



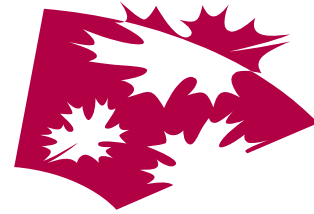
FARNHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Allotment Newsletter

Autumn leaves falling

Vegetable Harvest

With the summer crops over some of your winter crops will be ready to taste. You could be harvesting broccoli, brussel sprouts, cabbages, cauliflower, leeks, squashes and pumpkins, parsnip, swede and turnips. This list is only a snapshot of some of the vegetables you could be harvesting now.



VEGETABLES

Not many crops can be sown outside at this time of year. However broad beans are hardy enough to sow now and give you an early crop next year. By sowing now you avoid getting too much blackfly on your crop. A good variety to use that will stand the winter well is Aquadulce.

FRUIT

- Plant rhubarb crowns
- Now is a good time to be planting summer fruiting raspberries, all currants and gooseberries. You will need to prepare the ground well incorporating lots of compost to help retain the moisture.
- If you haven't already done so cut down all the canes that have fruited on the summer fruiting raspberries and leave the best canes that haven't fruited for next years crop.
- Fix grease bands to apple and pear trees to prevent pests such as the winter moth from crawling up the trunks to lay their eggs.



GENERAL TASKS

- If you haven't already done so lift any potatoes you have in the ground. Make sure they are dry before storing.
- Earth up celery to blanch the stems making them more tender.
- As the ground becomes vacant it should be dug over and either manure or your own compost added. Manure that is added now will be broken down by planting time next Spring.
- Remove yellowing leaves from brassicas. These are not useful to the plant and will encourage botrytis to develop.
- If you haven't already done so, now is the ideal time to build yourself a compost container. It doesn't have to be anything fancy, just something to hold all the green waste from your plot and anything else you might want to add.

GENERAL NEWS FROM THE ALLOTMENTS



Our Allotment Liason Group has met twice this year and on both occasions the meetings have been very successful. The group has reviewed all the competitions that are run each year and next year we will run all the existing competitions and we are adding the largest pumpkin to the list. This is just to warn you so you can get your seeds. We are also keeping the Scarecrow competition but only having 2 categories. One for adults and the other for children to take part in. At the allotment show we will be having a BBQ directly after the show but I will tell you more in the next newsletter.

At the group meeting we also discussed the state of some of the allotments. On all sites we have some that are not very well looked after. **BE WARNED** we are now introducing a get tough policy, if you are not looking after your allotment we will be acting very quickly to get some in who will look after the plot. It is no good having an allotment plot and not growing anything on it except weeds. I will be looking at all plots during the winter months to see if any work has taken place. If no work has taken place your tenancy agreement will not be renewed when they come up for renewal. If you have a genuine reason i.e. illness or personal problems then please let me know because if we know we can then do something about it.

Another thing to come out of the meeting is sharing allotments. If you can not cope with your allotment perhaps you have a friend, neighbour or work colleague who might like to share the plot with you. We are very happy if you would like to do this but you would still be the tenant and as such would be responsible for the plot.

Also at the group meeting a member of the group volunteered to set up a website solely for Allotment holders of Farnham Town Council. This is a very exciting development as we will be able to put a lot of information onto this site and you will be able to access the site and put on your daily blogs and we will have a noticeboard. Details will be coming through your door very shortly.

To try and make this newsletter more cost effective and more direct to you it would be helpful if those of you that do have access to a computer could let me have their e mail addresses. I can then e mail it to you thus saving some money that could be spent on the allotment sites.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

With this newsletter you will find enclosed a leaflet with Whats on in Farnham this Christmas. It all starts on the 24th November with the Christmas lights Switch On.

Wrens like to sleep together, especially in the colder months. 46 of them were once found huddled up in a single nestbox, according to the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

Looking for a blight resistant Potato.

I think we all are after this last season when we all encountered potato and tomato blight. Thompson and Morgan sell varieties that are blight resistant. These are Sarpo Axona and Sarpo Mira and only available from T & M. Have a look on their website.

WINNERS

This year we had a change to our usual presentation evening. The evening started with presentations to Schools who had taken part in the hanging basket competition we run for them. We then moved on later in the evening to the allotment winners and scarecrow winners. The Mayor Councillor Mrs Carole Cockburn presented all the prizes. We would like to thank Squires Garden Centre at Badshot Lea for sponsoring the allotment competition. Just in case anyone has missed who won the prizes they are as follows

Morley Road Mr G. Kay **West Street** Mrs C.Woods
Alderley Farm Mr R.Butcher **Wrecclesham** Mr M.Guy and Mrs S.Hunt
West Street Extension Mrs S.Fisher and Mrs J.Harrison

Best Overall Plot Wrecclesham Mr Reg Green

Best Traditional Scarecrow Mr and Mrs Nicholson Alderley Farm

Best Non Traditional Scarecrow Ms S.Allan Farnborough Road Site

Special Award Thomas Haworth Edwards aged 5 ¾

This special ward prize was given by the Deputy Mayor Councillor Mrs Gillian Beal.



My team have a number of jobs to do on all allotment sites and this will give you some idea of what we want to achieve.

Shepherd and Flock

Noticeboard, Gate and posts

Farnborough Road

Noticeboard, Gate and posts, fencing

West Street/West Street Extension/Alderley Farm

Fill up hole where it floods in the entrance to sites.

Wrecclesham

Cut back willows at top of site and sort out the 5 bar gate

At the Farnborough Road site I have been requested to put in a pedestrian gate. I would like comments from plot holders on this site whether or not you think it is a good idea. I have already received some comments. Please let me know before Christmas your views and I will then make a decision.

Have you visited the new
Farnham Town Council website.
If not have a look and it will give you
lots of information about all sorts of things

visit www.farnham.gov.uk

Finally on behalf of the Outside Workforce and myself may I wish you and your families the compliments of the forthcoming festive season.

Kevin Taitt

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