

Farnham's Allotment News

Autumn 2018

In this issue:

Meet the new team

**Farnham's bumper
crop of gold awards**

**How to save up to
50% on seeds**

Know your site rep

**Enter the largest
pumpkin competition**

**Tips from gardening
guru John Negus**

**News from Farnham
Town Council**



Farnham
Town Council

New team beds in

There have been a few changes in the team that looks after Farnham's outside spaces. Here's your guide explaining who does what.



Lara Miller
Community Enhancement and Projects Officer

Lara is responsible for the smooth running of the administrative side of the service. She leads on projects and is the friendly voice you'll often speak with if you call the office.

● **Email** lara.miller@farnham.gov.uk
or call 01252 712667



Iain McCready
Business and Facilities Manager

Iain is responsible for day to day management of the outside services team, the allotments, cemeteries, Farnham in Bloom, council contracts and facilities and CCTV.

● **Email** iain.mccready@farnham.gov.uk
or call 01252 712667



Mark Beckett
Grounds Maintenance Supervisor

Mark takes care of the day to day activities of the grounds maintenance team. Mark and his team will be at your allotment at least once a month to manage the site.

Robin, David and Ganga are the grounds maintenance team and you'll see them cutting grass, looking after the allotment and cemetery perimeters, cleaning up old allotment plots, dealing with tree issues and trimming boundary hedges. Thapa takes care of the community noticeboards around Farnham.



Shoppers pick their own

Thank you to allotment holders Marianne and Gerard Nicholson from Alderley Farm, Anna Edwards from West Street extension and Joy Shenton from the Six Bells site for sparing the time to introduce more people to the delicious taste of fresh, locally grown produce.

Earlier this year, the four kindly volunteered to plant two large containers outside Sainsbury's in South Street with vegetables, herbs, salad and edible flowers. The project is part of the Incredible Edible initiative, which is a nationwide movement that aims to increase the amount of local food grown and eaten in towns. Farnham joined the Incredible Edible movement after seeing an example of how well it works in its twin town Andernach, Germany.

To be involved in next year's Incredible Edible, please email lara.miller@farnham.gov.uk.

Bumper crop of gold awards for Farnham in Bloom

The Farnham in Bloom team is on cloud nine after the town achieved what may well be its best result yet at this year's South and South East in Bloom.

Despite this year's campaign being run by a new team, they rose to the challenge and managed to net four gold awards, be the winner in three categories and win a special award for biodiversity.

Commenting on the result, Councillor Stephen Hill, Lead Member for Farnham in Bloom said: "It has been said before, but it is true that Farnham in Bloom is about so much more than flowers – it's about engendering pride, new skills and knowledge and making our town and villages better places to live. I would like to thank all our sponsors and give a special mention to Corporate



sponsor Specsavers in Farnham and gold sponsors Forest Lodge Garden Centre, Graduate Landscapes, Squire's Garden Centre, The Farnham Institute Charity, The Patio Black Spot Removal Company Ltd and Wild FlowerTurf Ltd for their valuable support and the positive legacy their contribution has given to the people of Farnham." The judges of Farnham in Bloom gave Farnham a special biodiversity award in recognition of projects that encourage wildlife to live and thrive alongside people.

The results for Farnham in Bloom and the community groups are as follows:

Large Town - Category winners and Gold

Town Centre - Gold

Small Cemetery

Badshot Lea - Category winners and Silver Gilt

Large Cemetery

West Street - Silver Gilt

The Biodiversity Award sponsored by Bourne Amenity - Farnham in Bloom

County Winner Surrey Farnham in Bloom

Small Park - Outstanding for The Victoria Garden

Large Conservation Area

Joint Category Winner and Gold for The Bishop's Meadow.

It's Your Neighbourhood Awards:

The Victoria Garden Outstanding

Get growing @The Hale bungalow, Farnham Advancing

Space to Grow, Farnham Advancing

Visit www.farnham.gov.uk/bloom to watch a video showing some of this year's projects.



Get involved

Community involvement is one of the judging criteria for Farnham in Bloom, so we were pleased to be able to take the judges of the Large Town category to the allotments at West Street extension.

Thank you to Sue Ware for sparing the time to show the judges her plot and to Jenny Williams for being on hand to answer their questions about allotments in general.





Keep out fly-tippers

There has been a spate of fly tipping at some allotment sites but particularly Six Bells and Farnborough Road.

The discarded waste has included vegetation and other general rubbish which should not be dumped at the allotments.

Please make sure you scramble the combination lock whenever you enter or leave the allotment and, if you see anybody dumping any type of rubbish, please report them by contacting **Iain McCready** on **01252 712667** or by email at **iain.mccready@farnham.gov.uk**.



