



# Guildford in Bloom Newsletter

## Autumn Winter Edition 2019



Blooming in Guildford Borough since 1981

### Over the moon with Guildford in Bloom!

Gardens across the borough were celebrated through the theme of '50 years of lunar landings' at the annual Guildford in Bloom awards at the Yvonne Arnaud theatre in September. More than 400 people attended the evening. Vivace Chorus opened the show and Joe Talbot from BBC Radio Surrey's 'Dig It' was the guest MC.

Guildford Mayor, Cllr Richard Billington presented the awards, now in their 38th year. Les and Stella Hind were overall winners of the competition with their Allotment/Kitchen Garden. They were awarded a Dartington Crystal engraved vase and

a Bee Keeping demonstration at Albury Vineyard. Judges said they chose their allotment because 'the entire plot was pristine. Les and Stella had managed to raise the quality and standard of their allotment and vegetables which was a remarkable achievement'.

Chairman of Guildford in Bloom, Cllr Paul Spooner said: 'Congratulations to our winners, it's been another great year for our borough's greenest and most creative competition. Innovation was high this year in all groups and we thoroughly enjoyed our special guest of honour (the life-sized astronaut) attending, with thanks to Headway Surrey.

Continued on page 2.



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## More on our Awards....

We've awarded nine perpetual trophies this year. The Wildlife Garden and Best Site for Nature Conservation were both new categories with wonderful new awards; a pottery hedgehog designed and made by artist Terri Smart in memory of Suki Lowres and a bronze hare donated by Wildlife enthusiast Mo Usher.



We would like to thank everyone involved for their hard work and dedication and to our premium sponsors Allianz, Barker & Stonehouse and Chapters Financial and our major sponsors Levanter Developments, Tunsgate Quarter and University of Surrey for making this such a wonderful event for our borough.



The Student Garden Showcase now in its second year was won by Daisy Shearer, student at The University of Surrey, she said her garden was inspired by the principles of quantum physics.

The competition enjoyed a record 209 entries this year and 73 of these were new for 2019. There were 93 Allotment/Kitchen Gardens, 37 Front Gardens, 13 Wildlife Gardens, 12 Pub Gardens, 12 Neighbourhood Projects, 9 Container Gardens, 15 Schools, 10 Nature Conservation Sites and an entry from UOS Student showcasing a Quantum Garden. There were also 7 themed entries.



The front garden category received a record number of entries thanks to some creative promotion of this category through a 'Blooming Act of Kindness' where we captured the power of flowers giving special Guildford in Bloom twist to the well-known altruistic gesture of 'a random act of kindness'. In collaboration with Halow Project students we potted up and gave away (in acts of 'blooming' kindness) 150 geranium plants to local residents in Park Barn, Onslow Village, Bellfields and Shalford. A further 25 geranium plants were given to shoppers in Guildford High Street.



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# Competition Results

**Best in Competition—Les & Stella Hind for their very best allotment**

Well Done to all award winners

## Category Winners

### Best School in Bloom

Wonersh & Shamley Green School

### Best Container Garden

Ken & Patricia Comerford

### Best Wildlife Garden

Andrew Wells

### Best Site for Nature Conservation

Small Blue Stepping Stones Project

Butterfly Conservation

### Best Pub Garden

Gomshall Mill

### Best Allotment/Kitchen Garden

Les & Stella Hind, Bowers Lane

### Student Garden Showcase

Daisy Shearer, University of Surrey

### Best Front Garden

Janet Bangs

### Best Neighbourhood Project

Palmer's Lodge Flower Garden

### Best Themed Entry

Headway Surrey



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## Picnic in the Castle Grounds



More than 1000 people enjoyed free music, drama, comedy and entertainment from the Castle Bandstand giving a taste of what was to come in the Guildford Summer Festival & Guildford Fringe. The Mayor of Guildford Cllr Richard Billington unveiled the stunning Castle Grounds flowerbeds marking the launch of Guildford in Bloom 2019. Clandon Park Garden Centre invited children to pot up 'bee friendly' pots to take home. Face painting, Heritage, Pimms, Arts, Gardens, ice creams, Walkfest and picnics were some of the other attractions enjoyed by many. A huge 'shout out & thanks' to Diana Roberts & the Visit Guildford team, Nick Wyschna & the Guildford Fringe team and Amanda Masters & the Experience Guildford team.



## The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service 2019

Earlier this year, Guildford in Bloom were nominated for the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. We were very excited to be invited by HM Lord-Lieutenant of Surrey, Mr Michael More-Molyneux, to a reception for Nominees at The Tithe Barn, Loseley Park on 7 February 2019. Although we did not win, we were very proud to have been nominated.



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## An Act of Blooming Kindness

In May, Guildford in Bloom with the help of Halow and Project Aspire, gave away 150 geranium plants to local residents in Park Barn, Onslow Village, Bellfields and Shalford. A further 25 geranium plants were given to shoppers in Guildford High Street.

Called 'An Act of Blooming Kindness', Guildford in Bloom wanted to do something nice, something special, something to raise their profile and something to encourage more entries into the Front Garden category. The geranium plants were left on front doorsteps of homes with attractive gardens with a poem attached:



*Here is a little flowering plant  
With love from Guildford in Bloom  
We hope it will keep you smiling  
Through spring and summer too  
It will need a little water and  
some rays of sunlight  
We hope it will inspire you &  
make your garden bright*



The geranium plants were potted early in May by Halow who also decorated the poems sticks with ribbon and stick on bees. The message to residents was to enter the free, fun gardening competition and share pictures and messages about their geranium plants on social media using #bloomingkindness

Guildford in Bloom would like to thank Halow and Project Aspire for their help and enthusiasm with this project.

## Meet the Committee

(From left to right:)

Shirley West

Anne Wright

Cllr Caroline Reeves

Rosemary Napp

Lysandra McCulloch

Mike Beckwith

Alastair Watson

Cllr Paul Spooner—Chairman

Amanda Masters (not pictured)



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**Congratulations! See if you can spot yourself on the next couple of pages...**



**Awards Film Show :** <https://youtu.be/0dTxxm5DaFY>

**Certificates:** Certificates can be collected from Stoke Park Nursey, Nightingale Road, Guildford GU1 1ER. Contact Lysandra on 01483 444715 [lysandra.mcculloch@guildford.gov.uk](mailto:lysandra.mcculloch@guildford.gov.uk)



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**Well Done!!**







## Compliments and Stars of the Show!



BBC  
SURREY



### Thank you Joe Talbot, you 'Dig it'

Got caterpillars in your creeper? Bugs in your buddleia? Or lumps in your lawn? Perhaps you have conquered the critters that feast on your plants and want to share your secret? Tune into 'Dig It' for all your green fingered needs and gardening questions answered by their team of experts.



Every Sunday 0900-1200  
on BBC Radio Sussex &  
Surrey 04-104.6FM & on  
DAB



### Thank you Vivace Chorus



For such a brilliant opening to the  
Guildford in Bloom Awards Show!

