

Allotment Newsletter

Autumn 2015

Autumn leaves falling ...

VEGETABLE HARVEST

Now that the summer crops are safely harvested, your thoughts should be turning now to the autumn, winter crops you could be harvesting. These include broccoli, Brussel sprouts, cabbages, carrots, cauliflowers, celeriac, leeks, parsnips, swedes and turnips. Mind you, this depends on whether you planted any and, of course, the state of your plot.



SOUTH AND SOUTH EAST IN BLOOM RESULTS

For those of you that haven't heard, Farnham won double Gold in the South and South East in Bloom awards this year. Gold was given for the Town Centre category for the 5th consecutive year and the Large Town category for the 4th consecutive year. Farnham was also awarded Best in Category for the 3rd year running. Victoria Gardens has once again been awarded Outstanding in the RHS It's Your Neighbourhood category. They were also awarded Gold in the Small Parks category. Gostrey Meadow was awarded Gold in the Small Parks category for the 2nd year running. Nick Gibbs who is the Gostrey Meadow Park Keeper was awarded a Horticultural Achievement Award for his work in Gostrey Meadow. Community Groups throughout Farnham have been involved in this success. These include Bourne Residents Association, Bourne Conservation Group, Heath End Gardeners, St Marks Church Hale, Post 19 Group, Farnham in Bloom Community Group, UCA,




LIAISON GROUP NEWS

The last meeting was held on the 23rd September where various allotment issues were discussed. For those of you who don't know, the Liaison Group is made up of all the site representatives, Robert Green, Frank Green, Steve Kibble, Gerard Nicholson, David Wheeler, Liz Thomas, Lynne Watson, Jenny Williams and David Dearsley, Councillor John Williamson and Council staff including Kevin Taitt and Lara Prior.

If you have any issues you would like to be taken to the next meeting, please talk to your site rep. At the last meeting a number of items were discussed including annual rent reviews, setting up an allotment association, review of the competitions and work to be done on sites, amongst other items.



SEED SCHEME



Once again, Jenny Williams is kindly prepared to run the seed scheme for all allotment holders that wish to take part. You can save up to 50% on a packet of seeds if the order is over £300. Normally the order is well over that amount. The seeds will once again be ordered from D.T.Brown who have been in business for over 100 years.

Catalogues and order forms will be available from Jenny on **Saturday 10th October at 10.30am** in the Car Park at West Street allotment site.

On **Saturday 24th October at 10.30am** Jenny will return to collect the orders, in the same place. If you are not able to get there to pick up a catalogue, arrange with a friend or neighbour on the allotment to pick up a catalogue. It really is too good to miss and you know that the seeds are fresh as they come straight from the supplier. **It is strictly money with your order and cheques should be made payable to Farnham Town Council**



GENERAL NEWS



- From the monthly inspections that are carried out, it is clear that plot holders on the Six Bells site are dumping rubbish outside the gates. There is absolutely no need for this as all allotment holders should be composting all green waste. Any waste that is not compostable should either be burnt or taken to the local tip. **Dumping rubbish must stop!**
- At the allotment show in July we had an excellent number of exhibits. It was an enjoyable event with lots of swapping of ideas. We are reviewing the show guide for next year and if you have any ideas for new or different classes or competitions please let Kevin Taitt or Lara Prior know and they will be considered. Do you want more or are you happy with keeping the same competitions? We are also looking at running another trip next year as this year's trip to West Dean Gardens was successful. If you have any ideas for a trip to a garden of note please advise Kevin Taitt.
- Plans are being made for the Winter Lecture which was discussed at the recent Allotment Liaison Group. If you have any ideas about what you would like at the lecture please let either your site rep or Kevin Taitt know before Christmas.



FRUIT TIPS



- Now is a good time to be planting summer fruiting raspberries, all currants and gooseberries. Make sure you prepare the ground properly incorporating plenty of well rotted manure or compost.
- If you have grown both summer and autumn fruiting raspberries the pruning of these is done at different times of the year. Summer fruiting raspberries should be cut down now removing all the old canes that have fruited this summer.
- Leave all the new canes as these are the ones that will fruit next summer. Autumn fruiting raspberries will still be fruiting now and should be cut down in February/March.
- Now is the time to plant rhubarb crowns.



GENERAL TASKS



- If you haven't already done so, lift any potatoes you may have left in the ground. Make sure they are dry before storing otherwise they will rot.
- Earth up celery to blanch the stems making them more tender.



- As the ground becomes vacant it should be dug over if it is not too wet.



- Whilst you are digging add either your own compost or manure. Manure or compost can always be left on the surface for the worms to take down into the soil. It will also protect the surface of the soil from getting “panned down” especially if it is a wet winter. Little and often will make the task easier for you when it comes to next spring and planting time.
- It is advisable to remove yellowing leaves from brassicas. One reason for this is that they encourage botrytis to develop. These leaves have done their job and are of no use to the plant now.
- If you haven't already done so, now is an ideal time to build yourself a compost bin. It doesn't have to be anything fancy, just something that will hold all the green waste from your plot, including weeds, and anything else you might want to add. Try building your compost bin with wooden pallets from the builder's merchant.



