

# Farnham's **Allotment News**

Summer 2019

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**Farnham**  
Town Council



## Volunteer at community farm

Farnham Community Farm is looking for people to lend a hand on its 2.4 acre site in Runfold. The farm needs help with indoor and outdoor tasks. Volunteers grow a range of crops pesticide-free to provide fresh produce for over 60 local families each week but no experience of growing vegetables is needed as other volunteers are always on hand to help newcomers.



Volunteer days are Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays plus the first Saturday of each month, all from 10am and continuing for the whole day. Tea, coffee, biscuits – and sometimes homemade cake – are provided.

Sign up to the volunteers' newsletter or find out more from the farm's website at [www.farnhamcommunityfarm.com](http://www.farnhamcommunityfarm.com).

### Do you know anybody who would like an allotment?

We have around 325 plots on eight allotment sites in and around Farnham and some of these plots will soon be available for allocation to a new tenant. If you know anybody

who would like to discover the joy of having an allotment, please encourage them to apply for a plot at [www.farnham.gov.uk/allotments](http://www.farnham.gov.uk/allotments)



### Pick your own

Volunteers from the Farnham Community Farm have planted the edible planters in South Street so that even more people can enjoy the taste of home grown produce.



### Bloomin' Friends

The Bloomin' Friends are a new addition to the Farnham in Bloom family. The group of volunteers has been helping out with tasks in the greenhouses such as potting on and planting hanging baskets.

Their efforts over Easter were greatly appreciated when they managed to pot on 10,000 plants in just two days.





## Gardeners' Question Time

At our spring Allotment Lecture, we held a Gardeners' Question Time. A panel of experts were on hand to provide solutions and suggestions for some of the gardening challenges faced by the audience.

Here is a selection of some the best questions and answers:

### What inventive ideas does the panel have for mulch?

The panel suggested: Slates, leaves, composted grass cuttings when they have gone black and gooey, spent hops, straw as long as it's a good thick layer.

### What is a good veg to plant in autumn?

The panel suggested: Garlic, onions, broad beans, winter density lettuce, spring cabbage, broccoli, kale and Brussels sprout.

### What ideas can the panel suggest for keeping slugs at bay?

The panel suggested: WD40, beer traps, sharp grit or slates, egg shells, sheep wool pellets and coffee grounds.

### What is the best way to remove aphids?

The panel suggested: Soap solution or organic products from a site such as plantabundance.com, blast with a hose, ladybirds or sticky tape in a loop around your finger so you can pick them off.

### Carrots are not germinating on Alderley farm allotment. Does the panel have any suggestions?

The panel said: Carrot fly is prevalent so cover the seed with fleece and do not take it off, ensure the seed sowing is shallow. Also, carrots are not keen on new manure as the ammonia can burn the seedlings.

● **If you have alternative answers** to those suggested by our panel, please do share your ideas and we'll put them in the next newsletter.



## Spring sizzle

At the end of May, allotment holders got together for a bbq and seed swap at West Street. It was an enjoyable event and a great chance to meet other allotment holders in a social setting.



## Good Year for...

Every year, conditions suit some fruit and veg better than others. What's grown well on your allotment this year and what do you do if you have a glut of produce?



From beetroot cake to tangy chutneys, tell us your go to recipes for using up surplus fruit and veg and we'll feature them in future editions of the Allotment newsletter.



## Dogs, hosepipes and bonfires



We've noticed that hosepipes are still being used by a small number of allotment holders despite changes being made to the tenancy agreement earlier this year.

Please note that the following now applies on all sites:

**Dogs** – Unless written permission has been given by the Town Clerk, dogs may not be brought onto the allotments.

**Hosepipes** – Hosepipes may only be used to fill up a watering can or water butt. You should only water your plot with a watering can. If this change causes you problems because of a disability, please speak to Iain McCready.

**Bonfires** – for the comfort of others, we have restricted the times you can have a bonfire.

For full details, please refer to your tenancy agreement.

## ! Be aware

The site rep at the Six Bells Allotment has been made aware of some incidents of vandalism and theft, which have been reported to the police. Problems have also been reported at West Street and West Street extension.

If you have a shed on your plot, crime prevention advice from Surrey Police is to:

- invest in a good padlock with no exposed screws
- pay attention to hinges as these are sometimes easily removable
- secure windows with wire mesh or grills
- keep the shed locked at all times
- lock away tools in a locker or secure them with a chain
- mark your property with your name or postcode.