<https://www.vivacechorus.org/vc/>

## A letter from Wonersh & Shamley Green School

Dear Guildford in Bloom

We are delighted to have won the Guildford in Bloom schools competition for the second year running. Given the challenging weather conditions we were surprised to have won.

This competition has really caught the children's attention and for many inspired a totally new interest in gardening. The children took the competition theme "Colours of Summer" and related it to their classroom learning. Each class kept a running record of their project and took photographs to show the progress of the growing plants. Their themes ranged from a Bee friendly garden, a beachside garden, the word summer spelt out, and an LGBT theme. All the plots were different but all have helped to make our school environment more attractive and environmentally friendly.

Some children now spend their lunchtimes weeding and watering plants. I just love the way it has excited all the children about gardening. We are currently on a Y6 sailing trip and the children were over the moon to hear the exciting news of our win. Thank you for organising the event.



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## Compliments and Stars of the Show!



Here are a few quotes from the many compliments we have received: *wonderful Picnic in*



*Castle – a fantastic success – we are all so delighted – your judges were lovely – looking forward to next year – everyone was so excited – a lovely morning at Clandon Park Garden Centre – the bee talk was very interesting – the children thoroughly enjoyed planting up their pots which are proudly on display in the school garden – a great success – a great evening for all who attend – a very enjoyable evening – we are looking forward to next year – we enjoy taking part – the children*

*really enjoyed it & felt so proud to be representing our school – we are delighted – what a superb evening that was – everything ran like clockwork – it shows the popularity of the event by the numbers that attended – thank you & your team very much for all your efforts – congratulations on a fabulous evening – feeling very proud – we all enjoyed the Award Ceremony – this event gets better and better – it was lovely to see so many people attending – congratulations to all the winners for their time & patience in producing such wonderful gardens, allotments – an amazing evening for all winners – the stage looked fantastic – congratulations to all the winners – an amazing evening – so many people attending – a brilliant evening – we are over the MOON – memorable evening – a great success – amazing – a lovely event – we look forward to next year 😊 – a very happy evening – I was thrilled to be awarded a gold – congratulations to all the winners – a real inspiration to all – fantastic projects in conservation & some amazing individual creations – we will display with pride our certificate – fantastic community initiative – brilliant – thoroughly enjoyed ourselves – lovely to see everyone who had made such a contribution – another outstanding event – you must be over the moon – on stage adoration – felt appreciated – thank you for your support – we are delighted – we are over the moon – helped bring joy to the community – the award show was simply brilliant – congratulations for a fantastic awards ceremony – so special – delighted to receive my award – inspire my neighbours – huge achievement – such a happy celebration – lovely evening – surprise – very chuffed indeed – very excited – entertaining – it gets better every year – congratulations to you & the team – the children really enjoyed receiving their award on stage and meeting the mayor – a grand event – the place was packed with local communities – the crowning moment – champing at the bit to plan for next year – creative thoughts flowing – memorable occasion – positive & therapeutic – a fantastic night – congratulations to you all – outstanding – a wonderful escape from troubles – the many lovely people that go past, offer a kind word or stop & chat to me in my garden.—so very worthwhile.*



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## Schools Gardening Competition—Judges Comments



**Ash Grange Primary School** – Gold—The whole school, staff and children, from Nursery through to Year 6 are very ‘hands on’ and enthusiastic about caring for their environment and gave us a tour of their exciting wildlife pond, new orchard and gardening areas. The children were proud to show us their Colour of Summer gardens where they’d used recycled and repurposed materials. Children have dismantled and reused old wooden planters to make a kite shaped salad bed, an old sandpit has been turned into a large boat shaped planter along with many other imaginative uses of everyday worn items to make containers. Children were keen to talk about the many plants grown from seed.

Plants were growing well and it was great to see that children are encouraged to take personal responsibility for their upkeep (with easy access to watering cans and walk ways), celebrate and respect wildlife (including ‘Geoffrey’ their named beetle). We came away inspired by all that we had seen and from meeting the highly motivated children and staff who are entering the competition for the first time.

**Burpham Primary School** – Gold—Rain did not dampen enthusiasm of Reception year gardeners (and Stella their teacher). Children were very keen to explain their Colour of Summer garden from planning & upkeep to eating its harvest (a wonderful freshly picked plate of radishes, nasturtiums, peas & violas). Children have used brightly painted tyres to make containers that were growing very strong plants. Attracting & looking after insects is evidently a very important part of the entry with bee friendly plants, banana skins for butterflies & a bug hotel. It was exciting to hear about the butterflies that had been bred in the classroom from eggs and only released that week.

Stella explained how saving seeds has cut down costs & that ‘Colour of Summer’ had involved every child in reception through artwork, science, music, reading, writing & numbers. A concert of makaton signed gardening songs had already been given to the rest of the school & parents but also as a very great treat for the judges at the end of our visit.



**Glenesk School** – Gold—The After School Gardening Club children (aged 5-7 years) with Sarah (teacher) were extremely keen to meet the judge, show & talk about their garden. The little gardening club are responsible for a lovely raised bed with their imaginative Colour of Summer design using a wide range of recycled objects as planting containers. It was important to them that the garden was pretty & that flower colour matched the colour of the containers. The children had also tied sticks to make a hanging trellis above the raised bed. This was an excellent way of using the space & very eye catching. Plants were well looked after and growing well. Sarah said that the children were highly committed to looking after their garden & this was clearly evident in the quality, enthusiasm & knowledge that the children demonstrated.

**Gosden House School** – Gold—Despite the recent rain we saw a beautiful display of summer poppies, orange, red, and purple Colours of Summer. A lovely herbaceous border, with very healthy vegetables and herbs growing in raised beds. Many plants have been grown from seed, with excess seeds saved in hand made, hand decorated seed packets. Children enthusiastically showed us their garden, including a wild area containing bug hotels and hedgehog house and talked to us about the plants and their gardening. The older pupils now have a polytunnel to provide year long gardening & can grow a much wider variety of vegetables and flowers. The gardening programme is provided by a team of volunteers, led by Caroline, and they are all working hard to continually expand and improve the garden.



**Guildford Nursery School & Childcare Centre** – Silver Gilt—This year the garden has been integrated with the play area, to introduce the large number of lively two year olds to gardening on a day to day basis. It is next to their sandpit so that they all have continual access to the garden, and can see how it changes and grows. New raised beds around the planting area provide seats for the children to taste and smell the various salads and vegetables and herbs, and watch the insects at close quarters! Plants are grown from seed, with a huge variety of coffee mugs and teapots provided by parents making a colourful and delightful display of the Colours of Summer. The indoor play area has a ‘shop’ where children can ‘buy and sell’ seeds and produce. Anna and Sally are expanding their plans for the garden with excellent ideas from the RHS gardening for schools courses they have attended.

