

FAREHAM IN BLOOM PORTFOLIO 2016



Bringing People and Parks Together

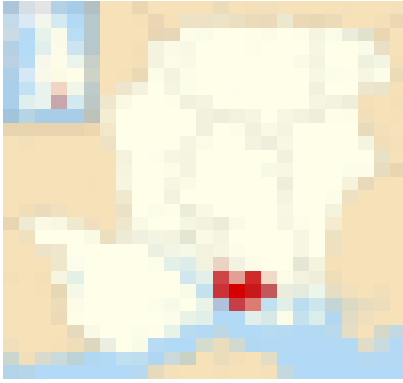
FAREHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL

fareham SHOPPING CENTRE
at the Heart of the Community

St Margaret's
Nurseries

FAREHAM IN BLOOM

Bringing People and Parks Together



A very warm welcome to Fareham

Midway between Portsmouth and Southampton with Fareham town at its heart, this thriving and green Borough with a population of over 110,000 covers some 29 square miles featuring town and village centres bordering both coast and countryside.

Bringing People and Parks Together is our Fareham in Bloom community environmental campaign. We aim to maintain and improve the quality and diversity of our green space provision, working in partnership with the local community, encouraging active participation in parks and horticultural activities.

The campaign is run by the Council in partnership with a dedicated group of Voluntary Coordinators who work tirelessly throughout the year to organise and deliver a programme of events and activities, which seek to involve the community, develop awareness and improve horticultural excellence.

To achieve consistent successes doesn't come easy and has been built up on solid foundations and progressive and sustainable improvement. That said we need to continually adapt, move with the times and take new ideas forward.

Each year we aim to improve and upgrade our parks provision and come up with new and innovative ideas to encourage participation and all importantly profile the work that we do.

2016 celebrates 21 years of Fareham in Bloom and we have taken on a number of significant new landscaping regeneration projects as well as a host of new public events, many of which you will become familiar with both in this portfolio and on your visit.

To mark our 21st year we have, with the sponsorship of Fareham Shopping Centre, again produced 5000 wild flower seed cards that have been given away to the community for people to enjoy in their own gardens.

Wild flower meadows have become a national talking point in recent years and in Fareham we embraced this in a big way with a further three new sites now bringing the number sown to eleven in just 5 years. They are a challenge in their own right and we are still learning, but it is clear that they are much loved within the community and balance the more formal plant collections we have.

Attendants and participation numbers are growing year on year so to take this further we have 9 new events programmed to encourage people to get outside, learn new skills and enjoy the beauty of our parks and countryside locations.

Some twenty-one years on we feel we have established something quite special, possibly quite unique, involving literally thousands of people who participate and give willingly. Fareham in Bloom has become a very well respected community engaging campaign.

It is part of the fabric of our community, and we very much hope you will enjoy your visit to Fareham, the lovely sites you will see, and of course the inspirational people you will meet, without whom it just wouldn't be possible.

Matt Wakefield

Horticultural Development Officer, Fareham Borough Council.

SUPPORTING FAREHAM IN BLOOM



On behalf of 'the team' I am delighted and privileged to welcome the South and South East England In Bloom Judges to Fareham.

From humble beginnings, forged from a relationship between a dedicated group of volunteers and the Council, this initiative has become one of the biggest and, from my perspective, most respected in the south of England.

Fareham regards itself as an 'In Bloom' Town and as you undertake your Judging journey I am sure you will find this evident. We are truly proud of what has been achieved and each year we continue to develop, innovate and, at times, exceed our expectations.

As you travel around our Borough you will see for yourself the results of the hard work and dedication of the extraordinary private and public relationship between Fareham Borough Council and the Voluntary Sector. None of the outcomes could have been achieved without this 'special' coming together and I am truly grateful to everyone who supports us which, in turn, ensures that the Borough is maintained to the very highest standard year on year.

Once again we have retained the Green Flag status at Holly Hill Woodland Park and the Sensory Garden of Reflection. As you are very well aware, these awards are the national standard for parks and are held in the highest esteem. Again, none of these awards would have been possible without the help of the Friends of Holly Hill Woodland Park, the Fareham In Bloom co-ordinators, officers and members of the grounds maintenance and cleansing teams.

Four years ago we started the 'Going Wild' initiative to bring wild flower meadows across the Borough. This scheme has been a huge success with regular accolades from residents.

I would like to record my very sincere thanks to everyone who has been involved throughout the year, our 'In Bloom' organisers, the Officers, volunteer co-ordinators, competition judges and sponsors as without their hard work, passion, dedication and commitment none of this would be possible and our residents would not reap the benefits of living in an 'In Bloom' Borough.

Councillor Connie Hockley
Mayor of Fareham 2016

At a glance - South and South East in Bloom

- *Large Town/Small City – Category Winner 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007(CofC), 2008, 2009, 2010(CofC), 2011, 2012, 2013, 2015, Gold Award Winners - 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015*
- *Country Park Winner – Holly Hill Country Park 2007, 2009.*
- *Gold Award Winner 2009, 2011, 2012 (Category Winner), 2013, 2014, 2015*
- *Small Park Winner – Sensory Garden of Reflection 2007, 2008, 2009*
- *Gold Award Winners 2008, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015*
- *Civic Gardens – Silver Gilt Winner 2012 Gold Award Winner 2013, 2014, 2015*
- *Conservation Area – Warsash Common Gold Award Winner 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015*
- *Westbury Manor Gardens – Silver Gilt Winner 2013, Gold Award Winner 2014, 2015*
- *Portchester Crematorium – Gold Award & Category Winner 2014,*
- *It's Your Neighbourhood' - 6 Communities achieved awards 2010 & 2013 5 in 2011, 7 in 2012, 4 in 2014 and 2015*
- *Hampshire County Award (Most points in County) 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015*

Fareham in Bloom, is managed by the Council's Horticultural Development Officer, working with the Grounds Maintenance Team and a group of seven volunteers, supported across all departments of the Council and the local business community.



Matt Wakefield – Horticultural Development Officer. Matt has been a Horticultural Officer for the Council for some 23 years and has been pivotal in the success of the Fareham In Bloom, setting up the campaign in 1996. Matt has had a love of plants since the age of 7 which developed into a professional career as a Horticulturalist, training at Capel Manor, Enfield, Writtle College, Chelmsford and the RHS Wisley Gardens He brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the group, leading the team dealing with landscape, horticulture and community engagement for the Parks Department with Eight consecutive Gold Medals and Champion of Champions in SSEIB in 2007 and 2010. He was awarded the honour of Community Champion by Britain in Bloom in 2009.



Heather Othen – Co-ordinator. Heather was a founding member of the campaign. She still supports the campaign by undertaking, with her husband, distribution of our leaflets and flyers around the Borough and assisting with the events.. In 2008 Fareham Borough Council granted Heather the accolade of Citizen of Honour for her work for Fareham in Bloom.



Pam Chisham – Co-ordinator. Pam's background is Allotment gardening and she is the liaison officer for the allotment sites. She works with local schools helping children to garden and grow their own vegetables. Pam was awarded "Citizen of Honour" by the Council in 2010 for her work with "In Bloom" and the Allotments Association.



Jean Kingdom – Co-ordinator. Jean is a previous participant and winner of the garden competition for many years. She is an active member of the group and organises the Gardens Open Scheme (this is now in its eleventh year), liaising with the participants, arranging the publicity and answering public enquiries and also works within local schools. She supports all our activities . Jean was awarded "Citizen of Honour" in 2016 for her work with Fareham in Bloom.



Bridget Thickett - Co-ordinator. Bridget and her husband are previous winners of the garden competition and previously hosted the annual 'In Bloom' garden party. She is very artistic and has a strong eye for detail She designs and prepares over thirty table flower arrangements for the annual presentation evening. Bridget is involved with all aspects of the "In Bloom" and makes use of her expertise in judging Schools and Neighbourhoods for South and Southeast in Bloom.



Geoff Thickett – Co-ordinator. Geoff is both practical and technical support to the team and looks at the strategic elements of the groups work including IT, presentations and production of the annual Portfolio. He also designed and maintains the Fareham in Bloom website. He undertakes talks to local societies about Fareham in Bloom and is a judge for South and Southeast in Bloom. He also is actively involved in gardening and planting projects across many sites.



Heather Scott – Co-ordinator Heather has been active in the community for many years. Her expertise comes from working with young people, giving freely of her time. She works with 140 pupils in class and gardening clubs, manages the school grounds and has established gold award winning gardens at Portchester Junior School for the last 16 years. She has great organisational ability which is put to good use throughout the year with events such as the Easter Egg Hunt for 400+ children. She was awarded the Citizen of Honour in 2011 for this work.



Pete Othen – Co-ordinator. Pete (Heather's husband) has been a long-time supporter of Fareham in Bloom. He has, this year, become an integral part of the team bringing with him many years' experience of supporting Heather with all she has done for the team. He assists with events and the distribution of literature etc. to garden centres and community centres. Pete is also very valuable in promoting the local gardening challenge and gaining entries for it from the Borough.

HORTICULTURAL ACHIEVEMENT

Horticultural Practice



Council gardeners preparing ground.

The Grounds Maintenance “in house” team’s primary function is to maintain and enhance the public spaces of the Borough, ensuring that these are clean, tidy and well maintained. They also ensure the highest standards of horticultural and fine turf excellence with a skilled and dedicated staff.

Highways, verges, hedges and Motorway links are maintained on behalf of Hampshire County Council and cut on a continuous cycle between March and November. The verge cutting carried out by the Council ensures all the Borough is cut around twelve times a year in line with good horticultural practice. Weeds are sprayed on an ongoing cycle to ensure the kerb edges and pathways are kept clear.

Sustainable Planting

A balance between seasonal and permanent planting is maintained by utilising a diverse range of species throughout the parks with increased use of herbaceous and woody perennials as well as floral bedding schemes. These are situated at prime locations such as gateways to the Borough, town centre parks and highways. We have also introduced the use of carpet roses in a number of locations which is proving very promising.

Organic manure is used twice yearly on the annual floral beds along with advanced polymers which are added to reduce the need for watering by up to one third, and watering of the baskets and troughs is carried out in the early hours to reduce transpiration. Bedding, which is only chosen for the most prominent positions and sponsored locations, is grown using a 30% reduced peat product. Traditional composting methods are used along with farmyard manures and “Pro-Grow” – the compost made from recycled garden material collected from 30 Hampshire Recycling centres. Mulches of manure, composted or ornamental bark are used in all parks and gardens to help with weed suppression but also to enhance the look of the planting.

Bringing diversity into our planting

Over the last five years we have concentrated our planting and landscaping on bringing more diverse schemes into our parks and green spaces with the addition of traditional herbaceous borders, rare and unusual plant collections, carpet roses and wild flower meadows. When the opportunity arises to do something new we look at what we can add to increase the plant collections and what will give a wider season of interest.

At the Civic Gardens and entrance to Civic Way, new herbaceous and mixed borders were planted with plants chosen to provide interest throughout the seasons. A collection of unusual palms, species from China and Japan will be added to the north facing borders of the Sensory Garden for the summer of 2016.



Diversity in planting – Quay Street Roundabout

Portchester Park has undergone replanting with an extensive collection of herbaceous perennials and under planted with summer flowering bulbs.

Dry and Low Maintenance Planting Schemes

All planting needs to be balanced and relevant to the situation and 'dry planting' is just one of many types of lower maintenance schemes that we have. They have proved to be very successful and certainly have limited need for attention with just two visits a year for shaping and trimming with rubbish removal on a needs basis should it occur.

The support of our business sponsors has enabled us to landscape roundabouts throughout the borough where there are both permanent schemes and floral displays that provide a welcoming and attractive display throughout the main arterial links. The latest was the Quay street roundabout which was completed in spring 2016. This major scheme has incorporated 1335 new shrubs, roses and herbaceous plants and trees.



