

Apply for funding

Community organisations in and around Farnham are invited to apply for funding through the Community Grants scheme operated by Farnham Town Council.

“We would like to hear from local not-for-profit organisations between now and 7 December with applications for funding of up to £2,000 for one-off community projects or schemes needing funding for up to three years,” says Councillor John Neale, Lead Member for Strategy and Finance at Farnham Town Council.

Farnham Town Council will consider applications for a range of activities such as for young people, environmental sustainability, leisure, sports and play, village halls, transport or arts and heritage. “A fuller list of examples is on the [grants page of our website](#) along with the application form and everything you need to know to apply,” says Councillor Neale.

Following the closing date, the Town Council will assess applications in January and announce successful applicants by March. Funding payments will be made in April to May.

Floral facelift for the Lion and Lamb

The Lion and Lamb Yard is set to receive a floral facelift this winter.

Farnham Town Council has taken on responsibility for managing the yard’s floral displays. This will include the addition of new tubs and hanging baskets which will be planted with seasonal plants and flowers that complement the colour scheme of the town centre planting.

Councillor Pat Evans, Mayor of Farnham says: “The Lion and Lamb Yard has always been a popular area for shoppers to get away from the town centre traffic and enjoy some light refreshments in the many cafes and restaurants. We plan to enhance the environment further with some beautiful floral displays. Fresh plants will be planted in the spring and autumn by our outside workforce so there will be all year-round interest.”

Geoff Reeve from the Lion and Lamb’s local managing company Curchod and Co says: “Although the winter bedding plants have only just been planted, I am already really impressed with how they look. Having our planting up to the same standard

as the rest of Farnham will enhance the yard and hopefully mean shoppers spend more time here which has got to be good for the businesses.

Any other businesses that would like to work with Farnham Town Council in enhancing their grounds maintenance should contact [Iain McCready](#) for an initial discussion about options.

Services to Farnham Awards nominations

The search for local heroes is on as Farnham Town Council opens nominations for the Services to Farnham awards 2019/20. Individuals and organisations are being asked to think about the local people who have given outstanding or crucial services to the community and to nominate them for an award.

“It is quick and easy to nominate using our online form – or simply request one from our offices, and we will accept nominations until our deadline of 5pm on Monday 1 December. The tough job will be choosing our award winners,” says Councillor Pat Evans, the Mayor of Farnham.

The Services to Farnham Awards, which are sponsored by Sir Ray Tindle of the Tindle News Group, take place every year to recognise the amazing work of volunteers in the Farnham community. The winners are invited to receive their awards at a ceremony hosted by the Mayor in February.

The Mayor explains: “After this year’s challenges and the response from our community, I am sure we will hear about some amazing efforts. Previous winners have contributed to Farnham in a range of ways and come from all sorts of backgrounds: from arts to sport, the environment, work with young people, empowering deprived communities and building community spirit in our villages. There are lots of examples on our website to help you get thinking.”

Nominators should complete the form from Farnham Town Council, provide someone to second their nomination and explain their reasons for nominating.

Judges will be looking for individuals who have gone the extra mile to help the community over a period of years or with a significant impact. The judging panel will consider the nominations after the closing date of 1 December and put forward their winning selections to the Full Council meeting at the end of January.

See more about the [Services to Farnham Awards](#) including the nomination form.

Support local shops online

Farnham Town Council is backing an emerging new digital initiative aimed at encouraging people to support local shops online or by click and collect.

WeAreFarnham.co.uk is a growing digital marketplace and will provide a one-stop shop for people to buy online from Farnham's shops and businesses.

Councillor John Neale, Leader of Farnham Town Council says: "The pandemic has accelerated changes to people's shopping habits and more people than ever are choosing to shop online. Rather than sitting back and watching our town centre decline, we have taken the proactive decision to support our local retailers by offering them the opportunity to be able to sell their stock online. This could make all the difference to the future of some of our smaller, independent shop owners who are not currently set up to sell online."

WeAreFarnham shoppers can browse shops by category such as Art and Craft, Home and Fashion, Technology and Gifts. Purchases can be delivered or picked up in store.

"For this project to work really well, we need more businesses to take part," says Councillor Neale. "It's quick and easy for businesses to set up their page and I believe it will provide no end of opportunities."

