

# Home-grown music and gardening

The last Music in the Meadow of the summer takes place on Sunday 1 September (3-5pm) at Gostrey Meadow and is set to be not just a celebration of local music talent but home-grown fruit and veg' too.

The annual allotment show has been refreshed and updated with a new format. It will run alongside Music in the Meadow to add to the community atmosphere of the day. Farnham Town Council is looking for allotment holders to enter the competition, particularly if they have not exhibited before.

Councillor Dickson, Lead Member for Community Enhancement says: "We hope to see many more people joining in the fun and entering this year's Allotment Show. Most allotment holders grow to eat rather than exhibit so you can expect to see lots of like-minded gardeners bringing along their best, if not perfect, produce. Maybe you have some uniform sized potatoes, some glorious flowers or perhaps a bunch of perfectly formed carrots – if so, we would love you to show them off not just to fellow allotment holders but the Farnham community too. The Allotment Show is about getting together and celebrating the pleasure of having an allotment – and perhaps encouraging others to get a plot too."

This year's Allotment Show will take place with the traditional sounds of brass band music in the background. While Alder Valley Brass Band treats the audience of Music in the Meadow to a lively mix of familiar tunes, exhibitors, gardening enthusiasts and music lovers will be able to browse the exhibits and chat to allotment holders. Show classes include fruit, vegetables, cakes, preserves and flowers.

Children are welcome to visit the show as, prompted by the success of the Bloomin' Kids workshops, there will be show categories for them to enter too. Classes include the funniest fruit/vegetable, a drawing and a posy of flowers.

Free live music shows have taken place each Sunday this summer as part of Music in the Meadow. Families and groups of friends have brought picnics and taken advantage of the food stalls while enjoying performances from a variety of musical acts. A different charity has hosted the tea tent for each show, raising money for local good causes. Farnham Christian Aid will host the refreshment tent on 1 September.

Music in the Meadow is organised by Farnham Town Council with sponsorship from local solicitors, Kidd Rapinet, making the concerts free to attend.

The Allotment Show and Music in the Meadow will take place from 3pm to 5pm in Gostrey Meadow. The Allotment Show winners will be announced at 4.30pm. Anybody wishing to submit an entry into the Allotment Show should email

lara.miller@farnham.gov.uk by 29 August. Full details of the classes and show rules can be found in the [show guide](#).

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## Grown in Farnham

A project to get more people enjoying home grown food is ripe for picking in Farnham town centre.

Members and volunteers at the Farnham Community Farm have planted four edible tubs in South Street for residents and visitors of Farnham to harvest and enjoy as part of Farnham in Bloom.

Councillor Sally Dickson, Lead Member for Farnham in Bloom says: “Fresh fruit and vegetables that you have grown and picked yourself taste so much better. The produce, which has been grown in the edible containers is now ready for picking so please help yourself to a sample but remember only to take leaves from the outside of the plant so that it keeps growing for others to enjoy!”

The edible containers include herbs, lettuce, kale, tomatoes and spinach.

Speaking about the project, Farnham Community Farm Coordinator Katie Forman says: “We are really excited to be involved in Farnham in Bloom this year, and we hope that our edible planters in the town centre show people you don’t need a lot of space to grow your own fresh, delicious vegetables and herbs! Farnham in Bloom is all about community, and we hope the In Bloom judges enjoyed seeing how Farnham Community Farm, the town’s local vegetable growing project, is an example of how the people of Farnham come together to do great things.”

If you would like to find out more about planting an edible container in your neighbourhood or are interested in taking on an allotment, please contact [Lara Miller](#) at Farnham Town Council.

For more information about the Community Farm’s locally grown, pesticide-free, minimally packaged veg and volunteering opportunities visit [www.farnhamcommunityfarm.com](http://www.farnhamcommunityfarm.com).

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# Farnham at its best

Farnham positively blossomed on Wednesday when the RHS Britain in Bloom judges came to town.

Facing tough competition in the new BIDS, town centres and city centres category, members of the Farnham in Bloom community were determined to show the judges what makes Farnham's entry worthy of an award.

During a tour lasting more than two hours, the judges met volunteers from the Farnham Rivers Group, volunteers from space2grow, Bishop's Meadow, Farnham Community Farm, Victoria Garden, and children from St Andrew's who interrupted their school holiday to show the judges their school garden. The judges also met members of the business community who talked about how Farnham in Bloom enhances the street scene and makes it an enjoyable place for people to visit and shop.

Councillor Sally Dickson, Lead Member for Farnham in Bloom said: "The judging criteria for Britain in Bloom is much tougher than for the regional competition. Greater importance is now placed on the environment and the business community, so we made full use of our time with the judges to show them examples of how we work with businesses to bring people into the town, the environmentally friendly practices we have adopted and the high standards we expect from those who are in a position to shape the look and feel of our streets.

"While I am very proud of what has been achieved this year, the judges wanted to see evidence that the standard is sustainable. Thanks to the ongoing support and commitment from our Principal sponsor the Farnham Institute Charity and our many other sponsors, we receive contributions in excess of £30,000 in time and money. Add this to the fact that our volunteers give time which is equivalent to eight full time members of staff and we were able to speak confidently about our plans for the future."

The judges' visit ended with a lunchtime reception which included many of the volunteers they met during their tour. The Mayor of Farnham, Councillor Pat Evans thanked the judges and judge Ian Beaney responded by saying: "When I visit a town I deliberately do not do any research beforehand as for me, the measure of a place is whether I end the visit feeling like I would like to return – I would like to return to Farnham.

"Community spirit flows in Farnham and we saw many examples. Farnham exudes the spirit of Britain in Bloom. Its In Bloom credentials are shown for all to see and around every twist and small street we went down there was horticultural quirkiness. The horticulture complements the architecture of the town and its artisan feel."

The 2019 [Farnham in Bloom video](#) gives an insight into Farnham's entry.

The results of Britain in Bloom will be announced in October.

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## Unveiling of poppy painting

A painting which served as the inspiration for an interactive community remembrance project marking the end of the First World War has been unveiled at Farnham Town Council.

Artist Eleanor McLean visited the office to unveil the poppy field painting which was commissioned by the women's section of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in 2018. The women's section raise money each year for the Poppy Appeal.

Eleanor's painting was used to create a banner onto which members of the public were invited to write personal messages as part of the commemorations of the First World War Centenary in 2018. The banner was hung on the wall outside Farnham Town Council's office in South Street during the town's Remembrance Day parade. The banner was later displayed at Waverley Borough Council.

The unveiling of the painting was Councillor David Attfield's last official event as Mayor of Farnham, he said: "The banner and people's messages served as a key reminder of the sacrifice made by over a million service personnel from Britain and its colonies (later commonwealth) in World War One. They gave their past for our future and it was a unique and poignant way for us to remember the fallen.

"The lovely watercolour has a depth and simplicity and will be seen by visitors to the Council Offices alongside some of Farnham's great artists (notably Harold Falkner and Charles Bone). I would like to thank Eleanor, and also Rashida Nasir from the women's section of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community for entrusting the original artwork with us in Farnham. We look forward to seeing more of Eleanor's work in the future."

The banner has been offered to the National Arboretum where it is hoped it will have a permanent home.