

Schools in bloom winners

The school year ended on a celebratory note when Farnham Town Council revealed the results of the Farnham in Bloom schools' competitions.

The first result to be announced was for the schools' hanging basket competition. This year, 13 local schools visited Farnham Town Council's greenhouses to plant their hanging baskets. The baskets were taken back to school so the children could spend the last few weeks of the school term looking after the plants and flowers in their quest to grow a winning basket.

The Mayor of Farnham, Councillor Pat Evans had the tough job of judging the baskets. She said: "It was an absolute pleasure to visit the schools and to meet the children who have worked so hard to look after their baskets during a very hot and dry summer. It was wonderful to see such passion and creativity.

"The standard was very high but for me, Potter's Gate's baskets stood out as the clear winner. The flowers were bountiful and healthy and had been very well looked after. Second prize went to Hale School and it was a close third for Badshot Lea Infants. Well done to everybody who took part and thank you for the part you have played in Farnham in Bloom."

As well as growing flowers in a conventional hanging basket, children also rose to the challenge of rearing plants and flowers in a boot. The judges saw some very imaginative planting and awarded first prize to South Farnham Junior School.

Judging has also taken place of the schools' scarecrow competition. The Abbey School won first prize for their Roly-Poly Bird scarecrow, which is a Roald Dahl character.

The winning scarecrows are on display in an empty shop in South Street until the end of the summer.

Several schools are fortunate enough to have a permanent school garden so they are able to enjoy gardening all year round. The Best School Garden category of the Secret Gardens competition attracted a very high standard of entry with first prize being awarded to Badshot Lea Infant School.

The final competition saw children being challenged to design an anti-litter poster. Hundreds of entries were received and included some very visual and hard-hitting messages explaining why people should not drop litter. First prize was awarded to pupils at South Farnham Infant School. The winning posters can be seen on display on noticeboards around the town.

Every school and nursery who entered the competitions will be invited to attend the Farnham in Bloom Schools' Awards in October. Winning schools will be presented with prizes and certificates.

Results of the competitions

Scarecrows

1st – Abbey School

2nd – Badshot Lea Infant School

3rd – South Farnham Infant School

Very highly Commended – Westchester Nursery

Very highly Commended – St Andrew's Infant School

Highly commended – Potters Gate Primary School

Flowers in a Boot

1st – South Farnham Junior School

2nd – Folly Hill Infant School

3rd – Badshot Lea Infant School

Very highly Commended – South Farnham Infant School

Highly commended – Potters Gate Primary School

Commended – Tootsies Nursery

Commended – Westchester Nursery

Secret Gardens – Best School Garden

1st – Badshot Lea Infant School

2nd – St Mary's Infant School

3rd – Abbey School

Highly commended – Tootsies Nursery

Commended – St Andrew's Infant School

Best Anti-Litter Poster

1st – South Farnham Infant School

2nd – Abbey School

3rd – Folly Hill Infant School

Very highly Commended – Badshot Lea Infant School

Mayor makes promises of office

Over 100 people representing a cross-section of the Farnham community and beyond attended the Mayor of Farnham's Civic Service on Sunday. Guests witnessed Councillor Pat Evans make her promises of office and commit to serve the town during her year as Mayor.

The service was held at the Spire Church in Farnham and was led by Rev'd Michael Hopkins with prayers by Rev'd Alan Crawley.

The Rev'd Dr Lesley Crawley addressed the congregation with a thought-provoking talk about our collective responsibility to do more to protect the environment. She spoke about the challenges of global-warming, sea level rises and sharp falls in the numbers of insects affecting species and biodiversity.

She praised Farnham Town Council for its recent decision to start a journey to reduce plastic consumption and for working with the local community including schools, businesses and churches to make a difference locally.

Councillor Pat Evans, Mayor of Farnham says: "'Working with the community for the community' is the theme for my Mayoral year and is why I have chosen to

support space2grow – a community garden set in the heart of Farnham and the Hale Community Centre which provides a range of services, activities and meeting spaces for the local area.

“I am grateful to everybody who came to my civic service and for the messages of goodwill I have received. I feel privileged to be serving the Farnham community and look forward to meeting many of the people who do so much to contribute towards our wonderful supportive community that benefits so many.”

