



Who are the Friends of Ancells Farm?

Friends of Ancells Farm was founded in December 2010 by local residents who were concerned about the condition of the children's play park. Working with the newly-formed Fleet Town Council, we created a new play area for children that was safe, fun and accessible.

Since then, we have planted hedges, provided seating areas, bike racks, helped bring the football pitch & sports pavilion back into use and held lots of fun events. We have also agreed a Development Plan with Fleet Town Council to ensure that any changes made to the park are done in an agreed and appropriate manner.

We are now an award winning community Group, holding the prestigious Level 4 (Thriving) award from the Royal Horticultural Society's It's Your Neighbourhood campaign, which supports local community groups in greening their local environment.



New Community Defibrillator in Ancells Farm!

With the help of an Ancells Farm resident Friends of Ancells Farm recently secured a grant for a Public Access Defibrillator, which has now been installed on the front of the Community Centre. The defibrillator is an iPad SP1 Model, which can toggle between adult and child mode at the flick of a switch, increases its volume depending on ambient noise level and is widely endorsed by Ambulance Services nationwide as well as the British Heart Foundation. The Defibrillator is housed in the new DefibSafe2 Cabinet which has a striking high-visibility design. Please take a look next time you're at the parade.

The Defibrillator's location is registered with the Ambulance Service; anyone near the Defibrillator reporting a Cardiac Incident will be directed to this new life saving equipment. Its high footfall location and proximity to the sports field will also no doubt prove invaluable to our community.

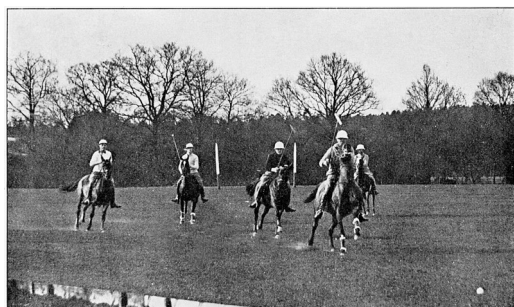
No training is required to use this equipment so anyone assisting with a Cardiac Incident should use it with confidence. Voice prompts instruct the user every step of the way, and it will only 'shock' a patient that requires such treatment. However for those interested in further awareness and familiarisation training as well guidance on basic CPR should contact St John Ambulance, who offer both online guidance and frequent local courses.

Our thanks go to Chris Scott and Richard Taylor for making this project a reality.

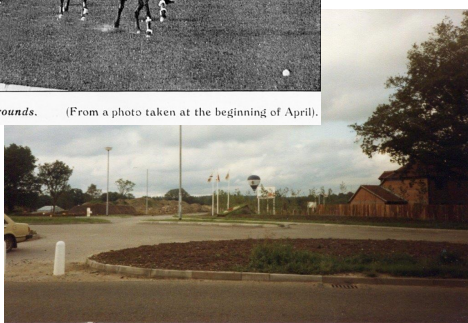
Our Onion

You may by now have had a sit on the park benches that we installed in the park in 2015. In 2016 we worked hard to raise £7,000 to purchase and install a beautiful 'Onion' seating area. Made of solid oak and looking truly beautiful, it is hard to decide whether this is a seat, or a sculpture – perhaps it is both! This was installed in November 2016 and we are very excited!

Our thanks go to Fleet Town Council, for both their grant funding and support in the purchase and installation of this beautiful addition to our park. Also, we thank Hampshire County Councillors Adrian Collett and Sharyn Wheale for their grant funding. Finally our thanks go to our members and local residents for their support and help with fund raising.



Early Polo on one of the Fleet Grounds. (From a photo taken at the beginning of April).



History of Ancells Farm

We are fortunate to have the support of other local groups, including Fleet & Crookham Local History Group. Working with Phyl Ralton we have created an informative section of our website dedicated to the history of Ancells Farm.

Do take a moment to have a look—and if you have any more information or photos, please do send them in to committee@ancellsfarm.org.uk.

A new fence for the under 5's play area

Our goal this year is to work towards replacing the under 5's play area fence, which is about 30 years old! At the same time we hope to install a barrier at the Farm Drive entrance to the park to stop our little ones running out onto the road. We'll also plant some more saplings to make the hedge continuous and improve the look and feel of that entrance. We need to raise about £4,000 to do this and we need your help! Please donate towards this, either money, time or both! If you have any ideas for fundraising events, please let us know. All help is gratefully received.



Our park has some beautiful old woodland at the far end. It is rarely used and under-valued. Our aim is to try and open up access and awareness to make it an integral and much loved part of our park. So far we have made progress by clearing the main path through the woods. Our local experts have explained that if we have one or two easily accessible paths, this not only makes access easier, but deters people from walking elsewhere in the woods—so is much better for local wildlife. The biodiversity is already good, but can be much better with more active management.