Park Gate Roundabout



Wallington Hill Dry Planting

A low maintenance scheme has also been planted around the bus station comprising plant material predominantly from hotter climates with strong architectural foliage colour and shape with the addition of many unusual and collectable species.

The IYN entry at Bath Lane has also had two new shrub beds added in partnership with local community.

Further schemes are also planned for the bypass in Stubbington, a roundabout at Park Gate and Park Lane Recreation Ground.



Quay Street Roundabout

Horticultural Resource Management

In order to conserve water we use a product called "Terracotem" in all our floral beds. This is an advanced polymer which acts both as a soil conditioner and a water retentive. Since starting to use this product water use on the floral bedding has been reduced by around a third. There is a policy in place to reduce the use of peat based products. All products used are from sustainable sources with the only peat now used being in the production of floral bedding plants but this also is 30% reduced peat compost. In maintaining the soil quality of the floral beds we only use recycled manure and organic fertilisers such as blood fish and bone meal. Additionally all pots in which plant material is supplied are fully recyclable and no polystyrene pots will be accepted.

At a glance - Horticultural Practice

- *A team of 40 full time gardeners and street cleansing staff are employed*
- *Over 400 hectares of parks, gardens and playing fields are maintained*
- *There are now Eight low maintenance schemes planted roundabouts in the Borough*
- *Year on year increase in floral, herbaceous, ground cover roses and wild flower schemes. 500 sq metres of ground cover roses planted.*
- *Advanced polymers used in bedding which has reduced watering by between 20 - 30%*
- *A peat reduction policy has been implemented.*

Impact

Floral displays

Floral displays play a significant part of our seasonal planting in balance with more permanent schemes and are seen as an opportunity to show the design and planting ability of our senior gardening staff. Displays are placed in the most prominent locations in both spring and summer, both in our gardens and on main highway locations where they can be seen by the widest audience. Planted for both spring and summer display the schemes attract sponsorship which in turn offsets the cost of the provision. .



Civic Gardens

Each season we have a theme for our campaign and this follows through into many aspects of our work including the floral display. It is a fun way of keeping up interest and developing new ideas and helps greatly with promotion and marketing.

The theme for this spring and summer is 'Sand, Sea and Surf' and focuses on our proximity to the coast with a colour palette of blue, gold, white and lime green.

Our passion for parks and horticulture has become very much the fabric of the Borough and to encourage community involvement we once again gave away 8000 spring flowering Jonquil daffodil bulbs for our residents to plant in their own local green spaces which brought a riot of colour this spring and added to the 4 million now planted over the past 25 years.

This coming autumn we shall be giving away 80 sacks of another unusual daffodil variety with split coronas. This exotic variety will tie into our theme for 2107 of 'Go Tropical'. They will be available for collection from our partner nursery from the second week of September.

Spring floral displays



Delme Roundabout



Sensory Garden

At a glance - Spring Floral Displays

- *Over 4 million daffodil bulbs planted in the last 25 years*
- *7,000 bulbs included in spring bedding displays each year*
- *8000 bulbs distributed to the public to plant each year autumn*
- *30,000 bedding plants used in the autumn to provide colourful displays through the winter and into Spring*

Summer floral displays



Summer Bedding

Floral Bedding

Summer display is by far the most admired with the palette of plants available ever expanding, giving an opportunity to create some stunning colour and foliage combinations.

We use only the best quality material, adding new and unusual varieties each season to show the highest levels of horticultural excellence from selection through to the high standards of maintenance that they receive. The displays receive much admiration from the community and make a huge impact to the street scene.

Barrier and Pedestrian Planters

We have 67 planters placed on the pedestrian barriers along the Borough highways during summer. The nature of the eye level view point makes for a stunning effect, much admired by drivers. We also have 28 planters placed at prominent locations such as car parks and public buildings.



Barrier Planters

Flower Towers and Hanging Baskets



Flower Tower

Each year we place 2 metre high flower towers through the town centre. These are supplied from a Dutch company which we have been working with for many years. They attract much attention and positive feedback and bring added height and colour to the town centre for sixteen weeks from June to October. This year there will be 21 towers around the town, 5 more than in 2015.

There are 120 pole mounted baskets placed on street lighting columns for summer display in the town centre as well as village centres at 5 locations. Additionally there are 40 baskets on the shop fronts of in the main shopping street in Fareham town centre.

At a glance - Summer Floral Displays

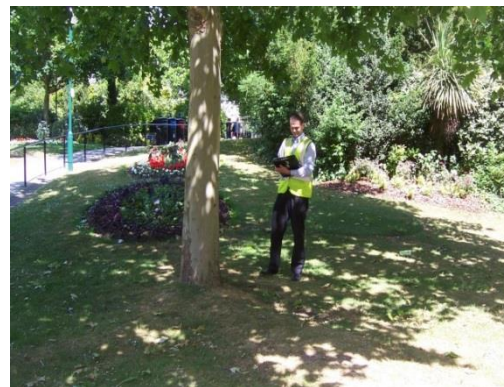
- 30,000 Bedding plants used each summer to create stunning displays
- Watering carried out at night to reduce transpiration
- 67 Barrier Planters and 28 Pedestrian Planters used throughout the Borough
- 120 Borough Hanging Baskets and 40 Sponsored ones displayed each year
- 21 pyramid planters placed in the town centre through the summer

Trees in Fareham

The Council has a specialist tree team who are responsible for delivering the Council's tree services, which include the management of the Council's trees and woodlands, trees and development, protected trees, tree safety inspections and tree planting.

Tree safety inspections

The Council's proactive tree safety inspections manage the health and safety of the Council's tree stock and prioritise remedial tree work identified during those inspections. Tree inspections also inform the annual tree planting programme by targeting areas for new planting and ensuring any tree that has to be removed is replaced. The Council uses a computerised tree management system, which contains a record for each tree including its location, species, age and condition. The database links directly to the Council's digital mapping system allowing tree data to be cross referenced with aerial photography and land ownership information. Information on Council trees and protected trees can be viewed online by the public too.



Tree planting



New planting is an important part of the Council's tree management function to ensure tree cover is maintained and enhanced for future generations. To achieve this re-planting must take place continuously. The Council is committed to managing its existing trees in a responsible and sustainable manner; and the on-going provision of new planting will ensure our communities continue to reap the benefits trees provide and mitigate the impacts of climate change in future, whilst maintaining Fareham's reputation as an attractive place to live and work.

Planting a variety of species and cultivars increases the diversity of our tree population and makes it more resilient to threats from pests and diseases; and pressures from climate change. A greater number of species increases the diversity of habitats available for wildlife and provide a range of trees suitable for any location, big or small. Since 2010 137 different types of tree have been used.

Newly planted trees are maintained until they are established (between 3 - 5 years) depending on the species and planting environment. Several old trees which would normally have been removed have been turned into artistic features by having them sculpted by a specialist tree carver.

Community tree planting

Trees matter to people and the Council encourages residents to become involved in tree planting by supporting requests for trees to be planted in a park or open space near to where they live and in local schools as part of the In Bloom campaign. Trees are planted around National Tree Week each year. The reasons for planting a tree are often very personal but the act benefits everyone in terms of improving the quality of our local environment. The Council offers a range of species to suit any location and residents are encouraged to water and care for their tree to aid its establishment. This partnership working creates an increased



At a glance – Trees in Fareham

- *A five year tree strategy adopted 2012.*
- *Programme of proactive tree safety inspections.*
- *Trees recorded digitally on a tree management database.*
- *There are 556 Tree Preservation Orders in the Borough.*
- *Free pre-application service and tree advice service.*
- *130 trees planted in 2015.*

Residential and Community Gardening

Our Community Gardening Challenge



Large Floral Front Garden

Known as the Community Gardening Competition until last year and now re-launched as the Community Gardening Challenge, this was what, in essence, started our campaign journey 21 years ago and has gone on to become the Fareham in Bloom campaign “Bringing People and Parks Together”.

The idea is ‘to encourage people to take a pride in their environment and improve the Borough by planting bright and colourful planting schemes in their front gardens’

Of course time has moved on and our campaign is now extensive with many community initiatives but the gardening competition (challenge) has always been at the heart of what we do and has allowed us to develop the volunteering network that we now have in place.

Its re-launch this year has focused on new branding, publicity and a revamp of the categories that residents and business can enter as well as revised judging criteria all to make it a better experience for the participant.



Plantsman's back garden

There are some 21 categories which include householders, community groups such as those improving small areas of unkempt ground, whole “neighbourhood” streets, sheltered housing complexes, schools, local businesses and allotments and entrants receive discount and promotions with our partner nursery St Margaret's.



Courtyard Front Garden

The benefits arising from the competition include:

- Encouraging all sections of the community to become actively involved in the enhancement of the Borough
- Helping raise the profile of parks and open spaces
- Provides a contact base of like-minded individuals to help with Borough projects
- Gives us a list of Gold Standard gardens that we can ask to participate in the Open Gardens scheme to raise funds for charity

A judges steering group made up of the senior in bloom team and a group of trained volunteer judges who are experienced horticulturists, carry out the judging during the first two weeks of July. They undergo training in a similar way to SSEIB to ensure there is a consistent approach to the way each category is assessed.



Small Floral Front Garden



Presentation Evening

The results are announced at a reception and prize-giving which is normally held in September. Awards follow the RHS system of merit awards from Bronze to Gold. Approximately 95% of entrants qualify for Bronze or higher and those not reaching Bronze standard are given a certificate of merit so everyone gets some recognition of their efforts. An award is also made each year for Outstanding Horticultural Excellence to an individual who is considered to have shown substantial horticultural skill and dedication over a period of time.

At a glance - Fareham in Bloom Competition

- *The Gardening competition is now in its twenty first year.*
- *The Allotment competition has been running for over fifty years*
- *There are around 300 entries in the competition each year.*
- *Entrants get discounts at a local nursery, free plants and promotions*
- *Over 300 people involved with the campaign and attend the Gala Event*

Allotments and leisure gardens

We are very proud of our allotment provision in the Borough and this is an integral part of our “In Bloom” campaign working in partnership with the three allotment associations. Allotment holders are a mine of information and horticultural skills which can be harnessed to the benefit of the bloom.



Typical Allotment



All plots are currently taken and there are small waiting lists on most sites. The council is working on the provision of a new site in the Stubbington area to help

At a glance – Allotments and Leisure Gardens

- *One thousand seven hundred plots on ten sites.*
- *Three associations to support the plot holders.*
- *All sites fully occupied.*
- *A new site to be provided in Stubbington to increase available plots.*

address the under-provision of available plots in this area.

Business Areas and Premises

Fareham has many business parks located at Whiteley, Segensworth, Cams Hall estate and the Fareham town centre. These sites are beautifully landscaped with screening to car parks and extensive shrub and tree planting schemes that make them a valuable contributor to the landscape and aesthetics of the built environment.



Local Business Park



Local Cafe Frontage

Shop fronts in Fareham town Centre have floral baskets displayed on them and that is in partnership with the town Centre team. The town and village areas also have floral baskets placed on the lamp columns and also containers displayed in prominent locations. Funding also comes from the relationship with our business sponsors to help provide horticultural displays.

Our community gardening challenge has categories specifically for local businesses to enter and we receive entries from local cafes, hotels, shops public houses and larger commercial frontages.



Local Hotel



Local Public House

Green Spaces

Fareham Borough Council manages over 400 hectares of open space in the Borough and this figure continues to grow. This includes a variety of landscapes including the coastal areas, countryside, woodlands, recreation grounds, nature reserves and informal open space in urban areas. A number of these sites are entered into SSEIB and hold Gold level awards.