**Jigsaw School** – Gold—Outstanding healthy plants, flowers & vegetables especially the fantastic strawberries which were so delicious and the broad beans were amazing. The care in their garden was clearly seen in the freshness of the plants and the layout was stunning. Again the theme hit you when you walked into the garden, the colours of the plants and containers, you knew it was Joseph and his Amazing coloured Dream Coat, so much thought had gone into it. Just stunning the teachers and students had worked very hard together, and we enjoyed hearing about future plans from Sally who had led the project.



# Schools Gardening Competition—Judges Comments

**Kings College** – Gold—After another very wet day when we arrived you could see the effort the students had put into their garden venture, making it look interesting and colourful they had grown some from seeds. The wild garden was very pretty and the bug hotel was fantastic. You could see that the design and up keep of the garden was very much encouraged by there teacher which has worked very well with them working all together. They met the theme which was the Colour of summer with a trip to the seaside being sandy beach surfing board shells and all kind of interesting things you would find on the beach considering the weather it stood out very well and it was very colourful again the weather didn't help. We think that overall the students had worked very hard and wants to make it even better next year with the help of grants so that the school has a lovely environment to sit and relax in.



**Lanesborough Pre-Prep School**—Gold—A delightful last judging visit of the fortnight. A lovely welcome from the three boys (with their teacher and parent volunteer). The Colour of Summer garden was in a fairly large raised bed that had been very well looked after by the after school Gardening Club children. The boys (aged about 7) really knew the names of all the plants in it. It seemed that the children had designed the garden themselves including the picnic basket container full of such healthy growing strawberries, lettuce, tomatoes, potato and herbs. In the garden there was an area of long green grass with hidden bugs, caterpillars, butterflies and ladybirds that had been made by all the children who had also designed an outstanding bug hotel. The theme stood out with the plants and the beautiful picnic basket.

**Pirbright Village Primary School** – Gold—Children, staff and parents working together on 'dig it' days, shed painting and after school gardening club to restore and beautify the area around an old pond for the use and enjoyment of the whole school. Large cylinder tins from the school kitchen made excellent containers for many excellent flowers including sunflowers and nasturtiums for the Colours of Summer, and vegetables and herbs. The newly restored pond area as now attracted lots of wildlife including toads, newts, water snails and insects. Children had prepared some photographs and writing about the project, and were fully involved with their gardening experience, led by Sally and Nicky. They said 'Our Pond is the start, but our aim is to develop all areas of our School for the plants, insects, wildlife and for us to learn and care for it all'.



**Pond Meadow School** – Silver Gilt—A small group of keen gardeners with learning difficulties (ages about 16-17), supported by teachers and school led the tour of their courtyard garden containing their lovely Colour of Summer themed planted up containers. Teachers explained that going into town to the local superstore to chose and then plant up colourful plants for the theme has been part of developing independent living skills. The students were evidently very proud of their containers (which contained some cheeky Union Jack flags planted by a member of staff in celebration of the current awful wet weather). I was also shown other gardening areas where the students have successfully sown a range seeds, experimented with kitchen scraps (slices of

tomato containing seeds have grown into plants) and are currently looking after some very healthy plants including herbs and vegetables.

**St Nicholas C of E Infant School** – Silver Gilt—Led by two young Green Team representatives of the school's Eco Committee, along with their teacher Mrs Ip, I was given a detailed tour of this very eco friendly hill top infant school and its wonderful garden (with chicken and wildlife) that has been evolving over the past two years. The garden is full of surprises and special areas such as the Stage with its scarecrow that is now home to red bottomed bees. The children have recently taken part in rebuilding a shed using plastic bottles and have helped plant up fantastic repurposed containers that are in abundance (old loo, bicycle, wellies). Seed sowing, planting, harvesting and looking after the garden area is a regular and important part of every Friday involving all the children. The Green Team said they got involved with all the hard work looking after the garden throughout the school year. The Colour of Summer theme has naturally been incorporated into this amazing outdoors learning space / garden with the choice of colourful plants, art and craftwork such as the pretty laminated hearts decorations and ribbon weaving.



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# Schools Gardening Competition—Judges Comments

**Stoughton Infant School** – Silver Gilt—Gardening club leader and a small group of Year 2 led the tour of their special area next to the big playground that has evolved to provide a quiet space for all the children and wildlife. Following on from the success of last year's Guildford in Bloom entry, many of the design elements (decoration and containers) have been kept and added to. Children said how much they liked being in their garden, and enjoyed what it contained such as imaginative recycled wellie boot containers, a repurposed and decorated wooden tool box to make a lovely and effective planter. Children are encouraged to take responsibility for caring for the garden (watering cans are accessible). The theme Colour of Summer can be seen in the children's colourful planting of a range of bedding plants into a variety of containers. Attracting wildlife and repurposing is very important to the Gardening Club and all the children who use the space.



**Wonersh and Shamley Green Primary School**—Gold—Despite very heavy rain throughout visit, children from every year group were keen to use their detailed records and explain how they were fully involved in 'brain storming' ideas, producing designs, planning and practical work outdoors. Children told inspiring stories of how they learnt from and overcame challenges such as the disappointment of poor seed germination and the hard physical work clearing containers and preparing soil. Exciting and very relevant themes were chosen and researched for the Colour of Summer including Saving Bees, Saving the Oceans (from plastic pollution), learning about LGBT and inclusivity (with planting based on the colours of the Pride Rainbow Flag). The entry included plants growing exceptionally well and of very good quality, very good soil preparation (began in the autumn), seeds and

herb plants saved from previous year used again for this competition, highly creative & effective associated art & craft work (stitched bee deckchairs, woven parasols and rainbows) & a variety of informative posters & leaflets about their entry produced by some children. Children and staff are evidently extremely proud of their beautiful and thought provoking raised bed gardens. Having won Best in Competition last year, Jackie (teacher) said they had a lot to live up to but that this has motivated everyone. It certainly showed & I came away amazed at this outstanding entry.

**Wood Street Infant School** – Silver Gilt—Lunchtime club gardeners, helped by Year 1 and Reception children showed us how they have grown a good range of plants (many from seed) chosen for their colour and attractiveness for insects. The theme behind the Colour of Summer garden was chosen as the Ugly Bugs Ball. An effective use of recycled (painted and decorated) tin cans from the kitchen for making planting containers. These were cleverly arranged on painted pallets to make the Colour of Summer competition garden both eye catching and accessible for watering and plant care. Children understood the need for drainage holes in the cans. The Colour of Summer garden has encouraged the use of sewing skills to make delightful bunting from recycled fabric. Children told us how they enjoyed painting the pebbles that decorate their project. The competition garden is part of a well organised and productive school garden (on a hard landscaped area) incorporating a variety of planting containers growing herbs, fruit, vegetables and edible flowers. Emma told us about how the children use e.g. harvested broad beans in the school kitchen to make a houmous & had achieved a Grade 4 RHS level.



