



FAREHAM IN BLOOM PORTFOLIO 2019

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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 116,000 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 easily 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 most importantly profile the work that we do.

2019 celebrates 24 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.

This year's theme is Carnival of Flowers and is centred around 'Carnival' with a hot, vibrant and rich style which is reflected in our summer planting, events and publicity material. With the kind sponsorship of Fareham Shopping Centre we have produced 2,000 annual flower seed cards that have been given away to the community for people to enjoy sowing in their own garden.

Meadow style planting has become a national talking point in recent years and in Fareham we embraced this in a big way with new and extended locations sown. They are a challenge in their own right and we have learnt a lot. It is clear that they are much loved within the community and balance the more formal planting and gardens that we have.

Participation numbers are growing as we develop new events that engage with the wider community. This year we have 12 events programmed to encourage people to get outside, learn new skills and enjoy the beauty of our parks and countryside locations.

In the 24 years we have established something really quite special, highly respected and involving literally thousands of people, who participate, support and give willingly. 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



It is a real privilege and a personal pleasure on behalf of the 'team' to welcome you to Fareham.

Fareham in Bloom started 24 years ago with a local resident contacting an Officer of Fareham Borough Council and putting forward the idea of 'In Bloom'. As a little seedling grows, then so has Fareham In Bloom and has developed into what is considered to be one of the largest, and from my perspective, most respected in the South of England. It has changed the image of Fareham, united

communities and definitely put Fareham on the horticultural map.

We consider ourselves to be an 'In Bloom' Borough and as you travel around you will see for yourself the reasons for this view. We are very proud of what has been achieved over the years and continue to develop, innovate and quite often exceed our dreams and expectations.

None of this could have been achieved without the fantastic working relationship that exists between the local Authority and the wonderful team of In Bloom Coordinators Volunteers and support teams. I would like to pay my respects to our dear friend and founding member, Heather Othen, whom sadly passed away recently. She gave so much to the community and development of Fareham in Bloom and will be sorely missed by us all. The co-operation between the Volunteers and the local Authority is a credit to everyone involved. In these financially constrained times I feel we are an example for others to follow.

We are delighted to have retained the Green Flag status at Holly Hill Woodland Park and the Sensory Garden of Reflection. These awards would not 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.

Seven years ago, we embarked on a 'Going Wild' initiative as we wished to bring wild flower meadows back into our Borough. This project has gone from strength to strength with many accolades being forthcoming from local residents. I have to say it is not just the public that have liked this scheme but the wildlife has loved it too!!

This year our new 'Bloom Day' event attracted hundreds of people and again shows just how much Bloom is loved here in Fareham.

I would like to record my grateful thanks to everyone who has been involved throughout this last year, our Officers, In Bloom organisers, volunteer co-ordinators, competition judges and sponsors as, without their passion, commitment and hard work, you would not be here today Judging the Borough and local residents would be the poorer for not living in a wonderful 'In Bloom' Borough.

Have an enjoyable day in Fareham.

Councillor Connie Hockley
Chairman of Leisure & Community Review Panel

At a glance - South and South East in Bloom

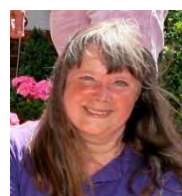
- Large Town/Small City
- Fareham in Bloom Category Winner 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018
- Gold Award Winner - 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018
- Country Park
- Holly Hill Country Park Category Winner 2007, 2009, 2012.
- Gold Award Winner 2009, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018
- Small Park
- Sensory Garden of Reflection Category Winner 2007, 2008, 2009, 2017.
- Gold Award Winner 2008, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018
- Civic Gardens Silver Gilt Winner 2012 Gold Award Winner 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018.
- Westbury Manor Gardens Category Winner 2018
- Silver Gilt Winner 2013, Gold Award Winner 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018
- Conservation Area
- Warsash Common Category Winner 2018
- Gold Award Winner 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018
- Small Conservation Area
- Portchester Common Category Winner 2018
- Gold Award Winner 2018
- Coldeast Conservation Area Gold Award Winner 2017, Silver Gilt Winner 2018
- Large Cemetery
- Portchester Crematorium Category Winner 2014, 2016, 2017
- Gold Award Winner 2018
- Large Village
- Titchfield in Bloom Category Winner 2018
- Silver Gilt Winner 2017
- Gold Award Winner 2018
- Business Landscape
- Portchester Memorial gardens- Category Winner 2015, 2016
- Gold Award Winner 2015, 2016, 2018
- HMS Collingwood Silver Award 2017, Silver Gilt Award Winner 2018
- It's Your Neighbourhood' - 6 Communities achieved awards 2010 & 2013 5 in 2011, 7 in 2012, 4 in 2014 and 2015, 5 in 2016, 2 in 2017 and 2018
- Hampshire County Award (Most points in County) 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018



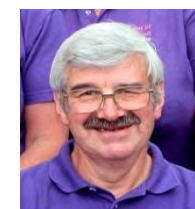
Fareham in Bloom is managed by the Council's Horticultural Development Officer, working with the Grounds Maintenance Team and a group of volunteers, supported across all departments of the Council and the local business community.



Matt Wakefield – Horticultural Development Officer. Matt has been a Horticultural Officer for the Council for some 26 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 thirteen 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.



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 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 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 annually in class and gardening clubs, manages the school grounds and has established gold award winning gardens at Portchester Junior School for the last 17 years. She has great organisational ability which is put to good use throughout the year with a focus on children's participation.. She was awarded the Citizen of Honour in 2011.



Pete Othen – Co-ordinator. Pete has been a long-time supporter of Fareham in Bloom. He has now become an integral part of the team bringing with him many years' experience of supporting his late wife, Heather, with all she did 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 from the Borough.



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 supporting a range of activities and liaises with our supporters. She organises the Gardens Open Scheme (this is now in its fourteenth year), liaising with the participants, arranging the publicity and answering public enquiries. Jean was awarded Citizen of Honour in 2016 for her work with Fareham in Bloom.

HORTICULTURE

Horticultural Practice



Council gardeners and their work

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.

Highway verges, hedges and Motorway links are maintained on behalf of Hampshire County Council. The verge cutting is supplemented by the Borough Council and cut on a needs basis approximately twelve times a year in line with good horticultural practice. Hedges normally receive two cuts.

Weed control is organised by Hampshire County Council and this service has from 2017 been cut to only one spray each year. We have no doubt this will impact on the visual amenity but are doing our best to help where possible to mitigate the impact to high profile areas.

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 seven or so 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 wildflower 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.

Holly Hill car park has had an extensive new conifer and heather bed which has started to establish very well and is our first of this type in the Borough.

A collection of unusual palms, species from China and Japan was added to the north facing borders of the Sensory Garden in the summer of 2016 and further completed in spring 2017. This was further developed in the autumn of 2018 and spring 2019 with the total replanting of the southern borders to include plants from South America and South Africa.



Diversity in planting
Conifer and heather bed
Holly Hill

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. This also ties in to the RHS Water Wise focus.



Longfield Ave Roundabout

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 with a mix of naturalistic, informal and ornamental schemes.

