screenings are at 2pm with doors opening approx. 1.40pm.  
 Tickets just £5 on the door, which includes refreshments

## **Our Village Cinema**

This was Marilyn's idea in 2018 and we were able to launch in January 2019.

Her vision was to provide a welcoming afternoon of cinema in the village for those who would appreciate the entertainment, the cake and the company. She was always happy to welcome people at the door with a smile.

Despite a hiatus throughout the pandemic, our cinema is thriving and fulfilling our objectives of bringing people together to enjoy a film and refreshments. We now have a growing group of regulars but also meet new people each month who have come to see what we do.

We hope to restart our evening screenings later this year - hopefully with the new Bridget Jones film (subject to licencing availability).

Thank you for coming today.

Marilyn loved this hall.

The idea for our Wall of History came to us in a Trustees' meeting shortly after her funeral, where she had generously nominated us as one of the collection beneficiaries. We decided to explore our archives and to share some of our historical documents with our hirers and visitors, in her memory.

Later in 2024, a deeper exploration of our cupboards unearthed a meticulously handwritten book of meeting minutes from 1938 to 1954, which details the role of the hall during World War II and its struggles in the post-war era.

As we dedicate this display to Marilyn, we remember her passion for this important community hub - part of which has already served our residents for 135 years.

We are committed to continuing her important legacy, and that of all those who have invested in bringing people together here for fun, friendship, learning, fitness and entertainment.

Long may that continue.

*The Trustees and Volunteers of Farnham Common Village Hall*

## Facts From Our History – WWII And Earlier

We know that our Reading Room opened in 1889. The librarian was stationed in what is today the caretaker's cupboard. Books were passed from here into the Reading Room.

Our oldest document dates back to 1935 and is our Charities Commission document from that time.

In 1938, fifty per cent of our Children's Pantomime proceeds were sent to the Jewish Refugee Fund

During World War II, the Hall was used as a Red Cross for a canteen open from 4pm daily.

The Hall was on standby to step in as the Telephone Exchange, should the one on the main road be damaged by enemy fire

The Hall was used for teaching evacuated children and to host their visiting parents for teas

Curating the perfect picture wall can be a headache. Our team of expert installers provide you with all the support you need to create the perfect collection. From concept to completion, we work closely with you to ensure that your vision is realised. 🖼️

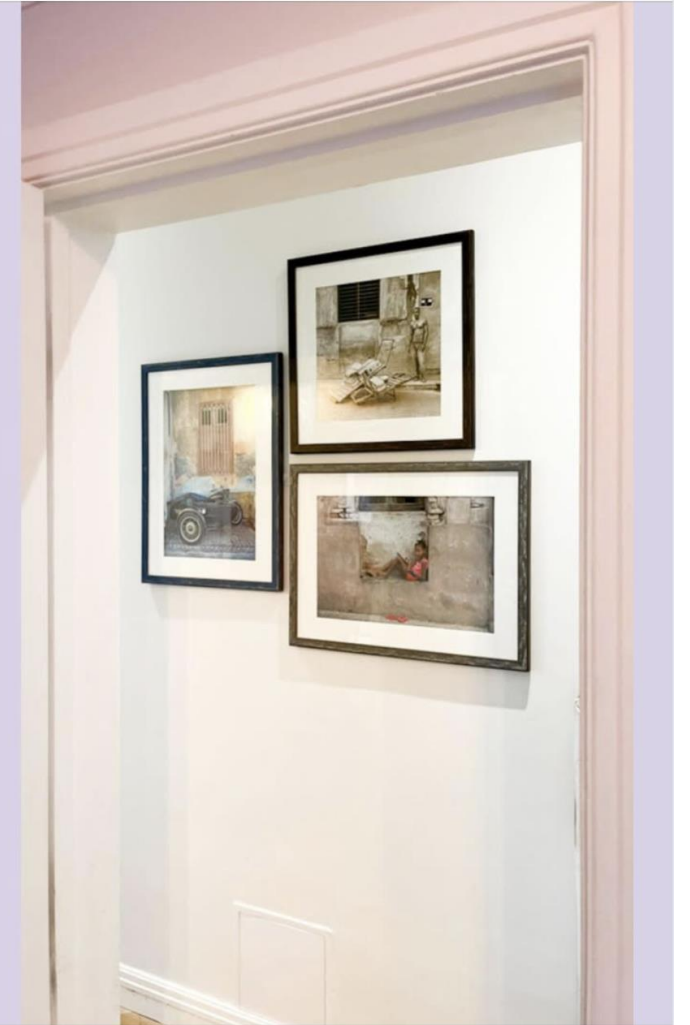
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### **The Wall of History Framing & Installation Process**



### **Facts From Our History – Post WWII**

In the post-war era, the Hall was home to a thriving men's club complete with billiards table.