The civic service was attended by Mayors or Deputy Mayors from Waverley, Alton, Godalming, Fleet, Haslemere, Whitehill and Guildford.

The retiring collection raised £475 for the Mayor’s charities.

Judges due to visit Farnham

Farnham Town Council and the team of volunteers who are behind the year-round effort to transform communities through gardening, will proudly share their hard work with the judges of Britain in Bloom on 31 July.

The visit will begin with a 15-minute presentation giving an insight into how Farnham in Bloom touches the lives of the community. This will be followed by a tour of the town centre where judges will be introduced to projects such as space2grow which is for people of all ages to improve their mental health and wellbeing and Bishop’s Meadow which was bought by the community for the community.

The judges will meet members of the business community who have sponsored Farnham in Bloom and hear how the initiative improves the environment for customers as well as contributing towards a stronger economy. Volunteers will meet the judges at various points along the route to show how the 15,500 hours they have contributed in 2019 have made Farnham a cleaner and greener place to live and visit.

While touring the town, the judges will observe and make judgements on the floral displays as well as the maintenance of planted areas and the general environment.

Councillor Sally Dickson, Lead Member for Community Enhancement says: “It is a great honour to have been nominated to take part in the finals of the UK’s longest running gardening competition. Farnham in Bloom is a firmly established

initiative which grows and improves every year and we are looking forward to showing the judges how we have used it as tool to build communities and tackle local issues.”

Farnham in Bloom provides an opportunity for people to make improvements to their environment. One such example can be seen in Cambridge Place where businesses have started a new initiative to make their part of Farnham a welcoming environment. Initiated by Danny Wrigglesworth of Remington Harrow, businesses are regularly cleaning outside their premises. “We can all make a small difference to improve the customer experience and I encourage other businesses in town to follow our example,” says Danny.

In the days leading up to judging, Farnham Town Council is appealing to everybody to help make sure the town looks its best by picking up and taking home litter, reporting any graffiti and for businesses to ensure the area outside their premises is clean and tidy.

The results of Farnham’s entry into South and South East in Bloom and Britain in Bloom will be announced in the autumn.

Neighbourhood Plan referendum

Preparations are underway for a further examination and second referendum on Farnham’s reviewed Neighbourhood Plan following a ruling by an Independent Examiner.

At a procedural exploratory hearing in June, the Independent Examiner determined that new government planning policy guidance which came into effect in May, meant that the reviewed plan should be subject to a further examination and referendum. This is despite the fact that Farnham’s reviewed plan was completed and submitted some four months before the new guidance came into place.

Councillor John Neale, Leader of Farnham Town Council says: “We are deeply disappointed by this ruling and particularly by the fact that the government changed the planning policy guidance but did not allow any transition period for neighbourhood plans which had already been submitted.

“This uncertainty about the plan and the additional expense to taxpayers has only come about because Farnham was told shortly after its Neighbourhood Plan was adopted in 2017 that it needed to accommodate a further 450 homes before the end of 2032. Farnham needs a robust Neighbourhood Plan – this whole situation is very frustrating.”

Farnham Town council met on 27 June to consider the Independent Examiner's conclusions and agreed to accept his invitation to proceed with the examination and referendum of the reviewed Neighbourhood Plan.

The amended Neighbourhood Plan incorporates minor text updates and changes to reflect what has happened and permissions granted since the Plan was adopted, the end date has been harmonised with Waverley's Local Plan and new sites have been included to meet the new housing target. The Farnham community was fully consulted on the proposed new sites and was invited to give their views on the amended Neighbourhood Plan. Farnham Town Council remains of the view that these minor revisions do not change the nature of the Plan.

Judges see Farnham in Bloom

Judges received a warm welcome on Tuesday when they arrived for the judging of Farnham's entry into the Large Town category of South and South East in Bloom.

The judges were taken on a tour of Farnham which included many projects that demonstrate how horticulture has a positive impact on both the environment and people's wellbeing.

