



Farnham Walking Festival is back



Farnham's walking festival is back on track for 2021 with a new approach introduced for life under the pandemic.

Farnham Walking Festival 2021 is happening throughout May and includes a series of self-led walks. The routes have been contributed by local people who want to share their favourite local walks so that others can enjoy them too.

The walks vary in length and serve a range of ability levels. You can select which walk appeals to you most by visiting www.farnham.gov.uk/walkingfestival. For each walk, you will find a description and information such as if it is accessible for wheelchairs/pushchairs, whether you can take your dog and facilities at the end of the walk.

The Festival is organised by Farnham Town Council in conjunction with the Farnham Visitors' Forum, the Farnham & District Ramblers and local walking groups.

As it has in previous years, this year's festival aims to provide routes that offer additional interest across themes such as history, wildlife, culture and heritage. Put your best foot forward and discover a new walk at www.farnham.gov.uk/walkingfestival.

Greener living in Farnham

Celebrate a more sustainable way of life: for our planet, communities and health and wellbeing at Farnham's Sustainability Festival on Sunday 23 May at Gostrey Meadow.

Farnham Community Farm and Farnham Town Council will bring together local organisations, charities,

artisans, food & drink producers and small businesses; all with a shared passion for sustainability.

There will be over 30 stalls, live music and talks in a COVID secure environment.

Entry is free but you will need to register your space. Visit www.farnham.gov.uk/sustainability to book your time slot. The event starts at 11am and closes at 4pm so anyone with a later time slot may not get the full 2 hours.



Live music returns to Farnham

It's May which means it is time for the return of Music in the Meadow!

The first live music concert is on Sunday 30 May from 3-5pm at Gostrey Meadow. Eclectica is first to perform with a mix of eclectic jazz, pop, soul and international sounds.

This family friendly event will happen every Sunday afternoon until 5 September. Bands have been booked to suit every music taste. You can expect to see the return of some old favourites as well as some new and exciting talent.

To allow safe social distancing, 'bubbles' with space for groups of up to 2, 4 or 6 people will be spray painted onto the ground. Numbers will be limited so admission will be by ticket only.

For details about how to book and to see the music line-up, visit www.farnham.gov.uk.

New Mayor of Farnham

After two years at the helm, Councillor Pat Evans will step down as Mayor of Farnham at the Annual Town Meeting on 20 May.



Councillor Evans was elected as the Mayor of Farnham in 2019. Normally, the Mayor remains in office for one year but for Councillor Evans, this was extended to two years when the 2020 annual meeting was postponed in line with the government's COVID guidelines.

Councillors will elect a new Mayor of Farnham and Deputy Mayor. You will be able to see who has been elected after the meeting at www.farnham.gov.uk.

During her two years as Mayor, Councillor Pat Evans raised money for Hale Community Centre and space2grow. It is likely that the new Mayor will also support a local charity.

Opportunities for businesses to get involved in the community

Are you a local business that wants to get more involved in the community?

Farnham Town Council has created a number of sponsorship packages for events happening in 2021, which are guaranteed to provide you with some fantastic exposure. The benefits of the sponsorship packages are flexible and payment by instalment can be offered for premium packages.

If you are interested in embedding your business name in the Farnham community, please contact events@farnham.gov.uk to find out more.

Bloomin' Farnham invited to compete at national level



Farnham Town Council has been nominated to take part in this year's RHS Community Awards and is the only town in Surrey to have been invited to participate. The new virtual awards replace the 2021 RHS Britain in Bloom UK Finals competition.

The awards aim to shine a light on the wonderful work that has been happening in communities during the pandemic.

Farnham in Bloom can enter up to three out of five categories which include:

- Nourishing Your Community - Growing, sharing or enjoying food with others
- Nature-Friendly Gardening - Creating habitats and using wildlife-friendly gardening practices
- Green Solutions – Tackling environmental challenges such as climate change, air pollution and flooding
- Cultivating Your Community – Bringing people together by involving a wide cross-section of the community
- Planting with Purpose - Addressing specific challenges such as transforming a neglected area or reducing antisocial behaviour.