**Worplesdon Primary School** - Gold—On arrival it was lovely for one little boy to tell me that the plants would have been much better if we didn't have so much rain the day before so I could tell that the children involved were really interested in their gardening work and we could see the care in all the plants. Their ideas with milk bottles cut out and filled with plants was just lovely and their carpet of wildflowers was looking good as was the herbs in the containers looking healthy. Their theme Summer Glow was just amazing bringing such beautiful bright summer flowers that looked like the sun and container filled with sea shells and stunning flowers and lots of bees and insect homes the colours of summer shone out to you. You could see the children were really involved in their garden and were overjoyed to tell us of all their work they had done in their garden. Their recycled containers were just fantastic a very enjoyable visit by us both.



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# Schools Gardening Competition 2020

## Schools Gardening Competition 2020

# Olympics

Our theme this year is 'Olympics'. We are looking for imaginatively themed gardens and novel containers. Think about what the Olympics means to you. Think about the plants you will use. We particularly like plants that are grown from seed. We also like vegetables and plants that attract wildlife. Think creatively about the containers you will use. Recycling used containers & objects would be a great idea. We want you to have fun designing, planting and looking after your gardens. FOR DETAILS SEE:

<https://www.guildford.gov.uk/guildfordinbloom>

or email [Lysandra.mcculloch@guildford.gov.uk](mailto:Lysandra.mcculloch@guildford.gov.uk)

**Closing Date**

**22 May 2020**

## Playgrounds for Wildlife

Schools, as well as meeting the theme, 'The Tokyo Summer Olympics 2020', the judges will be looking for plants that attract wildlife, especially birds, bees and butterflies. Here are some benefits of creating a playground for wildlife:

- It creates a respect & responsibility towards nature
- Develops practical skills
- Encourages care for the environment
- Encourages an understanding of the need for conservation and preservation
- Encourages working together as a team
- Creates an awareness of the passage of the seasons
- Helps to remove fear of creepy crawlies
- Enhances and protects the school environment
- Encourages recycling
- and it is lots of fun!





# Working on allotments in Autumn, Winter & Spring

## What to do month by month



**Pull out**

### November

- Further sowings of broad beans can be made outdoors. but must be given the protection of cloches.
- Continue planting garlic to the middle of the month.
- Crowns of globe artichoke should be protected from frost by wrapping straw around the base of the plants.
- Spare areas can be dug and compost/manure added. Don't dig if the ground is too wet or frosted.
- Early varieties of mange tout pea can be sown under cloches.
- Potted up herbs should be brought indoors for the winter.
- Soft fruit can be planted in prepared ground.
- Canes that provided fruit of blackberries this year can be pruned to soil level and new ones tied into their place.
- Apples should be picked and, depending on the variety, either be eaten or stored in a cool, dry place until perfect.

### December

- Continue digging vacant areas in the vegetable plot ready for sowing and planting in spring.
- Chicory roots can be lifted at this time by cutting back tops and potting up which will force them to produce blanched, tender chicons with whitened leafy shoots. Three roots should be contained in a 25cm (10") pot placing another pot (upturned) on top so that light can't penetrate.
- Plant soft fruit. . If soil conditions are unsuitable when you receive your plants, plant the bundle temporarily in a spare piece of land or pot to prevent the roots drying out, until conditions are suitable.
- Store fruit that isn't going to be used immediately in clear plastic bags. The bags should be sealed but two or three small pinpricks should be made in the sides so as to release any gasses produced by the fruits. The bags should be kept in a cool place and only healthy fruits stored. Check the fruit regularly and remove any rotten ones.

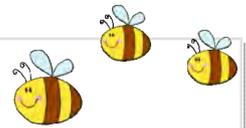
### January

- Clean glasshouse glass ready for the new season.
- Plan your fruit and veg plot for the new season. Remember crop rotation to avoid pests and diseases.
- Order seeds, compost, fleece, fertiliser etc. for new season if not already done
- Prepare a deep trench, for where runner beans are to be grown next summer and fill with rotted compost or manure. Cover with soil ready for sowing your beans later in the year.
- Continue to plant raspberries and other soft cane fruit. If soil conditions are unsuitable when you receive your plants, plant the bundle temporarily in a spare piece of land or pot to prevent the roots drying out, until conditions are suitable.  
Established fruit bushes and apple and pear trees should be pruned. Dormant clumps of early rhubarb should have buckets or forcing jars placed over them to encourage early stems to form.

### February

- Chit seed potatoes in trays, in a light, cool, frost-free place for planting in March or April.
- In the greenhouse you can now begin to sow seeds of cabbage (summer/autumn maturing), celery, parsley, sweet pepper, tomato, leek and onion.

## February (continued)



- Cover ground outdoors with fleece or cloches to warm the soil prior to seed sowing.
- Outdoors (under cloches or in a cold frame) you can sow early varieties of carrot, such as Amsterdam Forcing, broad bean, such as The Sutton, and parsnip. Sow peas in a gutter pipe to plant out later.
- Shallots can be planted out from the middle of the month.
- Prepare asparagus beds for planting in March/April.
- Continue to plant soft fruit as the weather permits.
- Outdoor grape vines should be pruned so that last year's fruited shoots will be shortened therefore encouraging new growth.
- Blackcurrants—established plants can now be pruned allowing the young wood, which will bear most of the fruit, to start putting on growth in spring.

## March

- As soon as soil conditions are suitable sowings of artichoke, beetroot, broad bean, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, carrot, lettuce, parsley and spinach can be made.
- Sowings of aubergine and cucumber, along with other tender vegetables, can now be made in a heated greenhouse.
- Once conditions have warmed up, shallot sets can be planted, spacing at 15cm (6") intervals in rows 30cm (12") apart. Onion sets may also be planted, for maximum yield, space at 5-7.5cm (3-4") with 30cm (12") between rows.
- Sow parsley seeds in pots to ensure a regular supply later in the year.
- To encourage strong growth of chives it is best to divide the clumps.
- Sow early varieties of tomato for indoor planting. It is best to sow outdoor varieties later in the month and the plants are potted on as they grow, ready for planting out in early June.
- Plantings of early varieties of potato can be made during March, however, main crop varieties are best planted in April.
- Sow celery seed into pots then place in the greenhouse so you will have plants ready for planting out during May and June.
- Make late plantings of soft fruit.

## April

- Use fleece when necessary to protect plants and seedlings.
- Continue to direct sow carrots, peas, beetroot, cabbages and salad crops.
- Marrows, courgettes, pumpkins, squashes and cucumbers can all be sown in a heated greenhouse or propagator.
- If any rhubarb flowers appear then cut them out near the base as otherwise they will steal food and energy from the plant.
- Cut asparagus spears if your beds are at least 2-years old.
- Plant main crop potatoes
- Mulch around fruit with well-rotted manure.
- Keep an eye out for any pests and take corrective action.
- Late summer and autumn fruiting raspberries should be cut back to approximately 23cm from the base.
- To encourage early flowers cover strawberry plants with cloches or fleece.
- Keep weeding your plot to stop competition with crops.