Open Space offers an opportunity for the local community to participate in outdoor sport; to walk and play; exercise themselves and their dogs; explore different habitats; picnic and relax. It also provides a variety of ecologically rich habitats for the indigenous and migratory wildlife associated with the Borough. All elements of the “Bringing People and Parks Together” campaign are integrated into the ethos of green space management.

Principal formal parks and gardens

- Blackbrook Park
- Portchester Park
- Locks Heath House Park
- Stubbington Park
- The Sensory Garden of Reflection
- Civic Gardens
- Westbury Manor
- Park Lane



Sensory Garden of Reflection

Country Parks

- Warsash Common
- Portchester Common
- Coldeast
- Holly Hill Woodland Park



In addition there are around 114 green spaces and 19 Recreation Grounds

Our beaches and foreshore

The Borough includes considerable coastline on the Solent, within Portsmouth Harbour, and Southampton Water/River Hamble. The coast from the Meon foreshore west to the Hook-with-Warsash Local Nature Reserve and the River Hamble estuary, is included in the Lee-on-the-Solent to Itchen Estuary SSSI, and Special Area of Conservation (SAC).



Local beach

The foreshore and beaches are used for events and environmental study as part of the Fareham in

Bloom activities.

At a glance – Green Spaces

- *Over 400 Hectares of public parkland spread throughout Fareham.*
- *12 Principal parks and gardens.*
- *114 other green spaces*
- *19 Recreation Grounds*
- *28km (16 miles) of tidal coastline on The Solent, Portsmouth Harbour and River Hamble*

ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

Conservation and Biodiversity

Fareham's Countryside Service now established for 12 years has played a vital role in the operational management of some of the Boroughs open spaces and wild areas. Their work is complemented by many volunteers who work alongside them and help to ensure our sites are kept in the best condition for both wildlife and visitors.

Conservation Volunteers

Volunteers are a key component in our site management and the Council is very proud of their achievements. We currently have 6 distinct groups working across the Borough, some groups are site specific, and others cover various sites and help with our programme of encouraging nature conservation in school grounds. Combined we have approx 75 volunteers who join us on a weekly, fortnightly and monthly basis.

Key habitats in Fareham

Over 1900 ha of informal green space and countryside can be found in Fareham, much of which has been given over to the Countryside Service to manage. The range of habitats is considerable and can be summarised by type:

Woodlands:

Fareham has a good number of wooded areas which are retained and managed in accordance with ecological principles which help maximise their biological potential.

The Dry Woodlands are those predominately consisting of an Oak, Ash canopy with a varied understory which may include Hazel, Hawthorn, Holly, Field Maple and Rowan.

Wet Woodlands: Fareham is fortunate in that it has several areas of wet woodland which enhances the Borough's biodiversity significantly. Key wet woodland sites in Fareham include the Alder woodlands at Warsash Common & Holly Hill.



Conservation work in woodland

Grasslands:



Portchester Common SSSI

In Fareham's grassland areas we have a SSSI calcareous grassland community at Portchester Common and small pockets of acid grassland remnants scattered throughout the Borough. Many of our grasslands are foraged/harvested on an annual basis helping to maintain/improve the quality of the sward. Other sites, such as Portchester Common SSSI are grazed and in stewardship agreement to assist with management. A new site has now been adopted at the former Coldeast Hospital site.

Biological Surveys

A variety of surveys have been undertaken throughout the Borough. Entomological surveys at Holly Hill Woodland park, Warsash Common and Coldeast have been supplemented with small mammal, botanical and reptile audits.

Habitat Enhancements



Coldeast: restored orchard bloom

Secondly, the large pond has been de-silted, re-profiled and had improved bank stabilisation. One year on the banks have consolidated and emergent vegetation is re-establishing



Burridge: botanical survey group

The recently acquired land at Coldeast has seen two key restoration projects. Firstly, the neglected orchard has been cleared and has had a 30% prune for 2 years running. The trees are responding excellently.



Coldeast: silt extraction & re-profiling

Management

Biological data gathering is a key component to many of our site plans, it is vital in helping us fine-tune the management of habitats at our countryside sites.



Holly Hill: Firecrest ringing survey

At a glance – Conservation and Biodiversity

- *Six Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI'S) in the Borough.*
- *Six Conservation Groups with over 70 volunteers giving over 4000 hours' work in past year.*
- *Two National and four Local Nature Reserves within the Borough*

Resource Management

Waste and recycling in Fareham Borough

Fareham Borough Council is working to increase recycling and reduce waste. We are currently recycling 33% of kerbside household waste. Almost all our non-recyclable waste is sent for energy recovery in Portsmouth. The plant supplies up to 14MWs of electricity to the National Grid, which is enough for around 20,600 local homes. Less than 3% of our waste is landfilled; over 97% of Fareham's waste is reused, recycled or sent for energy recovery. Some of the bottom ash from the Energy Recovery Facility is used for road building aggregate.



Recycling

The kerbside recycling system collects paper and card, all food and drink cans, aerosols and all plastic bottles, together in one bin. There are recycling banks for glass, and textiles, books, videos and DVDs. Some flats also have their own glass recycling banks.

Flats present a particular challenge for waste and recycling collections, because there can be little control over people using the bins for the wrong materials. We continue to work with Housing Associations as well as the Council's own Housing teams to provide waste and recycling services.

Garden Waste

A free garden waste collection service is provided to every household for one garden waste sack every fortnight. Residents are able to recycle any additional garden waste in disposable bags, at a cost of £24.50 for 25 bags or £6.00 for 5 bags. The garden waste is recycled into Pro-grow, an organic peat-free soil conditioner.

Trade Recycling

The Council operates WasteSavers, a trade waste collection service, which includes business recycling facilities.

Composting at home

Composters are offered at a reduced price, to encourage residents to compost at home. The offer also includes water butts.

Promotions

Promotion of recycling includes articles in the Council's magazine, Fareham Today, and information in the annual bin collection calendar delivered to all households. Some of the refuse collection vehicles have been fitted with new recycling and food waste messages.



For 2015, the bin collection calendar included a Pledge to Recycle, where residents were asked to go on-line to pledge to recycle more and waste less. Throughout the campaign, 203 pledges were made.

Posters are put in communal bin stores in flats, and stickers placed on bins to ensure residents know what to recycle. Reusable bags are currently being distributed to residents in flats to store recyclables, in an effort to reduce the incidence of plastic bags in shared recycling bins.

In February 2015, a promotion to increase the number of plastic bottles sent for recycling was run. Hangers were left on approximately 3500 refuse bins, in areas identified as having a lower rate of recycling. Across Hampshire, radio adverts were aired, and information added to web sites.

In summer 2015 a project was run involving school-children and residents in sheltered accommodation. During a visit to the elderly residents, the children collected their recipes to use up left-overs; then returned to school and put them on-line, as part of a local Fareham recipe bank.

Council's "Love Food Hate Waste" Facebook page



Talks and workshops are run with community groups to promote recycling and highlight the problem of food waste. So far in 2016 five talks have been given. A stall on recycling and food waste was held at the Gardeners Fair in Fareham in May.

Local Heritage



Titchfield Abbey

Fareham has a wealth of local heritage sites. Portchester Castle, a Roman castle and the only Roman stronghold in northern Europe whose walls still mainly stand to their full 6 metre height is owned and managed by English Heritage. Fareham's Grounds Maintenance Team carry out the maintenance, grass cutting and general care of the grounds under contract to English Heritage. Also owned and managed by English Heritage is Titchfield Abbey which was founded in 1231 and converted into a manor house in 1537.

Other notable sites within the Borough are:

Fort Fareham. One of a ring of defensive forts known as 'Palmerston's Follies' that were built in Victorian times to defend Portsmouth harbour from an inland attack. The Council maintain the woodland, structure and bio-diversity of this site while the old buildings are used as a thriving trading estate.

Titchfield Haven is a National Nature Reserve owned and managed by Hants County Council. It contains a variety of wetland habitats, some of which have become rare in lowland Britain. The reserve is managed primarily for birds but it also has rare flora and is also home to foxes, deer, dragonflies (19 species have been recorded) and butterflies.

Bursledon Brickworks. This steam driven brickworks was established in 1897. It closed in 1974 and fell into a state of dereliction until 1994 when it was acquired by Hampshire Buildings Preservation Trust who set about restoring it.

Cams Estate. For many centuries this was one of Fareham's most stately residences and a manor house is recorded at Cams Hall as far back as the 13th Century. Early in the 18th century a new mansion was built and today this forms the centre of an extremely successful business park set in the stunning surroundings of a golf course.

Other heritage sites In the Council ownership and managed by them are Holly Hill Woodland Park, Westbury Manor and the modern day heritage site of the Sensory Garden of Reflection.

Holly Hill was originally designed as an estate park and arboretum in Victorian times. It consists of 35 hectares of parkland and open space stretching down to the River Hamble.

Pulhamite Stonework

Holly Hill has what is considered the second best known examples of Pulhamite stonework in the country and its heritage value is significant.

Holly Hill is used by the "In Bloom" group for a number of their activities with the express intention of introducing members of the public to the delights of the park and engaging in the environment.

Holly Hill has held the national Green Flag status since 2008.



Pulhamite at Holly Hill Country Park

Westbury Manor

The house at Westbury Manor was first built in the 1600's, being extended and adapted to its present style during the late 18th century and subsequently during the mid-19th century. A private residence until 1932, it was sold to the Fareham Urban District Council to provide offices which remained here until the new civic centre was built in 1976.

Westbury Manor itself was renovated during the late 1980's and reopened as Fareham Borough Museum in 1990. The building is now Grade II listed.

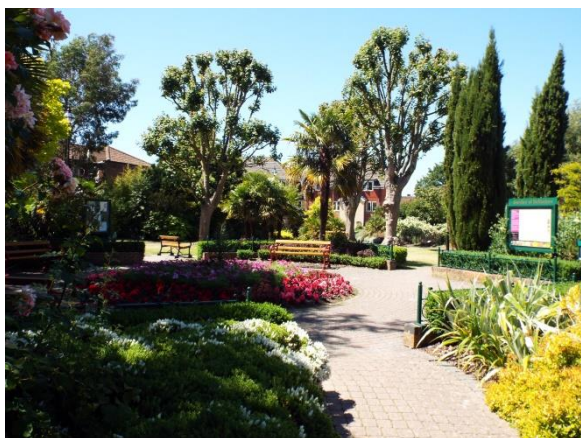


Westbury Manor garden

The garden at Westbury Manor is the result of detailed cooperation between Fareham Borough Council, Hampshire County Council, Museum Service and The Hampshire Gardens Trust.

The shape of the garden at the rear of the house has changed little from the original but underwent extensive restoration in 1993. In the spring of 2014 the garden was totally replanted to include sweeping herbaceous borders with choice and rare species. The lawns were also re-sown and the paths re-dressed. The borders have, over the winter, had many summer flowering bulbs added to give a wider season of interest.

The Sensory Garden of Reflection



The Sensory Garden of Reflection

The Sensory Garden of Reflection is a “modern” heritage site. It was designed and created in 1988 in memory of Princess Diana. Based on the senses of touch, sound, vision, smell and taste this green oasis in an urban setting is packed with rare, unusual and exotic plants from all over the world. The garden has evolved over the years and new plant collections have been added to replace tired areas. A new collection will be added this summer in the northern borders. The in Bloom Co-ordinators also arrange activities to engage participation within the garden.

The site has held national Green Flag status since 2009.

At a glance – Local Heritage

- *Ten principal Heritage sites within Fareham.*
- *Four principal Heritage sites owned and maintained by the Council.*
- *Two principal sites owned and managed by English Heritage.*

Local Environmental Quality

The cleanliness and appearance of the Borough is of high priority with a great deal of pride in presenting the environment in the best possible way with attention to detail on the cleanliness, absence of litter and environmental abuse being taken seriously.

