



FARNHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Allotment Newsletter

IT'S SHOW TIME!



I can start this newsletter with very good news. Ron Watts who judges our allotment show and allotment competition has been awarded the M.B.E. in the Queens Birthday Honours List. Ron has been a lifelong gardener and has helped and supported me over many years.

Our show is once again upon us and it certainly doesn't seem like a year ago when we held our last one. I thought it might be helpful to you if you are intending to come down to outline the programme for the day.

Date **26th** July and to be held at West Street Greenhouses.

Staging time from **8 am to 10.45** with Judging commencing at **11 am**

The show will open to everyone at **1 p.m.** when refreshments will be available.

A question and answers session will be held at **2.30**.

Prize giving at **4 pm by the Town Mayor Mrs Gillian Beal**.

Mr Ron Watts M.B.E. has kindly agreed to answer questions not only on vegetables but also gardening in general. Ron has been in gardening all his life except for a break for the 2nd World War. As you can tell from this his knowledge is extensive and he is on various committees for the RHS and also President of the Delphinium Society. So come along and please bring samples of pests or diseases which we can hopefully identify between us, in fact, anything we can help you with.

You will find enclosed, a show schedule. Please try and support the show as it is put on for you and only you. It is more a social occasion when new allotment holders have the opportunity to mix with more established allotment holders and exchange ideas.

This year your site reps wanted to put on a BBQ for your benefit, so we are. It will start after the prize giving at 4 pm. All you need to do is bring along what you want to eat and drink and we will provide you with the means to cook it. You will also need to bring something to sit on. Lets hope for a fine afternoon.

GENERAL NEWS

This season so far has been very different year to last year with fine spells and wet periods. This has of course led to bumper crops of weeds, and the grass has grown as never before. I have had allotment holders grumbling at me because neighbouring plots have weeds that are seeding and blowing onto their plot. **If you are one of these allotment holders please get down to your plot as soon as possible and do something about the weeds. I would hate to have to send you a warning letter!**

Another thing you are responsible for are the pathways surrounding your plot, between you and your neighbour you need to decide who cuts what path. There is little point in trying to keep your plot tidy if the paths are getting out of hand and harbouring all sorts of pests and weeds. The tenancy agreement does state that paths must be kept trimmed. Please make sure you do this. All my team are responsible for are the main pathways in each allotment plot.

On a more serious note gates are being left open at all allotment sites. **Please** make sure you shut them however long you are at the allotment especially Farnborough Road site. We have had padlocks disappear and just generally gates not being closed. There is no point in us spending money on trying to make sites secure if you are not prepared to do your bit.

VEGETABLES

You still have time to plant many crops that will mature before the autumn, but you do need to get on with it.

SOW OUTDOORS

- ❖ Spring cabbage (to harvest next Spring)
- ❖ Chinese cabbage
- ❖ Endive
- ❖ Kohl rabi
- ❖ Lettuce
- ❖ Parsley
- ❖ Peas
- ❖ Radish
- ❖ Turnip
- ❖ French beans
- ❖ Beetroot
- ❖ Carrot

PLANT OUTDOORS

- ❖ Broccoli/calabrese
- ❖ Cauliflower
- ❖ Kale
- ❖ Leek
- ❖ Winter cabbage

I have been approached by a site rep to find out the feeling amongst you allotment holders about a seed discount scheme. The seed firm of Thompson and Morgan will offer upto 50% discount on bulk orders of seeds. We have to finalise details yet. All we need to know at the present time is whether you would be interested in taking part. Please let me know or your site rep by the beginning of September. If we have enough interest we will go for it.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at the allotment show. Don't forget we do have a childrens class. If you don't feel able to put anything in the show, come along and compare your crops, have a cup of tea and a chat, so we can put a face to the name. Stay awhile and enjoy the BBQ.

Best wishes and good gardening

Kevin Taitt

Grounds and Services Manager

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