Modern technical approaches such as the use of poured rubber surfaces around the base of trees and recreational allow for the use of recycled materials as well as reduced demand on resources. These have been implemented at Park Gate, Holly Hill Leisure Centre and West Street

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.

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 32 full time gardeners plus seasonal workers are employed*
- *In addition, there are 15 cleansing staff employed all year round for the public spaces and garden areas*
- *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 wildflower 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.*
- *Nearly 2.5 hectares of urban meadows across 11 locations*

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. .



Summer Bedding

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 **“Carnival of Flowers” with a hot, vibrant and rich style**. The theme will be showcased through the summer planting schemes with a diverse range of unusual foliage and floral delights with some outrageously different combinations reminiscent of a carnival atmosphere.

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 exotic Jetfire orange corona 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 5 million now planted over the past 28 years.

This coming autumn we shall be giving away 100 sacks of another unusual bulb mix and they will be available for collection from our partner nursery from the second week of September.

Spring floral displays



Daffodils on Roundabout



Civic Gardens

At a glance - Spring Floral Displays

- *Over 5 million daffodil bulbs planted in the last 28 years*
- *7,000 bulbs included in spring bedding displays each year*
- *8,000 bulbs distributed to the public to plant each autumn*
- *30,000 bedding plants used in the autumn to provide colourful displays through the winter and into Spring*

Summer floral displays

Floral Bedding



Summer 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 Boroughs highways during summer. The nature of the eye level view point makes for a stunning effect, much admired by drivers. We also have 20 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 26 towers around the town.

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. There are 20 street planters in the area of the car park at Quay Street.

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 over 40 Pedestrian Planters used throughout the Borough
- 120 Borough Hanging Baskets.
- 26 pyramid planters placed in the town centre through the summer

Trees in Fareham

The Council has a specialist technical 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 awareness of the value and importance of trees

At a glance – Trees in Fareham

- *A five-year tree strategy adopted 2012.*
- *Draft 2018 Tree Strategy prepared.*
- *Programme of proactive tree safety inspections.*
- *Trees recorded digitally on a tree management database.*
- *There are 563 Tree Preservation Orders in the Borough.*
- *Free pre-application service and tree advice service.*
- *142 trees planted in 2018.*

Residential and Community Gardening

Our Community Gardening Challenge



Courtyard garden

Known as the Community Gardening Competition until 2015 and then re-launched as the Community Gardening Challenge, this was what, in essence, started our campaign journey 24 years ago and now forms one of the core areas of 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, communities and business areas’



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.

The 2016 relaunch has resulted in a rebranding and establishment of a new Fareham in Bloom logo adaptable to various use and colour formats as shown aside. It has been well received by the public

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 from our partner nursery St Margaret’s.



Small floral back garden



Large plantsman’s back garden

The community gardening challenge has wider reaching benefits:

- 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 base 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.



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-fourth year.*
- *The Allotment competition has been running for over fifty years*
- *There are around 260 entries in the competition each year.*
- *Entrants get discounts at a local nursery, free plants and promotions*
- *Over 300 people are 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 1052 plots are currently taken and there are small waiting lists on some sites. The council is looking at the provision of further sites when new development opportunities arise, but the current provision is meeting the local demand.



Allotment Site

For the first time we have the site at Red Barn entering the RHS “It’s your Neighbourhood” category

At a glance – Allotments and Leisure Gardens

- *One thousand and fifty-two plots on ten sites.*
- *Three associations work in partnership with the Council.*
- *All sites fully occupied and of a very high standard.*

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 valuable contributors to the landscape and aesthetics of the built environment.



Cams Hall Business Park

Shop fronts in Fareham Town Centre display floral baskets 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.



Public house in town centre



Public House on the outskirts of town

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.



Fareham Sailing Club



Lockwood Bowling Club

Green Spaces

Fareham Borough Council manages around 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



Play area at Leisure Centre

Country Parks and Conservation Areas

- Warsash Common
- Portchester Common
- Coldeast
- Holly Hill Woodland Park
- Daedalus
- Abbey Meadows



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).

The foreshore and beaches are sometimes used for events and environmental studies as part of the Fareham in Bloom activities.

At a glance – Green Spaces

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

ENVIRONMENT

Conservation and Biodiversity

Fareham's Countryside Service was established 18 years ago and plays a vital role in the operational management of some of the Borough's 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, others cover various sites and help with our programme of encouraging nature conservation in school grounds. Combined we have around 75 volunteers who join us on a weekly, fortnightly or monthly basis.

Key habitats in Fareham

Over 150 hectares of countryside open space can be found in Fareham, most of which has been given over to the Countryside Service to manage. The range of habitats is considerable and can be summarised by type:

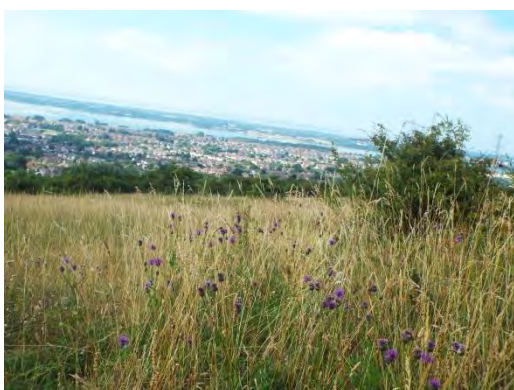
Woodlands:

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 predominantly 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.

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. Recent acquisitions are the Solent Airport at Daedalus and the Abbey meadows and will in time offer wildflower meadow and amenity areas for recreation across an additional 23 Hectares.

Titchfield's new Countryside Park



Titchfield's new park will be called Abbey Meadows, after a public vote to choose its name.

With 15 hectares of land the new open space will include a natural style play area, footpaths, wildflower meadows and educational wildlife areas. It will be managed by the Councils Countryside Ranger Service adding to the extensive portfolio of conservation sites across the Borough

The park's name was chosen following a consultation when residents were asked to choose between Meon Meadows, Tannery Meadows, and Abbey Meadows. More than 2,300 people took part with Abbey Meadows receiving nearly 80% of the votes.

This new countryside asset for Fareham is situated close to Titchfield Abbey and a 15thC tithe Barn. This new site will be developed for both recreation and wildlife with an outdoor 'natural play area, education fields, wildflower meadows and a working bee apiary. It is planned for general opening in the summer of 2019

Traditional hedge laying and the establishment of new hedgerows are being carried out at various sites in the borough



Hedge laying



Slow worm

Biological Surveys

A variety of surveys have been undertaken throughout the Borough this and last year. Entomological surveys at Warsash Common and Coldeast have been supplemented with small mammal, botanical and reptile audits.

At Warsash a Reptile Hibernacula has now been built to help invertebrates, slowworms, grass snakes and adders as well as common lizards. This has been most successful with evidence of all creatures overwintering.



Warsash Reptile Hibernacula

Habitat Enhancements



Coldeast

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 3 years running. The trees are responding excellently.



