

## Outstanding year for Farnham in Bloom



Farnham in Bloom achieved its best ever performance at this year's South and South East in Bloom awards in what was a very challenging year.

In total, Farnham bagged nine gold awards with five best in category.

Farnham in Bloom is about so much more than flowers. The focus of the campaign is about making Farnham an even more attractive place to live, work and visit, and bringing people together to work on initiatives that really enhance and engage the community.

Thanks to Farnham in Bloom's sponsors, particularly the Gold sponsors which included The Patio Blackspot Removal Company Ltd, BBS Ltd, Squire's Garden Centre and the Wildflower Turf Company, Farnham Town Council was able to arrange a vast range of activities for people to join in throughout the year.

Litter picks, projects with schools, planting trees, maintaining 12 wildflower areas, environmental initiatives, competitions and providing opportunities for community participation are just some of the opportunities organised and which saw the town council awarded a Gold for community engagement.

The results for 2023 are:

- Town centre - Gold and best in category
- Large town - Gold and best in category
- Small Cemetery Category**
- Badshot Lea Cemetery - Gold and best in category
- Hale Cemetery – Gold
- Large Cemetery Category**
- West Street Cemetery – Gold
- Small Park Category**
- Gostrey Meadow - Gold and best in category
- Victoria Garden - Gold
- Special Awards**
- Best community engagement award - Gold
- Best biodiversity & environmental innovation award - Gold and best in category

The results of the It's Your Neighbourhood categories are:

- space2grow – Level 5 Outstanding
- The Bourne Conservation Group - Level 5 Outstanding
- Victoria Garden - Level 5 Outstanding
- Badshot Lea Bloomers – Level 4 Thriving
- Hale Community Centre - Level 4 Thriving

Finally, in the Our Community Award, space2grow received a Silver Gilt.

If you are inspired by the success of Farnham in Bloom and would like to get involved in the 2024 campaign, please register your interest by emailing [bloom@farnham.gov.uk](mailto:bloom@farnham.gov.uk).

## Join in the town centre litter pick

Could you spare a little time to help make Farnham look ship shape for Remembrance Sunday? Farnham Town Council is inviting volunteers to take part in a town centre community litter pick on Saturday 11 November.

All litter picking equipment will be provided. To register to take part, email [bloom@farnham.gov.uk](mailto:bloom@farnham.gov.uk).

## Town to turn out for Remembrance Sunday parade



Farnham's annual Remembrance Parade and Service is on Sunday 12 November and is an opportunity for the community to come together and remember those who lost their lives while serving in the armed forces.

The parade will depart from Castle Street at 10am and arrive at the war memorial for 10.45am. At 11am, the town will pause for a two-minute silence which will be followed by the Last Post, readings and the laying of wreaths.

After the service at the war memorial, representatives from the uniformed and armed services and youth organisations will take part in a march past. A salute will be taken outside Farnham Town Council's office in South Street by the Mayor of Farnham and visiting dignitaries.

The parade is organised by Farnham Town Council with the Royal British Legion (Farnham). Other Remembrance Sunday services will happen in Badshot Lea, The Bourne, Hale, Rowledge, Weybourne and Wrecclesham.

## Road closures on 12 November

Temporary road closures will be in place. The closure time period ranges from 10.15am to 11.45am. The roads affected include Castle Street, Union Road, South Street, Downing Street, Longbridge and Victoria Road. The exact timings of the closures can be seen at [www.farnham.gov.uk](http://www.farnham.gov.uk).

## Christmas lights spectacular



Save the date – Add Saturday 18 November to your diary as this is the day when Farnham's official countdown to Christmas will begin with the switching on of the town's Christmas lights.

Throughout the afternoon, the town will come alive with the spirit of Christmas. Head to Gostrey Meadow for free live entertainment featuring performances from local schools, theatre groups and local bands.

Little ones are promised a magical afternoon which will include fairground rides, face painting, a live nativity scene and a craft table where creative imaginations can run wild. Santa Claus will be in his cosy grotto, ready to hear the Christmas wishes of Farnham's youngsters, and he'll have a free gift for every child who visits.

If you plan to do some Christmas shopping, you'll be in the right place. There will be stalls brimming with unique and thoughtful gifts or stroll into town and discover hidden gems at Farnham's independent retailers and high street names.

The moment everyone will have been waiting for will arrive at 4.30pm when this year's special guest will have the honour of flipping the switch and lighting up Farnham for Christmas.

To see the afternoon's entertainment programme and for further information, visit [www.farnham.gov.uk](http://www.farnham.gov.uk).

## Civic Christmas Carol Service

The ballot to win tickets for this year's Civic Christmas Carol Service opens this month.

The traditional service is on Wednesday 6 December at St Andrew's Church and includes Christmas readings, and carols and music by the highly acclaimed Farnham Youth Choir.



As is the custom, half the tickets will be given to local charities and organisations and half will be allocated to members of the public who enter the ballot.

If you would like to apply for tickets, please complete and return the coupon in the Farnham Herald on 9 and 16 November.

## Pre-order your Christmas fare

Pre-order your Christmas produce at the Farmers' Market on Sunday 26 November and collect it at the following month's market on 10 December.

The market is held in Central car park from 10am to 1.30pm.

## Services to Farnham Awards

Do you know someone who does exceptional work for Farnham's community or volunteers tirelessly at one of the town's highly valued voluntary organisations?

Farnham Town Council is seeking nominations for the prestigious Services to Farnham Awards. Full details about how to nominate someone you know who deserves the town's thanks can be found at [www.farnham.gov.uk/servicestofarnham](http://www.farnham.gov.uk/servicestofarnham).

## Grants for creative projects

Grants are available for Farnham organisations seeking funding for an art-based educational activity. To be eligible for consideration, the project should have a creative input and benefit Farnham people.

Farnham Town Council is the trustee of the South Street Trust Fund which awards around 25 grants each year. Visit [www.farnham.gov.uk/grants](http://www.farnham.gov.uk/grants) for the grant criteria and an application form. The deadline for applying is 4 December.



## Farnham Town Council

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