If you know anything about woodland, or have an interest in helping with this goal please contact us at committee@ancellsfarm.org.uk.

Our Woodland

Join us and have fun helping your community

Friends of Ancells Farm couldn't do all this without the help of our local community, who have worked together to make Ancells Park one of the most popular parks in Fleet. There are lots of ways that you can help:

- ♦ Become a member—it's ONLY £5 per household per year, a small annual contribution towards your local neighbourhood
- ♦ Come and join in our events—even one hour each year makes such a difference
- ♦ Join our committee—it's a great way to do something worthwhile, whilst having fun! Our Committee is a small group and we could do with a few more helpers and volunteers to help organise community events. It's a great way to network with other families on the estate.

We choose our projects based on our vision and on our project criteria which are that they must benefit the local community, provide maximum impact for our efforts, promote community spirit, have longevity, work in line with our agreed Development Plan... and be fun!

How to join Friends of Ancells Farm—it's so easy!

Thank you to all the members who have renewed their membership again—many of you have been members since we started in 2010 and we really value your continued support.

For those of you who have yet to join, the good news is that it's very quick and easy to do!

There are a number of payment options for your convenience:

£ New for this year we are introducing payment by Standing Order—simply set this up with your online banking, or fill in the form here and send it back (email us for the address).

£ Join on line via our website at www.ancellsfarm.org.uk, just click on 'membership' and fill in the on line form. You can pay via Paypal or card.

£ By cheque—just email us and we'll send you a paper form.

£ Join us at one of our monthly meetings, or come along to one of our events. Then you can pay in person by cash! We usually meet on 3rd Wednesday of each month at 8pm in the Falkners Arms.

All enquiries regarding membership should be sent to membership@ancellsfarm.org.uk

Please remember that without your support we can't do any of the fantastic work that we do to improve your local area—so go on, please join us!

BANKER'S ORDER FORM

(Please return this form to Friends of Ancells Farm, NOT your Bank)

To The Bank Manager,

Bank Address

.....

Post Code

Please pay :

Friends of Ancells Farm

HSBC Bank Plc

Sort Code:40-21-27

Account No: 11567357

The sum of: £5.00 (Five Pounds only)

Commencing on continuing hereafter on 1st April annually, until countermanded.

Making payment from:-

Your Account Name

Your Account Number

Your Account Sort Code

Your Address

.....

Post Code

Signature

Date.....

Hedgehog Street Around Fleet

Hedgehogs travel up to one mile each night looking for food and to find mates. Friends of Ancells Farm support the Hedgehog Street campaign to try to improve the lives of our local hedgehogs.

All you need to do to join in is to create small gaps at the base your garden fence or hedge (ask your neighbours first!). They need to be about 15cm in height and width.

If people across Fleet all do this, then it will create a network of routes for hedgehogs to roam and will hopefully keep them safe from the roads and help them find food.

You can find out more about Hedgehog Street on the official website www.hedgehogstreet.org.



Hart Lottery

Hart District Council has launched a new online lottery, the Hart Lottery, to benefit good causes in Hart by providing a great way to raise additional funds. It was launched at an event at the District Council offices on 9 May.

The Lottery is free for good causes to join and there are a set of criteria which local good causes must meet to take part. Friends of Ancells Farm has joined already!

Tickets cost just £1 each and about 60% goes back to local good causes, in comparison to just 28% contributed by the National Lottery. The remaining 40% goes back into the prize fund and pays for the running costs.

Players can nominate a specific good cause to benefit in which case 50 pence of their £1 ticket goes to that nominated good cause. Each ticket has a 1 in 50 chance of winning a prize every week. This includes an incredible £25,000 jackpot prize if all six numbers are matched, as well as various other cash prizes.

The Hart Lottery is now live for ticket sales and the first draw will be in July.

We encourage you all to join in the Hart Lottery and nominate Friends of Ancells Farm as your chosen good cause.

Further information can be found on their website at <https://www.hartlottery.co.uk/>, or by emailing support@hartlottery.co.uk.

Local News:

Our local preschool has been saved from closure! Find out more on

<https://www.ancellspreschool.co.uk/>

A new free social network called Nextdoor Ancells is currently being advertised. Find out more on <https://nextdoor.co.uk/>

Our Committee!

We always need more help—please come and join in! No experience necessary, just enthusiasm and a wish to do good.

Friends of Ancells Farm, working to better your community



www.ancellsfarm.org.uk



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#ancellsfarm