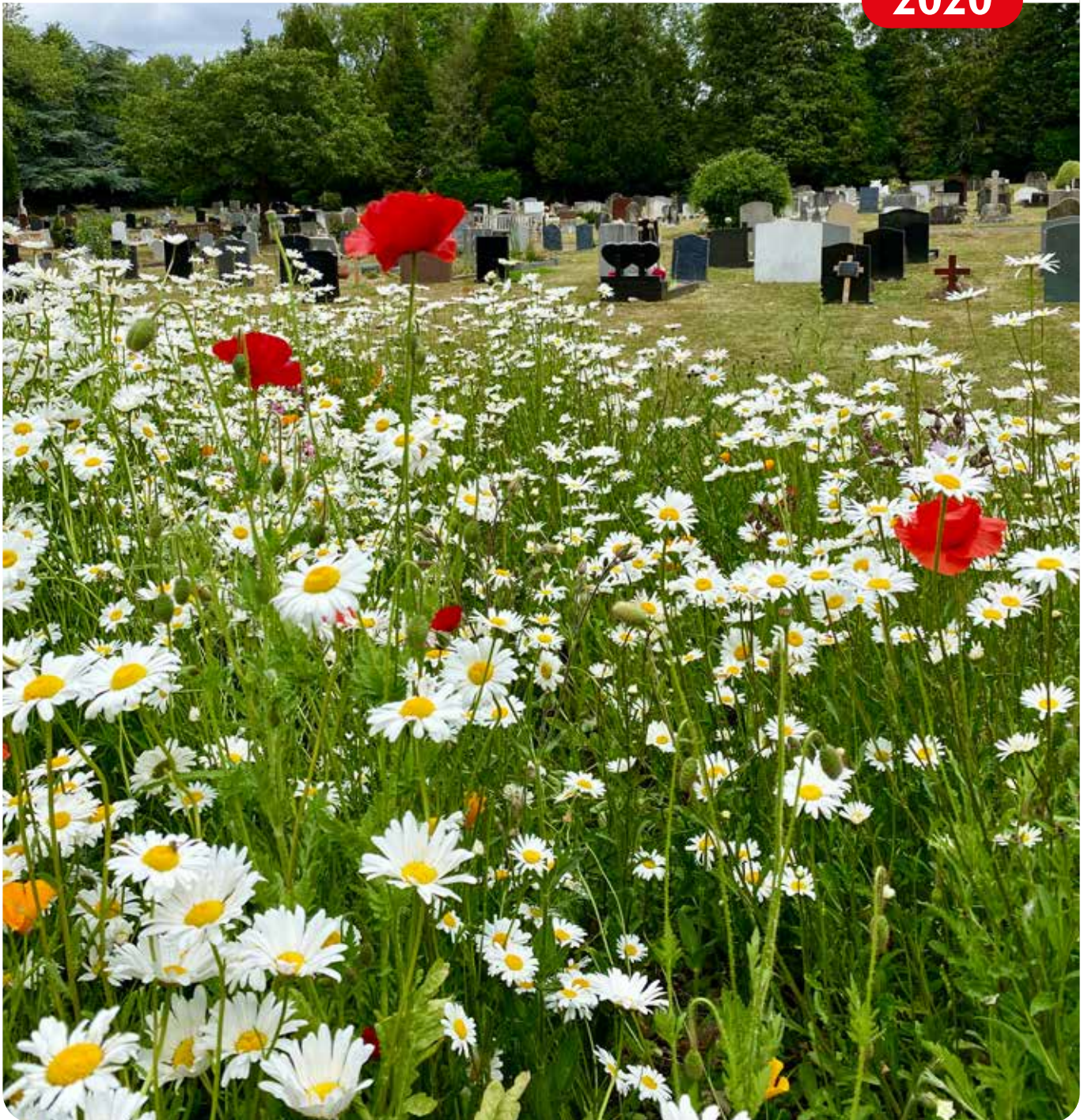


# Farnham in Bloom

*Badshot Lea  
Cemetery*

South and South East  
in Bloom submission

2020



**Farnham**  
Town Council



**Farnham**  
In Bloom

# Welcome to Farnham

In February when we welcomed our Farnham in Bloom community to our Bloomin' Big Meet, little did we know what 2020, our 30<sup>th</sup> year, had in store for us!