The carefully choreographed route began in the town centre and included a walk through Gostrey Meadow, a look at the new railings outside the Farnham Maltings and a prize-winning courtyard garden off Downing Street.

This was followed by an extended visit to space2grow which is an area of land in the heart of the town centre for people of all ages to improve their mental health and wellbeing. The judges were then taken to West Street cemetery where they met volunteers from Bishop's Meadow and saw behind the scenes at the town's greenhouses and West Street allotments.

After completing their tour of the town centre, the judges boarded a hoppla bus and were taken to meet volunteers at the Middle Bourne Garden and Bourne Beautification project before making a stop at the Ridgeway Community School.

The 3.5 hour tour concluded in the town centre where the judges met volunteers from the Farnham Community Farm and Victoria Garden.

Over lunch the judges were able to spend more time talking with people they had met on their tour.

Speaking at the reception, Councillor Pat Evans, Mayor of Farnham thanked the judges and said: "I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in Farnham in Bloom from our wonderful volunteers, Farnham in Bloom community group, staff, councillors and outside services team to our community partners such as Glendale and Waverley Borough Council. I would also like to thank our generous sponsors and to give special thanks to The Farnham Institute Charity for being the Principal Sponsor of Farnham in Bloom.

"It's wonderful to see so many people at today's thank you lunch as each and every one of you has played a part in making Farnham Bloom."

Judge Hazel Chant responded by saying how she had been born in Farnham and that it had been a pleasure to come back. She described how she and fellow judge Shawn Spence had thoroughly enjoyed their visit.

The judging of Farnham's entry into the Town Centre category is on Wednesday 10 July and Britain in Bloom is on 31 July.

Farnham in Bloom is sponsored by Principal sponsor– The Farnham Institute Charity, Gold sponsors – Forest Lodge Garden Centre, Graduate Landscapes, Squire's Garden Centre and The Patio Black Spot Removal Company Ltd and Silver sponsors – BBS Ltd, Bourne Wood Manor Care Home, Glendale, Net Technical Solutions and Wild Flower Turf Ltd.

Caption: The Mayor of Farnham, Town Council staff and judges from South and South East in Bloom with volunteers from space2grow and children from St Andrew's School.

Mayor unveils plaque

Former Olympic athlete Christina Boxer joined the Mayor of Farnham and invited guests at the unveiling of a plaque commemorating local athlete and coach Ron Stonehouse last week (26 June).

Mr Stonehouse trained Olympic runner Christina Boxer at Aldershot, Farnham and District Athletics Club, as well as numerous other local athletes, many to national and international level. Christina competed in three Olympics in the 1980s.

The plaque marking Ron Stonehouse's life and achievements has been placed on the 'famous names wall',

located on South Street near the council offices. The wall commemorates notable Farnham residents.

Councillor David Attfield, the outgoing Mayor of Farnham paid tribute to Mr Stonehouse's contribution to local athletics: "Ron Stonehouse is truly deserving of this honour. He was an extraordinary man who made a great contribution to athletics – coaching and mentoring hundreds of club athletes both young and old who benefited from his amazing skills, wisdom and friendship."

Joining the Mayor making tributes was Christina Boxer who brought along a photograph of Ron wearing her commonwealth gold medal, Phil Stamp who gave an emotional tribute of the impact Ron had on his own career and the friendship they shared. Brian Grieg, a founder member of Farnham Sports Council and its former Chairman, also commented on the immense contribution Ron made to athletics locally.

Mr Stonehouse's wife, Shirley, joined the Mayor in unveiling the plaque. Ron passed away last year.

Born in Badshot Lea in 1928, Ron was an accomplished athlete in his own right during the 1950s, running a mile in 4 minutes 11 seconds. He began his athletics career with the then Farnham Athletics Club and was actively involved in its amalgamation in 1966 with Aldershot Athletics Club when it became Aldershot, Farnham and District Athletics Club. He soon entered a career in coaching and it was there that his greatest achievements lie.

He spotted the potential of 14 year old Bernie Ford, coaching him to international level. Bernie twice won the national English cross-country title and finished third in the world competition in 1976. In the 1980s, Ron also trained Roger Hackney, Commonwealth silver medallist who competed in three Olympics.