## Flowers and Physics—Surrey students create the Quantum Garden



Students from the University of Surrey entered the annual ‘Guildford in Bloom’ competition again this year, with a garden theme of Quantum Computing and its relevance to society. The garden will also reflect the ‘Guildford in Bloom’ 2019 theme - the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the lunar landing.

Thanks to a design by Physics PhD student Daisy Shearer, who in her spare time is a keen baker and gardener, and with the support of fellow student volunteers and University staff, the garden of a rented student property in Guildford Park Avenue is undergoing a complete transformation.

Daisy said: “I’ve been inspired by the University of Southampton’s ‘reflecting photonics’ garden to create an outdoor space to educate people about quantum computing and its possible applications. I wanted to both inform the local community that this kind of research is happening on their doorstep at the University, and get people interested and excited about the idea of quantum computing and how will this improve our lives.”

The circular garden features a ‘path to Quantum Computing’, with paving stones engraved with significant scientific breakthroughs, while the centre explores quantum computing concepts

such as superposition, entanglement and qubits with a visitor bench as the centrepiece. Sections around the bench illustrate the applications of quantum computing through specific planting: for example, biomedicine is represented by the genus *Digitalis* – commonly known as ‘foxgloves’ which contains digoxin used to treat arrhythmia.

Liani Mannifield, Manager of University of Surrey Lettings (USL) said: “This is one of the most inspiring projects I have been involved with, and the passion shown by these students is inspiring. We hope that other students will see how rewarding it is to create beautiful gardens that showcase creative flair and community spirit.

“Houses of multiple occupation, such as student houses, often get a bad reputation for not maintaining the upkeep of external areas. Through this project, we really hope to inspire others to get more involved in gardening, and show that students really do care about their homes and the communities they live in.”

The University of Surrey is key a sponsor of ‘Guildford in Bloom’ 2019. Lisa Dimbylow, Public Engagement Manager, said: “As an enthusiastic and active member of our local community, we are passionate about giving back to the town. Sponsoring this wonderful event is one of the many ways that we hope to achieve that.



## Herbs, flowers, lotions and potions

### Syrian refugees are bringing us closer to medicines, perfumes and cosmetics once made at Guildford House

This summer we've been working with a number of Syrian refugee families to redevelop part of the courtyard garden at Guildford House. They have taken inspiration from the [history of Guildford House](#), which was built in 1660.



We began learning a bit about Guildford House and about gardening in the 17<sup>th</sup> century when the house was built. The garden had many functions - it contained the Brewhouse (still in existence today) which was the building used to brew beer, bake bread and do the laundry. There were also stables for horses and a brick summerhouse - the columns and cornice for this are now attached to the back of the Brewhouse.

The garden was an important place to grow fruit, vegetables and herbs. These provided food to eat but the herbs were also used in medicines, at a time when there were not that many doctors around!

We think the owner's wife, Olive Childe, may have had a 'still room' at the bottom of the house near the kitchen (today's café) where she made up medicines, perfumes and cosmetics.

We know about 17<sup>th</sup>-century herbal concoctions from recipe books (combining meals and medicines) both handwritten and printed. One of the best known was [Nicholas Culpeper's Complete Herbal](#) published in 1653.

Those taking part in the project wanted their flower bed to be both beautiful and useful. It therefore contains a mix of flowers, fruits and herbs, which were cultivated in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

The project participants have been lucky enough to work on their designs and planting with artist [Mary Branson](#), who has one of her pieces of work in the Houses of Parliament, and professional gardener [Jo Carter](#) who has worked on gardens at Chelsea Flower Show.

People taking part in the project had a variety of reasons for getting involved. Many were interested in gardening and had tended their own gardens back home in Syria.

For more information about the project, read the blog post by Melanie Holliker, GBC Access Officer <https://www.guildford.gov.uk/article/22912/Herbs-flowers-lotions-and->



*The Syrian Refugee Garden Project was entered into Guildford in Bloom, Best Neighbourhood Project and won a Gold Award! Very Well Done.*

Making our gardens more bird-friendly doesn't only make us feel good; it helps birds too. With many of our most well-loved garden birds becoming scarce as their habitat disappears, we need to do everything we can to help. Here's how to get more birds into your garden.

### Planting a garden for birds

Birds need somewhere safe to nest, with food available nearby, so plant shrubs that produce seeds or berries, especially evergreen shrubs or those with thorns. Flowering plants will attract insects, perfect for birds to snack on, and seedheads provide a feast for small birds such as goldfinches. Put a source of water somewhere in your garden, so that birds can drink and bathe. Place it near trees or shrubs to give birds an escape route in case of predators, keep it topped up with fresh, clean water and defrost it regularly in winter.

### Top ten plants for a bird-friendly garden

With a few of these plants in your garden, birds will have their pick of places to nest plus plenty of food, summer and winter.

Hawthorn	Pyracantha	Holly
Ivy	Honeysuckle	Rowan
Crab Apple	Dandelions	Guelder Rose

### What to feed birds

Sunflower hearts are hugely popular with lots of small birds, especially blue tits and greenfinches. Nyjer seeds are also a good bet, loved by goldfinches, siskins and sparrows. These tiny black seeds are very high in oil, making them an excellent energy-rich feed. Mealworms and



crushed peanuts will attract robins, nuthatches, dunnocks and sometimes even wrens. Take care to buy peanuts that are suitable for feeding birds, as cheap peanuts can contain aflatoxin, a natural toxin that can actually kill birds, and don't use salted or dry roasted peanuts, as these won't do your garden birds any good either. Suet balls are ideal as a winter feed, but always remove any netting before hanging them up, to avoid the bird getting their feet tangled.

### What not to feed birds

Don't put out used cooking fat, especially if it's mixed with meat juices, as it has high salt content, as well as being a breeding ground for bacteria. It also tends to smear on birds' feathers, making them harder to preen and consequently less waterproof. Dry dog or cat food is another no-no, as birds can choke on large chunks. The same goes for whole peanuts – always crush them or use a feeder designed for peanuts which allow birds to peck off small pieces.

**If you're looking for more help on how to get birds into your garden, come and visit Clandon Park Garden Centre, where you'll find bird feeders, seed mixes and everything else you need. Our friendly staff will be happy to advise on all your gardening queries—Clandon Park, West Clandon, GU4 7RQ—01483 222 925**

## Category winning gardens—what the judges say

### Wildlife – Andrew Wells

Walking into the garden I was very excited by the overall look of the wildlife features. It was wonderful to see multiple ponds in this small garden, one even had a small stream running into it. I also loved that the grass had been left to grow, and any plants in the brick/stone work is required for wildflowers but it is definitely going in the right direction. I very much enjoyed this wildlife garden.

### Allotment – Les and Stella

An excellent plot with quality fruit and veg and everything in a pristine condition. Les and Stella won the best plot award in 2018 and the judges felt that this year they had managed to improve and raise the quality and standard of their plot which is a remarkable achievement especially as the season's weather conditions have not always been ideal. It is a real credit to them. This year they even celebrated the 50th anniversary of the moon landing on their plot with the inclusion of astronaut scare crows. Well done!

