

Winter 2022

GreenFingers

Updates about Farnham allotments.



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Farnham
Town Council



Farnham
In Bloom



Allotment Show winners 2022!

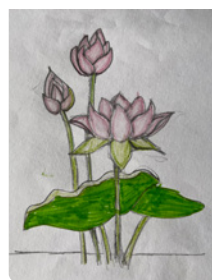
Congratulations to all the winners at this year's Allotment Show which took place in Gostrey Meadow in September alongside 2022's final Music in the Meadow.

Among the winners are Gerard Nicholson who won several prizes for his vegetables, including onions and beans. Jackie Childs won the prize for the biggest onions while Rebecca Manley impressed judges with her stunning dahlias.

For the first time, the show included a wildlife photography competition which was won by Margaret and Michael Nicholls. Congratulations to sisters Harriet and Clara Shaw who won the children's art category with their painting of flowers.



Judges particularly enjoyed the cookery categories: prizes went to Ellie Shaw for her scones and bread and to Clare Heissig for her fruit preserve. Tony Dean, Meg Daniels and Matthew Inman also won prizes.



Congratulations to the winners



Best in Show

Plate of 5 beans – Gerard Nicholson

Plate of 3 garlic bulbs – Gerard Nicholson

Plate of 3 onions – Gerard Nicholson

Plate of biggest onions – Jackie Childs

A selection of salad crop – Gerard Nicholson

Plate of tomatoes on the vine – Gerard Nicholson

Posy of herbs – Margaret & Michael Nicholls

Wildlife photography – Margaret & Michael Nicholls

Squash – Margaret & Michael Nicholls

Cottage garden arrangement of flowers – Clare Heissig

Potatoes – Matthew Inman

Sweetcorn – Matthew Inman

Dahlias – Rebecca Manley

Soft fruit (Raspberries) – Meg Daniels

Plate of 3 carrots – Tony Dean

Children's category

Drawing/painting of flowers – Harriet and Clara Shaw

Baking category:

Cake – Margaret & Michael Nicholls

Scones – Ellie Shaw

Bread – Ellie Shaw

Fruit preserve – Clare Heissig

Chutney – Margaret & Michael Nicholls



Farnham in Bloom Community Awards

Allotments had their very own category, (quite rightly!) at the Farnham in Bloom Community Awards, which were held at Badshot Lea Garden Centre on 5 October. Well done to all the winners.



Lyn Grist



David Boakes



Christina Williams



Ruth Paris



Robert and Angela Page



Sue Ware

The awards celebrate the contribution of allotment holders in cutting food miles, supporting wildlife and enriching local biodiversity, as well as the benefits of gardening to people's health and wellbeing – and being beautiful to look at. The winners for best plots are:

- Alderley Farm, Lyn Grist, plot 9
- Farnborough Road, David Boakes, plot 16
- Morley Road, Christina Williams, plot 1a
- Shepherd and Flock, Ruth Paris, plot 10

- Six Bells, Robert and Angela Page, plot 17a
- West Street: Sue Ware, plot 9
- West Street (extension): Julia Freeman, plot 15
- Wreclesham: Sue and Brian McDermott, plot 22b (also Best Allotment Plot overall).

Best newcomer award went to Robert Bevan, Farnborough Road (plot 4), Michael and Margaret Nicholls (Farnborough Road, plot 19) won the best in show prize and Rebecca Manley (Six Bells, plots 13a, 14b) won the Dahlia Challenge Cup.



Julia Freeman



Sue and Brian McDermott

Prize pumpkin



Well done to Brigitte Gillespie for growing a fantastically rotund pumpkin! With a circumference of 30" (around 76cm), it won first prize in the pumpkin growing competition.