Coldeast Pond

Secondly, the large pond has established wonderfully after its restoration 2 years ago. The banks have consolidated and emergent vegetation is well established with frequent kingfisher visits during the summer months.

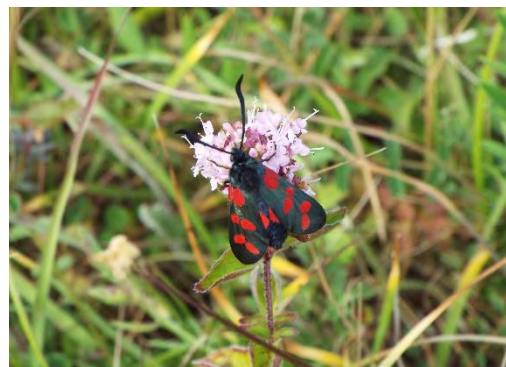
Management



Coldeast Volunteers working in the orchard

Much of the maintenance of the area is carried out by a team of volunteers under the guidance of a Fareham Council Countryside Ranger.

Biological data gathering is a key component to many of our site plans. We undertake botanical, invertebrate and habitat surveys which are vital in helping us fine-tune the management of habitats at our countryside sites.



Six Spot Burnett Moth

At a glance – Conservation and Biodiversity

- *Six Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI'S) in the Borough.*
- *Six Conservation Groups with over 75 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 currently recycling 32% 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.

Over 96% of Fareham's waste is reused, recycled or sent for energy recovery. The remaining 3% made up of the bottom ash 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, 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 £26.00 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.

War on plastic

Fareham Borough Council has launched a campaign to reduce use of Single Use Plastic (SUP) in the Borough.

Council SUP Policy

The obvious starting point for the campaign was the Council's own use of plastic in its supply and purchasing chain and as such a new policy on SUP has been created.



The policy includes a commitment by the Council to:

Stop using plastic straws and stirrers in Council buildings by the end of 2018;

Stop using SUP cups in the drink's machines in the Civic Offices, Broadcut Depot and Ferneham Hall by 2020;

Stop the sale of drinks from SUP bottles in the Civic Offices and Broadcut Depot by 2020;

Phase out the sale of drinks from SUP bottles at Fareham and Holly Hill Leisure Centres, Westbury Manor Museum and Ferneham Hall by 2020.

SUP Engagement Officer

A member of the Council's Streetscene team spent six months (October-March 2019) working with over 50 schools, businesses and other groups, providing tips on how they can reduce their own use of plastic. Overall, engaging with over 1,500 people! Lots of promotional give-aways, including cotton bags and useful household items were used to raise an awareness of what has become an international topic of debate.



Residents will find plastic updates and giveaways on our [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) page.

The Council's horticultural team are also playing their part by ensuring plant material supplied is done so in pots that can be recycled, and also purchasing loose compost, bark and manure as opposed to those prepacked in plastic bags

Local Heritage



Portchester Castle

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 biodiversity 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 were 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 one of the best known examples of Pulhamite stonework in the country and its heritage value is significant.

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

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 Gardens

Westbury Manor Museum is now being managed by the Hampshire Cultural Trust and 2017 saw an exciting transformation of the venue as a vibrant cultural and arts centre. There are now three permanent galleries each charting part of the history of the area, a refurbished café that will spill out into the gardens in good weather and a frequently changing programme of events. The frontage onto the main street was opened up and new planting established.

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 autumn of 2018, the garden was planted with 6000 spring flower bulbs to complement the sweeping herbaceous borders. The borders have, over the winter, had many summer flowering bulbs added to give a wider season of interest and the summer's seasonal beds reflect our current theme each year

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 1998 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 of rare and unusual palms and Asian and South American species has been added to the northern borders. Over winter 2018 the gardens have had a total replanting of the southern borders to include plants from South Africa;

Australia and the Mediterranean. The seating has been replaced and the ornate ironwork repainted.

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 £100 fine – known as a fixed penalty notice (FPN) – to people who drop litter, including cigarette ends and chewing gum.

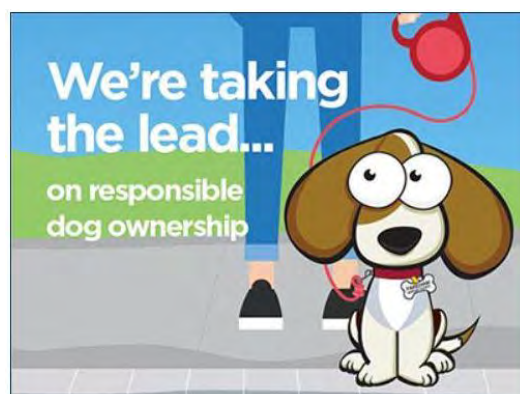
Let's take the Oops out of Poops

'Let's take the Oops out of Poops' was a campaign launched in 2016 designed to inform dog owners to pick up after their pets.

Posters of 'Bagsy', a cute but slightly embarrassed looking dog, were 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.

A new litter wise campaign was started at the end of 2017 and focuses on litter, its enforcement and education and ultimately its aim is to reduce the problem.

More recently, March 2019, Public Spaces Protection Orders have been put in place to further responsible dog ownership. This limits the number of dogs that can be walked and restricts the public spaces that can be used for dog walking



Green Flags



Since 2008 the Council have held green flag status at both the Sensory Garden and at Holly Hill Woodland Park. In addition the Warsash School of Navigation holds a green flag for its campus.

At a glance – Local Environmental Quality

- *Three Green Flags for local parks.*
- *Graffiti is dealt with by the cleansing response team within 3 days or 48 hours if offensive.*
- *Public Spaces Protection Orders introduced in March 2019*
- *Bloom and Parks team work alongside Enforcement and Cleansing Services*

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 seventeen years. New street furniture is included as part of such improvement and all new seating installed in parks over the past fifteen 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. 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.



Queen's Golden Jubilee Gates



Twinning Sculpture

Twinning Sculpture – Westbury Manor

Erected in September 2016 the sculpture of two intertwining branches show the bond with Fareham's twin town of Vannes.

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
Gate at Holly Hill

Interpretation and visitor experience



Interpretation Board at
Coldeast

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, Seafeld Park and Coldeast. The Sensory Garden also includes a leaflet dispenser which is very popular with visitors new to the location. Both Holly Hill and the Sensory Garden are now Geocache sites, whereby people can visit to find clues using a Smart Phone app.

Portchester Common

Portchester Common which is located on Portsdown Hill with stunning views across the Solent has this spring received improvements to its entrance with new signage created by the ranger service. The site entered SSEiB for the first time in 2018 and received a Gold award and Best Small Conversation Area



Butterfly Scrape
Portchester Common

At a glance – Pride of Place

- *All replacement park seating in last 15 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 Participation

Involving our community in parks

Fareham's success in its twenty-four 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.



Children making willow bird feeders

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.

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 five 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 13 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 group meetings and writing reports.



Events team sowing wildflower meadow

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 to 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 12,000 hours of work carried out by volunteers on countryside projects.*
- *Value of time given equates to over £85,700 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. To achieve 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 free by the Council as well as from our sponsors and our partner nursery, St Margaret's.