### Front Garden – Janet Bangs

Great mixed planting including vegetables. Colourful and bright, attracting plenty of insects. Brightens the whole road as it is clearly visible.

### Container – Ken and Patricia Comerford

This container garden stands out from a long way back. The colours are fantastic and the health, diversity and maintenance are great. All round great container garden.

### Neighbourhood – Palmers Lodge

This stunning little garden, created by Min and Peter on a patch of grass between parking



spaces, could very easily be a show garden at Chelsea Flower Show. Beautifully designed with clematis and rose covered arch, grass paths and bench, the flower beds are packed with an amazing range of carefully chosen flowers, perennials and annuals, all grown from seed, attracting many busy bumble bees. This year another small area has been transformed into a wild flower lawn, and other residents have been inspired to add new flower beds and containers to the areas outside their homes. What was just a parking area in front of the flats has become a peaceful sanctuary and social area to be enjoyed by all the residents.

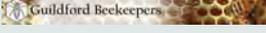
### Student Garden – Daisy University of Surrey

Excellent use of space that has gained approval from local residents who want it to stay. School children have also visited. The garden works on many levels.

### Nature Conservation – Small Blue Project (Butterfly Conservation)

A two year project organised by Butterfly Conservation that ended in July 2019, creating habitat for and re-establishing Small Blue butterflies on a landscape scale. Already some sites have been recolonised. Volunteers are in place to continue the conservation work. 34 work parties & 489 volunteer days on 12 sites in the borough of Guildford.

# Sponsors and Supporters

	Chapters Financial	Financial planning to help you succeed, whoever you are
	Allianz	To enable people to move on and up in life and business
	Barker & Stonehouse	The largest independent family owned furniture company in the UK
	Levanter Developments	Property development and investment company with a 'blemish free' 100% planning track record
	Tungate Quarter	Shop. Dine. Enjoy.
	University of Surrey	Surrey is a world-class, research-led University and proud to call Guildford home
	BMI Mount Alvernia Hospital	Providing facilities for advanced surgical procedures together with friendly, professional
	Greener Guildford	Share ideas, information and positive stories
	Pub Watch	Pre-empting crime & anti-social behaviour in licensed premises
	Residential Property Search	Making each move a positive one
	Guildford Allotment Society	Keep fit, eat healthier food, save money, get fresh air, get an allotment today!
	Clandon Park Garden Centre	Visit our exciting Christmas Shop for trees, wreathes & decorations
	Guildford Borough Council	Your local Council providing local services
	Experience Guildford	Here to make sure your time in Guildford is the best it can be
	BBC Radio Surrey	'Dig It' – the gardening phone-in with Joe Talbot. Call 0800 232 1045 for green advice
	Guildford Shakespeare Company	"This company is nothing short of miraculous. A beacon for the Arts" – Brian Blessed OBE
	Vantage Point Magazine	Your best view of what's going on locally
	Guildford Lions Club	Formed in 1957, we are one of the leading clubs in the area
	Vivace Chorus	If you love to sing, you'll love Vivace
	Guildford Fringe Festival	Bringing quirky events to our wonderful town
	Guildford Summer Festival	Your beautiful summer starts here
	Visit Guildford	In the heart of the Surrey Hills
Lauren Beckwith	Lauren Beckwith	Local design and print
	Guildford Beekeepers	We run theory & practical courses for anyone considering beekeeping
	Waitrose	Fabulous Festive Feasts – Order now for a stress-free Christmas
	Albury Vineyard	A small, family-run biodynamic vineyard located in the beautiful Surrey Hills

**Guildford in Bloom** just grows and grows, and once again we are hugely grateful to our sponsors for their encouragement and support. We especially appreciate their active involvement with many Guildford in Bloom events, and cheering on our fabulous competition winners at our annual Award Ceremonies.

Our sponsor list is growing too, with our long term and very loyal Premium sponsors Allianz and Chapters Financial being joined this year by new Premium sponsors Barker & Stonehouse. Major sponsors Tunsgate Quarter and University of Surrey, both supporting us for a number of years, were this year joined by Levanter Developments. A number of sponsors kindly support competition categories, BMI Mount Alvernia, Pubwatch, Residential Property Search, Guildford Allotments Society and Greener Guildford. The Clandon Garden Centre another long time and loyal supporter once again hosted our Schools Award Ceremony and plant potting at the June Castle Picnic.

Guildford Borough Council and Experience Guildford offer excellent and widespread publicity across the Borough, and we receive 'in kind' sponsorship from

many others. We thank our long standing sponsors and welcome our new ones to the Guildford in Bloom family.

The Guildford in Bloom Committee is always looking to bring gardening and love and enhancement of our environment to more and more people in Guildford Borough. Guildford in Bloom is one of those causes that has no 'down side', the contestants, their families and friends love it, with a wider and wider range of contestants entering. From community groups and charities, to individual gardening enthusiasts who care for their small green patch of Guildford, to the wider more community and public green spaces, Guildford in Bloom is growing and looking forward to welcoming more sponsors on board.

What's not to love about gardens, and having your name connected with so many positive and engaged local people. The 'feel good factor' abounds for all who get involved. Please do contact us to talk about the many and varied ways you or your business might be associated with the 2020 Guildford in Bloom competition and events. Rosemary Napp, [rosemarynapp@gmail.com](mailto:rosemarynapp@gmail.com)



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Allianz aims to be an outstanding competitor in personal and commercial insurance, helping people and companies move on and up in business and life.

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Chapters Financial Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority, number 402899



Barker & Stonehouse are the largest independent family-owned furniture company in the UK, with 11 stores and 2 outlets nationwide. We're passionate about the environment and many of our stores have a living wall on the side of the building, acting as home to all kinds of natural flora and wildlife. In fact, our Guildford store has some of the best green credentials of any furniture retailers in the UK!

**Ladymead, Guildford, GU1 1DL**



# Palmers Lodge Community Garden

## Creating Palmers Lodge Community Garden

By Peter & Min Martin

My wife and I began the work of developing a Community Garden for Palmer's Lodge in 2015. Prior to starting we contacted all our neighbours to make sure that we were not going to step on anyone's toes. We were delighted to find that practically all residents were more than enthusiastic to have a community garden and there was not one person who had any objections to our ideas.

Our next step was to ask the council for their approval to develop a grass covered area for the garden. This was received very quickly and in May 2015 we turned over the first turf of grass to begin what we now call the Palmer's Lodge Community Garden.

Since the beginning of the Community Project many of the residents of Palmer's Lodge have actively supported us through donations, which we have used to buy plants and fertilizers and the purchase of a wooden arch, which has given the garden an outstanding focal point. Some of our neighbours have also given us plants and composts. When we first started this project we were also given some invaluable practical guidance, by one of our neighbours, on how to prepare the ground for planting. We are more than pleased we took this advice as we have had some truly staggering displays of flowers over the past four years.