All of the environmental services are delivered from in house teams which work closely with the Fareham in Bloom team to ensure the wider issues of presenting a clean, safe and attractive Borough are done, so that we can present the best possible environment to be proud of.

Litter and Dog Fouling

The Council has decided to get tough on litter louts. To help deal with this kind of environmental crime, our enforcement team is now issuing a £80.00 fine – known as a fixed penalty notice (FPN) – to people who drop litter, including cigarette ends and chewing gum.

Lets take the Oops out of Poops



'Let's take the Oops out of Poops' is a new campaign for 2016 designed to inform dog owners that don't already pick up after their pets that they are giving all dogs a bad name, as well as causing potential health hazards.

Posters of 'Bagsy', a cute but slightly embarrassed looking dog, have been put up across the Borough to remind people of the need to 'Bag it and Bin it.' The message also feature on some of the Council's refuse lorries.



Green Flags

Since 2008 we have held green flag status at both the Sensory Garden and at Holly Hill Woodland Park.

At a glance – Local Environmental Quality

- *Two Green Flags for local parks.*
- *Graffiti is dealt with by the cleansing response team within 3 days or 48 hours if offensive.*
- *New enforcement powers obtained in 2016 to apply Fixed Penalty Notices*
- *Bloom and Parks Team work alongside Enforcement and Cleansing*

Pride Of Place

Fareham is proud of the quality of its hard landscape provision with a number of significant schemes having been implemented to ensure a quality and sustainable landscape with long term strategy for renewal and continuity. Fareham has been operating a programme of environmental improvements for more than sixteen years. Recent years have seen the regeneration of the town centres former foundry and redundant steelworks transformed into a major supermarket, and the completion of the extension to the shopping centre. Both schemes include the provision of innovative landscaping and greening of surrounding areas including the public highway. The latest phase is at the railway station end of the town where new paved areas, improved access and street lighting will be completed by the end of the summer.

New street furniture is included as part of such improvement and all new seating installed in parks over the past thirteen years has been made from recycled materials.

There is a programme for the replacement of street name plates throughout the Borough. This equates to around 300 per year on a rolling programme. The new signs include, where appropriate, no fouling or littering symbols.



Other examples of art within the landscape can be found in various parks where ornamental ironwork from local craftsmen has been used to make gates and entrances and also in the town centre (other than the Henry Cort Project) where there is an arch to commemorate the Falklands Conflict and gates in memory of The Queen Mother. The Sensory garden has an Ornamental entrance and ironwork to reflect the unusual nature of the garden.

The Henry Cort Millennium Project



Sculpture in the
Town Centre

The Henry Cort Millennium Exhibition is themed on Fareham's market town history and is the largest permanent exhibition of sculptural ironwork of its type in Britain - the exhibition has been produced by the finest contemporary artist blacksmiths in Europe.

It includes specially designed, handcrafted, puddled wrought iron street furniture, sculptures, performance podium and a water feature.

The Queen's Golden Jubilee Gates

The commemorative Queen's Golden Jubilee Gates were commissioned by the Council from Mr Peter Clutterbuck, a local blacksmith artist. They are a unique example of the local blacksmith's work and were unveiled in 2002.



Golden Jubilee Gates

Holly Hill

Holly Hill has a host of ornamental ironwork designs with entrance gate, sculpture and bridges standing proud alongside several examples of chain saw carving from older trees that have had to be felled. This adds to the historical significance of the site.



Ornamental ironwork gates at Holly Hill

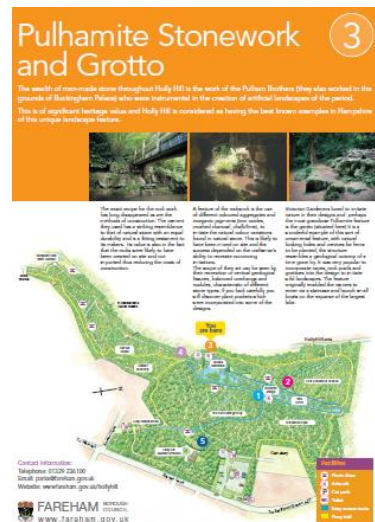
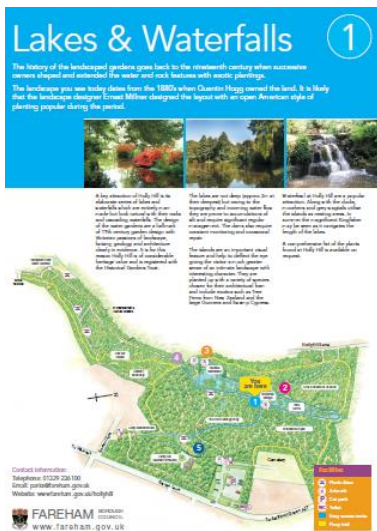


Information Board at Sensory Garden

Interpretation and visitor experience

Given the wealth of history at Holly Hill it is important that the visitor experience is enhanced to highlight the key features of the site and there are 7 interpretation boards placed throughout the site.

Interpretation Boards can also be found at the Sensory Garden, Warsash Common, Seafield Park and Coldeast. A recent addition to the Sensory Garden includes a leaflet dispenser which has proved very popular. Both Holly Hill and the Sensory Garden are now Geocach sites, whereby people can visit to find clues using a Smart Phone app.



At a glance – Pride of Place

- All replacement park seating in last 13 years made from recycled materials.
- Ornamental ironwork installed in parks and town centre.
- Detailed interpretation boards installed at six principal parks and countryside sites.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Community Participation

Involving our community in parks

Fareham's success in its twenty one years of Bringing People and Parks Together can be attributed to the continual development and support of community based projects. These unite and enrich local neighbourhoods and communities with the ethos to protect and preserve the importance of green spaces. We are very proud of the diversity of the projects we now work on, built upon the core of the Fareham in Bloom campaign. We work with an ever growing number of people and local groups, which in turn support and enhance the council's services, and allow us to achieve a sustainable and inclusive community.



FIB Volunteer at Portchester Northern School

Working with children to encourage schools gardening has seen outstanding success at our award winning Northern Junior School, where all subjects are taught through gardening. Other schools are able to visit and learn from this unique setting. There are a further four schools also actively involved with our work.

Events are held throughout the year to encourage active participation in our parks, with a comprehensive Events programme with the aim to appeal to a diverse community whether their interests lie primarily in horticulture or gardening, countryside or nature conservation.

We have volunteers as diverse as makeup artists, costume makers and photographers but all have a fundamental passion for making the Bringing People and Parks Together campaign and Fareham in Bloom the success story it has become.

Main volunteer groups established in Fareham

Fareham In Bloom Co-ordinators A team of seven senior members responsible for overseeing all aspects of the campaign, community, business liaison, producing presentations, writing this portfolio and developing new ideas as well as overseeing the Borough's 14 entries into South and South East in Bloom.

Fareham In Bloom Events Team A group over 30 members who support the senior team with all events, community liaison and projects work.

Fareham In Bloom Judges The community gardening challenge requires a team of judges to judge the 200 entries we receive annually. There are 12 judges with extensive horticultural knowledge and many highly qualified in the subject spending two weeks assessing the 21 categories we have as well as attending steering



Judges Training exercise

group meetings and writing reports.

Holly Hill Volunteers Working with the Council to preserve and enhance Holly Hill Country Park. The group at Holly Hill work with the rangers to carry out practical tasks every Friday, organise events and help in patrolling the extensive woodland.

Fareham Conservation Volunteers Meet Tuesdays and Sundays to carry out practical conservation work around Fareham. Volunteers work in small supervised teams. Many volunteers are very skilled in rural land management and are able to tackle anything from fencing, boardwalk construction, habitat restoration and wildlife surveys. We consider it vital that they have an active voice in the management of our sites.

Friends of Warsash Common. The Friends of Warsash Common are a group of dedicated local people that assist a ranger at a weekly gathering with the practical conservation tasks and ecological surveys.

Whiteley Conservation Group. A group of regular users of Whiteley Woodlands. The Whiteley Greens Group involves people in construction tasks, biological monitoring and assisting at public events.

Coldeast Volunteers A newly established group at the former hospital site assisting with grassland, woodland, orchard renovation and pond management.

The Fareham Society. The Fareham Society has two on-going projects. The Gillies open space near the centre of Fareham and the annual Beach Clean at Hill Head. On average 8-10 volunteers come along to each of The Gillies Work Days and around 30 volunteers take part in the annual Sunday-morning event, in which a mile of beach is cleared from Meon Shore to Brownwich.

At a glance – Volunteering in the countryside

- *Between 75 and 100 volunteers regularly working in the countryside and woodlands.*
- *Over 10,000 hours of work carried out by volunteers each year.*
- *Value of time given equates to £72,500 value per annum (based on a day rate of £50)*

Involving our community throughout the year

Our aim is to encourage active participation in parks and horticultural activities for the long term benefit of the residents and visitors to the Borough.



Christmas Wreath Making Workshop

To this aim we organise a variety of events throughout the year, for adults and children, in a number of parks and other venues in the Borough, making the best use of our parks and open spaces.

There are variety of practical workshops, hands on experience with planting and sowing, local planting to improve neighbourhoods and tree and bulb planting. Much of the plant material is provided by the Council free as well as from our sponsors and our partner nursery, St Margaret's.

In July last year we once again arranged for seven award winning gardens from our local competition to be open to the public on 26th July.

In October two very successful willow weave workshops were organised to demonstrate the art of making a traditional style basket using only hedgerow materials, such as hazel, willow and ivy.

October also found children (and adults) gathering at Holly Hill for the annual conker championship run by the Friends of Holly Hill.

20, 000 daffodil bulbs were given away to the community in September continuing our 'Host of Golden Daffodils' project which started 25 years ago adding to the 4 million now planted across the borough.



The night of Halloween was marked by two night time walks, led by a psychic investigator, through Holly Hill where stories of unexplained happenings and legends were told to a fascinated audience.



Easter Egg Hunt

The annual Easter Egg Hunt took place in March when over 400 children plus their parents and relatives followed clues around the Holly Hill Woodland Park enjoying not only the activities provided, but the lovely location.

In April members of the public, came together with the In Bloom Team, to experience how to sow a new meadow area on Stubbington Green. The

event and seeds were sponsored by Fareham Shopping Centre.

Also in April we held our annual Fareham in Bloom launch event at Fareham Shopping Centre where we gave over 2000 wild flower seed packets to passers-by and raised awareness of our work.



Distributing wild flower seeds to the

In May we held a free workshop at St Margaret's Nurseries titled "Fabulously Floral" where there were demonstrations on the planting on baskets and containers. Attendees received discounts, free plants and practical advice.



Willow Obelisk Making Workshop

Once again the ever popular Willow Obelisk workshop was held in May by a countryside ranger at the Sensory Garden in the town centre. Participants learned how to make a rustic willow obelisk and at the end of the day took their creations home with them to use in their garden.