Ron is remembered locally, however, for training many young athletes from Farnham, Aldershot and the surrounding area, both formally and informally. He continued to coach into his 70s and in 1981 was voted Farnham Sports Personality of the Year.

Professionally, Ron trained as an electrician and worked as a maintenance manager in factories and branches of local engineering company Martonair Limited.

The Farnham Wall is fully accessible to the public, displaying a growing collection of plaques remembering noteworthy Farnham residents and their achievements.

Crowds chill in Gostrey Meadow

Farnham's Gostrey Meadow drew hundreds of picnickers and music fans on Sunday (30 June) when the annual Picnic in the Park took place.

"This year's event was jam-packed with excellent local bands and music artists. The crowds loved the show and the chance to come together as a community in a relaxed atmosphere," says Councillor Alan Earwaker, Deputy Mayor and Lead Member for Tourism and Events. "Children certainly made the most of the extra activities we put on, like the climbing wall and the fairground rides. We're grateful to Kidd Rapinet for sponsoring our summer programme of events and Durham House Chiropractic Clinic which sponsored Picnic in the Park. This support helps the Town Council keep the event free and accessible to all."

Gostrey Meadow was awash with picnic blankets as families and groups of friends tucked into their own picnics or fresh food bought from the range of street food vendors.

Emma Rowe, Managing Partner at Kidd Rapinet, which sponsored the event says: "Picnic in the Park is a wonderful community event, which we have thoroughly enjoyed being part of both as sponsors and by having a stall at the event itself. As a family and business law firm in Farnham we're actively involved in the day to day life of the town and its people so it was a pleasure to see so many people enjoying the music, food and community spirit."

Picnic in the Park featured six live bands plus three choirs, performing from midday until 6pm. Farnham Town Council runs the event each year to provide local people with a free day out for all ages.

Caption: Councillor Alan Earwaker, Deputy Mayor (second left) and Councillor George Hesse (right) with the team from Kidd Rapinet, Principal sponsor of Summer in Farnham.

Students get a taste of working life

Farnham Town Council has given four year ten students from Farnham Heath End

School an insight into working life during a week-long work experience placement.

The four received the opportunity to discover more about the role of the Town Council when they participated in a wide range of tasks. Leo, Kie and Cody spent the week with the outside workforce. They tidied some overgrown graves in Green Lane cemetery, watered plants in the Farnham in Bloom greenhouses and helped with some general gardening maintenance in the Garden of Reflection in West Street. All three commented on the friendliness of the people they encountered and Kie particularly enjoyed operating the leaf blowing machine!

Katie was based at the Town Council office in South Street where she spent her week finding out what it is like to work in an office and helping out at events such as the Armed Forces day flag-raising, the unveiling of a plaque in South Street and Mayor-making.

Iain Lynch, Town Clerk at Farnham Town Council said: "We are pleased to have been able to offer work experience placements to students from Heath End and to have shown them how our work impacts on the town where they live and go to school.

"I hope this brief glimpse into working life has given them food for thought and will help them to think about their long-term plans and maybe become councillors in the future. They have all done very well and are a credit to themselves and their school. We wish them well for the future."

Stuart Maginnis, Principal at Farnham Heath End School says: "Very few 14/15 year olds have firm career plans which is why work experience is so invaluable. The week at Farnham Town Council has introduced our students to an environment outside the classroom and has provided an opportunity for them to meet and communicate with new people. They have also gained knowledge which it is simply not possible to learn in the classroom."

See more information about [working](#) at Farnham Town Council and its services.

New Mayor of Farnham

Councillor Pat Evans has been elected as the new Mayor of Farnham and has spoken of her "immense honour and privilege" at taking on the role as she looks forward to serving her community for the coming year. Her husband David was appointed as the Mayor's consort.

"I'm truly honoured to be chosen to take on this role for Farnham," said Councillor Evans. "The theme for my year as Mayor is to work with the community for the community. As such, I'm looking forward to seeing as much as I can of the fantastic work that our community does to make Farnham the place it is and my mission is to champion the people who provide it and those they help."

