

Acts of remembrance in Farnham

Farnham's remembrance events will begin this year with a schools' remembrance service on Friday 8 November followed by the community-wide act of remembrance on Sunday 10 November.

On Remembrance Sunday, the Mayor of Farnham and Vice Lord Lieutenant will be joined by representatives of the armed forces, uniformed services, scout groups and local dignitaries in a parade from Castle Street to the war memorial. There will be a short service at 10.45am followed by two minutes of silence at 11am and then a march past. The parade will continue past the Town Hall on South Street, ending at St Andrew's Church for a remembrance service led by the Revd David Uffindell.

The Mayor of Farnham, Councillor Pat Evans, who will jointly host the event on 10 November, says: "I hope as many local people as possible will line the route of the parade. I feel privileged to be able to lead the town in honouring both those who have served and those who continue to defend our freedoms and do their duties at home and around the world, both in times of peace and in conflict."

See [details of road closures](#) and time-limited access to selected roads and car parks on 10 November.

Schools across Farnham have chosen once again to hold an act of remembrance for schoolchildren on the Friday before Remembrance Sunday. As well as 18 schools from the Farnham Schools' Confederation, the Mayor of Farnham, Councillor Pat Evans will welcome Brigadier Roger Hood QVRM TD DL, the Police and Crime Commissioner David Munro and the Revd John Morris from St Thomas on the Bourne. TS Swiftsure Farnham Sea Cadets, 229 squadron will also be present.

The Mayor explains: "As the world wars recede from living memory, it's important that our young people continue to understand why a national act of remembrance is still important and relevant. While the role of our armed forces has changed, the sacrifices they make are the same. Our young people are very aware of the challenges posed by terrorism at home and instability around the world and very much appreciate the opportunity to take part in a remembrance service through their schools."

The service will begin at 10.45am and include poems, readings and a two-minute silence. Representatives from each school will lay a wreath on the memorial and every child will be invited to place a wooden cross in memory of those who have given their lives in service.

The children and Mayor will be joined by representatives from the Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment and the Royal British Legion. Members of the public are

also welcome to attend.

Gold at Britain in Bloom

Farnham has fought off high-profile competition to prove it has what it takes to win gold in Britain in Bloom and to be declared best town / city centre in the UK.

Farnham Town Council received news of the award on Friday (25 October) at an awards ceremony in London hosted by the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS), which runs the annual competition.

The gold award in the Business improvement districts, town centres and city centres category is evidence that Farnham in Bloom is about so much more than flowers. As well as horticultural achievement, the judges looked for environmental best practice and In Bloom's impact on the community.

In their report, the judges described Farnham as *'an innovative floral town that boasted an eclectic mix of many plants'*. Farnham Town Council came in for praise for its use of electric and compressed natural gas vehicles and the judges noted how *'pride for the heritage of the town was evident at every point of the [their] tour'* and that the *'town's built environment was excellent and the standard of properties, both commercial and residential, was very high'*.

The community plays a significant role in Farnham in Bloom and this was commented on by the judges. They observed that the *'judging tour was conducted through a spotless townscape'* and that the town's Bloomin' litter pickers show *'what a difference volunteer effort can make'*.

The Mayor of Farnham, Councillor Pat Evans was at the awards ceremony and said: "Words cannot describe how proud I am that Farnham has won not only gold but has also been awarded best in category. This is such a massive achievement for Farnham. It was only a short time ago that we were celebrating an enviable collection of awards from South and South East in Bloom. For Farnham in Bloom to be recognised at national level too is the icing on the cake.

"What the judges saw on their visit is the result of thousands of hours of planning, community spirit and hard work with wholehearted commitment from every corner of the town and surrounding villages. From schoolchildren who planted bulbs, to our litter pickers, people who watered and weeded throughout the summer and to all our sponsors: a massive: well done and thank you."

Farnham Town Council and the Farnham in Bloom Community Group have been on tenterhooks since the judges' visit in July. In their 3.5 hour visit, the panel met several of the community groups, volunteers and schoolchildren involved in making Farnham bloom. They were given a tour of the key locations in Farnham and heard from sponsors and organisers about how the In Bloom competitions enhance the community and local area.

The Mayor's charity space2grow left a lasting impression on the judges. They commented that: *'The examples of cross-generation support in the pursuit of mental health and physical wellbeing was humbling and this was a significant memory the judges took away from Farnham'*.

This year's principal sponsor, The Farnham Institute Charity, was joined by dozens of other local businesses in providing the financial support and sponsorship in kind that enables Farnham Town Council to put in place the range and scale of In Bloom activities.