Help yourself

A new supply of soil conditioner has been dropped off at each of the sites. Please help yourself. The conditioner is made up of spent compost and green waste which has been sterilised by **Glendale**.

Meet your rep

Each allotment has a site representative who will meet and greet new tenants, keep the allotments noticeboards up to date and liaise with us about a variety of allotment-related matters.

They should be your first point of contact if there is an issue with your allotment.

Twice a year, the allotment representatives, Iain McCready and Lara Miller will meet to discuss matters affecting the allotments. The liaison group is chaired by allotment holder Robert Green and is an opportunity for representatives to raise issues that affect several plot holders, to report non-urgent problems and for us to communicate and consult on future plans.

On behalf of allotment holders, the site reps have previously raised concerns about overgrown trees shadowing plots, incidences of theft and irresponsible dog owners allowing their dogs to roam and foul on plots.

The site reps also get involved in the plans for the annual garden visit and Allotment Show.

The next meeting is on 18 October.
Please contact your site rep if you would like them to raise something on your behalf.



Where to find your rep

Alderley Farm

Gerald Nicholson, plot 5

Farnborough Road

Frank Green, plot 17

Morley Road

David Dearsley, plot 2a

Shepherd and Flock

David Wheeler, plot 3

Six Bells

Lynne Watson, plot 21

West Street

Steve Kibble, plot 2b

West Street extension

Jenny Williams, plot 9

Wrecclesham

Liz Thomas, plot 10a

Chair of the Liaison Group

Robert Green, Wrecclesham allotment, plot 7a

Seed club

Thank you to Jenny Williams, site rep at West Street allotments for volunteering to run this year's money-saving seed club for allotment holders. If the collective order from Farnham's allotment holders totals more than £300, you could save 50% on a packet of seeds.

The seeds are supplied by DT Brown who have a reputation for good quality seeds.

Pick up your catalogue and order form from Jenny in West Street allotment car park on Saturday 6 October at 11am. Jenny will return on Saturday 20 October at 11am to collect your order and payment. You can pay cash or by cheque. Cheques should be made payable to Farnham Town Council.



Keep the weeds at bay

If you are temporarily not using your allotment, please be neighbourly and put down some Mypex matting to suppress weed growth and prevent weed seed from blowing onto neighbouring plots.

If you no longer wish to keep your allotment, please contact Lara Miller as we have a waiting list of people wanting a plot.

Allotment Show

Due to the new team being busy with learning the ropes for Farnham in Bloom, we took the decision to postpone this year's Allotment Show.

We plan to take the opportunity to refresh the format and will relaunch it in September 2019. If you have ideas about how we can improve on the Allotment Show, please forward them to your allotment representative.

Enter the pumpkin competition

If you are proud of the size of your pumpkins this year, why not see if you have a winner by entering the Largest Pumpkin competition.

To enter the competition, simply contact Lara so she can let the judges know which sites and plots to visit. The pumpkins will be judged in early October.

The winner will receive a £10 Squire's voucher and will be invited to the Farnham in Bloom Awards evening in October.



From the potting shed



Tips from John Negus, volunteer and gardening expert

If you are a new allotment holder, you may be gazing with a degree of elation and trepidation at your plot and hoping it will serve you well and it will, if you spend time 'taming' it.

Once you have dealt with any weeds or grass, begin by neatly edging your plot, using taut string, a half-moon tool and long-handled shears. Then, if necessary, use a spade to strip off matted grass and weeds and make a rectangular heap which will rot down into nourishing humus.

● When you've bared the plot and are ready to dig, take out a trench a spade's width and deep at one end and barrow soil to the other end. If you've never dug before, insert your spade or fork vertically to full depth and invert the soil into your first trench.

Continue, keeping soil level, until you finish at the far end. Finally, fill the last trench with soil taken from the first trench.

Ideally, practice a three-year rotation to get the best from your crops and minimise pests and diseases.

All you do is divide your plot into three sections. Let's call them A, B and C.

● In the first year, plant brassicas – cabbages and their relations – on section A and lime the soil.

Fill section B, which should be well manured, with cucumbers, marrows, leaf beet, onions, peas, beans, lettuce and tomatoes.

Sow root crops – beetroot, carrots, parsnips and potatoes – on section C, which is not manured or limed.

● Add a general-purpose

fertiliser to all sections two weeks before sowing or planting.

● **Year two:** Move A to B, B to C and C to A.

● **Year three:** Move A to C, B to A and C to B. Then return to year one.

Bothered by bindweed? Bunch shoot tips and plunge them into a deep jar of glyphosate weedkiller. Being systemic, it will travel to the roots and kill entire plants.