In July last year, for our annual Open Gardens scheme we arranged for eleven award winning gardens from our local competition to be open to the public on 22 July and raised just under £4,000 for charity.

In September another successful willow weave workshop was organised to demonstrate the art of making a traditional style basket using only hedgerow materials, such as hazel, willow and ivy.

85,500 daffodil bulbs were given away to the community in September continuing our 'Host of Golden Daffodils' project which started 27 years ago adding to the over 5 million now planted across the borough. The Carnival Theme was again reflected in cultivar 'Jetfire' with its exotic flared vibrant orange trumpets

October saw a bulb planting workshop held in Westbury Manor Garden for members of the public to learn about the correct way to plant various bulbs. After a talk explaining about the various bulbs and how they should be planted the public and members of the Fareham in Bloom team planted a large quantity of many types of common and exotic bulbs.



Bulb Planting Workshop



Natural Willow Wreath

. In April the In Bloom Team took part in the Keep Britain Tidy "The Great British Clean Up". This took place at a sheltered housing complex and not only involved the "In Bloom" team but also residents and other Council officers. In absolutely foul weather they replanted the shrub beds by the entrance. as well as litter picking and general tidying.



The Great British Spring Clean



Bloom Day

Also in April we held a new event at Fareham Shopping Centre which we called "Bloom Day". The idea was to make the public more aware of the scope and range of our activities. We distributed 1000 seed packets for people to sow in their own gardens, held a plant surgery to answer enquiries from passers-by, mask making (to go with our theme of carnival) for children to do, A Fareham Council Countryside Ranger assisted the children

and parents to make a willow bird feeder and our partner nursery St Margaret's supervised people planting a free plug plant into a pot which they could then take home and grow on. We also encouraged people to enter our Gardening Challenge and to attend the Gardens Open day later in the summer. Several hundred members of the public took part.



Bloom Day

Mid-April saw a demonstration of practical wild flower meadow sowing. This took place on an open space alongside a recently completed development at the western end of the Borough and was well attended by the local residents despite the weather.



Carnival Containers

This was closely followed later that week by the Fareham in Bloom volunteers sowing another meadow alongside Holy Trinity church in the town centre. The meadow is planted to show how a colourful border can be created using budget seeds from garden centres or supermarkets, ideal for cut flowers.

At the end of April our partner nursery St Margaret's Nurseries held three workshops titled "Carnival Containers" where there were demonstrations on the planting on baskets and containers using seasonal plants. Attendees received discounts, free plants and practical advice.



Willow weaving

In May the first of four willow workshops scheduled for this year was held by a countryside ranger in the town centre. Participants learned how to make a rustic willow obelisk. At the end of the day they took their creations home with them to use in their garden.

Future Parks Events planned for the remainder of 2019

- **15th Annual Open Gardens Event** - visit ten of the Fareham in Bloom award winning gardens which will open for charity this year.
- **Budget Bouquets** – a workshop to learn about how to make a bouquet using meadow style flowers..
- **Growing Exotics** – a talk set in the exotic and beautiful Sensory Garden by Matt Wakefield (the garden's designer) to learn about some of the plants that have made this country their home from far flung corners of the world.
- **Gala evening** - The annual, 'not to missed' celebration of the years' work where 300 people connected with the campaign will attend an awards evening.
- **The World of Bulbs** – Free bags of bulbs available to residents for planting in community areas
- **The Four Seasons Willow Weave Workshops** – September - A Rustic Basket. December – The Hedgerow Wreath. February 2020 – A nesting Box.
- **Deck the Halls** – Ten workshops hosted and delivered by our partner nursery, St. Margaret's Nurseries, to learn about Christmas wreath and table decoration making.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND SPONSORSHIP June 2018 – May 2019

	No. of events or work days	Number of people organising	Attenders 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	107	42	-	3880	£2 7,714
<i>Includes Working group sessions, Events in parks, Community work projects, Photography, Events support volunteers, FIB Judges.</i>					
Development and Continuity Groups	145	70	-	12000	£ 85,714
<i>Includes Holly Hill Volunteers (each Friday), Friends of Warsash Common, Friends of Coldeast, Fareham Conservation volunteers.</i>					
Educational activities	134	18	240	3204	£ 22,884
<i>Includes Love Where You Live. Beach / litter picks, Northern Jnr School garden work days, Other school gardening days, Promotional days, displays, talks, Leaflets and promotional distribution</i>					
Wider Community participation	125	37	4079		Inc. above
<i>Includes Play sessions in parks, RHS Its Your Neighbourhoods, Parks events for young people, Fareham in Bloom competition entries, 9 Horticultural/Allotment Societies in the Borough</i>					
Seasonal community activities -Spring	6		1700		Inc. above
<i>Includes, Easter Egg Hunt, Fareham Spring Fairs, FIB launch events, Going Wild meadows</i>					
Summer	6		730		Inc. above
<i>Includes Summer events programme, Children's art competition, Open Gardens event - 8 gardens</i>					
Autumn	31		574		Inc. above
<i>Includes Community bulb planting events, Gala Presentation Evening, Tree events</i>					
Funding and Sponsorship					
Volunteer time conversion * (as above)					£ 136312
Fareham Borough Council budget					£ 10,000
Travel sponsorship value					£ 400
Art competition funding					£ 2,000
Income from ticket sales					£ 3,500
Commercial companies - roundabouts					£ 32,000
Benefit, printing, prizes, plants, hosting					£ 5,500
Fareham in Bloom sponsorship					£ 3,500
Project sponsorship					£ 5,000
TOTAL	503	132	7,320	11,540	£ 198,212

Open Gardens event

We will be holding our “Open Gardens in Fareham” event again this year on 21st July involving eleven 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 in excess of £32,000 for charity and has delivered a strong following with an ever increasing number of participants.



Visitors at an “Open Garden”

Last year eleven gardens opened on Sunday 23rd July and, despite the rainy weather, 336 people purchased tickets and we raised just under £4,000 for charity. The intention of this is to inspire local residents and enable them to gain ideas and advice.

Visitors viewed a variety of different style of gardens including, two wildlife gardens, two tropical garden, and several small town gardens. Many of the gardens sold plants and refreshments with all the profits going to charity.

At a glance – Open Gardens Scheme

- *Annual event now in its fifteenth year.*
- *Thirty-two different gardens have been involved in the scheme over fifteen years.*
- *50% of funds raised support local charities and Fareham in Bloom initiatives*
- *Over 300 visitors attended the event last year.*

Younger Gardeners

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.



Portchester Northern School



Portchester Northern
Demonstration Garden

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 assist with the garden

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. They also hold the level 5 RHS School Gardening award



Wicor Primary School is another local school with excellent educational gardens that they open to the public under the NGS Yellow Book scheme and were present at Chelsea Flower Show in May 2017

There are also 4 other schools that participate in gardening and enter our own schools grounds category of our community gardening challenge and we are trying to encourage more schools to enter each year.