Andrew Lodge, Chairman of Trustees at The Farnham Institute Charity says: "We are thrilled that Farnham has won gold in Britain in Bloom. The flowers in the town centre and surrounding villages have looked fantastic this year. So many people get involved in Farnham in Bloom because it is accessible to all age groups and appeals to a wide range of interests – I think this is what makes it so appealing and successful as a community initiative."

Britain in Bloom is renowned for its exceedingly high standards. Entry is by invitation only from the RHS and this is the third time Farnham has been given that honour. Farnham was entered into the Business improvement districts, town centres and city centres category, which saw it competing against locations such as Bath and London's Canary Wharf. Farnham has improved from being joint best in category in 2017 to outright winner in 2019.

With the judging process now complete and the local Farnham in Bloom awards having taken place earlier in October, Farnham Town Council is already planning for 2020 and the 30th anniversary of Farnham in Bloom. Anybody who is interested in getting involved, can register their interest by emailing bloom@farnham.gov.uk.

Volunteers litter pick town centre

A team of community minded volunteers collected over 25 sacks of rubbish from

Farnham's town centre on Saturday 12 October. The litter pickers covered hot spots such as Red Lion Lane, the station approach and Gostrey Meadow.

"It's shocking that each of our fabulous volunteers was able to fill a sack of litter from the town centre alone. What they collected was largely everyday food packaging and cigarette butts: items that are easy to bin or take home," says Councillor Sally Dickson, Lead Member for Community Enhancement at Farnham Town Council.

"I'd like to thank each of the volunteers for giving up their Saturday morning to tidy up our town centre but at the same time implore people to always make the effort to put their litter in a bin or take it home with them."

As well as the town centre litter pick, several groups and businesses have organised their own litter blitz. This has included Farnham Ramblers, staff at Net Technical Solutions and Hyped Marketing and Farnham in Bloom groups. Litter picks have also taken place in Rowledge and Badshot Lea.

Farnham Town Council welcomes volunteers to organise litter picks. The council provides the equipment and can help with disposal to enable groups to tidy an area of their choice. Contact lara.miller@farnham.gov.uk for more information.

Time to book for Bloomin' Kids

Bookings are now being taken for the ever popular and free Bloomin' Kids gardening workshops taking place over half term. The workshops are run by Farnham Town Council and the Farnham In Bloom Community Group and are suitable for children aged five and over.

"Our workshops are extremely popular every time we run them so if you and your child would like to come along, please book as soon as you can to avoid disappointment," says Councillor Sally Dickson, Farnham Town Council's Lead Member for Community Enhancement. "The workshops are all about children having fun by getting stuck into some gardening and getting a bit messy while learning a few facts and skills about plants and gardening."

To book places and find out full details, use the online form at www.farnham.gov.uk.

"Our friends at The Farnham Institute Charity are kindly sponsoring these sessions which means that there are no costs to families to take part and all

the equipment needed is provided,” says Councillor Dickson.

The workshops take place on Wednesday 30 October in Farnham Town Council’s greenhouses off West Street. There will be two sessions to choose from, each lasting two hours. The morning session begins at 10am and the afternoon session at 2pm.

Celebrations at in Bloom awards

Farnham celebrated in style and looked back on a fantastic year for Farnham in Bloom at the Farnham in Bloom Community Awards. As part of the evening, winners of six of the most coveted local gardening awards were also announced.

Farnham Town Council organises the awards which were held at Squire’s Garden Centre on 10 October. As well as an opportunity to thank the hundreds of people involved in the town’s entries to the South and South East in Bloom and Britain in Bloom competitions, the winners of the Farnham In Bloom Community Awards received their prizes. The evening was also a rare opportunity for the many gardeners, volunteers, community organisations and businesses involved in the different aspects of Farnham in Bloom to come together, share stories and reflect on the year’s activities.

“It’s been a truly fantastic year, with double Gold and double Best in Category awards from South and South East in Bloom,” says the Mayor of Farnham, Councillor Pat Evans who led the celebrations. “It goes without saying that there is extensive planning and a considerable amount of hard work by many, many people. Literally thousands of hours of work goes into Farnham in Bloom each year. It’s that support from our wonderful local people – whether that’s litter picking, providing sponsorship, arts projects, planting or organising – that makes Farnham in Bloom the astounding success that it is, so I thank you all.”

Among the Farnham In Bloom awards received from South and South East in Bloom this year are golds in the large town, town centre, small parks (for Victoria Gardens) and large conservation area (Bishop’s Meadow) categories. Victoria Garden and space2grow won outstanding and Victoria Garden also won the highly coveted Chairman’s Award.