ALLOTMENT WINNERS- AWARDS EVENING

This year the Farnham in Bloom Awards Evening is once again being held at Squire's Garden Centre, Badshot Lea. Just in case you have missed the winners, they are as follows:

Best Allotment Plot on:

- Morley Road - Peter Massey, Plot no. 6
- Alderley Farm – Alan Reiter, Plot no. 6
- West Street - David Allen, Plot no. 14a
- West Street Extension – Peter and Jean Keiller, Plot no. 23
- Wrecclesham - Mike Guy and Sandra Hunt, Plot no. 11a
- Six Bells – Mrs M. Nelson, Plot no. 12b
- Farnborough Road - Mike Nicholls, Plot no. 19
- Shepherd and Flock – Ruth Paris, Plot no. 10



Best Overall Allotment

Robert and Angela Page, Plot no. 17a/b on Six Bells site

Best Newcomer's Allotment

- Chris Carr-Barney, Plot no. 39a on Six Bells site

Best Scarecrow

- Sue Ware on West Street made from recycled materials



Tallest Sunflower

- Malcolm Swain on West Street site

Biggest Pumpkin

- To be announced

Congratulations to all the winners!

The Allotment Liaison Group has reviewed the Allotment Awards and decided that if a plot holder wins the best plot for 3 consecutive years they will be required to take a break from entry for the following year to encourage all plot holders to participate.

ALLOTMENT RENTS 2015 AND BEYOND

Farnham Town Council has agreed to move to a break-even point for the allotments from 2015. Costs are being further reviewed to minimise any increase. Your help in managing water costs will be appreciated. In 2016 the cost of a 5 rod plot will increase to £57 a year. This will mean the allotments will achieve the break even point. It is intended that in future years rent rises will be kept to a minimum.





CHRISTMAS IN FARNHAM

Christmas Light Switch-On - Saturday 21st November 1pm to 6pm

Farnham's Christmas Lights Switch-On marks the start of the Christmas festivities and the event is returning to Gostrey Meadow on Saturday 21st November. From 1pm the Meadow will be buzzing with music and fun for all. Live musical entertainment will be on stage throughout the day provided by local schools and theatre groups. There will also be face painting, a live nativity and a chance to meet Father Christmas. The Christmas lights will be switched on at 4.30pm by pantomime stars from The Harlington Fleet and Princess Hall



Christmas Market - Sunday 13th December 10am to 4pm

Castle Street in the heart of Farnham and the Mercure Bush Hotel will be transformed into a festive Christmas market. A truly seasonal experience for all the family the Farnham Christmas Market will have something for everyone from hand knitted blankets, hand painted wooden jewellery boxes and handmade jewellery to homemade fudge, a variety of cheeses and savoury pies. Browse round the stalls and fill your senses with the smells and sounds of Christmas, warm yourself up with a glass of Mulled wine and be tempted by the fresh food on offer including venison burgers and steaming soup served in a crusty bread bowl! Don't miss the Farnham Christmas Market, the perfect way to get into the festive spirit. In addition the monthly Farmers' Market will be taking place in the Central car park as usual.



Farmers' Market - Sunday 22nd November 10am to 1.30 pm and 13th - December 10am to 3.30pm

Whether you are looking for some goodies to make up a special Christmas gift hamper or you want to treat the family to some delicious treats, the December Farmers' Market will have all that you need as well as the usual fresh, seasonal, local produce. The market will be held on Sunday 13th December from 10am to 3.30pm in Central car park.

Civic Christmas Candlelit Carol Service –Tuesday 15th December 7.30pm

A festive carol concert will take place in St Andrew's church, performed by Farnham Youth Choir and organised by Farnham Town Council. The service is by a free ticket ballot and further details can be obtained from the Town Council.



Farnham in Bloom Winter Celebration – Sunday 20th December 2.30pm to 3.30pm

Get into the Christmas spirit on Sunday 20th December by coming along to Gostrey Meadow and singing carols around the Christmas tree. The carol singing will start at 2.30 pm and finish at 3.30 pm and is a celebration of Farnham in Bloom's golden success. Mulled wine and other warm drinks will be sold in aid of the Mayor's charity.



MONEY FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Farnham Town Council is inviting applications from local groups that are seeking funding of up to £2000 for one-off projects.

The community grant budget is available for initiatives that improve the environment and/or community life for residents who live in the Farnham area. Deadline for submitting an application is Friday 11th December. More information is available on the Farnham Town Council website at www.farnham.gov.uk or call 01252 712667.



WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

Don't forget to visit Farnham Town Council's website where you can find out information about many services and events at www.farnham.gov.uk.


If you haven't already you can also *follow* us on Twitter (twitter.com/farnhamofficial) or *like* our Facebook page (facebook.com/farnhamofficial) to keep up to date with all of our latest news.

Farnham Town Council has been shortlisted for a national award for its Digital Communications. Results will be announced at the end of October.



INTERESTING FACTS

The **DAISY** got its name because Anglo – Saxons thought that the yellow centre resembled the sun. They knew it as *daeges eage* and by the late Middle Ages it was commonly known as the day's eye until the name was transmuted into the word we recognize today



If you have any queries about issues in the newsletter, please contact Kevin Taitt or Lara Prior on 01252 712667.

HAPPY GARDENING...



The allotments are managed by Farnham Town Council

Town Council Offices, South Street, Farnham, Surrey GU9 7RN

Tel: 01252 712667 (*calls may be recorded*)

E-mail: customer.services@farnham.gov.uk Web: www.farnham.gov.uk

Facebook: facebook.com/farnhamofficial Twitter: twitter.com/farnhamofficial

Town Clerk: Iain Lynch

