

Winter 2020

# GreenFingers

Updates about Farnham in Bloom  
and Allotments

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past 12 months

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your garden or allotment

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**Farnham**  
Town Council



**Farnham**  
In Bloom





# Welcome to Green Fingers

Welcome to Green Fingers which combines the former Allotment Newsletter with news about Farnham in Bloom.



As a team, we have taken some time to reflect on 2020 but more excitingly we've been looking ahead to the promise of 2021 and share some of what's in store in this newsletter.

We began 2020 with some great ideas for celebrating **30 years of Farnham in Bloom** but it soon became clear that we needed to rethink much of what we had planned.

Thanks to the efforts of our team, we adapted our programme of activities so that the community could still get involved from home or at the allotment. Events included a children's challenge to build a Lego garden as well as the annual Secret Gardens and allotment competitions and a commemorative VE Day arts and crafts activity.

Despite the challenges presented by the pandemic, our outside workforce and amazing volunteers worked extra hard to bring floral cheer to Farnham. We were delighted to receive the news that

the judges of South & South East in Bloom awarded Farnham in Bloom Gold in the Large Town category, Gold in the Town Centre category, Gold for Badshot Lea Cemetery and Gold for Gostrey Meadow. Farnham also received Silver Gilt for West Street Cemetery and, the Victoria Garden and space2grow won Outstanding in the It's Your Neighbourhood category. A fantastic result – well done and thank you to everybody who took part.

We know that many people rediscovered their gardens during lockdown and that allotment holders enjoyed a sense of purpose and solace from tending their plots.

Gardening is a wonderful pastime that is great for our wellbeing and we hope to inspire more people to take up this interest in 2021.

**Happy growing from the Community Enhancement Team**

## Kids – unleash your inner designer

We need some help with designing our carpet bed in Gostrey Meadow and are calling on young people in Farnham to come up with some ideas.



To celebrate **30 Years of Farnham in Bloom** and to commemorate Farnham's united response to the pandemic, the theme for the carpet bed is 'community'.

Your design could reflect your local school community, your family, your street or the wider community. The judges will want to see what community means to you.

In the new year, our team of judges will choose a winning design which will then be recreated in plants in late spring 2021.

**Entries can either be posted to Farnham Town Council's office or emailed to [bloom@farnham.gov.uk](mailto:bloom@farnham.gov.uk).**

**The deadline for submitting designs is Friday 15 January 2021.** Be sure to tell us the designer's name, school year and school.



## Seed Shop

**Thank you to everybody** who ordered seeds through the DT Brown seed initiative. This is an excellent scheme which offers some very generous discounts.

### Dates for 2021

**Saturday 9 October 11am - catalogue collection at the Depot.**

**Saturday 23 October 11am - drop off orders at the Depot.**



## Gardens update

It was a year ago this month that we took on the management of Gostrey Meadow, Battings Garden, Riverside (from the Maltings to Kimbers Lane), Home Park, the Haren Garden and the Evelyn Borelli Garden.

For most of the year, we have been carrying out general maintenance tasks such as clearing and tidying up. We anticipate that you will see the fruits of our labour from spring 2021 when the spring bulbs emerge.

As the focal point for town events and a popular park for families, we've invested in the infrastructure of Gostrey Meadow. This has included laying new power cables, refurbishing the public toilets and playground. We've also planted bulbs and cleared and refreshed the planting.

## South & South East in Bloom 2021

The Chairman of South and South East in Bloom (S&SEIB) has confirmed that the 2021 competition should go ahead.



The S&SEIB know that many people appreciate meeting the judges in person, so they are working on several options and if needed, they can resort to desktop judging.

If you are planning to get involved in next year's competition, please record all your work by taking photos and documenting your stories so they can be shared with the judges.

## Floral facelift for the Lion and Lamb Yard



Farnham Town Council is pleased to have taken on responsibility for managing the Lion and Lamb yard's floral displays.

This includes the addition of new tubs and hanging baskets which will be planted with seasonal plants and flowers that complement the colour scheme of the town centre planting. Fresh plants will be introduced in the spring and autumn so there will be year-round interest. If you know of a business that would like to work with us on enhancing their grounds maintenance, please contact Iain McCready for an initial discussion about options.



## Know your rep

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

**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** – Tony Dean, plots 26A & 27A

**West Street** – Steve Kibble, plot 2b

**West Street Extension** –  
Jenny Williams, plot 8, 9 and 22a

**Wrecclesham** –  
Peter Dawes, plot 8a

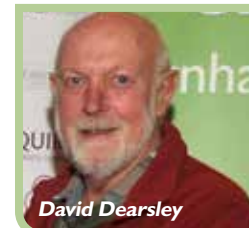
**Chair of the Liaison Group - Clare Heissig**  
Plot 13aa West Street



Gerard Nicholson



Frank Green



David Dearsley



David Wheeler



Tony Dean



Steve Kibble



Jenny Williams



Peter Dawes



Clare Heissig

## Meet the team

Who to contact if you need some help

### Day to Day enquiries



Arthur Hambley

✉ Email  
arthur.hambley@farnham.gov.uk

### Farnham in Bloom



Stacey Wills

✉ Email  
stacey.wills@farnham.gov.uk

### Anything else



Iain McCreedy

✉ Email  
iain.mccreedy@farnham.gov.uk

Alternatively, if you are not sure who to contact, please email [bloom@farnham.gov.uk](mailto:bloom@farnham.gov.uk).