This year's first "Bloom Day", focused strongly on involving young people with hands on planting, seed sowing and construction of bird feeders

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 schools.*
- *School grounds category in our local gardening challenge.*
- *Free seeds, bulbs and trees available to schools*
- *Activities specifically organised to encourage young peoples' participation*

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.



Linden Lea Wild Flower Meadow

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

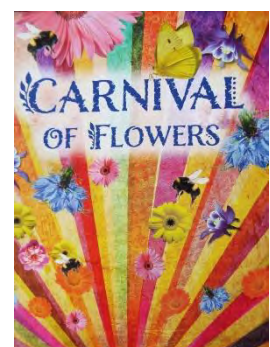
We were so encouraged by the project that we decided to take the idea on in a big way and have extended the scheme to 9 locations with around 2.5 hectares sown and further locations planned for the future.

Sites now planted include our parks, highway verges and roundabouts.

Fareham Shopping Centre again kindly agreed to sponsor 2000 wildflower seed cards for 2019 which were given to the community to encourage people to sow and grow in their own gardens with a carnival theme of outrageously bright colours to tie into Fareham in Bloom's Border to Bouquet events for later in the 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.



Sponsored seed packet



Love where you live

To support this national initiative, we carry out 'community clean ups' to do tasks such as litter picks, painting and replanting 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.



Great British Spring Clean
Sheltered Accommodation



The Great British Spring Clean, organised in partnership with the Keep Britain Tidy Group was held in April this year as a national clean-up campaign.

Fareham held its own Great British Spring Clean 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.

Our main clean-up event this year took place on Thursday 4 April at a sheltered housing complex when a team of Council Officers and local residents along with the Fareham in Bloom Volunteers worked to litter pick, remove weeds from pathways, re-plant shrub beds on and around the area including one bed where the residents had provided all the plants and shrubs themselves.



Great British Spring Clean
Sheltered Accommodation

Children's Art Competition

Fareham Shopping Centre are a principal and much valued sponsor to our campaign and have for some years, among many other projects, funded a children's colouring competition. This year Fareham Shopping centre will again support us by encouraging younger people to become involved with the Bloom with a new and exciting art project

They will be working with 4 local schools and providing them with an A0 size art board which will have a carnival themed flower template. Children will then be able to decorate them however they want before being placed on display in the shopping centre allowing visitors to vote for their favourite design. The winning school will receive prize money to be used towards school supplies.

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.

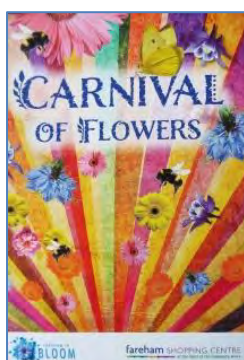
We take every opportunity to promote our work with the invaluable help of the Councils communications team. Press releases appear in The Portsmouth News, The Southampton Echo or on local radio stations. Magazines such as Solent Life, The Loop, the Fareham Society newsletter and Forget Me Not (local magazine) often feature articles on our work-



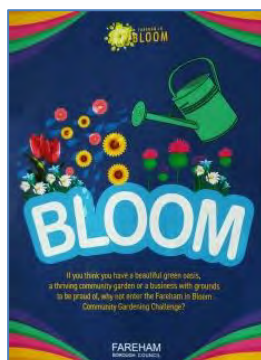
Example of our Display Boards

The power of social media cannot be underestimated and we now use Facebook 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



Seed packet



Entry Form



Bulb Giveaway



Container Workshop

Several promotional days were held in 2019. The first at Fareham shopping centre, when 1000 free seed packets were given out over one day to shoppers to encourage them to grow flowers in their gardens.

The second, at St Margaret's Nurseries, where the team were on hand to give out our gardening challenge leaflet and encourage them to enter the challenge.

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 a website www.fareham.gov.uk/leisure/open_spaces/fareham_in_bloom/ 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-second 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 in excess of £40k

We have 16 sponsored roundabouts 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 procedure and the cost of 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 45,000 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:

- St Margaret's Nurseries provide free plants for entrants into our competition, some school grounds, floral displays, and our Gala event with stage decoration. They also provide free plants for attendees to our Gala Presentation Evening.

St Margaret's
Nurseries

- 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.

fareham SHOPPING CENTRE
at the Heart of the Community

- Locketts Travel provides transport for the regional judging day and will take the team to seminars or courses when needed.



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 is only possible through the kindness and commitment of all of those who have been involved over the last 24 years. We are sincerely grateful. We are currently supported by 17 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
Fareham Creek Veterinary Surgery
St Margaret's Nurseries
Whiteley Dental Practice
Solent Airport Daedalus
Crofton Home Improvement Centre
Kumon Language Centre
Friary Meadow Retirement Village
Kevin Woods (Equity Release Specialist)

Commercial Lighting Systems Ltd
Portchester Community School
Fareham Shopping Centre
Biscoes Solicitors
Meoncross School
Boundary Oak School
A2B Financial Services
Damteq

Sponsorship for our competition and presentation evening

St Margaret's Nurseries
Portchester Memorial Gardens

Fareham Shopping Centre

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 2018/19 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.

Appendix 1

Examples of press cuttings from the past year

Southampton Echo

4 Friday, April 5, 2019 **DAILY ECHO**

NEWS dailyecho.co.uk [fb.com/dailyecho](https://www.facebook.com/dailyecho) [@dailyecho](https://twitter.com/dailyecho)



There will be activities for all at Bloom Day.

Blooming Fareham bursting with colour

FAREHAM will be bursting into colour this weekend to kickstart an annual floral event.

Residents are invited to join the official launch of Fareham in Bloom 2019 at Bloom Day.

The event will take place tomorrow at Fareham Shopping Centre, outside Debenhams, between 10am and 4pm.

There will be activities for all ages with the theme this year is "Carnival of Flowers".

Children will be able to make bird feeders, colourful masks and plant their very own seedlings.

A total of 2,500 free seed packets will also be given away to residents and gardening experts will be on hand for a special surgery with residents invited to bring along any unhealthy plants to get advice on how to make them flourish.

Fareham in Bloom has grown into a well known and successful gardening campaign involving communities throughout the Borough and attracting more than 400 entries each year.

Executive member for Streetscene, Cllr Simon Martin, said: "We want the whole of the Fareham Borough to get excited and involved with this year's Fareham in Bloom competition."

The News **portsmouth.co.uk**

FAREHAM

Monday, April 8, 2019

85p

Popular Fareham in Bloom contest is launched

SEE PAGE 11



Monday, April 8, 2019 portsmouth.co.uk

Fareham in Bloom not just about winning

WINNING a gardening competition is not the sole purpose of an In Bloom event.

That is the message put across at the launch of this year's Fareham in Bloom.

Now in its 24th year, the competition looks to find the best communal areas, back gardens and horticultural feature pieces in the town.

But it is no longer just about winning a trophy at the end; for organisers, their other main goal is to spread the message of good gardening, its benefits and the importance of looking after your community.

Matt Wakefield, the horticultural development officer at Fareham Borough Council, said: 'Fareham in Bloom is an ever-growing campaign which develops horticultural good practice.'

'The In Bloom event has become as much about educating people in what they can do with plants as it has the competition itself.'