Beat horsetails by treading on stems to crush the silica, then paint or spray with glyphosate.

Tackle pests by growing crops under fine-mesh netting.

Allotment gardening is addictive and a joyous activity. It's good exercise, too! Your goal is a highly productive plot of choice home-grown vegetables and fruit. You'll soon achieve it.



Awards evening

We have lots to celebrate at the Farnham in Bloom annual awards evening on 11 October.

Everybody who entered one of this year's In Bloom competitions is invited. We are grateful to our Gold sponsor Squire's Garden Centre for hosting the awards evening. A full list of winners will be available on our website. Thank you to everybody who took part.

Garden visit

In the summer, the Allotment Liaison Group organised a trip to the National Trust's garden at Sissinghurst.

The group met the head vegetable gardener and were fascinated to hear about the garden's 'no-dig' policy. The garden has only been established for five years but it is a great success and grows a wide range of vegetables and soft fruit which is used to supply the café. The garden visits are always thought provoking and the 'no-dig' approach was of great interest with some members planning to try it out.

If you adopt the 'no-dig' approach, we'd love to hear how you get on. Please email lara.miller@farnham.gov.uk when you have something to report.

Other news from Farnham Town Council

Time to get crafty

October is a time to celebrate Farnham's rich heritage as England's craft town.

Throughout the month, there is a busy programme of events, exhibitions and workshops. The programme is designed to provide opportunities for the community to meet artists and to try their hand at a new skill.

● **Find out more at** www.crafttownengland.org.

Take your pick

Discarded litter can ruin people's enjoyment of their surroundings and make an area feel abandoned.



To help keep on top of the problem, Big Pick Week will be held from **Saturday 13 to 20 October**. If you would like to clear up an area that needs attention, please contact Lara so you can arrange to borrow litter picking equipment.

There will also be a community litter pick around Farnham town centre on **Saturday 20 October**. If you'd like to take part, please meet at Farnham Town Council's office in South Street at 10am. There will be tea/coffee and cake for everybody who participates.

Gardening workshops return this autumn

October half term will soon be here which means it's time for our free gardening workshops for kids.

The Bloomin' Kids workshops will be held from 10am to 12noon and 2pm to 4pm on Thursday 25 October at West Street greenhouses.

Children will take part in seasonal activities and learn some exciting facts and new skills. The sessions are best suited to children aged five and over.

The workshops are very popular, and places are limited so please book early to avoid disappointment.



● **To reserve a place** visit www.farnham.gov.uk/bloom.

Other news from Farnham Town Council

Services to Farnham Awards

If you know somebody who deserves recognition for the outstanding or crucial service they provide, then please nominate them for a Services to Farnham Award.

Nomination forms can be downloaded from www.farnham.gov.uk/servicestofarnham or you can pick up a hard copy from Farnham Town Council in South Street. The closing date for nominations is 1 December 2018.

Apply for a community grant

Funding applications are invited for projects that will promote the environment and/or community life in Farnham.

The grant criteria and an application form can be found at www.farnham.gov.uk/grants. The closing date for applications is 3 December. The applications will be considered in January and cheques will be sent to successful applicants in April/May 2019.

A dinner steeped in tradition

This year's Venison dinner, which dates back over 400 years, will be held in the historic Great Hall at Farnham Castle on Thursday 8 November.

Speakers will include Baroness Bottomley on 100 years of votes for women, Guy Loveridge on the 60th anniversary of Mike Hawthorn becoming Britain's first Formula 1 champion, and Lieutenant-Colonel (ret'd) Chris Booth on the centenary of the end of the first world war; and Bishop Jo Bailey Wells.

Tickets are priced at £65 each and include a drink on arrival, a four-course meal and coffee. Guests should arrive at 7pm for 7.30pm. Carriages at 11.15pm.

● **To reserve tickets** please contact Mrs Pat Frost on 01252 728663 or 07768 566919 or call Farnham Town Council on 01252 712667.



Dates for your diary

Sunday 14 October at 2pm

Line the streets of Farnham town centre to enjoy the sight of up to 100 historic racing cars gathering to commemorate the 60th anniversary of Mike Hawthorn becoming the first British driver to win the world championship

Sunday 28 October, 25 November and 23 December

Farmers' Market, 10am to 1.30pm in Central car park

Friday 9 November at 10.45am

Schools' Remembrance event at the war memorial at Gostrey Meadow

Sunday 11 November

Town Remembrance - Joint service with the Mayor of Waverley.

Saturday 17 November

Christmas lights switch-on

Sunday 9 December

Christmas Market, 10am to 4pm in Castle Street and the town centre

Sunday 16 December

Winter celebration, 2.30-3.30pm at Gostrey Meadow

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