Future parks events planned for the remainder of 2016

- **Rainbow Dust** - a lunch time event in July, at the newly acquired Coldeast grassland and woodland site, learning all about butterflies, their ecology and life cycle. Records collected on the day will form part of the big UK butterfly count.
- **Night Light** - to follow on from Rainbow Dust (see above) an evening/night time walk to discover all about our resident nocturnal insects i.e. moths using mercury vapour lamps to attract them from the trees.
- **12th annual Open Gardens event** - visit Eight of the Fareham in Bloom award winning gardens which will open for charity this year.
- **Basket Weave Workshop** - learn the art of making a decorative basket using only hedgerow materials, such as hazel, willow and ivy.
- **Chestnut Challenge** - The annual Conker Championship for children at Holly Hill Woodland Park.
- **Gala evening** - The annual, 'not to missed' celebration of the years' work where 300 people connected with the campaign will attend an awards evening.
- **Christmas wreath making** – a workshop to get ready for the festive season with a hands-on practical morning using natural materials.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND SPONSORSHIP June 2015 - May 2016

	No. of events or work days	Number of people organising	Attendance figures over the year	Annual Volunteer hours given	*Value (based on a day rate of £50 and 7 hr day)
Fareham in Bloom Coordinating Teams					
Working group sessions	35	7	315	1110	£ 7,928
Events in parks	9	7	70	455	£ 3,250
Community work projects	24 days	4	248	723	£ 5,164
Photographer	12 days	1	20	105	£ 750
Events support volunteers	12	28	588	882	£ 6,300
FIB Judges	10	12		420	£3,000
Development and Continuity Groups					
Holly Hill Volunteers (each Friday)	48 days	9	432	2592	£ 18,514
Friends of Warsash Common	12 days	10	120	720	£ 5,142
Fareham Conservation volunteers	22 days	8	176	1056	£ 7,542
Educational activities					
Love Where You Live. Beach / litter picks	12	32	133	572	£ 4,085
Northern Jnr School garden work days	42 days	5	210	882	£ 6,300
Other school gardening days	7	3	21	126	£ 900
Promotional days, displays, talks	13 days	5	65	390	£ 2,785
Leaflets and promotional distribution	9	2	18	144	£ 1,028
Wider Community participation					
Play sessions in parks June 15 - May 16	20	2	305		
5 RHS Its Your Neighbourhood's	11	35	385		
Parks events for young people	5		370		
Fareham in Bloom competition entries	1		207		
11 Horticultural/Allotment Societies in the Borough	110		2110		
Seasonal community activities -Spring					
Easter Egg Hunt	1		703		
Fareham Gardeners' Fairs	1		1580		
FIB launch events	3 days		3080		
Going Wild meadow event	1		18		
Summer					
Summer events programme	4		230		
Children's art competition	1		340		
Open Gardens event - 7 gardens	1		150		
Autumn					
Community bulb planting events	33		126		
Halloween events	2		52		
Tree events	7		158		
Funding and Sponsorship					
Volunteer time conversion *					£ 72,688
Fareham Borough Council budget					£ 5,000

<i>Travel sponsorship value</i>					£ 400
<i>Art competition funding</i>					£ 2,000
<i>income from ticket sales</i>					£ 4,200
<i>Commercial companies - roundabouts</i>					£ 18,000
<i>Benefit, printing, prizes, plants, hosting</i>					£ 5,200
<i>Fareham in Bloom sponsorship</i>					£ 2,000
<i>Project sponsorship</i>					£ 5,000
TOTAL	460	170	12,220	10,177	£ 114,488

Open Gardens event

We will be holding our “Open Gardens in Fareham” event again this year on 24 July involving eight of our award-winning gardens. This popular event raises money for charity as well as raising awareness of our gardening competition. It provides the opportunity for people to see what can be achieved, and to go away inspired with ideas for their own gardens. This was started in 2005 as a one off event but it was so successful that we decided to make it an annual event which to date has raised over £20,000 for charity.



Visitors at an “Open Garden”

Last year seven gardens opened on Sunday 26th July which saw a cold, very wet and windy day with probably the worst weather we have had at this time of year. Despite this 150 people

At a glance – Open Gardens Scheme

- *Annual event now in its twelfth year.*
- *Twenty nine different gardens have been involved in the scheme over twelve years.*
- *50% of proceeds to Mayors charities in ten years*
- *150 visitors attended the event last year which, with good weather this year, should see a return to the 300 plus we normally receive.*

visited some or all of the gardens. The intention of this is to inspire local residents and enable them to gain ideas and advice. To date the event has raised over £20K for charity.

Visitors viewed a variety of different style of gardens including, two wild life gardens, a tropical garden, and several small town gardens. Many of the gardens sold plants and refreshments with all the profits going to charity. The profits were given to the Mayor of Fareham’s Charities.

Education in schools

Environmental education - encouraging children

To encourage active participation in Fareham in Bloom by schools, children and teachers we encourage the use of outdoor space as an extension of the classroom. Projects are arranged to work closely with schools to set up gardens and after-hours gardening clubs.



The Fareham in Bloom team offer custom made gardening and environmental packages in line with the national syllabus, key stage skills and learning packs such QCS. These are held throughout the spring and summer months and there is a competition for the best schools grounds as part of the Fareham in Bloom Community Gardening Challenge.

Warsash Pre-School getting children gardening early in life



Outdoor teaching area at Portchester Northern Junior School

A Demonstration garden has been set up and is now strongly established at the Portchester Northern Junior Community School. The garden is planted and maintained by the pupils. This school has been used as a base for teachers to visit to learn the benefits of gardening as part of everyday life in schools. This garden has seen visits by schools from as far away as London. Members of the Fareham in Bloom team regularly visit this school to work with the children as part of their lessons in the school gardens. In addition the team members assist in maintaining and developing the gardens for the children's and parent's pleasure.

Portchester Northern Junior School has been very successful, not only in the local gardening competition but also in South and South East in Bloom winning their category with gold awards on many occasions and gaining a gold award and Hampshire winner in 2015.

Wicor Primary school is another local school with excellent educational gardens that they open to the



Portchester Northern's Allotment Area

At a glance – Education and schools

- *Demonstration garden set up with help from “In Bloom” in a local school.*
- *Structured horticultural activities carried out at 5 schools.*
- *School grounds category in our local gardening challenge.*
- *Free seeds, bulbs and trees available to schools*

public under the NGS Yellow Book scheme.

There are also 3 other schools that participate in gardening and enter our own schools grounds category of our community gardening challenge..

Community Action Teams (CATS)

Community Action Teams, better known as CATS allow the community to have their voice at meetings set up throughout the Borough which help to ensure that the Council have a better understanding of the needs of Fareham residents and communities. Grants can be applied for by local communities to enable them to improve their own local environment. Much of the funding that is granted is for environmental improvement projects, local “In Bloom” initiatives,

landscaping and new street furniture. YCATS to allow the youth a local voice was also set up in 2015.



The Going Wild project

Wild flower meadows have become very much a hot topic nationally, with ever diminishing reserves from the result of intensive farming methods.

In turn this has had a big impact on Bees, Butterflies and general insect populations with the lack of pollen and nectar rich species available

Fareham has many naturally rich sites, local nature reserves and chalk down land but this in itself doesn't address the vast amount of green space that is managed in a formal manner with little or no provision to sustain local biodiversity.

In 2012 we decided to address this and look at more sustainable approaches, increasing the diversity of our planting with herbaceous and meadow style schemes.

'Going Wild with Fareham in Bloom' was born and started with an initial four trial sites sowing native annual and perennial species. This proved immensely successful and touched the hearts of the community more than we could ever have imagined.



Sowing a Wild Flower Meadow at Stubbington Park April 2016



Wild Flower meadow at Linden Lea

Social media played a big part and we were inundated with positive response and support for the new approaches we were taking.

We were so encouraged by the project that we decided to take the idea on in a big way and have extended the scheme to 11 locations with around 2.5 hectares sown and further locations planned for the coming autumn.

Sites now planted include our 'BIB It's Your Neighbourhood' entrants, parks, highway verges and roundabouts.

Fareham Shopping Centre again kindly agreed to sponsor 5000 wildflower seed cards for 2016 which were given to the community to encourage people to sow and grow in their own gardens with a blue colour theme to tie into Fareham in Bloom coastal theme for this year.

The subject in itself is, as we have discovered rather complex and a lot of study and trialling needs to be done. We now have both Native and European mixes chosen to be suitable to a location so as not to affect the local species profile in any way.

What is clear is that the addition of non-native mixes attracts far more wildlife and in terms of floral impact gives longer season flowering and a vast palette of colour schemes to choose from.



Stubbington Park Wild Flower Meadow 2015

Love where you live

To support this national initiative we carry out 'community clean ups' to do tasks such as litter picks, painting and planting of tired shrub beds.

Equipment is also provided by the Council to local groups, such as rubbish bags, gloves and litter pickers for them to carry out their own clean ups. The cleansing team then collect the rubbish from a designated pick up point.



CLEAN FOR THE QUEEN

Clean for the Queen, organised by Country Life Magazine in partnership with Keep Britain Tidy was held this year as a national clean-up in time for the Queen's 90th Birthday.

Fareham held its own 'Clean and Green for the Queen' event with the aim to not only clean up litter, but to also improve the horticultural features around the borough linking to the Fareham in Bloom initiative.



Pledge your support

Our main clean-up event took place on Friday 4 March at Portchester car park and Precinct when a team of Council Officers,

members of Portchester Community Association, Carillion Facilities Management, children from Andy Pandy's pre-school, along with the Fareham in Bloom Volunteers worked to litter pick, remove weeds in gutters, -varnish street furniture and re-plant shrubs beds in the car park



Clean for the Queen



Children's Art Competition

Fareham Shopping Centre are a principal and much valued sponsor to our campaign and have for some years, amongst many other projects, funded a children's colouring competition. This has an environmental theme and is a great way of getting children involved. 2000 templates are distributed from July – August to schools and community facilities across the Borough to encourage both artistic skill and involvement by children across a range of ages.



The Winners with their pictures

The winners receive art based prizes from 'The Works' and they are presented with certificates and meet the Mayor at our annual gala evening.

For summer 2016 the new theme will be 'take a walk on the wild side' looking at woodlands and the creatures that make

home in them.

Communication and Promotion

Interaction with the media and public awareness

The Council and volunteer co-ordinating group are proud of the quality of the publicity materials produced along with the approach taken in order to raise awareness and encourage active participation in both the campaign and the wider community involvement within parks and green spaces.

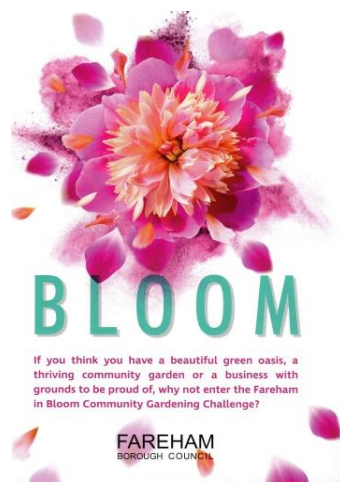
We take every opportunity to promote our work with the invaluable help of the Councils communications team. Press releases appear in The Portsmouth News, The Southampton Echo or on local radio stations. Magazines such as Solent Life, the Fareham Society newsletter and Forget Me Not often feature articles on our work. Our Sensory Garden was also featured in the Garden News magazine last year as a place to visit! (Examples of our Press coverage - Appendix 1)



Example of our Display

The power of social media cannot be underestimated and we now use Face book and Twitter on a very regular basis to promote our work and raise awareness. The feedback from this has proved to be huge and is now the most successful form of communication next to meeting people in person at events.

Each year we produce high quality colourful literature, posters and guides covering all aspects of our service provision. These are distributed to our local libraries, garden centres, community buildings and all 45 Borough notice boards



Two promotional days were held in April and May 2016. The first at Fareham shopping centre, when 3000 free seeds were given out over two days to shoppers to raise awareness of growing meadows and helping nature.

The second, at St Margaret's Nurseries, where the team were on hand to give out the new gardening challenge leaflet which has been rebranded for 2016 to be more vibrant, modern and hopefully appeal to a wider audience.

Free Fuchsia plants were given to attendees whilst they watched the staff at the nursery demonstrate how to create an array of summer baskets and container displays.

The Borough magazine, Fareham Today features articles in each edition to profile parks and the bloom teams work as well as specific parks subjects to engage participation, educate and develop awareness within the community.