The Community Awards ceremony saw over 20 local gardeners and allotment holders receive prizes for every aspect of gardening, from growing vegetables, container gardening, large and small gardens, to conservation and gardens in business and office premises.

The winner of the Gardener of the Year was space2grow, one of six special awards that were announced on the night. Eric and Janet Harrison won Bloomin' Litter Volunteers of the Year, the Bloomin' Friends won the Mayor's Special Award and the Madge Green Community Gardening Award was presented to the Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice Garden Volunteers.

Ahead of the evening's festivities, the Farnham in Bloom Schools' Awards took place in the afternoon. More than a dozen local schools and nurseries were commended for achievements such as stunning container planting (the Flower in a Boot award and hanging baskets) and highly creative scarecrows.

Numerous local businesses and organisations, led by principal sponsor The Farnham Institute Charity, provided sponsorship and sponsorship in kind for this year's competition. Squire's Garden Centre, Graduate Landscapes, Forest Lodge Garden Centre and the Patio Black Spot Removal Company Ltd were gold sponsors. This year's silver sponsors were BBS for Magimix, Bourne Wood Manor, Glendale, Wildflower Turf and Net Technical Solutions.





Be proud of Farnham

Farnham Town Council is calling for people to show pride for where they live or work by taking part in an autumn litter pick between Saturday 12 and 19 October.

There are several ways to get involved in the Big Pick including hosting or joining in a neighbourhood clean-up or participating in a litter pick of the town centre at 10am on 12 October. Workers are also encouraged to roll up their sleeves during the week-long event by organising a clear up of the area around where they work.

Farnham Town Councillor Sally Dickson is the Lead Member for Community Enhancement and says: "We hold the Big Pick twice a year and it is always very well attended. Litter picks are a great way for people to show they care for the town and to make a visible and immediate improvement to the area where they live or work. We supply all equipment including litter pickers, gloves and high viz jackets so please do think about getting involved."

Anybody who wants to join in the town centre litter pick should meet at the Town Council office in South Street at 10am. Tea and cake will be available for everybody who takes part. The litter pick will finish by 12noon.

To get involved in the Big Pick week or to find out more about joining the 50 or

so Bloomin' Litter pickers who look after a specific area all year round, please email lara.miller@farnham.gov.uk.

Festival draws in the crowds

Strong wind and rain failed to deter foodies from enjoying the 2019 Farnham Food and Drink Festival.

Over 120 stalls lined Castle Street and The Borough, selling some of the very best local food and drink alongside produce from further afield. There was plenty of freshly cooked food for the hungry shopper as well as treats to take home and enjoy on another day.

Throughout the day talented chefs and producers shared their knowledge at the food theatre. Visitors picked up tips on flavour combinations for macarons, saw Asian cooking the simple way, learned about making gourmet marshmallow and ideas for a vegan breakfast.

Councillor Alan Earwaker, Farnham Town Council's Lead Member for Tourism and Events said: "Over the past 11 years, Farnham's Food and Drink Festival has grown to become one of the largest in the area. It has all the necessary ingredients to make it a very popular day out for people from Farnham and beyond.

"For events such as the Food and Drink Festival to happen, we rely on support from many different people. I would like to thank all the stallholders for coming along with their delicious food and drink, the volunteers who helped manage the event and our sponsors whose support means we can run this event every year and keep costs down."

To reduce the number of vehicles needing to enter the town centre, Farnham Town Council organised a free shuttle bus service to take people to and from the Festival.

The 2019 Food and Drink Festival was sponsored by The Castle Inn, Farnham Castle, BBS for Magimix, Durham House Chiropractic Clinic and Taylor Wimpey.

Climate emergency declared

Farnham Town Councillors have shown their commitment to reducing carbon emissions at a local level by declaring a climate emergency and pledging their aim to become a carbon neutral council by 2030.

At a meeting of the Full Council on 19 September, councillors heard how the Town Council has already implemented a number of changes including a reduction in the use of single use plastic. Further measures to be considered include switching to renewable energy tariffs, replacing the remaining council owned vehicles with electric or other appropriate vehicles and ensuring that Council decisions consider the impact of climate change.

Councillor John Neale, Leader of Farnham Town Council says: "While climate change is a global issue, there are actions we can take at a local level to limit further warming of the earth.

"By making changes to activities within our responsibility and working in partnership with other authorities, we can make a difference. However, to maximise what we can do, we call upon the UK government and local climate change partnerships to provide the necessary powers, funding and other resources."

In the meantime, Farnham Town Council will continue to review its operations and how it delivers services and will draw up an action plan for councillors to consider. Farnham Town Council will also work with and encourage the local community to take all practical steps to reduce their own carbon footprint and to safeguard the environment.