If you have grown pumpkins this year, remember that the flesh and seeds are both tasty and nutritious. The flesh is great for soups and roasting. The seeds make a quick snack:

1. Rinse the seeds with the stringy remnants of the flesh in cold water to separate them. Drain and allow the seeds to dry.
2. Spread out on an oven tray and sprinkle with salt or your favourite spices. Chilli, cinnamon, ground cumin or ground coriander all work well.
3. Toast in a hot oven (200°C / gas mark 6) for 5-10 minutes.



Farnham in Bloom strikes gold

2022 has seen another bumper crop of awards for Farnham in the South and South East in Bloom (SSEiB) and Britain in Bloom competitions. This is the third successive Gold Farnham has won.

Farnham won Gold for the best large town category in Britain in Bloom. In SSEiB, Farnham won Gold for West Street and Badshot Lea Cemeteries, the town centre, Gostrey Meadow and for Farnham as a whole in the Large Town Category. Badshot Lea Cemetery and Farnham town were also awarded the best in category prizes.

Allotments are key to the success of Farnham in Bloom with many allotment holders actively volunteering throughout the year, lending expertise and contributing plants and seeds. Judges highlighted community involvement, particularly volunteering and events such as the allotment show, as a great asset to Farnham's entries.

Bonfires at allotments

For disposal of most gardening waste, composting has the benefits of being environmentally friendly and producing fresh compost to improve your soil. However, bonfires are permitted on allotments, too. Just follow these basic rules:

When: Bonfires are allowed from 1 September to 30 April, between dawn and dusk.

What: Only burn dry garden material. Do not burn household waste or anything containing plastics, foam or paint. Don't bring rubbish to burn at the allotment.

Start slow: Don't ever use petrol or any other fire accelerant to help start your bonfire.

Supervise: Monitor your bonfire; never leave it unattended. You can also find these rules in your allotment holders' agreement

What's your number?

Did you know that all allotment holders should display their plot number? Place a clear sign near to the path so that it can be easily seen by others.

Pathways

We need your help in making sure the pathways in allotment sites stay accessible for all. The main path and the dividing pathways between plots should always be free of obstructions and just as important, they should never be narrower than the minimum required width. If your plot has begun to encroach into a path, winter is a good time to re-establish the pathway. The dividing paths between plots should be at least 60cm wide. For the main path/s, the minimum width is 90cm. If over the years, you or your predecessor have 'reclaimed' a bit of land from a path (or even a neighbouring vacant plot), you could be asked to reinstate the path and boundaries.

Putting your allotment to bed

As we move into winter there is less to do on the allotment but if you have not mulched your plot before, this is one task that will pay dividends.

Mulching can protect tender plants over winter; suppresses weeds, improves soil structure and helps retain moisture. There are lots of

materials that can be used as a mulch, bark chippings, well-rotted manure, garden compost, among others. Some you can source for free, others can be bought from garden centres, online or in bulk. Don't be shy about adding a thick layer of your chosen mulch, 5 to 8 cm (2-3 inches) is typical but avoid smothering low growing plants and leave a gap around stems.



Report vandalism



Sadly, there has been a spate of vandalism at some of the allotment sites.

We take these incidents very seriously so always report vandalism to us and to the police. Email projects@farnham.gov.uk with the details, including the time frame in which it happened and the damage caused, or phone us on **01252 712667**. If you ever see a crime taking place, report it to the police straight away.

Golden rules

- If your allotment site has a gate, always lock it when you arrive and leave.
- Be a good neighbour and look out for unfamiliar people around the allotment site. Get to know the other allotment holders.
- Do not keep expensive tools and power tools on site. If you do need to store them in your allotment shed, keep them out of sight.

Security tips

- Replace the glass in your shed or cold frame with clear acrylic sheets (often known by the brand name Plexiglass). Acrylic is stronger and lighter than glass.
- Remove or cover material that could be tempting to a would-be firestarter, such as piles of dry branches, wood or clippings.
- Think about the security of your shed or tool store. If you have a flimsy lock, consider replacing it with a more substantial one attached to a robust mount or a hasp and staple fitting. Replace wood screws with carriage bolts which cannot be unscrewed.