The Hall was also used for the distribution of ration books. The committee reduced the rental fee for this after feeling they had overcharged initially.

Local residents helped to fund our large hall in the 1950s after a lengthy post-war campaign.

Our Entertainments Committee was run by Ms Wardrop, who lived on the east side of the Broadway. Our smallest room, currently occupied by the Parish Council, served as “his and hers” dressing rooms.

In the 1970s, the smaller of our halls served the village as both a Baby Clinic plus a Children's Playgroup

The challenges of our predecessors were not dissimilar from our own today – in particular around the heating, funding for upgrades and lack of volunteers!

This project has been possible thanks to the generosity of Marilyn's friends and family, the Burnham Lions Club and two amazing local businesses

## **Acknowledgements**

We would like to thank the following people who have supported the hall in the last year.

### **Marilyn's Family**

We once again send our condolences to Marilyn's friends and family and thank them for all their support. We are delighted to welcome several members of her family to this event.

### **The Beeches Community Board**

We are very grateful for their generous financial contribution to our kitchens.

### **The Burnham Lions Club**

Sadly now disbanded, this club was also dear to Marilyn's heart. The club kindly donated funds to our Wall of History Project in Marilyn's memory.

### **Mr Peter Lomax**

We would like to thank Peter, a retired Trustee, who graciously returned to the committee temporarily in our hour of need.

### **Mrs Judy Tipping**

Our longest serving Trustee, Judy has provided wonderfully helpful context and information for our history project.

### **Sara Daughtrey of Burnham Beeches Eco Café**

We are very grateful to Sara for today's catering.

## **Going Forward**

We continue to focus on ensuring our regular and one-off hirers have a welcoming and enjoyable experience at the hall.

With our new team members on board, we will soon be developing a five-year plan for maintenance and upgrades, where required.

Village Halls Week is held nationally in March and the focus for 2025 will be volunteers. We could always use more of those as the more we have, the more we can do for our community!

Please do let us know if you would be interested in joining us.



**Village  
Halls  
Week**

## **The Last 12 Months**

We were devastated to learn of Marilyn's passing. She was our friend. She looked after so many aspects of the running of the hall that this time has been one of learning.

Shortly before she passed, Marilyn had completed work on our new kitchen and the new addition of a kitchenette in our smaller hall. We have been very fortunate to receive a contribution towards this refurbishment from the Beeches Community Board.

Our recruitment campaign in the summer yielded several new committee members, who have helped us enormously - particularly around our bookings and invoicing processes. Our newly implemented online calendar will help prospective hirers to view availability in real time. This is located on our website [www.fcvillagehall.uk](http://www.fcvillagehall.uk).

We have also had to replace our new boiler, which was a surprise, but we and all our hirers are pleased with the improved heating arrangements.

The installation of our new Wall of History and the renaming of our halls round off a challenging, but ultimately successful year. Our hall is thriving, and we think Marilyn would be pleased.

## **Mrs Jean Walker**

Jean was another long serving Trustee of the hall who sadly passed away in 2023. We also remember her today.

## **Ms Sara Allen of Flying Design**

Sara has very generously donated her time and expertise to develop our wonderful new logo. Her graphic design business, Flying Design, is based in the village.

## **Kieran McDonald of All About Framing**

This family run business, based in high Wycombe, has generously supported the framing of our documents for our Wall of History. We are delighted with the results.