Christian Shanahan one of the founders of WeAreLocals says: "We are delighted to be working in partnership with Farnham Town Council on this initiative and that they are joining us in continuing to push the message of 'Support Local, Shop Local'. In this ever changing and uncertain economic climate it's important to give our high streets and local businesses an online platform to strengthen their engagement with their local community and beyond. This is not just an e-commerce site, but a community site, which will also enable traders to collaborate on deliveries and work together to market themselves as Farnham and not just as individual shops".

Retailers that want to be part of WeAreFarnham should email Alex@wearelocals.co.uk or message directly via the @WeAreFarnham Facebook or Instagram page. Alternately you can call one of the WeAreFarnham team with any questions or queries you might have on 0333 303 4111.

Farnham's sky lights up for Christmas

Farnham people took to social media on Saturday to show their appreciation for Farnham Town Council's Beacons of Light show.

Introduced as an alternative to the traditional town centre Christmas lights switch-on, Farnham Town Council arranged for eight beams of light to connect Farnham by sweeping across the sky above Badshot Lea, Weybourne, Upper Hale, Rowledge, Wrecclesham, The Bourne, Farnham Castle and Central Farnham.

Councillor Alan Earwaker, Lead Member for Tourism and Events said: "This year we felt it was more important than ever before to hold an event which connected people to their community and that could be enjoyed from the safety of their home.

"The weather was horrendous on Saturday night, but this failed to dampen people's spirits and judging by the feedback, I think the Beacons of Light show was a great success. I would like to thank Kidd Rapinet for being our Christmas in Farnham Corporate sponsor and to Abbeyfield for being our Gold sponsor. Their support made it possible to bring some early Christmas cheer to Farnham."

Beacons of Light coincided with the switching on of the Christmas lights in Farnham town centre and surrounding villages.

Beacons mark Christmas countdown

Eight searchlights placed around Farnham and surrounding villages will literally bring rays of light to local residents at 5pm on 14 November, marking the beginning of local Christmas festivities.

Councillor Alan Earwaker, Lead Member for Tourism and Events says: "COVID may stop us inviting residents to the town centre to see an official Christmas lights switch-on this year but let us bring the lights to you. Wherever you live in Farnham or nearby villages, we hope you will be able to see at least one of

our searchlights in the sky. Come out to your doorsteps to see them – and give your neighbours a wave too if you can.”

Farnham Town Council has arranged for the beacons of light to represent the coming together of the Farnham community during 2020 and hopes for a brighter 2021.

“Farnham’s residents have shown such spirit this year and, as a community, we have pulled together time and time again,” says Councillor Earwaker. “The beacons of light are an opportunity for neighbours all over Farnham to step outside and share a socially distanced moment together and – as much as is possible this year – to look forward to Christmas; to enjoying our homes, our town and villages, and hopefully spending time with loved ones.”

The lights will sweep across the sky from Badshot Lea, Weybourne, Upper Hale, Rowledge, Wrecclesham, The Bourne, Farnham Castle and Central Farnham until 8.30pm.

During the shining of the beacons, the switching on of the Christmas lights in the town centre and surrounding neighbourhoods, will also take place.

Information about seasonal events and activities taking place in Farnham is at www.farnham.gov.uk.

Christmas Farmers’ Market

December’s Farmers’ Market will go ahead this year although the Christmas Market, which was due to take place on the same day, has been cancelled due to COVID restrictions. The Farmers’ Market will be held on Sunday 13 December from 10am to 1.30pm at Central car park in Farnham.

“The Farmers’ Market is all about getting healthy, fresh, high quality produce – including seasonal fruit, vegetables, meat and dairy products – on to our plates. As essential goods markets are still permitted, the Farmers’ Market will go ahead. Please come along and support our local producers,” says Councillor Alan Earwaker, Lead Member for Tourism and Events.

“As well as an abundance of fresh food, stallholders sell a huge selection of preserved and ready-made goods that can be stored at home ready to cheer your Christmas table. Likewise, although we have had to cancel the Christmas market, the Farmers’ Market is a source of lovely food items so you will still be able

to buy some great Christmas gifts as well as offering support to independent traders.”