That said, a thief who comes prepared may get through these so an alternative is not to lock your shed and avoid keeping anything of any value in it. That way, your shed is less likely to sustain any damage should you have an intruder.

Know your onions



New to gardening? You might be thinking of growing onions.

Garden centres are well stocked this time of year with onion sets (baby onions) and others in the same family, such as garlic and shallots. Onions are straightforward to grow and store well. Here are some tips from Gerard Nicholson Allotment Show prizewinner.

1. Fork over the onion bed, digging in a general fertiliser which includes nitrogen. Plant each set (individual bulb) about 12cm apart in rows also 12cm apart. Plant just below the surface.
2. Increase the spacing to 20cm for multi-bulb shallots. For garlic, plant individual cloves and increase the depth to 3cm.
3. For clay soils, slit the soil with your trowel and place each bulb into position instead of pushing the bulbs into the ground. This prevents compacting the soil.
4. Before planting, check whether your onion sets are suitable for overwintering or for spring.
5. If watering is needed, water around the onion instead of on top of it. Keep the bed weed-free.

Alternatively, you can grow onions from seed. Grow them in a seed tray in February or March and keep them in a cold frame or greenhouse. Plant out when they are about 10cm high and feed regularly with a general-purpose fertiliser. Garlic especially benefits from fertiliser.

Recipe Corner

Here is a delicious seasonal recipe suggestion that you might like to try from Clare Heissig who is Chair of the Allotment Liaison Group.

She says this recipe is a new family favourite which they have discovered is also good with butternut squash as the main ingredient.

Clare says this is great as a side dish or as a main meal.

Beetroot and goat's cheese gratin

Serves: 4

Ingredients

- 500g bunch beetroot, scrubbed, topped and tailed
- 100g soft goat's cheese, sliced
- 1 tbsp horseradish sauce
- ½ x 300ml double cream
- 3 tbsp breadcrumbs
- 15 g butter

Method

- 1 Preheat the oven to 200°C, gas mark 6. Cook the beetroot in boiling water for 15 minutes then drain, run under cold water to cool and cut into 1 cm thick slices.
- 2 Grease a 1 litre shallow gratin dish and layer the sliced beetroot and goat's cheese, seasoning each layer.



- 3 Whisk the cream with the horseradish, pour over the gratin and scatter the breadcrumbs on top. Dot with butter and bake for 15–20 minutes until golden and bubbling. Serve with watercress salad and walnut bread.

How do you like to serve up the produce you grow on your allotment. Please send us your favourite recipes so we can share them in a future edition of this newsletter.

New seed bank for Farnham

The woman at the forefront of Community Interest Company Green Up Britain has launched a permanent seed bank in Farnham. The bank is now open and welcomes deposits of new seeds and withdrawals from its stock. It is based at Farnham Maltings and is free to use.

Kaz Bishop is behind the initiative and hopes the seed bank will encourage more people to take up gardening. The seed bank is a secure place to swap shop-bought or home-grown seeds. Users can request the entry code to access the bank and are asked to donate seeds when they take some from the bank.



The bank has initially been stocked with seeds from Guildford Seed Bank and Farnham Community Farm, but over time these will be replaced with donations from users. Allotment holders are used to swapping seeds and it is hoped they will donate seeds to help get the bank off to a good start. Visit www.greenupbritain.com/farnhamseedbank to find out more or request the entry code.

Save the date

The Allotment lecture and gardeners' question time will return in 2023. The date is 23 March 2023. There will be more details in the next Allotment Newsletter.



Thank you to everybody who requested a DT Brown seed catalogue and placed an order. The fantastic response meant we were able to qualify for the 50% discount on flower and vegetable seeds.



Know your Allotment Rep

Welcome to the new representative for Farnborough Road, Romy White (plot 23). Romy takes over from Frank Green. A big thank you to Frank for his contribution over the years. Here are all the representatives.