## **James Horwood of Hang It Services**

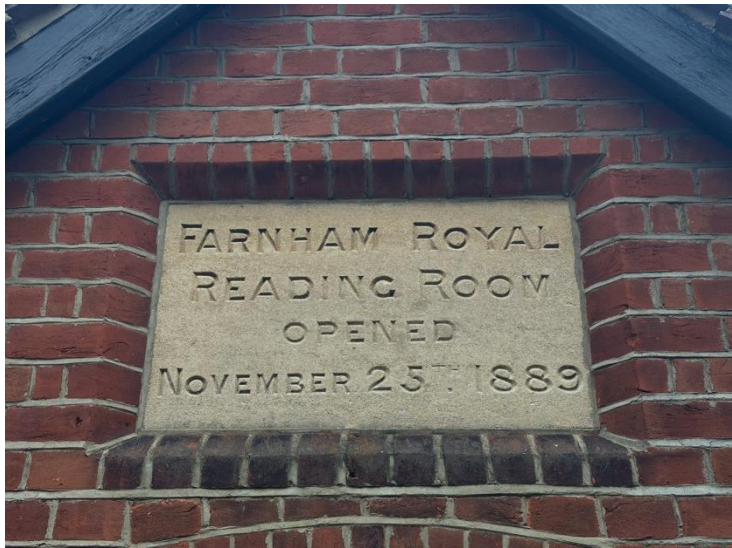
This local art installation business offers creative and professional art and mirror installation services for both domestic and commercial customers. Donating their time and expertise, their support for our wall has been extremely generous.

## **The Farnham Royal Parish Council**

We thank FRPC for the loan of their pictures today in the 'Reading Room'.

## **Our Hirers**

The sustained success of our hall would simply not be possible without our revenue from our regular hirers. It was always Marilyn's wish to hold an event for hirers, and so we are pleased to welcome so many today.



# Renaming Our Halls

This exercise in exploring our past has prompted us to rename our two halls in recognition of their rich history. We have done this not only in Marilyn’s memory but for ALL those who have given their time to the Village Hall over the last 135 years.

Our SMALL HALL, which dates from 1889, now reverts to its original name of THE READING ROOM.

Our popular LARGE HALL, opened in 1958 will now be known as THE COMMUNITY HALL in acknowledgement of our community who came together to make it possible, and of the vital role this space still plays in bringing locals together on a daily basis.

# Our Currently Weekly Programme

Day	Class	Hirer	Mobile	Time
MONDAY	Yogi with Lindi – Mixed Ability	07818052087		10.00 – 11.15
	Yoga with Lindi - Gentle Beginners	Lindi Bilgorri	07818052087	11.30 – 12.30
	Childrens Ballet Classes	Heather Moore	07528069761	17.00 – 17.45 (7-9yrs) 18.00 – 19.00 (13yrs+)
	Yoga with Lindi - Mixed Ability	Lindi Bilgorri	07818052087	18.45 – 20.00
	Beeches Radio Club (1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday)	Dave Chislet/Greg Head	ebytronics@gmail.com	20.00 – 22.00
TUESDAY	Ladies Badminton	Janet Hann	01753 645684	10.00 – 11.00
	Members of U3A (Retirees) – Singing for Fun (2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of month)	Jenny Gibbons	07803984820	10.15 – 12.30
	Slough Taekwondo Club	Robbie Lazan	01753 520107/ 07762781663	19.00 – 20.00
	Short Mat Indoor Bowls	Rosemary Followell	01753 644189/ 07938810205	19.30 – 21.30
WEDS	Parents & Special Children Support Group (15 <sup>th</sup> Jan, 5 <sup>th</sup> Feb, 5 <sup>th</sup> Mar, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Apr, 7 <sup>th</sup> May, 11 <sup>th</sup> Jun, 2 <sup>nd</sup> July 2025)	Charlie Taylor	07831409731	10.00 – 12.00
	Ladies Fun & Friendly Badminton (not lessons)	Gill Favalessa	01753 643639	10.30 – 12.00
	Short Mat Indoor Bowls	Rosemary Followell	07938810205	13.30 – 15.30
	Kundalini Yoga & Meditation	Sat Siri Singh	07502330120	18.30 – 20.00
	WSKF (Karate)	Tomiko Mitsuoka	07786813837	19.00 – 20.00
THURSDAY	Baby Sing & Sign	Jen & Zoe	Jen : 07709803633 Zoe: 07709261768	09.45 (14+ mths) 10.45 (6-14 mths)
	FCVH Cinema (2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday of month)	Victoria Veninga	07889274120	13.30 – 16.00
	Steam Club (Every 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday in month)	Michelle Harrison	club@bshmc.co.uk	
	Fun & Friendly Badminton (not lessons)	Gill Favalessa	01753 643639	19.30 – 21.00
FRIDAY	Family Hub	Sarah Clottey	07444325997	10.30 – 12.30
SATURDAY	WSKF (Renseiken Karate)	Tomiko Mitsuoka	07786813837	10.00 – 11.30