If you are working alone at the allotment, remain alert as to who is around and what is happening.

## Overgrown allotment plots

If you are struggling to maintain your allotment or you've noticed that a neighbour hasn't visited for a while and their plot is overgrown, please let us know so we can help get things back under control.



## Sit and chat

Allotment holders at Alderley Farm have got together to create a new community area for social gatherings.

An area near to Alderley Farm allotments has been turned into a lovely space and includes benches and a bbq for use by plot holders at West Street, Alderley Farm and West Street extension.

To make the area look even more lovely and inviting, the volunteers are after plant donations.

**Please contact the Alderley Farm site rep if you can help.**



## show time!



This year's allotment show has had a revamp and will be held alongside the last Music in the Meadow on 1 September.

This year we are keen to encourage entries from allotment holders who have never exhibited before. We think that most people will have something on their plot that will catch the eye of the judges whether this be five potatoes of the same size colour and shape or six perfect plump pea pods. Most allotment holders grow to eat rather than exhibit, so do not be put off entering because we are not expecting perfection!

This year's Bloomin' Kids Gardening Workshops have introduced children to the pleasures of gardening and so we will have classes for young gardeners too.

There will be classes for vegetables, fruit, preserves, cakes and flowers. For full details including the judging criteria, please email us for a show guide.

## Know your rep

Please speak to your site rep if you would like them to raise something on your behalf at the next allotment liaison group meeting.



Gerard Nicholson



Frank Green



Steve Kibble



Lynne Watson

**Alderley Farm** – Gerard 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

**Wrecclisham** – Liz Thomas W10AA

**Chair of the Liaison Group** – Vacant



Liz Thomas



David Wheeler





## Dates for your diary

### w/c 12 August

#### Tallest Sunflower Judging

Sunflowers will be measured on all sites with the tallest one winning the prize. Be sure to let us know in advance if you have taken part so we don't miss your sunflowers when judging.



### Sunday 1 September

#### Farnham Allotment Show

This year the Allotment Show will have a new lease of life and be run as part of the Council's final Music in the Meadow of the summer at Gostrey Meadow.

### w/c 30 September

#### Largest pumpkin Judging

Measuring will take place during this week and the pumpkin with the largest girth will be the winner. Once again, be sure to let us know in advance if you have taken part so we don't miss your pumpkins.

### Saturday 5 October

#### D.T. Browns Seed Scheme

Arrive at 11am at West Street Allotments, West Street, GU9 7AP to collect a catalogue and order form. Remember, you can save up to 50% on seeds with this bulk buy offer through the Council.



### Thursday 10 October

#### Farnham in Bloom Awards

6pm at Squire's Garden Centre, Badshot Lea, GU9 9JX  
Invitation only to all competition winners.

### Saturday 19 October

#### Collection of D.T. Browns Seed Scheme orders.

11am at West Street Allotments, West Street, GU9 7AP

## In the know

For the latest news, back copies of Allotment News, information about competitions and events, please visit the Allotment pages of our website.

● Find out more at [www.farnham.gov.uk/allotments](http://www.farnham.gov.uk/allotments)

## Judging of Farnham in Bloom

Judges received a warm welcome when they arrived for the judging of Farnham's entry into South and South East in Bloom on 9 and 10 July.

The judges of the Large Town category were taken on a tour of Farnham which included many projects that demonstrate how horticulture has a positive impact on both the environment and people's wellbeing.

Thank you to Sue Ware for showing the judges her 'retirement project' at West Street allotment and to site rep. Jenny Williams for being on hand to answer the judges questions.

The judges said that they thoroughly enjoyed their visit.

**Farnham's entry into Britain in Bloom will be judged on 31 July.**



## Farnham in Bloom

Over the past few weeks we have been very busy preparing for the arrival of the judges of our entry into South and South East in Bloom and Britain in Bloom.

The flowers in the town centre and surrounding villages look lovely and a carpet bed commemorating the 50th anniversary of the first landing on the moon has been planted at Gostrey Meadow.

This year we have entered the Large Town category and Town Centre category and on 9 and 10 July, the judges from South and South East in Bloom arrived to make their assessment.