Alderley Farm: Gerard Nicholson, plot 5

Farnborough Road: Romy White, plot 23

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

Wrecchesham:

Peter Dawes, plot 8a

Chair of the Liaison Group:

Clare Heissig

Plot 13aa West Street

Allotment Liason:

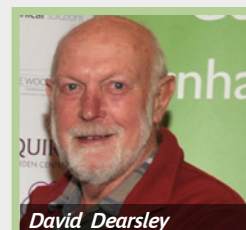
CLlr Dunsmore



Gerard Nicholson



Romy White



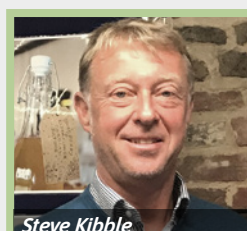
David Dearsley



David Wheeler



Tony Dean



Steve Kibble



Jenny Williams



Peter Dawes



Claire Heissig

Allotment representatives liaise with Farnham Town Council on allotment issues and are helpful sources of information on all allotment matters.



Meet the Team

Who to contact at Farnham Town Council

Allotment enquiries



Lucia Gill



● Email
projects@
farnham.gov.uk

Farnham in Bloom



Stacey Wills



● Email
stacey.wills@
farnham.gov.uk

Environmental issues



Iain McCready



● Email
iain.mccready@
farnham.gov.uk

Alternatively, if you are not sure who to contact, please email customer.services@farnham.gov.uk

Other news from Farnham Town Council

Grant funding for arts activities

The deadline for South Street Trust grants, the dedicated fund for visual arts activities in Farnham, is coming soon.

The South Street Trust provides funds for art-based educational activity in Farnham and typically supports around 25 projects each year. **The deadline for applying is 12pm on 4 January.**

The South Street Trust is able to distribute around £20,000 of funding each year. Funding is for creative arts, such as painting, sculpture, pottery and so on, rather than performance arts. Previous successful projects include running clay exploration classes for children and commissioning artists to work with schools.

Full details and the application form are on Farnham Town Council's website.

Repair cafe



Imagine there was a place where you could get your household items repaired for free?

Farnham has such a place! The Repair Cafe meets at the Sanctuary in the Spire Church on the second Saturday of the month from 10am-1pm.

Volunteers can repair electricals, laptops, mechanicals, furniture, clothes and bikes. The cafe saves you money, diverts items from landfill and reduces the need to use precious resources on producing replacement items.

Find out more <https://frc.cfsd.org.uk>

Music in the Vineyard is back

Free live concerts in the Vineyard Church are back from 29 January.



From January to March, Music in the Vineyard will take place from 3-5pm in the Vineyard Centre, Union Road, Farnham. Concerts are on the last Sunday of the month and are free to attend. A different artist is featured at each show. Members of the audience can bring their own indoor picnic or purchase from the refreshments stall which is run by a local charity. Booking is not required, simply turn up and enjoy the music!

Could you stand as a town councillor?

Next May sees elections for Farnham Town Council - could you represent your local area?

Have you thought of becoming a councillor?

Being a councillor certainly requires time and commitment – for example to make sure you can attend a minimum number of council meetings, to meet members of the community and to absorb information about local issues – but

it is enormously rewarding and worthwhile too.

Farnham Town Council's website has a page dedicated to democracy in Farnham which explains more about the role and includes useful links to more information, including stories from other people who chose to be town or parish

councillors in their communities.

If you or someone you know might be interested in standing as a town councillor contact the Town Clerk for an informal chat to find out more about the process.

Alternatively, visit:

www.waverley.gov.uk or

www.farnham.gov.uk/democracy



Further GreenFingers information
at **www.farnham.gov.uk/allotments**
www.farnham.gov.uk/bloom

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Town Clerk: Iain Lynch | **Mayor of Farnham:** Councillor Alan Earwaker