The Deputy Mayor is Councillor Alan Earwaker and he will be supported in his duties by his daughter, Claire Earwaker dos Reis who was appointed as the Deputy Mayoress.

Councillor Evans is a former town clerk at Farnham Town Council. She has also been an active member of the Rotary International service organisation since 1994.

Originally from Beckenham in Kent and married to David, Councillor Evans worked up through the ranks at Unilever, relocating to Godalming along the way. After their daughter began school, Councillor Evans began her career in local government, working first at Godalming Town Council and then Farnham Town Council, serving as a town clerk at both. Ambitious to provide the best for the people through excellence in local government, Councillor Evans studied for a degree in local policy while at Godalming and served on the Larger Local Councils Advisory Group. As Farnham Town Clerk, her first task was to help the council achieve the Quality Council standard.

The Mayor has chosen two charities to fundraise for during her Mayoral year, Space2Grow and the Hale Community Centre project, both of which epitomise her mayoral theme of working with the community for the community.

Space2Grow is a community garden set in an acre of land in the heart of Farnham. Space2Grow uses horticulture to help people with health issues, including mental health problems, addiction and eating disorders, offering them a non-judgmental and safe space. The organisation works with numerous other local community groups and has won awards for its work.

At the Hale Community Centre, a multitude of groups and activities for people of all ages in the local area are provided. Activities are available for young families through to people who are retired, and the organisation responds to the needs of its varied communities, with cookery sessions, a seniors' club, choirs, a women's group and employment support, among many others.

During her mayoral year, Councillor Evans will attend hundreds of engagements and fundraising activities for local community groups. She will also carry out civic duties such as the Services to Farnham awards, the Civic Service and chairing full meetings of the Council. Farnham Town Council encourages local residents and groups to get in touch to invite the Mayor to events where her presence would be beneficial. Full information is on the council's

website, www.farnham.gov.uk or on 01252 712667.



Cllr Pat Evans Mayor of Farnham and her consort David Evans



Cllr Pat Evans with former Mayor of Farnham Cllr David Attfield



Deputy Mayor Cllr Alan Earwaker with the Deputy Mayoress Claire Earwaker dos Reis



Cllr Pat Evans Mayor of Farnham with Cllr Alan Earwaker Deputy Mayor of Farnham



The 2019/20 council



Councillor Pat Evans, Mayor of Farnham

Flag-raising for Armed Forces Day

Farnham's outgoing Mayor, Councillor David Attfield, led the town in uniting

with others across the UK to pay tribute to the men and women, both past and present, of the armed forces on Armed Forces Day (24 June). At this year's ceremony, the Mayor also called on the people of Farnham to recognise two important anniversaries in 2019: the 80th anniversary of the start of the Second World War and the 75th anniversary of D-Day.

Councillor Attfield hosted the flag-raising ceremony outside the Town Council – an act which was replicated throughout the country – and led a procession to the war memorial in Gostrey Meadow where he gave a reading.

Students from local schools, representatives from the cadets, armed forces and veterans' organisations joined the Mayor at the flag raising which was also supported by councillors and community organisations. Reverend John Morris from St Thomas on the Bourne led those assembled in prayer.

In his speech, Councillor Attfield highlighted the part that Farnham has played in previous conflicts and in today's armed forces. "Just outside Farnham at Hankley Common there remains a key training location for D-Day built by Canadian troops. When you visit it today, you still get a feel for the enormity of the task that faced the soldiers that took part.

"Today, we are proud to be home to the Farnham branch of the Queen's Regimental Association, the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, 229 (Farnham) Squadron ATC and Farnham Sea Cadets," he said. "We are honoured to show our support for our armed forces community, including cadets, reservists, serving troops, veterans and their families."

Armed Forces Day begins with the raising of the Armed Forces Day flag on public buildings and landmarks and concludes five days later with a national event, which this year was on Saturday 29 June in Salisbury.

Armed Forces Day gives the public the opportunity to come together with the UK military to acknowledge and thank the men and women who currently serve or have previously served their country. The Mayor paid tribute to the work of armed forces, which today encompasses tasks as diverse as promoting peace, delivering aid, providing security, tackling drug traffickers and fighting terrorism.