We have two websites www.fareham.gov.uk/parks and www.farehaminbloom.com with all of the latest news, information on events, activities and archive images. There are also online application forms to enter the gardening challenge or make an enquiry online.

Sponsorship and Funding

Despite the current financial difficulties we are all experiencing we are fortunate that the Council's front line services have not been hugely affected and we are still able to enjoy a good standard of parks and cleansing services. Coupled with the long established business relationships we have in place we are still able to sustain and develop the campaign with the dedication of the wide and varied volunteer network we have in the Borough.

Naturally sponsorship comes in many forms, be it financial or from the various forms of benefit in kind. Now in our twenty-first year, we have built a firm base of sponsors who assist in the funding of both the campaign as well as the provision of floral and landscaped roundabouts to the tune of £30k.

Fareham has eleven floral and landscaped roundabouts throughout the Borough which as well as enhancing the highways with colour and interest throughout the seasons offers businesses a positive promotional opportunity to raise awareness of their services whilst supporting a well-respected and established community campaign. A website page and online enquiry form has been set to provide potential sponsors with detailed information on the scheme.

www.fareham.gov.uk/council/departments/leisure/parks/sponsorroundabout

Ticketing for our events is done through the Ferneham Hall Box Office who also promote our activities through their events guide which goes to 45k recipients.

As our campaign has developed then so have the business partnership opportunities that have arisen. Financial support towards our work and the parks team landscaping is significant and also funds activities such as our annual Gala Presentation Evening.

A nursery discount scheme for our challenge participants is also in place offering gardening challenge entrants reductions and promotions.

As well as significant monetary contributions, benefit in kind from our sponsors enables the group to better present what they do in a first class professional manner.

Sponsors have input according to their business speciality:

- Lucketts Travel provides transport for the regional judging day and will take the team to seminars or courses when needed.
- St Margaret's Nurseries provide free plants for entrants into our competition, some school grounds, floral displays, and our Gala event with stage decoration. This year they will also provide free plants for attendees to the Regional SSEIB presentation which Fareham are delighted to host.
- Fareham Shopping Centre funds a significant number of major events and is also firmly personally involved. They sponsor our Going Wild project, the Children's Colouring competition, landscape schemes, bulb adoption scheme and the Gala evening.



The relationship we have with Fareham Shopping Centre and St Margaret's is second to none

with the kindness and friendship that it has brought which cannot be expressed in words. They are remarkable people and we are so very grateful to them for all that they do.

The success of Fareham in Bloom and Bringing People and Parks Together is only possible through the kindness and commitment of all of those who have been involved over the last 21 years. We are sincerely grateful.

We are currently supported by twelve sponsors of roundabouts that help to fund the glorious displays you can see as you travel round the Borough.

Sponsorship of roundabouts scheme

Glanvilles Solicitors

East Street Veterinary Surgery

St Margaret's Nurseries

Whiteley Dental Practice

Biscoes Solicitors

Hambrooks Nurseries

Noon's Estate Agents

Commercial Lighting Systems Ltd

A H Langford Funeral Directors

Fareham Shopping Centre

Vauxhall Motor Group

Abbeyfield Society Fareham

Sponsorship for our competition and presentation evening

St Margaret's Nurseries

Fareham Shopping Centre

Portchester Memorial Gardens

Lucketts Travel

Sponsorship of Fareham Town's Floral Displays

Fareham Town Centre Management

Ferneham Hall

Sponsorship for the transport of the regional judging tour

Lucketts Travel

Sponsorship of the local nursery discount scheme

St Margaret's Nurseries

PHOTOGRAPHS AND IMAGES

The images and photographs in this portfolio are taken entirely within the Borough of Fareham and (with the odd exception) in the 2015/16 season. They show the wide variety of people that we educate on green issues and in the diverse ways we achieve it and also demonstrate the fun that we have in doing it!

We hope that this gives you an insight into the work that we do and wish you a most enjoyable visit.

Thank you to all those who have so kindly contributed to the production of this portfolio



Appendix 1

Examples of press cuttings from the past year

Portsmouth News –SSEIB 2015

Friday, July 17, 2015 portsmouth.co.uk



SPECIAL GUESTS
From left, Fareham mayoress Anne Ford, mayor Mike Ford and the judges Ian White, Kevin Taitt
Picture: Paul Jacobs (151008-8)

Beauty spots visited by In Bloom judges

by STUART ANDERSON
The News
stuart.anderson@thenews.co.uk

FAREHAM'S beauty spots and gardens have been paid a visit by judges in a regional competition. Ian White and Kevin Taitt, toured the borough as part of the South and Southeast England in Bloom.

They visited Portchester's Northern Junior School, which recently won a Hampshire-wide best school-grounds award.

The judges inspected Linden Lea's wildflower meadow, a sensory garden in Fareham town centre and the Westbury Manor Museum garden before attending a garden party at a private house in Sarisbury.

Hosts Bridget and Geoff Thickett said they were delighted with the way Fareham was looking and were hopeful the borough would win a gold award, which would be its 10th in a row.

Mr Thickett and his wife have volunteered with Fareham in Bloom for many years.

He said: 'This is all about making Fareham a better and more attractive place to live and work.'

Mrs Thickett said: 'We have so many wonderful beds, roundabouts and wildflower meadows and they all look fantastic all summer and in winter too.'

Fareham's mayor Councillor Mike Ford said: 'I've been looking around at a lot of the gardens and they're looking really good.'

'We've had better growing conditions over the past month or so - sunshine and bit of rain, so things are looking very positive.'

Councillor Connie Hockley, Fareham Borough Council's leisure and community chairwoman, said: 'It's not just about gardens, it's the environment, it's cleanliness and it's conservation. It's everything that makes a place look and feel lovely. It's very exciting and it could not succeed without the commitment of our Fareham in Bloom volunteers, Fareham Borough Council and all the other volunteers who work on the project.'

'It's very much a team effort.'

THERE'S MORE ONLINE
To watch a video with this story go to portsmouth.co.uk

Southampton Echo –SSEIB 2015

Golden day for award-winning borough's green spaces

A HAMPSHIRE community has triumphed again winning top awards for its green spaces and green fingered residents.

Fareham borough had a

12th consecutive winning entry in the Small City category of the South and South East in Bloom awards.

It won a gold award and was declared category winner.

Fareham's parks and gardens also came out with top awards including a gold for Holly Hill Woodland Park, the Sensory Garden of Reflection, Westbury Manor

Garden, Warsash Common and the delightful civic gardens.

There were four Britain in Bloom 'It's Your Neighbourhood Awards' for Fareham

Conservation Volunteers, residents of Burnham Wood, Fareham and Crofton Cricket Club and Sarisbury Cricket Club which all rated outstanding.

news
IN BRIEF

Strongmen

ATHLETES showed off feats of strength relative

Appendix 1

Tuesday, September 15, 2015 portsmouth.co.uk



VERDANT Heather Scott, a volunteer with the gardening club at Northern Junior Community School in Portchester with, from left, Ruby Howell, 10, Kate Barnwell, eight, Aaron Woods, 10, and Harriet Parkes, 10
Picture: Sarah Standing (151573-4419)

It's a veritable gold rush for town's gardens

by **KIMBERLEY BARBER**

Fareham reporter
kimberley.barber@thenews.co.uk

GLORIOUS gardens, stunning school grounds and wonderful woodlands have all helped Fareham secure gold for the 12th year running in a horticultural competition.

The town has once again been awarded the accolade at the South and South East in Bloom awards, giving Fareham its 12th consecutive winning entry in the Small City category. It was the only winner from *The News* area.

Executive member for leisure and community councillor Tiffany Harper hailed the achievement and praised the hard work of the volunteers and council workers who put their efforts into making Fareham beautiful.

She said: 'It is an amazing achievement to have done so well.

'This success is the result of a consistent commitment to parks and environmental services and it's thanks to the hard work of

Fareham comes out top for the 12th year running in prestigious competition

council officers. I know residents and visitors are always impressed with the parks and gardens around Fareham.'

The awards were at the Amex Stadium in Brighton.

As well as Fareham's overall success in the Small City category, Fareham's parks and gardens were also recognised with gold awards going to: Holly Hill Woodland Park, Sensory Garden of Reflection; Westbury Manor Garden; Warsash Common and the Civic Gardens.

Four 'outstanding' Britain in Bloom It's Your Neighbourhood Awards were presented to: Fareham Conservation Volunteers; The Residents of Burnham Wood; Fareham and Crofton Cricket Club and Sarisbury Cricket Club.

The privately-run Portchester Memorial Gardens also won a gold award and it was declared

cial Landscape category.

Northern Junior Community School in Portchester received a gold award and was named the overall Hampshire winner in the Schools category.

The Fareham Conservation Volunteers received a Britain in Bloom commendation and Fareham was the highest marked entry in Hampshire.

Peter Holman, chairman of South and South East in Bloom, said: 'It was good to see Fareham completing its 12th year and achieving gold. Fareham continues to be an outstanding entry and a model for others to follow.'

A further In Bloom award ceremony will be held to celebrate success at a local level on Friday, when the Fareham In Bloom awards will be handed out at the Ferneham Hall, marking the 20th year of the town's involvement

Appendix 1
Appendix 1
Appendix 1

FINAL NEWS

Gardeners dig in to win in bloom awards

Hundreds join in awards night to mark another year of success

by TOM COTTERILL
The News
tom.cotterill@press.co.uk

GARDENERS in Fareham respected the rewards of their hard work as the community's top growers were praised last night.

Hundreds of entries were received during this year's Fareham in Bloom competition, which is celebrating its 20th anniversary.

For the past year, residents have been tending to gardens, woodland and schoolyards in a bid to brighten up the area.

Titchfield councillor Connie Hockley has been part of the process for more than a decade and said this year's crop of entries were some of the best yet.



WINNER Some of the garden area at Northern Junior Community School (051573-4455)

"The competition has grown like an acorn into a huge event that people are excited about," she said.

The awards were handed out at Ferneham Hall in Osborn Road.

About 300 people attended, and all were treated to a buffet as well as live music from the Voxpop Choir.

One of the winners was the Porchester Memorial Gardens, which clinched the business parks and commercial landscapes category.

Julie Hind, director of the gardens, said: "We are so proud that our site has received these sought-after accolades."

"It's testament to the hard work and dedication of our small team of gardeners to create a beautiful, well-maintained setting in which local families can lay their loved ones' ashes to rest."

Other winners included the Northern Junior School, which won the schools gardening project category.

Heather Scott, grounds co-ordinator at the school said the primary had already clinched a gold in the South and South East England in Bloom School Grounds competition, as well as being crowned the county's overall champion.

However, she said the latest accolade 'meant so much to the children' as they were 'very proud' of their school.

A total of 34 prizes were presented last night.

Speaking of the competition, Cllr Hockley said: "It gives the residents pride in where they live and I think it lifts their spirits."

GO ONLINE FOR MORE
For a full list of results visit our website at portsmouth.co.uk

THE NEWS – PORTSMOUTH – 30TH March 2016

Volunteers tackling neglected natural site

RESTORATION Volunteers are helping to clear the old Coldeast Hospital site
VIC STYLES
06:25 Wednesday 30 March 2016

HAVE YOUR SAY

The guest speaker at the last meeting of the Warsash Residents Association was Helen Sosnowski, who is a countryside ranger from Fareham Borough Council.



She, and a newly established group of volunteers, are tackling the neglected natural areas of the old Coldeast Hospital site in Sarisbury Green, Fareham. The site was originally an estate which had a house, garden, park, grazing land and woodland, until it became a hospital in 1928. In 2012, planning permission was granted for new homes, restoration of the mansion house as a hotel, sheltered accommodation and community facilities, including sports pitches and a leisure centre, which is due to open soon.