At the official launch at Fareham Shopping Centre, visitors had the chance to try their hand at making willow bird nests, as well as finding more about the plants growing in the summer and learning how to plant flowers of their own.



IN BLOOM Chris Rayner from Portsmouth enjoys the plants

Picture: Ian Hargreaves (060419-1)

NETWORKING IN YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

36,000 copies delivered

Delivering to: Locks Heath • Sarisbury Green • Titchfield • Stubbington • Park Gate • Titchfield Common
Hedge End • Botley • Swanwick • Warsash • Bursledon • West End • Whiteley • Hamble • Wickham
Lee-on-Solent • Booterley Green • Fareham • Bishop's Waltham • Waltham Chase • Knowle • Shedfield

Local Free Magazine

TITCHFIELD GOES NATIONAL

After their success in 2018 when the Titchfield in Bloom Team led the village to Gold and became the overall Gold winners in the South & South East this year the village of Titchfield will be judged twice. The Team were informed by the Royal Horticultural Society that they would be the large village representing the South & South East in the National in Bloom competition – quite an achievement. In July the village will be judged by the South & South East judges and later by the R.H.S National judges. The other 5 large villages in the National competition are located in Scotland, Ulster, Yorkshire, the North East and South West. The judges will be awarding marks on environmental protection and conservation



The 8 members of the Titchfield in Bloom team are working hard to ensure success for their village.

of the natural environment and wildlife habitats, water conservation, recycling, heritage and community. Also of course the quality of the floral displays.

Titchfield in Bloom

In 2017 seven ladies living in the historic and picturesque village of Titchfield got together for the first time at a meeting to discuss entering Titchfield village in the South & South East in Britain in Bloom competition. The village had never been entered before in this Nationwide competition and the ladies decided to take this project on.



Here are 5 of us planting last year from left to right Pamela, Coral, Gloria, Jane and Nicky

Apart from their enthusiasm and the encouragement they received plus a small budget the Bloomers of Titchfield as they are now known, were determined to make their mark. Titchfield had very little planting around the village and gradually the residents old and young joined in and supported the Bloomers. The local businesses in and around the village especially the Garden Centres added their support in a big way to this project.

The RHS judges arrived in early July to judge the ladies on their efforts and spent 1½ hours walking a designated route around the village. There are various categories that you are judged on with headings such as Community, Sustainability, Conservation, Recycling and Horticultural Achievement which are just a few.



Receiving the award at Ferneham Hall from the Mayor. Left to right: Nicky, Pamela, Sue, Gloria, The Mayor, Coral, Jane and Julie.

There are very few front gardens in the village and many residents opened their gates as the walk continued.

In September 2017 they travelled to Sussex for the Awards Ceremony where over 400 people were gathered from the South and South East. The large village category was announced and to the Titchfield Bloomers complete surprise they were awarded Silver Gilt, apparently unheard of for a first time entry. They attended another Awards Ceremony at the Ferneham Hall in Fareham where they received an award from Fareham in Bloom entitled the Community Gardening Award for their dedication to South and South East in Bloom.

The team is very grateful to all who helped them last year and they had their own awards ceremony in the Parish Rooms in the village to thank them.

This year they are together again, you can spot the Committee: Gloria, Nicky, Coral, Pamela, Julie, Sue and Jane around the village in their bright green polo shirts as they have entered Titchfield village once again in this Nationwide competition and the Royal Horticultural Society judges will be visiting Titchfield village in early July.

This year the team is aiming for gold and they intend to keep on Blooming in 2018.

Local Free Magazine

ARBOR CALL DONATES TREES TO HOLLY HILL LEISURE CENTRE



Arbor Call have recently sponsored a portion of the site at the new Holly Hill Leisure Centre in Sarisbury Green by donating three trees and lifetime care of these trees to the centre.

We have donated a Scots Pine, Tulip tree and a London Plane. Birds of prey will be attracted to the optimum nesting branches of the Scots Pine; the Tulip tree will provide colour during warm and cold weather, turning vibrant yellows & reds in the autumn; the London Plane is particularly adept at absorbing carbon monoxide and removing air pollutants.

The three trees will be pruned and watered regularly and when grown, will provide much needed shade to this area of the site.

Here at Arbor Call we pride ourselves on our adaptability, no job is too big or too small!

Please contact us for further details
01489 890 333 • www.arborcall.co.uk

Titchfield In Bloom Win Gold

This is the second year the Titchfield In Bloom Committee have entered the South & South East in Bloom National Competition last year they won silver gilt this year they were awarded Gold. Not only Gold but Titchfield in Bloom were the overall winners in the large village category in the South & South East. Four of the team travelled to Brighton to represent the village and their colleagues at the Amex Stadium the home of Brighton & Hove FC to receive their awards in front of 400 people.

The Titchfield In Bloom Committee have been busy attending the Fareham in Bloom Awards at the Fernham Halls and holding their own awards ceremony in Titchfield to thank those residents and businesses for the amazing floral displays around the village, for opening their gardens, the schools, church and the allotment holders. Also the various garden centres for their generosity.



Locks Heath
Local
News Board

New Interpretation Panels Bring Coldeast To Life

A series of engaging and informative new interpretation panels have been unveiled at Coldeast open space (behind Holly Hill Leisure Centre),

The panels tell the history of the site and highlight the rich array of wildlife which can be found there.

Fareham Borough Council commissioned local artistic designers Dan and Rosemary Powell to create artwork for the boards, giving them a feel, which is sympathetic with the natural surroundings.

There are 6 panels in total covering different aspects of the site, including the meadow, orchard, pond and woodland.

Executive Leader of Fareham Borough Council, Cllr Seán Woodward, said:

"These panels are a wonderful addition to the open space, woodland and lakeside at Coldeast, which since its opening in 2014 is already a well-used community asset. The artists have done an excellent job of bringing the site to life as you walk around, helping visitors to engage in all the area has to offer."



Trial Of Solar Bins

Smart bins are being trialled in Fareham to see if they can help to reduce littering in the Borough.

Solar powered smart bins have been placed at two popular locations, Holly Hill play area and Passage Lane car park in Warsash. The bins can last for 13 weeks without a light source.

The smart bins can take up to ten times more volume as the waste gets crushed and compacted several times a day and when the bin is full a sensor emails the office, so the bin can be emptied.

The units are sealed to stop birds and vermin getting in and can only be opened using a foot pedal.



Fareham Walks

HOLLY HILL WOODLAND PARK

This short circular walk takes you through the peaceful Holly Hill Woodland Park and along the estuary of the River Hamble. The park has two distinctive areas; Winnards Copse and Cawtes Copse. Winnards is known for its formal landscape, lakes and ornamental exotic species, it is also the only known site that features Pulhamite Stone. Cawtes Copse has a mix of native woodland species and is managed to conserve rich diversity of wildlife.

The park is located in Sarisbury near Southampton. Place the postcode: SO31 7BH into your satnav and continue until you drive over the Hamble bridge, then turn right onto Barnes Lane and you will see a signpost for Holly Hill Woodland Park.