Mayor of Farnham and her consort

I am delighted that South and South East in Bloom continues and that Farnham can once again enter albeit in a virtual way, this prestigious competition.

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic we had to cancel many of our events including our launch, Bloomin' Kids workshops, and Greenhouse Open day and many more. To keep residents busy during the lockdown period we have run virtual competitions such as creating a Lego Garden, making a scarecrow, VE day arts and crafts competition and encouraging people to enter our Secret Gardens competition.

We are thankful to our sponsors during this difficult time for businesses. Their support has made it possible for us to provide flowers and plants around the town which have brought joy to everyone. As Farnham emerges from lockdown, shoppers and residents can enjoy the splashes of colour from the 200 hanging baskets and planters displayed around Farnham and the surrounding villages.

Farnham Town Council has also provided much needed support and help to residents during this time, setting up a helpline, introducing a support fund for families who are in financial difficulties, opening a Share community shop where residents can take home donated items such as puzzles and games and enhancing the pavement widening scheme in Farnham to support local shops and businesses with social distancing by planting up 40 new planters.

We are sorry we cannot welcome you in person this year but we hope you enjoy our submission and get a sense of what we have been to doing to make Farnham bloom.

**Councillor Pat Evans**  
Mayor of Farnham

## About Farnham In Bloom



Badshot Lea village infant school

Farnham in Bloom is about making Farnham an attractive place to live and work in or to visit: filling it with flowers and keeping the town and surrounding villages looking their best and encouraging people to work together. Farnham in Bloom is part of the wider Community Enhancement work for the Town with a particular focus in the summer months on:

- A range of floral displays throughout the town and local villages including hanging baskets, troughs and planters with village flowers being watered and maintained by residents, community organisations and local businesses.
- A school hanging basket competition as well as fun, engaging competitions to find the tallest sunflower, anti-litter poster, largest pumpkin, best flower grown in a boot and the most impressive scarecrow.
- A **Secret Garden** competition for businesses, residents and schools which includes categories for the best:

- Courtyard
- Hanging basket or container
- Front, back or small garden
- Large garden
- Public house, hotel or business premises
- Shop front
- Wildlife garden
- School garden
- Vegetable plot
- and The Madge Green Community Gardening Project Award

## Farnham in Bloom at a glance

Since its early beginnings 30 years ago, Farnham in Bloom has relied on voluntary commitment, local sponsorship (financial and in-kind) and support of local authorities and local businesses.

Being part of this competition has given a focus to the contribution made by all of Farnham's distinct communities in both the Town Centre and Large Town categories.

The charts below set out how this contribution has grown over the years, to deliver high standards and ultimately bring pleasure to Farnham's residents, businesses and visitors.

Farnham in Bloom activity for 2020 includes:

- An amended calendar of activities so the community could still participate in Farnham in Bloom despite Coronavirus restrictions.
- All hanging baskets have been planted by Farnham Town Council and local schools in peat free compost.
- A new sponsorship brochure offering specific sponsorship packages and more options has seen sponsorship increasing in the last few years.
- An increased social media presence in 2020 documenting all aspects of Farnham in Bloom.



RHS Britain in Bloom National Winners 2019

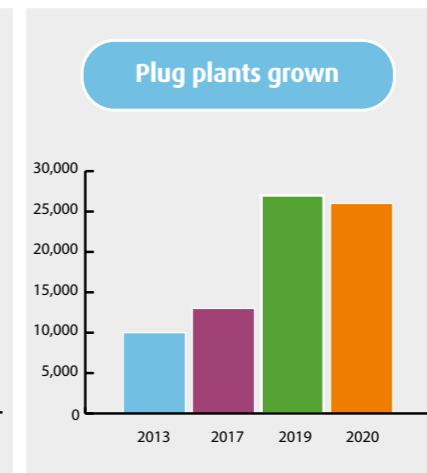
- Providing hanging baskets and troughs for a neighbouring Parish Council.
- Extension of the Council's wildflower area improving West Street, Badshot Lea and Green Lane Cemeteries and Gostey Meadow.
- Continuing our 'Bee Friendly' project as part of 'Help Our Pollinators' and 'Wild About Gardens' campaigns.