## Allotment competition Winners 2020

Thank you to everybody who took part in this year's allotment competitions. The winners are:

### Best Allotment Plot

#### Alderley Farm

Malcolm Swain – Plot 7/7a

#### Farnborough Road

Tracey and Nigel Pollard  
Plot 20

#### Morley Road

Christina Williams  
Plot 1a

#### Shepherd and Flock

Ruth Paris  
Plot 10

#### West Street

Clare Knapp  
Plot 13aa

#### West Street (Extension)

Peter Keiller  
Plot 23

#### Wrecclesham

Philippa Gray  
Plot 24a

### Best Newcomer Plot

#### Alderley Farm

Vincent Jack – Plot 12a

#### Farnborough Road

Horace Watson – Plot 27

#### West Street (Extension)

Paul Allum – Plot 2

### Best Overall Newcomers Plot 2020

**Six Bells – Plot 14b/13a**  
Rebecca Manley

### Best Overall Allotment Plot 2020

**Six Bells – 15b**  
Brett King

### Tallest Sunflower

Winner  
**Tracey and Nigel Pollard**

### Largest Pumpkin

Winner –  
**Tracey and Nigel Pollard**

### Best Scarecrow

Bronze Award  
**Sue & Norman Ware**

Silver Award  
**Vivian Kaldun**

Gold Award  
**Nigel & Tracey Pollard**



## Students bloom



This spring, thanks to the efforts of five students from Weydon School we can look forward to seeing a lovely display of spring bulbs along the riverbank in Gostrey Meadow.

The students and their teacher Karl Brown enjoyed a crash course in gardening from our horticultural expert John Ely who showed them what to do and provided the tools.

**Thank you team!**





# Winter tasks to enhance biodiversity

By Libby Ralph -  
Chair of the Farnham Biodiversity Group



- **Look at your garden/allotment** from the perspective of a small bird or small mammal. Are there places to live, to hide, and areas of safety such as shrubs and trees fairly close to feeding areas? Year-round, is there a range of flowering plants and trees that will attract insects? Is there a range of autumnal berries providing seasonal forage for birds? Is there water available all year round?
- **Before February**, clean out and sanitise your existing nest boxes and put up new ones. Similarly, clean and sanitise your feeders and keep them filled.
- **Inspect your fences** - are there are access holes for animals such as hedgehogs?
- **Consider leaving an area of your grass long this year**, together with a 'messy' patch of nettles or brambles or an unmanaged kid's corner.
- **Refrain from clearing away leaves and dead stems** until February - they provide overwintering cover for insects.
- **Plan your planting and seed buying for the spring** - select pollinator-friendly, open-flowered plants and native wildflowers. Try to establish year-round flowering.



- **Remember the value of companion planting near your vegetables** - nasturtiums can distract white butterflies from your brassicas, marigolds (Tagetes) enhance the growth of many 'fruiting' vegetables such as tomatoes, squash and cucumbers, also attract hoverflies that will eat aphids.
- **Consider planting herbs such as rosemary and sage, oregano/marjoram, and mints**, which many insects love - generating a healthy summer buzz in your garden/allotment.
- **Join the Wildlife Garden Forum at [www.wlgf.org](http://www.wlgf.org)** - it is free and its website and newsletters are rich sources of information.



## Other news from Farnham Town Council

### Christmas walking trail

Get out and about with the kids this December and take part in Farnham's Christmas trail. Special festive stickers are hiding in ten town centre shop windows.

When you find the character, scan the QR code to be in with a chance of winning a free ebook.



## Christmas shopping in Farnham

Spending your Christmas budget in local shops could make all the difference to the future of the town in 2021.

If you are looking for gifts that are special, take a virtual trip to Farnham or visit in person when you can - you won't be disappointed.

### We Are Farnham

[www.WeAreFarnham.co.uk](http://www.WeAreFarnham.co.uk) is a growing digital marketplace providing a one-stop shop for people to buy local goods online or by click and collect from Farnham's shops and businesses.

You can also visit [www.virtualfarnham.co.uk](http://www.virtualfarnham.co.uk) to browse a directory of Farnham's shops.

### Civic Community Christmas Carol Service

Wednesday 23 December at 7pm.

The Mayor of Farnham invites you to attend the Civic Community Christmas Carol Service online from the safety and comfort of your own home. The service will include five lessons and carols with the internationally acclaimed, award-winning Farnham Youth Choir. Visit [www.farnham.gov.uk](http://www.farnham.gov.uk) for details about how to watch the service.





## Other news from Farnham Town Council



## Dates of meetings

# Changes are coming to Farnham

Imagine a bus gliding through Farnham town centre powered by electricity, and where people who choose to walk or cycle can do so on dedicated pathways. Imagine a town where a greater priority for pedestrians is helping to support a vibrant town centre and where HGVs and other through traffic never needs to divert through the town on their journey past Farnham.

This is not a dream, this is a very real possibility for Farnham and to bring about the change the town needs, Surrey County Council, Waverley Borough Council and Farnham Town Council have joined partnership with the support of the Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP to form the Farnham Infrastructure Programme.

### Town Centre - 6 January at 3pm

Questions will be invited about:

- A31 major road considerations
- Hickley's Corner and town centre access routes
- North-south connectivity
- Rail: station, level crossing, future rail transport needs

### Wrecclesham - 7 January at 6.30pm

Questions will be invited about:

- Wrecclesham relief road considerations
- Effects of town centre changes
- Outer neighbourhood traffic mitigation measures

### Hale - 6 January at 6.30pm

Questions will be invited about:

- Upper Hale Road traffic issues
- Effects of town centre changes
- Outer neighbourhood traffic mitigation measures

### Younger people - 14 January at 3pm

Questions will be invited about:

- Young people's views on future Farnham
- Travel to school needs: car, walk, cycle, bus
- Route and road space provision for cycles, scooters
- Youth needs in town centre and neighbourhoods



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

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