Farnham Town Council wants to share with the judges as many examples of community gardening as possible. If you have a project that fits the criteria, please email bloom@farnham.gov.uk with details.

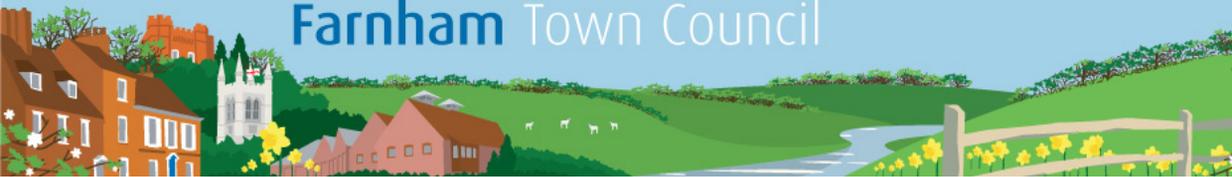
Tree planting programme in Farnham



Stunning new feature trees are appearing in a number of green spaces owned or managed by Farnham Town Council.

So far this year, a small avenue of flowering cherry trees has been planted at the Evelyn Borelli Garden of Rest in Falkner Road. A memorial bench by Carl Irvine in tribute to Michael Prinsep, founder of Creative Response, has also been relocated to the Evelyn Borelli Garden. Other improvements include the laying of an area of wildflower turf.

Elsewhere, five multi-stem silver birch trees now serve as an attractive focal point along the footpath between the Farnham Maltings and the former police houses and, a vibrant maple will be planted in Batting's Garden. Farnham Town Council has chosen trees which are noteworthy for their size, flower, bark or relevance to the area.

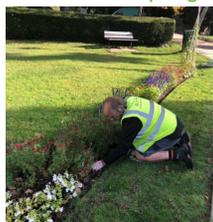


As well as contributing to the natural beauty of the open space, the trees will also help the Town Council as it works towards becoming carbon neutral by 2030.

Sponsor a tree

Community groups are invited to sponsor a feature tree which will be planted this autumn as part of National Tree Week. Each tree will have a plaque acknowledging the donor. If you would like to support this initiative and leave a lasting legacy, contact Stacey Wills at bloom@farnham.gov.uk.

Great British Spring Clean



The annual Great British Spring Clean is happening between 28 May and 13 June. As well as taking part in a litter picking event organised by Farnham Town Council, litter pickers can volunteer to clear up an area of their choice.

The Town Council has litter picking equipment for people to borrow. Contact bloom@farnham.gov.uk to find out more.

Farnham in Bloom 2021



Farnham in Bloom is a year-round activity and thanks to support from new Principal sponsor The Patio Blackspot Removal Company, planning for 2021 began with confidence at the end of 2020.

The greenhouses are filled with bedding plants which the outside workforce

team and volunteers have been nurturing since early spring. Once the plants are hardy enough, they will make an appearance in the troughs and hanging baskets around Farnham and surrounding villages.

Areas of wildflowers have been planted in open spaces such as Gostrey Meadow, Battings Garden and West Street Cemetery. The flowers attract pollinating insects and bring joy to people visiting the open spaces.

Schools get involved

Many local schools have signed up to take part in the annual hanging basket competition. Farnham Town Council has put together and delivered hanging basket kits which include everything the young people need to create a stunning display.

Farnham Town Council is also working with Farnham Heath End School on a special project to create a tranquil green space for students.

Secret Gardens competition



The Secret Gardens competition opens for entries this month with judging taking place in mid-July.

The competition is open to gardeners who live in Farnham and there are categories to suit gardens of all sizes. Visit www.farnham.gov.uk/bloom to download an entry form and to find out more about the competition.

See behind the scenes

If you would like to visit Farnham's greenhouses for a preview of this year's plants, email bloom@farnham.gov.uk. Numbers are limited.



Farnham Town Council

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Town Clerk: Iain Lynch Mayor of Farnham (until 20 May): Cllr Pat Evans



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