Farnham Town Council organises the Farmers’ Market. Safety will be paramount for shoppers and stallholders alike to ensure a safe and enjoyable shopping experience. The outdoor monthly markets have continued to run through much of the COVID outbreak and have followed government guidelines. Clear information and signage on social distancing and other COVID hygiene measures are provided.

If the lockdown restrictions are removed, Farnham Town Council will look to add some additional stalls in Central car park to support stallholders and customers.

Poignant remembrance service

Over one thousand people traditionally attend Farnham’s main Remembrance Sunday parade. This year, to keep members of the community safe but still able to be involved, Farnham Town Council broadcast the event live.

A [video of the service](#) is available to watch and shows how Farnham remembered the sacrifices made by local people in the year that marks the 75th anniversary of VE and VJ Day.

Although local residents who would usually wish to attend were asked to watch the service at home, priority was given to veterans and currently serving personnel to participate in a socially distanced event to comply with the government’s regulations.

The Mayor of Farnham, Councillor Pat Evans laid a wreath at Gostrey Meadow War Memorial at 11am on Sunday 8 November on behalf of the people of the town and public services. “As in previous years, representatives of local community groups and organisations joined the Royal British Legion veterans and service personnel in a fitting tribute to the men and women who have lost their lives serving our country. Although the scale of service was smaller, this year’s commemoration was no less poignant or heartfelt,” she said.

The Mayor was joined by Deputy Lieutenant Brigadier Hood QVRM TD DL, the Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP and Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner David Munro.

People showed their appreciation on social media with comments such as: ‘So glad this remembrance could go ahead with safe distancing in place. Thank you to all

servicemen and service ladies', 'As an ex-serviceman I wish we could have been there in person to show respect, but this is a good replacement...' and 'Thank you for such a memorable and moving service'.

Remembrance services were also held in Badshot Lea, Hale, Rowledge, The Bourne, Weybourne and Wrecclesham.

Young people play a prominent role in Farnham's remembrance events and this year was no exception. On Friday 6 November, the Mayor welcomed children from six local schools for a special remembrance service with the Royal British Legion. Special guests also included Brigadier Paul Evans OBE DL who is the President of Surrey County Royal British Legion, Flight Lieutenant Nick Filler 229 (Farnham) Squadron ATC, Captain Willie McKean and CSgt Dean Smith of the Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment.

Julie Aldridge, Manager of the Farnham Schools' Confederation says: "We are so pleased that this annual event was able to proceed whilst in lockdown. Although fewer schools could be present this year, schools within walking distance of the town centre attended and did a great job at representing members of the Farnham Schools' Confederation. All of our schools marked Remembrance Day in their own settings on 11 November."

During the service, which was held at the Gostrey Meadow war memorial, Lily from South Farnham School read 'Dear Those'; a poem she wrote specially for the occasion as a tribute to the courage and bravery of fallen heroes whilst pupils from Weydon School joined the President of the Surrey Royal British Legion, Brigadier Paul Evans OBE DL in reading The Fallen by Laurence Binyon.

We will remember

A service of remembrance will be broadcast live from the war memorial in Gostrey Meadow, Farnham on Sunday 8 November.

As government guidelines mean fewer people can be present at this year's act of remembrance and with priority given to veterans and current service personnel, Farnham Town Council is broadcasting the service live on its [Facebook channel](#) so that people can watch proceedings from the safety of their home or later in the day.

Councillor Pat Evans, Mayor of Farnham will lay a wreath on behalf of the people of the town. She says: "Although we've had to scale down this year's service, I want to reassure everybody who would normally attend that the occasion will be

no less poignant and will be a fitting tribute to the servicemen and women who gave their lives in service.”

Tributes will also be laid by the Royal British Legion who are supporting Farnham Town Council in organising the annual commemoration, Deputy Lieutenant Brigadier Hood QVRM TD DL, the Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP and representatives of community organisations.

Barriers will be installed in Gostrey Meadow and South Street to restrict the numbers of people at the war memorial and to ensure safe social distancing of guests, many of whom may be more vulnerable veterans. Strict COVID-19 compliance measures will be in place.

There will be opportunities throughout the day for members of the public to lay their personal tributes at the war memorial after the formal service has ended.

To watch the service live from 10.30am, visit Farnham Town Council's [Facebook page](#).