Plug plants ready to be grown on



Summer flowers at Hickleys Corner





30 year carpet bed



## 30 Years of Farnham in Bloom



From its inception, Farnham in Bloom was managed by a local volunteer group for 15 years. In 2005, the group retired and the Farnham in Bloom baton was passed to Farnham Town Council.

2020 marks the 15th year that Farnham in Bloom has been led by Farnham Town Council, the Farnham in Bloom Community Group and a team of volunteers. Farnham Town Council entered Farnham town centre into South and South East in Bloom for the first time in 2008 and since then has won the following awards for the Town centre and Large Town centre categories:

- Gold in the S&SEiB Town Centre category nine times
- Gold in the S&SEiB Large Town category eight times
- The S&SEiB Large Town regional category five years in a row

- The S&SEiB Chairman's Award for Post 19 and Bishop's Meadow
- Gold in the RHS Britain in Bloom Awards and Joint Category Winner in 2017, Gold in the RHS Britain in Bloom Awards and Category winner in 2019.

Farnham in Bloom grows year on year and involves so many dedicated local people and community organisations that help make the initiative what it is today.

We continue the great work of the original volunteers, bringing people together to make Farnham and its surrounding villages even better places to live, work and visit.

*"After we stood down, I was delighted that the enthusiasm for Farnham in Bloom not only lives on, but grows, year on year, with so many local individuals and businesses showing their support."*

**Madge Green** – Co-founder of Farnham in Bloom who sadly passed away in 2017.



Madge Green and her volunteers



## Horticulture

Work in the cemetery has continued despite the challenges presented by the Coronavirus pandemic and the lockdown period.

Throughout the spring and summer, normal grass cutting and maintenance has continued. Our Outside Workforce teams adhered to social distancing measures by working in bubbles. PPE was worn and increased hygiene procedures were strictly followed.