This year's display has been second to none and in September of this year the Palmer's Lodge Community garden was awarded the Guildford-in-Bloom trophy for the Best in Class Community Project. After four years of hard work the residents of Palmer's Lodge are absolutely delighted. At the awards ceremony we were very pleased that eight of our Palmer's Lodge neighbours were able to receive the trophy with us.

My wife and I are particularly happy that the Palmer's Lodge Community Garden is now somewhat like an oasis in our small estate and that so many of our Palmer's Lodge residents enjoy sitting in the garden to absorb the beauty of the flowers and to chat with their friends and other neighbours. The oak bench, which the Council very kindly donated, is also as popular with Palmer's Lodge carers as it is with our neighbours.

Above all, my wife and I are more than happy that through this Community Project we have, we believe, helped to generate a greater interest in gardening amongst Palmer's Lodge residents and have even motivated several of our neighbours to become keen gardeners themselves.

Neighbours who are not mobile enough to do practical gardening also tell us the Community Garden helps brighten their days. The Community Garden has also effectively brought many of our neighbours much closer together. This is particularly evident when we hold our annual Guildford-in-Bloom tea and cake party, which is open to all Palmer's Lodge residents.

The Palmer's Lodge Community Garden Project has certainly exceeded our expectations of four years ago and is now, without question, a source of well-being – physical, mental and social - for the Palmer's Lodge community.



By Peter & Min Martin



01483 444718  
[parks@guildford.gov.uk](mailto:parks@guildford.gov.uk)



# Explore Parks, Gardens and Countryside

In the midst of the Surrey Hills there is a total of 2600 acres of parks, countryside and open spaces to discover. 78 parks, 52 countryside areas and 32 children's playgrounds to explore and enjoy. Six of these have been awarded the prestigious Green Flag Award.

**Stoke Park** is Guildford's largest and best-known park. Just a few minutes walk from the town centre you will find woodland, gardens, model boating pool, skate park, an amazing paddling pool, crazy golf, children's play area and tennis courts, together with toilets and refreshment facilities. The amazing green space is perfect for family fun and picnics. It's ideal for jogging or walking to keep fit. The open rolling grassland is used for events including music festivals and the Surrey County Show. More entertainment can be found in the Castle Grounds at the bandstand in the summer months.

**Walking** is popular with all ages as a way of keeping fit. Take in exceptional stunning views at Pewley Downs, Chantry Wood and The Mount or walk through history at Chilworth Gunpowder Mills and Heritage Trails. Explore rare and beautiful heathland areas in Pirbright Heath and Lakeside Nature Reserve in Ash. Enjoy the tranquility and wildlife in the Riverside Park Nature Reserve out of town, or head for Quakers' Acre or Westnye Gardens in town (you can download the app for a tranquillity walk).

**Ablaze with colour** – the award winning castle grounds have colourful displays of trees and flowers all year round. Chantry Wood is the place to see bluebells in May. Jubilee Wood in Stoke Park is spectacular in Autumn. Pewley Downs is covered in summer wildflowers.

Discover the River Wey Navigations with a walk along the riverbank to watch the birds, wildlife and boaters. Head from Burpham to Shalford through water-meadow sites. A walk towards Godalming or to Send and Ripley will provide many cosy pub stops along the way.

[www.guildford.gov.uk/parksplaygroundsandgreenspaces](http://www.guildford.gov.uk/parksplaygroundsandgreenspaces)

01483 444715

[parks@guildford.gov.uk](mailto:parks@guildford.gov.uk)



<b>JANUARY</b>	Dust off the winter cobwebs and enjoy a walk in the beautiful Surrey countryside—Pewley Downs is an important local nature reserve, close to the town centre with great views—GU1 3SW	<b>JULY</b>	The Castle Grounds is famous for its stunning flower beds. During the summer months it hosts many free events including bandstand concerts and outdoor theatre performances — GU1 3SY
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	Phyllis Tuckwell Memory Meadow is a stunning, colourful carpet of spring bulbs located within Stoke Park, GU1 1ER	<b>AUGUST</b>	The amazing Stoke Park Paddling Pool is a children's paradise and FREE to visit. Bring a picnic—GU1 1ER
<b>MARCH</b>	Sutherland Memorial Park has an exciting children's playground and a variety of sports facilities—GU4 7JU	<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	Anyone for tennis? Did you know that you can hire tennis courts and other sports pitches across the borough's parks.
<b>APRIL</b>	The magnificent bluebells in Chantry Woods can not be missed—Don't forget to take your cameras—GU4 8PZ	<b>OCTOBER</b>	The fascinating Chilworth Gunpowder Mills is hidden in the Tillingborne Valley and has 17th century ruins—GU4 8NP
<b>MAY</b>	The Surrey County Show returns to Stoke Park on May Bank Holiday Monday and is a popular family attraction—GU1 1ER	<b>NOVEMBER</b>	Guildford's newest children's playground opened in 2016 at Onslow Recreational Ground. Also visit the Arboretum right next door —GU2 7QP
<b>JUNE</b>	Visit the award winning Riverside Park Nature Reserve with a mosaic of different habitats including an 800 meter boardwalk across the reed beds—a bird watchers paradise—GU4 7ND	<b>DECEMBER</b>	Take a break from Christmas shopping and pop into one of our Town Centre Parks: Quakers Acre next to the library, Westnye Gardens overlooking the River Wey and Allen House Grounds off Chertsey Street.



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## Castle Grounds Flower Beds



This year the floral display celebrated the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the twinning of Guildford with Freiburg in southwest Germany, a relationship supported by Guildford Twinning Association and still warm and active.

**International friendship is more important than ever today.**



## Guildford in Bloom 2020—Gardening Competition

**Guildford in Bloom competition is free to enter and open to all**

**Residents, Businesses, Community Groups and Schools within the Borough including:**

*Albury, Artington, Ash, Burpham, Compton, Clandon, Horsley, Effingham, Merrow, Normandy, Onslow, Pirbright, Puttenham, Ripley, Send, Seal & Sands, Shackelford, Shalford, Shere, St Martha, Stoughton, Tongham, Wanborough & Worplesdon*

**Formed in 1981, Guildford in Bloom brings together community groups, businesses, schools and residents to promote imaginative ways to make the Borough look it's best and to promote health & wellbeing, community working and champion Guildford's natural environment.**

In 2020 the Castle Grounds floral display will celebrate National VE Day.

### **National VE Day**

This theme will carry through into Guildford in Bloom's Gardening Competition. More details about the competition and the categories will be announced in Spring.

<https://www.guildford.gov.uk/guildfordinbloom>



### **2020 Gardening Competitions**



Details to be announce in Spring 2020

**Gardening promotes a great sense of community and has proven therapeutic and health benefits. See our next newsletter for more information about health benefits and stories from competition entrants.**



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## Species Alert—Asian Hornet

The [Asian hornet \(\*Vespa velutina\*\)](#) is a species of hornet which is not native to the UK. It is smaller than our native hornet and single hornets pose no greater risk to human health than other hornets or bees. However, they do pose a risk to honey bees and pollinating insects. This is why we are keen to stop this insect establishing in the UK, and why you should report suspected sightings.