Once you arrive there are two way marked trails of varying length following the footpath network around the site. Remember to bring a picnic and enjoy the beauty and peace at Holly Hill Woodland Park.

Facilities:

- Toilets
- Car Park at Barnes Lane
- Picnic tables
- Dog and litter bins
- One pony track

Holly Hill Woodland Park by Hugh Venables

Download PDF www.discovermagazines.co.uk

Start Point: SO31 7BH **Distance:** 3 miles **Terrain:** Easy
<http://www.gps-routes.co.uk/routes/home.nsf/county-walks/hampshire>

Local Garden Centre Magazine (Stewarts)

STEWARTS MAGAZINE
ISSUE 1 2019

CONGRATULATIONS

TO TITCHFIELD, WINNERS OF GOLD

The South & South East Region In Bloom Awards were held in Brighton on 14th September at the Amex Stadium home to Brighton & Hove F.C. Over 400 people were gathered for this prestigious event and the Titchfield in Bloom Team won Gold. This is only the second year they have entered this national competition, winning Silver Gilt in 2017. With more points than any other large village who were awarded Gold it was announced that Titchfield were the overall winners in their category within the South & South East Region.

On 21st September the team attended the Fareham in Bloom Awards held at the Ferneham Halls in Fareham. Also the Committee of Titchfield in Bloom held their own awards ceremony in the village for their prize winners as a thank you to those residents and businesses who supported them.

4 Contact: Stewarts Christchurch Garden Centre 01425 272244 | Stewarts Broomhill Garden Centre 01202 882462 | Stewarts Abbey Garden Centre 01329 842225

Leaflet from Local Allotment Association



WESTERN WARDS WWA ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION



WHAT WOULD YOU GROW on your ALLOTMENT?

www.wwaa.org.uk






WESTERN WARDS WWA ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

Sowing, planting and nurturing food for you and your family is rewarding in many ways . . .

- 🌱 Home grown food tastes SO much better.
- 🌱 No man-made packaging, so no waste.
- 🌱 No preservatives, insecticides or fungicides on produce.
- 🌱 Great for physical and mental health.
- 🌱 A workout with a reward - burn calories/earn calories!
- 🌱 An allotment can provide more growing space than most of us have at home for a very reasonable cost.
- 🌱 The increasing urban environment means that allotment communities and the green space they provide, are more important than ever before.



For more information visit:
www.wwaa.org.uk





Gardeners World Magazine

Letter from two of our supporters and judges



Blooming surprise

Due to the lovely hot weather last summer, our two loquat trees were covered with flowers in November. In the past, there have only been a few blossoms and very little fruit. The scent is intoxicating and is a welcome boost for bees as other flowers fade. After flowering so well, hopefully they will produce plenty of fruit this year.

Chris & Colin Tait, Fareham

THE GARDENS OF WESTBURY MANOR MUSEUM

Situated at the back of Westbury Manor Museum, the third of an acre large period garden has plants from around the world with an array of shrubs and herbaceous plants chosen to reflect the Victorian plant collectors of the time.

Built in the 1600s, Westbury Manor was extended and adapted to its present style during the late 18th and mid 19th centuries and the building is now Grade II listed. The garden at Westbury Manor is now managed by Fareham Borough Council, Hampshire Cultural Trust and Hampshire Gardens Trust, although the original funding from the borough was made possible through the Winifred Cocks bequest. An active member of the Fareham Society, Winifred Cocks made provision in her will for the use and eventual sale of her own house for local museum purposes. The charitable bequest set up in her name provided funding not only for the garden, but also for the restoration and fitting out of Westbury Manor itself and she is remembered in the Winifred Cocks Gallery inside the museum today.

The shape of the garden at the back of the house has changed little over the years. In 1953, part of it was sold to Hampshire and Dorset Bus Company to add to the area of the 'old' bus station, which had its entrance on West Street, but otherwise its size has remained much the same.

Between 1778 and 1932 Westbury Manor was home to six admirals of the Royal Navy. To respect this, the Victorian garden was laid out as a

compass rose with the house (England) at its centre. In the south east corner of the garden there are shrubs and herbaceous perennials introduced from South East Asia, China and Japan. In the south west corner, there are plants introduced from South America and the Pacific, from New Zealand, Chile and Peru. To the west there are trees, shrubs and herbaceous perennials introduced

from North America.

Today, the garden has been carefully sculptured in keeping with the museum refurbishment, whilst keeping the original plants and lawns. Access remains free to the public and it is a calm and relaxing place to visit either whilst enjoying a drink from the café or after a peruse around the museum itself.



Bringing People and Parks Together

WHAT A BLOOMING GOOD SHOW!

Fareham has celebrated another year of success at the South and South East in Bloom awards held in September. The Borough received its 15th consecutive Gold Award in the Small City category, and was declared category winner.

Fareham in Bloom also achieved the County Award for Hampshire for the highest marked entry in the county – for the ninth consecutive year!

Additionally, Titchfield Village in Bloom, which was only established in 2017, took an overall win and Gold award in the large village category – an amazing achievement in just two years!

Fareham's parks and gardens also came out with top awards including:

- **Coldeast Conservation area:** Silver Gilt
- **Warsash Common:** Gold and Category Winner
- **Holly Hill Woodland Park:** Gold
- **Sensory Garden of Reflection:** Gold
- **Westbury Manor Garden:** Gold
- **Civic Gardens:** Gold
- **Portchester Common:** Gold and category winner.

There were also Gold Awards for Portchester Crematorium and Portchester Memorial Gardens, and a Silver Gilt for HMS Collingwood.

Britain in Bloom 'It's Your Neighbourhood Awards' were presented to Lockwood Bowling Club, Burnham Wood in Fareham, and for the first time to the residents of Trafalgar Court in Fareham. Trafalgar Court was also recognised with a national Britain in Bloom award – 'Greener Streets Better Lives.'

These results show just how much support and dedication there is for Fareham in Bloom and the volunteers who work with the Council's environmental and gardening teams all year round. Together we aim to encourage community participation and excellence within our parks and green spaces. Well done everyone!



Executive Member for Streetscene Cllr Simon Martin, Cllr Connie Hockley, Horticultural Development Officer Matt Wakefield

A community of Gardeners

The long-established Community Gardening Challenge grows year on year with more residents, community groups and housing areas wanting to make their own streets and green spaces come into bloom.

This season was another resounding success with a gala awards evening held at Ferneham Hall when 276 awards were bestowed on participants who entered one of the 21 categories. The stunning theme portrayed the World of Plants and Planet Earth. Look out for another rather unusual theme that will be arriving this Spring!





Bringing People & Parks Together

Fareham in Bloom captures the essence of horticulture at its best, profiling the work of the Council with its award-winning parks, floral displays and initiatives that engage community participation.

From project work and community gardening, to environmental and landscape improvements, all have a focus on maintaining and developing horticultural excellence in partnership with volunteers and the support of our community.

This year's theme is 'Carnival of Flowers' and will be a celebration of colour in the plant world. Think floral displays in a kaleidoscope of rich and striking colours, meadows in dazzling shades and workshops and events that complement the theme.