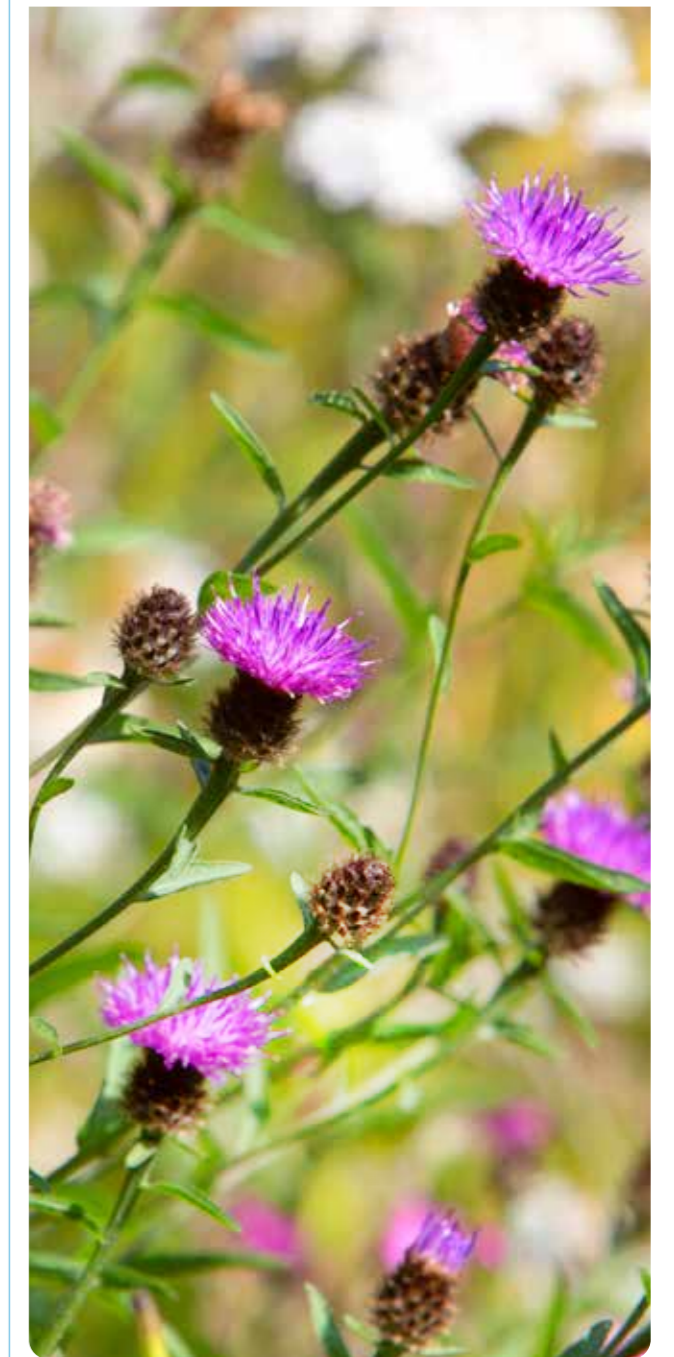
Wildflower area



Summer flowers

Although the cemetery was closed to the public during lockdown, it remained open to those who wished to tend a grave or attend a funeral.

In the autumn, thousands of spring bulbs were planted by the community group Badshot Lea Bloomers. The old established wildflower area on the boundary of the cemetery and the more recent, additional wildflower area were weeded and re-sown in the spring. We have also carried out the cemetery's biennial tree survey with no issues reported.



# Environment

The re-sowing of the old established wildflower areas and the recent additional wildflower area has been very successful and has provided a great new habit for wildlife.



*Insects enjoying the wildflowers*

Biodiversity has increased as the wildflower areas provide a corridor for wildlife through the cemetery and beyond the cemetery's boundary. Many species such as bees and butterflies have thrived in this space. A wildlife survey was carried out before lockdown by Dr Martin Angel of the Farnham Biodiversity Group.



*Badshot Lea Bloomers*

Any graffiti or fly posting has been promptly removed by the Outside Workforce.

Although we had to cancel the spring community litter picks, fewer visitors means the litter in this space has been minimal and has been removed by the Outside Workforce. The normal practices of mulching grass cuttings have continued along with the composting of green waste.



*New low emissions van*

We have added a new vehicle to our low emissions fleet. We now have a large Iveco van which is fuelled by CNG (Compressed Natural Gas) instead of diesel. The larger vehicle has meant fewer journeys are required around the town and surrounding villages, therefore reducing emissions and supporting the environment.

# Community Participation

'Friends of Badshot Lea Cemetery' is an extension of the Badshot Lea Bloomers community group.

They have been actively involved in supporting work at the cemetery and before lockdown they helped plant thousands of spring bulbs. Unfortunately, due to social distancing measures and the fact that many of the members are either over 70 or shielding, community activities such as litter picks and deadheading had to be put on hold. However, our own workforce has filled in the gaps.



*Spring bulbs dried for the following year*



*Fence painted by community pay back group*

The boundary fence was painted in the winter by a local community pay back group. New benches have been placed in the cemetery which can be enjoyed by those visiting a grave.



*Wildflower area*

The winter wildlife survey involved members from the Farnham Biodiversity Group. The cemetery is a calm and tranquil place to visit and many groups and individuals were disappointed that during lockdown, they could not enjoy their daily walk in the cemetery because of the government's guidelines to close the cemeteries to those not attending graves.

# Thank you for supporting Farnham in Bloom 2020

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Barry and Sandra Hartop  
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## In loving memory of

Gill Ely  
 Madge Green

Marcia James  
 Kath Taylor

RHS Britain in Bloom Gold winner and category winner in 2019 • [www.farnham.gov.uk](http://www.farnham.gov.uk)