The judges met volunteers involved with the Bourne Beautification Scheme, visited the town's greenhouses and heard more about this year's projects and how Farnham in Bloom has evolved. One of the highlights was when children from The Dance Movement performed a dance in Gostrey Meadow.

The Britain in Bloom judges will arrive on 31 July and will receive a similar tour.

### Judging dates and categories

- Small Cemetery – Badshot Lea was judged on 25 June 2019 and the visit went very well.
- Town Centre was judged on 9 July 2019
- Large Cemetery – West Street, 9 July 2019
- Large Town – 10 July 2019
- BIDS, Town Centres and City Centres – 31 July 2019

## Greenhouse open day

Many people enjoyed having the opportunity to see behind the scenes at this year's Greenhouse Open Day.



Residents from nearby Bourne Wood Manor Care, a silver sponsor of Farnham in Bloom, visited in small groups while children from Highfield South Farnham planted up hanging baskets which they will enter into the schools' hanging basket competition.

Some 27,000 plants have been grown by Farnham Town Council staff and volunteers. This has included old time favourites such as Dahlias, Geraniums and Salvia as well as some more unusual varieties such as Acalypha and Plectranthus which are being grown for colour and their suitability for their surroundings.



## Farewell to Thapa

A well-deserved retirement awaits Thapa Jhupa who will be a familiar face to many allotment holders.

Thapa is a former Gurkha who had over 20 years' service for the British Army. Thapa joined the more peaceful surroundings of Farnham after a military and security career that took him to Malaysia, Hong Kong, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Thapa has been an integral part of our outside workforce for over a decade and was responsible for cleaning and maintaining the town's bus shelters, public conveniences and other facilities as well as helping at events. More recently Thapa worked as part of the grounds maintenance team.

Thapa is looking forward to beginning some new adventures and spending some time with his family in Hong Kong who he last saw in the 1980s and meeting his grandchildren.



## Other news from Farnham Town Council

### Music in the Meadow

Each Summer Sunday in Gostrey Meadow there's live music with local bands and musicians. Local charities and not-for-profit organisations will host the charity tea tent, providing homemade cakes and sweet treats.



**21 July (3-5pm)**

**Framed**

Hale Community Centre

**28 July (3-5pm)**

**The A Train**

Farnham Assist

**4 August (3-5pm)**

**Grandpa Spells Jazz Band**  
Motor Neurone Disease  
Association

**11 August (3-5pm)**

**Kindred Spirit**

Abbeyfield Wey Valley Society

**18 August (3-5pm)**

**Twenty Five Miles**

Inner Wheel Club of Farnham

**25 August (3-5pm)**

**Out of the Shadows**

Bake, Natter and Roll - WI

**1 September (3-5pm)**

**Alder Valley Brass Band**

Farnham Christian Aid

## A new look for Farnham Town Council

The local elections in May saw some changes at Farnham Town Council.

There are 18 elected councillors who represent nine wards. The political make-up of Farnham Town Council is:

- **Farnham Residents - 14**
- **Conservatives - 2**
- **Liberal Democrat - 2**

The new Mayor of Farnham is Councillor Pat Evans and the Deputy Mayor for 2019/20 is Councillor Alan Earwaker. Councillor John Neale is the Leader of the Council.

Farnham Town Council has a number of working groups and task groups which focus on particular areas of work. Councillor Sally Dickson has been appointed as the Lead Member for Community Enhancement and has responsibility for allotments.

You can find the contact details for your local councillor on our website at [www.farnham.gov.uk](http://www.farnham.gov.uk).

## Love Gin?

Book your tickets for this year's Farnham Gin Festival on Friday 13 and Saturday 14 September.

The Gin Festival is organised by Farnham Town Council in partnership with The Castle Inn. It will be held at the Farnham Maltings so there will be plenty of room for people to discover up to 150 different types of gin. As well as sampling new, local and lesser known brands, you can book to take part in optional masterclasses. There will be live music, food and a free goody bag for all who attend. The TC Group is sponsoring the event which has enabled ticket prices to be frozen and offered at the 2018 price of £12. This includes admission to the Festival, a complimentary mixer drink and a souvenir Gin Festival glass.

- Tickets for the gin masterclasses cost £10. To book, visit the Farnham Maltings' Box Office or call 01252 745444.



**Further Allotment information**  
at [www.farnham.gov.uk/allotments](http://www.farnham.gov.uk/allotments).

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