

Farnham in Bloom

*West Street
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 30th 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

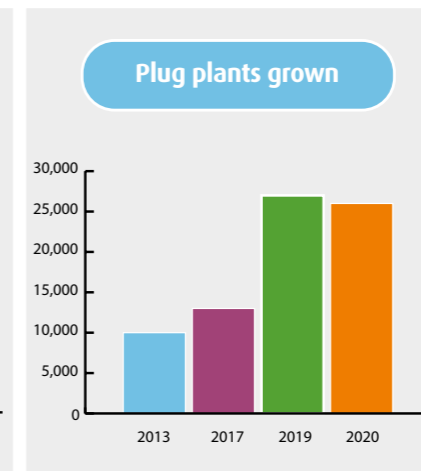
- Providing hanging baskets and troughs for a neighbouring Parish Council.
- Extension of the Council's wildflower area improving West Street, Badshot Lea and Green Lane Cemeteries and Gostey Meadow.
- Continuing our 'Bee Friendly' project as part of 'Help Our Pollinators' and 'Wild About Gardens' campaigns.



Plug plants ready to be grown on



Summer flowers at Hickleys Corner





30 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.



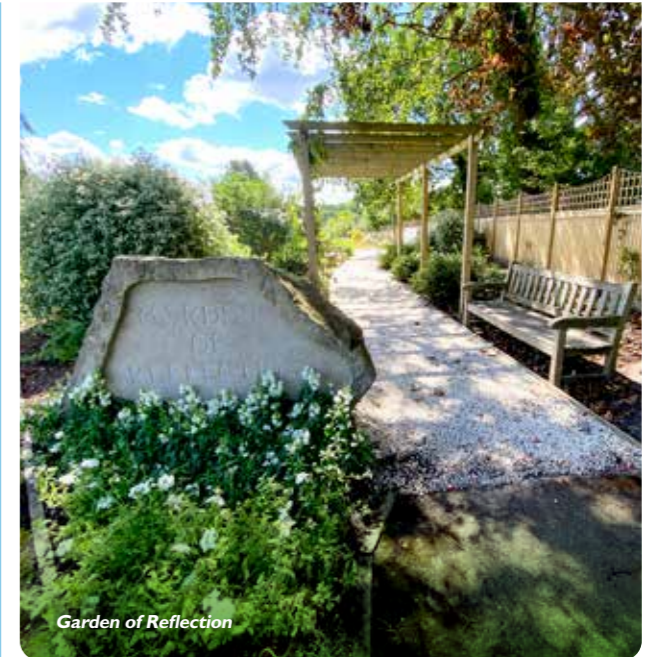
Madge Green and her volunteers



Horticulture

Work has been undertaken to improve the horticulture of the Garden of Reflection which is a unique space that has been created at the far end of the cemetery.

The garden looks its best in the spring and has predominantly white flowers which reflect the quiet nature of the garden. Self-seeded plants and weeds have been taken out and the soil maintained with good quality compost. New white flowering shrubs have also been planted to extend colour.



Garden of Reflection



Extended wildflower area

The large wildflower area in the central part of the cemetery has been extended to provide an excellent corridor for wildlife from the surrounding green spaces including Bishop's Meadow. Many species such as bees and butterflies have thrived in this space. The grass around the graves has been well maintained to ensure that it is a safe place for visitors.

Fifty native trees were planted in the winter by volunteers from the newly formed community group 'Friends of West Street Cemetery'. The trees were donated by Squire's Garden Centre.

Normal grass cutting and maintenance has continued during the lockdown period.

The outside work force teams were placed in 'bubbles' of two workers so that social distancing measures could be observed. PPE and increased hygiene procedures were strictly followed.

Although during this time the cemetery was closed to the public and only open to those tending graves or attending funerals, work continued in maintaining this cemetery throughout the lockdown.



Tree planting

Environment

A project to reinstate railings at the main entrance to the cemetery had been started but had to be paused due to the Coronavirus situation. This project is funded by Section 106 money from a recent housing development.

New railings are to be made by a local blacksmith who works out of the Rural Life Centre in Tilford. The restrictions meant that the blacksmith could not continue with this work. The restoration of the listed gates was also put on hold. It is hoped that these two projects will be restarted later in 2020.



Listed gates to be restored.

New bug hotels, bird and bat boxes have been installed in the cemetery to support the local wildlife. The boxes have been placed in some of the old overhanging pine trees as you approach the chapel.



Bird boxes

Control of litter and fly posting has been monitored with additional bins provided. Due to government guidelines the cemetery was closed to the public unless they were tending graves or attending funerals, this has meant that litter has been kept down to a minimum.

Continuing use of low noise electric tools has further reduced the impact on the environment.



Wildlife enjoying the flowers

Community Participation

West Street Cemetery has always been a haven for the community and used by visitors, users of the nearby allotments, businesses, and a care home. As restrictions ease it is wonderful to see them enjoying the space again.

A tree planting working party was set up in the winter by the Friends of West Street Cemetery to plant 50 native trees in the north east corner of the old part of the cemetery.

This group is newly formed and is made up of representatives from a nearby business whose staff use the cemetery during their lunch breaks, families of loved ones interred in the cemetery and householders who live near the cemetery.

They were keen to get involved and support the local community and this working party was an ideal launch event of the Friends of West Street Cemetery. Other



Community planting donated trees

events were planned but sadly had to be postponed because of coronavirus. It is hoped that some planned autumn bulb planting can still go ahead with the new friends group.

Six new benches have been placed in the cemetery for visitors to enjoy. The upkeep and maintenance has continued so that when restrictions were lifted, it could once again be enjoyed by the local community.



Six new benches for visitors to enjoy

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