Helen, in her presentation, said that there was a variety of habitats on the site of 48 hectares, including an apple orchard, all of which have been ignored over the years apart from locals who kept a number of paths open to walk their dogs. The work the council and the volunteers are performing includes clearing scrub from the meadows and orchard, improving the condition of a pond and maintaining footpaths. The group of 12 volunteers, established in 2014, started with the orchard. Clearing bramble and ivy from wildly grown trees, they found 85 trees still standing

(originally there were 170). There are four varieties, some of which are not seen in supermarkets, including a cooking apple called Howgate Wonder and even Golden Delicious, much sweeter and crisper than that found in the shops. They intend to replace fallen trees with other apple varieties and possibly plums and pears. They also plan to install picnic tables, create an edible hedge made up of crab apples, blackthorn and hawthorn, and even beehives.

Other work that has been carried out includes clearing a meadow of brambles and saplings and maintaining a natural pond, which had severely overgrown. The woodlands also need to be cleared of invasive laurel and rhododendron. To visit the site, there is an entrance into the woodlands that leads to the pond and orchard from the Allotment Road Cricket Club where you can also park. If you would like to volunteer, please contact the Countryside Service on 01329 824784 or apply online through the Fareham Borough Council website.

Appendix 1

Community

COMMUNITY VIEWS

Guest speakers show why they're blooming marvellous

Warsash Residents Association's Vic Styles talks about Fareham in Bloom veterans Geoff and Bridget Thickett

THE guest speaker at the last Warsash Residents' Association meeting was Geoff and Bridget Thickett.

They gave an illustrated presentation about this year's Fareham in Bloom competition – how the challenge is organised and the presentation evening in September at the Fernham Hall, Fareham.

Geoff and Bridget are the co-ordinating team for Fareham in Bloom and have been doing it for 10 years.

They started by entering their garden in the local gardening competition having seen an entry form in a local nursery.

After a couple of years of entering they were asked to join the organising team and to open their garden as a one-off for charity.

After that it became an annual event, which is now called the Open Gardens charity scheme.

Geoff and Bridget, along



GREAT GARDEN From left, judge Susan Smith, judge Derrick Donnison-Morgan with Bridget and Geoff Thickett who took part in Fareham in Bloom

with five volunteers and the Fareham Borough Council's Horticultural Development Officer, work year-round to help organise and attend the local gardening challenge, and the Borough's entry into the regional Britain in Bloom competition (South and South East in Bloom).

Geoff and Bridget listed this year's categories for Fareham Borough Council's

Community Garden Challenge. There are six categories, which include front and back gardens, including, courtyard, containers, hanging and wall baskets, and plots suited to wildlife. There are categories for allotments, shop fronts, business premises, including public houses, schools and community gardens.

The next meeting of the Warsash Residents' Asso-

ciation will be held in the Bartholomew Room at the Victory Hall on Wednesday, June 17 at 7.15pm.

The guest speaker will be Stuart Parker-Tyreman who is head teacher of the Lord Wilson School in Sarisbury Green. There will also be local councillors and a police incident report and will inform us of any issues that may arise in the area.

A Special Place To Lay Loved Ones To Rest



It has been an award-winning month for the family-run Portchester Memorial Gardens, picking up four accolades for horticultural excellence at the site in Upper Cornaway Lane.

First were two awards from the prestigious South & South East in Bloom competition – the largest horticultural campaign in the region involving hundreds of communities each year. The Gardens, which are just next door to the Crematorium in Portchester, won a Gold Award

for the standard of their grounds, as well as being judged the Best Business Landscape in the entire region for 2015.

Not long after, it was the turn of the local branch of the competition, Fareham in Bloom, to also recognise the Gardens for quality, giving them a Gold Award and choosing them as the winners of their Business Parks and Commercial Landscapes category. The judges commented that 'once again these outstanding gardens are beyond compare', providing 'a perfect setting for quiet contemplation'.

Portchester Memorial Gardens opened in 2002 and offer a peaceful location for cremated remains to be buried and marked with a memorial. Families lease plots in their favourite area of the six acre garden - such as the Garden of the Sea with its sculptural anchors and wooden jetty - and choose from a wide range of personalised memorial stones.

The sympathetic team at the family-run Portchester Memorial Gardens are experienced in helping families to create fitting, lasting tributes, so to discuss your requirements, call **01329 828250**.

Appendix 1

Winners of colouring competition announced



THRILLED Back, from left: Pete and Heather Othen, Bridget Thickett, Heather Scott, Geoff Thickett and Jean Kingdom. Front, from left: Alfie Clifton, Freya Lumb and Jessica Bailey

THREE young artists have been rewarded for their talents by winning the annual children's colouring competition at the yearly Fareham in Bloom event.

Freya Lumb, 10, from Redlands Junior School, Alfie Clifton, eight, from Wallisdean Junior School and Jessica Bailey, six, from Woodcot Primary School were praised for their colourful entries.

More than 400 pictures were put in front of the judges, which consisted of members of the In Bloom committee and sponsors of the event at Fareham Shopping Centre.

The judges were amazed at the number of pictures they had received.

They selected winners based on original use of colours, tidiness and artistic flair.

Each youngster had to colour in the Life At The Beach scene, which was

created by Portchester-based artist Jonathon Scott.

Shopping centre manager, Mike Taylor said: 'Year-on-year the entries get better and better.'

'The children clearly put a huge amount of hard work and time into their images.'

'This year's efforts were exceptional and we would like to congratulate our winners and thank all the other children who took part.'

Freya, Alfie and Jessica all received a goodie bag full of games and treats, along with a £25 voucher to spend at Next.

They will now be invited to the Fareham Borough Council civic awards on September 17.

The trio will be presented with a Fareham in Bloom certificate at the event by Mayor of Fareham, Councillor Mike Ford.

All three winners said they were thrilled to be selected and excited to be meeting the mayor.

Couple speak on keeping Fareham blooming

A GREEN-FINGERED couple who have been keeping their community blooming for the last decade were the speakers at last month's meeting of the Warsash Residents Association.

Geoff and Bridget Thickett gave an illustrated presentation about this year's Fareham in Bloom competition.

The couple have been the co-ordinating team for Fareham in Bloom for ten years. They started by entering their garden in the competition. After a

couple of years of entering they were asked to join the organising team.

Their garden opening has since become an annual event.

The Thicketts, along with five volunteers and the Fareham Borough Council's Horticultural Development Officer, work year round to help organise and attend events, the local gardening challenge, and the borough's entry into the regional Britain in Bloom competition (South and South East in Bloom).

Geoff and Bridget listed this year's categories for Fareham Borough Council's Community Garden Challenge. Entry forms can be found at fareham.gov.uk.

Stuart Parker-Tyreman, head teacher of Lord Wilson School at Sarisbury Green, will be guest speaker at the next meeting of the association. There will also be councillors and a police incident report at the meeting in the Bartholomew Room at the Victory Hall on Wednesday, June 17 at 7.15pm.

ECHO 6th June 2015

Community News

Fareham in Bloom open day

The mayor and lady mayoress visited the garden at 4 Nightingale Mews which was open for the Fareham in Bloom charity event. Nearly 120 people braved the wet weather and enjoyed the complex planting and displays. They were also buying teas and cake despite the rain. A big thank you must go to all the ladies who baked the cakes, served tea and ensured everyone had an enjoyable visit.

There were seven gardens opened in the borough for Fareham in Bloom and despite a day of heavy rain £1,500 was raised for the mayor's charities.

In total we raised nearly £2,000 for charity with 500 visitors which included those who visited on the two weekends for the National Garden Scheme charities.



Celebrating gardening excellence



MARVELLOUS
Frank and Jennie Prosser in their garden, which they have worked on for 15 years
Picture: Keith Woodland (151372-13)

GARDENERS in Fareham helped to raise more than £1,000 for charity at the annual open garden day.

The Fareham in Bloom Gardens Open scheme is in its 11th year and proved as popular as ever when it was held last month.

The scheme celebrates excellence in gardening and promotes the Fareham in

Bloom community gardening competition by showing winning gardens. It enables gardeners to visit one another's gardens to see what is achievable.

Seven were on display to the public, including that of Frank and Jennie Prosser.

Despite the torrential weather on the day, the event attracted more than 150 people

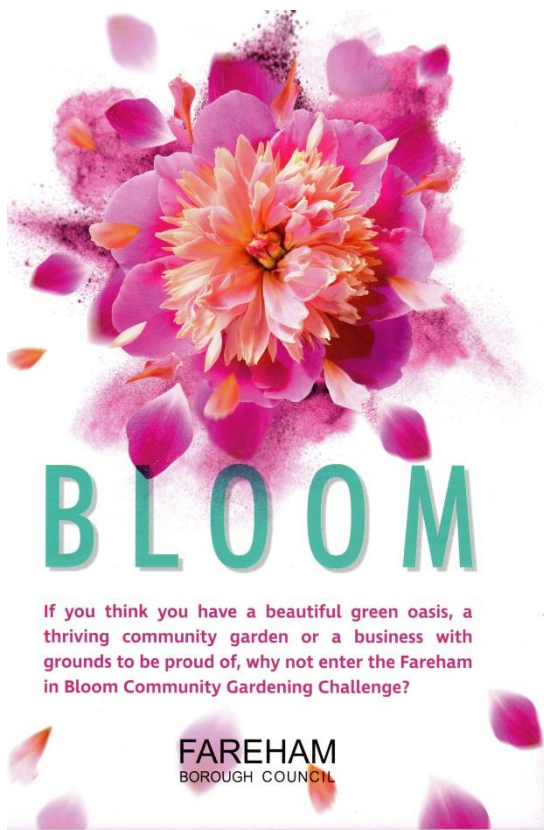
and raised more than £1,400.

Over the years it has raised nearly £22,000, with money going to the mayor of Fareham's charities and, this year, to the horticultural charity Studley Trust.

Cheques will be presented to the charities at the gala presentation evening on September 17.

Leaflets

Challenge Entry Form



Community Gardening Challenge 2016

Please print in **CAPITALS**

First Name _____
 Last Name _____
 Organisation _____
 Contact tel no. _____
 Email _____
 Address _____
 Postcode _____
 Allotment site _____
 and Plot number (if applicable) _____

Entries must be within the Borough of Fareham and be visible from the front or side of the property. Entrants in section F may not enter categories 2 & 3.