With the new theme in place and spring just around the corner, it's time to start thinking about the gardening year ahead.

BLOOM DAY

Sat 6 April, 10am-4pm

This year, for the first time, our Fareham in Bloom volunteers are inviting adults and children to a free, hands on event, to learn about the wider aspects of the work they do as we launch into the summer season.

As well as promotional leaflets and information on this year's initiatives there will be a number of activities to take part in with willow bird feeders, plant your own plug plant and carnival mask making.

The plant doctors will be on hand to help with your gardening problems so you can bring along a plant sample and we will do our best to tell you where you might have gone wrong!

Free seed cards with a carnival colour mix will also be given away for people to sow and grow at home. The event, kindly sponsored by Fareham Shopping Centre, will be held just outside Debenhams.

CARNIVAL MEADOWS

Tues 9 April, 1pm

Since we started our Going Wild initiative six years ago there has been increasing interest in growing meadow type flowers. A new site at Jellicoe Drive (Park Gate) is being created with the local community and a new seed mix sown to tie in with this year's carnival theme. You can take part and learn how to create the perfect meadow.

BUDGET BLOOMS

Thurs 11 April, 1pm

Like the idea of being able to grow a summer border on a budget? For the cost of just a few cups of coffee it is possible to sow and grow a jewel-like summer border using hardy annuals. The workshop at Holy Trinity Church, Fareham, will teach you all you need to know, with preparation, seed choice and sowing techniques.

Community Gardening Challenge

The Community Gardening Challenge has been at the heart of Fareham in Bloom since its early beginnings and gives residents, businesses and allotment gardeners the opportunity to show off their own gardening skills with 21 categories to choose from.

The initiative is very well supported and is one of the largest around with a friendly and fun approach allowing participants to achieve awards from Bronze and Silver to Silver Gilt and Gold. It is not intended to be competitive but recognises individual effort as well as the difference it has made within the community.

Judging will take place between **8-19 July** and all participants will receive discounts and promotions at St Margaret's Nursery in Titchfield and be invited to a celebratory gala evening in September at Ferneham Hall.

We would love to see even more entries this year, so whether you are a keen gardener, plant collector or new to gardening then why not give it a go? Simply complete the application form below.



Community Gardening Challenge 2019

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 be visible from the front or side of the property. Entrants in section F may not enter categories 2 & 3.

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 (all entrants in section 2 must be visible from the front or the side of the property)

- 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 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 4

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

Section 5

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

Section 6 (entrants in the category may not enter section 2&3)

- 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 9 June 2019

Fair Processing Notice

Your personal information is being collected in respect of this competition. Your personal information will not be shared outside of the Council but will be shared internally to enable us to organise this competition. Results and images may also be shared with the press and through social media.

☐ I consent to photographs taken by the Council being shared with the Press and through social media.

☐ I consent to my name being shared with the press/posted on social media.

The Council will not retain your personal data for longer than 3 years to carry out this function.

You can withdraw your consent to the Council processing your personal data by contacting the Data Protection Officer on 01329 236100 or at foi@fareham.gov.uk. Further information about the Council's privacy policy can be located at www.fareham.gov.uk/privacy.aspx

E-Mail from a Resident

From: Jenny Bone
Sent: 17 April 2019 14:57
To: Customer Service Centre <customerservicecentre@fareham.gov.uk>
Subject: Wow!

Good afternoon,

I just wanted to say that I had to visit the Civic Office today to get a composting bag for my Mum. When I came out of the revolving door, I was met with the stunning planted borders that go between the Civic Offices, the Library and Fernham Hall. I congratulate your Gardeners for the work that has gone into the colours and planting. I may be quick to criticise but I am also quick to congratulate too. While I'm handing out congratulations, the roundabouts are looking great as well, but I am concentrating on my driving to appreciate them as much as I could.

Thank you again and please let the gardening team know, they really do deserve praise for their work.

Kind regards,
Jenny Bone

Fareham Shopping Centre Facebook Page

The screenshot shows the website of Fareham Shopping Centre. The browser address bar displays <https://www.farehamshopping.com/>. The website header includes the logo "fareham SHOPPING CENTRE in fashion, indoors, in Fareham" and a navigation menu with links: HOME, NEWS & OFFERS, EVENTS, STORE GUIDE, and VISITOR INFO. A search bar is located in the top right corner. The main banner features a colorful floral design with the text "BLOOM DAY" in large, stylized letters, followed by "SATURDAY 6 APRIL 10AM - 4PM". Below the banner, a welcome message reads: "Welcome to Fareham Shopping Centre. Fareham Shopping Centre is the south coast's family shopping destination, with everything you need right on your doorstep. With many big name stores, including Debenhams, Boots, Next and The Fragrance Shop along with a range of Cafés and Restaurants, you really are spoilt for choice. What's more, our indoor shopping malls are all on one level and with regular transport links this gives ease of access for everyone, whatever the weather." A link is provided: "Click here to view our Fareham Shopping Centre Store Directory". At the bottom, there is a row of logos for various stores: e Works, Clarks, vision express, THE FAREHAM Vaper Co., Card Factory, HALIFAX, and M Bitz. A footer notice states: "We use cookies to ensure that we give you the best experience on our website. If you continue to use this site we will assume that you are happy with it. Find out more." with an "Okay, thanks" button.

WELCOME (P3)

HORTICULTURE

Horticultural Achievement

Horticultural Practice (P7)
Sustainable Planting (P7)
Diversity Planting (P7)
Dry and Low Maintenance Planting (P8)
Horticultural Resource Management (P8)

Impact

Floral Displays (P9)
Spring Floral Displays (P9)
Summer Floral Displays (P10)
Floral bedding (P10)
Barrier and Pedestrian Planters (P10)
Flower Towers and hanging Baskets (P10)
Trees (P11)

Residential and Community Gardening

Community Gardening Challenge (P12)
Allotments and Leisure gardens (13)
Business areas and Premises (P14)

Green Spaces

General (P15)
Beaches and Foreshore (P15)

ENVIRONMENT

Conservation and Biodiversity

Conservation Volunteers (P16)
Key Habitats (16)
Biological Surveys (P17)
Habitat Enhancements (P18)
Management (P18)

Resource Management

Waste and Recycling (P19)
Recycling (P19)
Garden Waste (P19)
Trade Recycling (P19)
Composting at home (P19)
Promotions (P19)
War on plastic (P20)

Local Heritage

General (P21)
Various notable sites (P21)
Holly Hill and Pulhamite (P21)
Westbury Manor (P22)
Sensory Garden of Reflection (P22)

Local Environmental Quality

Litter and Dog Fouling (P23)
Let's take the Oops out of Poops (P23)
Green Flags (P23)

Pride of Place

General (P24)
Henry Cort Millennium Project (P24)
Queen's Golden Jubilee Gates (P24)
Twinning Sculpture – Westbury Manor (P24)
Holly Hill (P25)
Interpretation and visitor experience (P25)
Portchester Common (P25)

COMMUNITY

Community Participation

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