Section A

- 1a Small floral front garden under 70m²
- 1b Large floral front garden over 70m²
- 1c Courtyard or forecourt style garden
- 1d Plantsman's front garden - mainly perennial

Section B

- 2 Container - a single planter, hanging or wall basket
- 3 Floral display, incl. balconies - using any baskets / containers
- 4 Garden feature - topical theme or innovative or amusing design

Section C

- 5a Small floral back garden under 100m²
- 5b Large floral back garden over 100m²
- 5c Small plantsman's back garden under 100m² - mainly perennials
- 5d Large plantsman's back garden over 100m² - mainly perennials

Section D

- 6 Wildlife garden - specifically designed for the benefit of wildlife

Section E

- 7a Allotment garden up to five rods
- 7b Allotment garden over five rods
- 7c Best kept allotment site

Section F

- 8a Council provided sheltered housing or day care facilities
- 8b Privately provided sheltered housing or day care facilities
- 9 Shop fronts, business premises and public houses
- 10 Business parks and commercial landscapes
- 11 Community gardens - including streets, community centres and volunteer groups
- 12 Schools gardening projects - including childcare facilities

Please return by 12 June to:
Fareham Borough Council, Parks & Open Spaces, Civic Offices, Civic Way, Fareham, PO16 7AZ

Photos may be taken at community gardening events and used by the Council. Please tick to indicate your acceptance'

The personal information you provide will be treated with the strictest confidence. You may be contacted for the purpose of these activities and promotion of related events in the future. If you do not wish to receive this information please tick here

For further information contact the Parks Department on 01329 236100 or e-mail: parks@fareham.gov.uk

Gardens Open Leaflet





<p>8 Birdwood Grove, Portchester, PO16 8AF A plant collector's dream with an amazing array of plants from far reaching corners of the world offering an adventure in this subtropical themed oasis. Dramatic displays of sumptuous foliage and floral amazement with the creative use of artistic structures intended to emulate a tropical jungle.</p>	<p>unique and enchanting vintage Wendy House.</p> <p>213 Highlands Road, Fareham, PO15 5BQ A small but very cleverly designed garden that includes a patio, dual level decking, a water feature and covered pergola. The borders are packed with an array of choice palms, ferns, shrubs and small trees with seasonal and perennial delights showcasing what can be done with such a small space.</p>	<p>20 Titchfield Park Road, Titchfield, PO15 5RW This delightful organic garden is all about nature and wildlife with every angle of its design and growing intended to support the environment around us whilst still being ornamental. There is a pond, lawns, orchard fruit and vegetable areas providing year round interest.</p>
<p>51 Longmynd Drive, Fareham, PO14 1SH Large and artistic with many unusual and quirky features incorporating a diverse collection of plants and succulents arranged on a number of levels and packed with water features, lawns, containers and artwork. There are numerous seating areas to take in the delights.</p>	<p>112 Kiln Road, Fareham, PO16 7UN Arranged over a number of terraces and linked by steps and lawns this sprawling garden is a feast of colourful beds, borders and rockeries, with interest at every level. There is a Japanese themed area, gravel garden and summer house all nestled in a green space that is both golfer and child friendly with its very own mini golf experience.</p>	<p>2 Sampan Close, Warsash, SO31 9BU Originally forming part of the Swanwick strawberry fields the garden has evolved to provide year round interest with ornamental shrubs, perennials and old fashioned roses with a circular lawn edged with a brick rill along with space for home grown produce.</p>
<p>10 Peak Drive, Fareham, PO14 1RL Sweeping herbaceous borders, heady fragrance and sense of peace set the scene of this period style garden with the importance of organic growing and supporting nature everywhere to be seen. There are also fruit and vegetable gardens along with a woodland walk leading to a</p>	<p>35 Warsash Road, Warsash, SO31 9HW This long established garden was started over 50 years ago and has matured with an array of mature trees and shrubs such as the Crinodendron and Senna which are under planted with large herbaceous borders, ferns and seasonal floral displays. There is also a home grown produce area.</p>	

Refreshments and plants on sale at selected gardens

For more info please call Jean Kingdom on 01329 314808

Clean for the Queen



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

March 14 2016

Dear Mrs Swanbrow.

The Queen wishes me to thank you for the letter, lovely photographs and kind message which you sent on behalf of yourself and members of Lockswood Women's Institute.

Her Majesty has been deeply moved by the thought and effort which is being given to mark her forthcoming ninetieth birthday, and The Queen was pleased to hear how much you enjoyed the morning you participated in the 'Clean for The Queen' event.

Her Majesty greatly appreciated your thoughtfulness in writing as you did, and I am to thank you very much once again for your letter.

Yours sincerely
Sophie Anderson

Lady-in-Waiting

Mrs D Swanbrow

Fareham Today – Borough’s Quarterly Magazine



Bringing People & Parks Together

Fareham just keeps on Blooming
What a wonderful time we had this year at the South and South East in Bloom Awards. Fareham achieved its 12th consecutive winning entry in the 'Small City' category, receiving a Gold Award.

The Borough was recognised for its beautiful parks and community open spaces at the annual awards ceremony held in September. Five parks and gardens came out on top with Gold awards for Holly Hill Woodland Park, Sensory Garden of Reflection, Westbury Manor Garden, Warsash Common and the Civic Gardens. The Borough also received the Hampshire County award as the entry with the highest marks.

Northern Junior Community School received a Gold level award and were overall Hampshire Winners in the Schools category. Portchester Memorial Gardens also achieved a Gold award in the Business Landscape category.



It's your neighbourhood
There were four entries into the national 'It's Your Neighbourhood' initiative. Fareham Conservation Volunteers, the Residents of Burnham Wood, Fareham Crofton Cricket Club and Sarisbury Athletic Cricket Club all once again received the highest award level of Outstanding. Fareham and Crofton Cricket Club received the Thiving level and The Fareham Conservation Volunteers received a Certificate of Distinction.

Green fingered residents
Local gardeners were also recognised at the annual Fareham in Bloom presentation evening held in September which was sponsored by Fareham Shopping Centre, Portchester Memorial Gardens and St Margaret's Nurseries. Residents, communities and businesses picked up awards for their wonderful gardens with just over 200 entries this year, many receiving the highest level of Gold.

Art competition for youngsters
Hundreds of young artists took part in this year's 'In Bloom' art competition, sponsored by Fareham Shopping Centre. The theme was 'Life on the beach' and the three winners were chosen from 380 entries. The designs will set the scene for a new wild flower meadow in 2016.

For further information on In Bloom, Community Horticulture and Parks Events please contact: **Matt Wakefield, Horticultural Development Officer, 01329 824 543**

Bringing People and Parks Together



21 years and still blooming
As we get ready for the summer we also mark the 21st year of the hugely successful Fareham in Bloom initiative – an idea that has grown and blossomed into something quite special for the Borough.

Last year the Borough received eight Gold level awards from the regional South and Southeast England in Bloom, as well as the highest marked entry in Hampshire.

2016 will no doubt be another exciting year with the theme for the seasonal planting focusing on the seaside and summer colours in yellow, blue, cream and green shades.



The Community Gardening Challenge
Community participation is key to the success of Fareham in Bloom and the Community Gardening Challenge is one of the key events of the summer season.

Each year we get to see some amazing entries from individual homes, businesses and schools with many of our entrants having taken part since we first began.

Judging is carried out over a two week period in early July with each entry judged on individual merit. It is not intended to be competitive but recognises individual effort and contribution to the community with awards ranging from Bronze to Silver to Silver Gilt and Gold. All participants will receive discounts and promotions at St Margaret's Nursery in Titchfield and will be invited to a celebratory gala evening in September.

If you think you have a beautiful green business with grounds to be proud of, then we would be delighted to receive your entry. Simply complete the application form on the opposite page and return to: **Fareham Borough Council, Parks & Open Spaces, Fareham PO16 7AZ** no later than 12 June.

Let's get gardening
To help new gardeners and give renewed inspiration to our more skilled participants there will be a number of free events and workshops this year organised by the In Bloom volunteers. You can see these events on page 6.

Gardens Open Day
This year's Gardens Open event will take place on Sunday 24 July and will showcase up to nine award winning gardens. Visit them any time between 11am-5pm. All funds raised will go to local charities. Look out for further information at www.fareham.gov.uk/inbloom



CLEAN FOR THE QUEEN

Clean for the Queen is a campaign run by Country Life Magazine in partnership with Keep Britain Tidy which aims to hold a national clean up in time for The Queen's 90th Birthday this year.

Around 225 million pieces of litter are dropped on the streets of the UK every day with 30 million tons of rubbish collected from England's streets each year.

Here in Fareham alone we collect over 1800 tonnes of litter from our bins and streets each year across the Borough.

It is hoped that an army of volunteers across the country will rally together to help tidy up their local areas with a special clean-up on Saturday 5 March - Sunday 6 March.

For more information about the Clean for the Queen initiative please visit: www.cleanforthequeen.co.uk

For more about clean-ups in Fareham please visit www.fareham.gov.uk/parks

Parks Events 2016
Our annual parks and countryside events programme, organised in partnership with the Fareham in Bloom volunteers, is now available.

A copy of the programme can be found at Fareham Shopping Centre, community centres, libraries, garden centres and the Civic Offices. It can also be viewed online at www.fareham.gov.uk/parks

For more information about Fareham in Bloom, horticultural advice and parks events please contact **Matt Wakefield, Horticultural Development Officer** Tel: 01329 824 543 E-mail: parks@fareham.gov.uk



Community Gardening Challenge 2016

Please print in CAPITALS

Name/Organisation _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Contact tel no. _____

Email _____

Allotment site (if applicable) _____

Plot number _____

Entries must be within the Borough of Fareham and visible from the front or side (except sections 3, 4, 5 & 6). You may enter a maximum of four categories in sections 1-4, or one category from sections 5 & 6.

Section 1

1a Small floral front garden under 70m²

1b Large floral front garden over 70m²

1c Courtyard or forecourt style garden

1d Plantsman's front garden – mainly perennial

Section 2

2 Container – a single planter, hanging or wall basket

3 Floral display, incl. balconies – using any baskets / containers

4 Garden feature – topical theme or innovative or amusing design

Section 3

5a Small floral back garden under 100m²

5b Small plantsman's back garden under 100m² – mainly perennials

5d Large plantsman's back garden over 100m² – mainly perennials

Section 4

6 Wildlife garden – specifically designed for the benefit of wildlife

Section 5 *SPONSORED BY*

7a Allotment garden up to five rods

7b Allotment garden over five rods

7c Best kept allotment site

Section 6

8a Council provided sheltered housing or day care facilities

8b Privately provided sheltered housing or day care facilities

9 Shop fronts, business premises and public houses

10 Business parks and commercial landscapes

11 Community gardens – including streets, community centres and volunteer groups

12 Schools gardening projects – including childcare facilities

Return to: Fareham Borough Council, Parks and Open Spaces, Civic Offices, Civic Way, Fareham PO16 7AZ by 12 June 2016

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Bringing people and parks together

We love our parks and green spaces and each year plant new, diverse and interesting species, to add to the horticultural collections which we are proud to have established.

Beside the seaside
The theme for the summer is 'Some like it Hot' with bright, rich colours such as pink, purple, orange, red and yellow.

The new theme for the planting starting this autumn will be 'Beside the Seaside', taking the influence of our coastal location with a colour palette of blues, greens, yellow and silver.

Free bulbs
Bulbs are one of the easiest plants to grow and we have been planting them with the community now for 24 years.

St Margaret's Lane, Titchfield, PO16, 4BL, between 9am – 5pm from Monday 7 September – Sunday 13 September.

Simply turn up with proof of address and you will be given the bulbs to plant in the community for everyone to enjoy.

These will be given on a first come, first served basis and sacks are limited to two per group.

Bringing the 'Bloom' to North Fareham
The Fareham in Bloom volunteer team work across the Borough to bring gardening and horticulture to the community. Working with the Council, and with sponsorship from Fareham Shopping Centre, green areas at Nash Way in Fareham are beginning to bloom.

Last October, hundreds of bulbs were planted and these burst into bloom this spring to give a welcoming splash of colour.

A meadow planting workshop was held in April where residents were able to

Transforming Quay Street Roundabout
Quay Street roundabout has undergone an extensive makeover with a stunning new landscaping scheme providing a vibrant and inviting gateway to the Borough.

The project has been funded through Hampshire Highways from money received as part of the Tesco development to bring it up to the high standard for which Fareham's award winning planting schemes are renowned.

For further information on 'In Bloom', community horticulture and events please contact: **Matt Wakefield, Horticultural Development Officer** Tel: 01329 824543 email: parks@fareham.gov.uk

Outgoing Mayor awarding Citizen of Honour, Jean Kingdom.

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Jean won a Citizen of Honour Award for her involvement with Fareham in Bloom. She has played a key role in the scheme for over 18 years, both by volunteering and by entering her own garden into the competition, She has also successfully managed and developed the annual Gardens Open Day for more than 10 years, which has raised a substantial amount of money for charity. Well done for your hard work and commitment to Fareham in Bloom, Jean!