**How to spot an Asian hornet**—Asian hornets:

- have a dark brown or black velvety body
- have a yellow or orange band on fourth segment of abdomen
- have yellow tipped legs
- are smaller than the native European hornet
- are not active at night



**How to report an Asian hornet**—Report sightings by email: [alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk](mailto:alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk). Include information on location, date and number of Asian hornets you have seen. For more information, see <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/asian-hornet-uk-sightings-in-2018>

## Beautiful & Wanted Wildlife spotted in a wildlife garden entry

Robin Sparrow Starling Hiskin Stock Dove Collared Dove  
Bullfinch Jay Thrush Blackbird Bluetit Jackdaw  
Ringnecked Parakeet Great Tit Goldfinch Wren  
Pigeon Wood Pigeon Long tailed Tit Greenfinch  
Magpie Linnet Goldcrest Fieldfare Redwing  
Dunnock Sparrowhawk Blackcap Chaffinch  
House Martin Coal Tit Green Woodpecker  
Greater Spotted Woodpecker Pied Wagtail  
Duck Drake Pheasant Nuthatch Red Kite

Squirrel Fox Wild Rabbit Field Mouse  
Frog Toad



**Wildlife Watch**—let us now what you spot in your garden [guildfordinbloom@guildford.gov.uk](mailto:guildfordinbloom@guildford.gov.uk)

# Gardening games for young children

## Rain, rain, come and play:

Have fun letting the kids' water. Use a watering can with different water nozzles. Dig down a couple of inches and show them how the soil is still dry underneath. Explain that if you do not water often, the topsoil creates an impermeable barrier and sheds the water.

## Slug and Snail races:

Set a timer and see who can collect the most slugs and snails in 10 minutes. This is a good game for dusk when the little slimy creatures come out for a snack. Or you could make it even more fun and do it by torchlight.

## The grateful deadheads:

To keep annuals blooming, see how many deadheads children can pull, snap off or cut. This is lots of fun. Use the deadheads to create a picture.

## Earwig booby trap:

Leave a damp newspaper rolled up in the garden for 24 hours. See how many Earwigs crawl in.

## Snail trap:

Put a board about an inch off the ground. Snails will crawl under it for shelter. Check it each day to see who can trap the most.

## Tulip garden:

Plant bulbs in a pattern that spells out your child's name or initials. For best results, plant on a hillside or in an area that can be viewed from above, such as a second-story window.

## Teepee garden:

Arrange cane poles in a teepee shape and plant fast-growing vines such as nasturtiums, sweet peas or green beans around the bottom. In a couple of months, you will have a leafy tent.

## Sunflower clubhouse:

For larger gardens, in a sunny spot, plant an outline of rows of sunflower seeds in a shape about 5 x 5 feet square. (Leave open space on one side for the "door.") If you want a 'carpet' underfoot, plant *Soleirolia soleirolia*, commonly known as mind-your-own-business.



## Frozen Flowers

Harvest edible flowers and freeze them in ice cubes!

## Birdhouse gourds:

Grow pumpkins and squash. Harvest in autumn leaving a few inches of stem intact. Carefully wash and leave to dry for around 6 months. Now carve and paint to make birdhouses.

## Personalized pumpkins:

Plant pumpkins and when they are about the size of a baseball, write your child's name on one. Using a paper clip, punch shallow holes along the outline of the name. When the pumpkin is ready to harvest, you will know whose is whose. The name will be visible in a hue lighter than the pumpkin skin.

## Cucumber bottles:

This is a little wacky but fun. Plant cucumber seeds. When the cucumbers are about an inch long, slide one into a plastic bottle. (Keep it shaded or else it will cook). When the little cucumber grows up, take it off the vine, bottle and all. You will have the horticultural equivalent of the ship in the bottle.

## Seed savers:

At the end of the summer, collect seeds from flowers and vegetables and dry them out. Then put the seeds in paper (not plastic) bags and label them. Next summer, your children can have their own stash of seeds to plant.



## Dates, Games and Movies

January 2020		School Gardening Competition Opens
March 2020		GiB Gardening Competition Opens
April 2020		Newsletter – Spring edition
5 May 2020	High Street	Come and see us at the Farmers Market in Guildford
22 May 2020		Schools Gardening Competition Closing Date
25 May 2020		Come and see us at the County Show
6 June 2020, 12:30pm	Castle	Come and picnic with us at 'Picnic in the Castle Ground', a fun, free, family event
1 – 12 June 2020		Schools Judging
14 June 2020		Public Competition Closing Date
17 June 2020, 9:30am	Clandon Park	Schools Gardening Competition Awards
29 June – 19 July 2020		Public Competition Judging
September 2020	Yvonne Arnaud	Award Ceremony
November/December 2020		Newsletter – Autumn edition
7 December 2020, 4:00pm	Guildhall	Sponsor Reception

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A	H	D	N	A	T	U	R	E	E	I	E
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### WORD SEARCH

CONSERVATION

PRESERVATION

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CARNIVORE

JUNGLE

SPECIES

FOREST

NATURE

SAFARI

AMPHIBIAN

ANIMAL

ENDANGERED

WILDERNESS

How many bees  and how many butterflies  can you find in this newsletter?

### WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO STAR IN OUR GUILDFORD IN BLOOM MOVIE.

Would you like to take part in the Guildford in Bloom Movie? We are looking for community groups, businesses, schools, families and individuals to take part in our mini movie. Contact Lysandra on 01483 444715 [lysandra.mcculloch@guildford.gov.uk](mailto:lysandra.mcculloch@guildford.gov.uk)

## Get Involved: Committee Member, Supporter, Sponsor

### Welcome from our Chairman Cllr Paul Spooner Chairman

We are lucky to live and work in a beautiful place. Guildford itself is a historic town with a rich and varied architectural heritage. Outside the town, our many lovely villages are set in some spectacular scenery designated for its long-term protection.



As a Council, we're proud of our own award winning parks and countryside - I often wish that I had more time to relax in the stunning Castle Grounds during the warm summer months. As I walk through Guildford though, I do get the opportunity to appreciate the wonderful colour that our hanging baskets and troughs bring to the town.

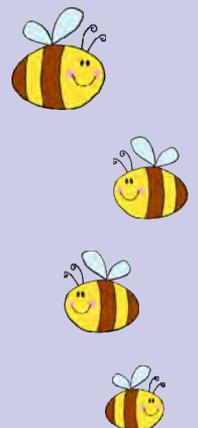


But Guildford in Bloom adds so much more. There is something special about our residents, communities and businesses coming together and making our borough a greener, cleaner and even more attractive place to live, work and visit. I have been lucky to see at first-hand how Guildford in Bloom has encouraged residents to transform their own gardens, both large and small, inspired schools and their pupils to learn about plants and nature and motivated communities to come together with fantastic projects to enhance their areas. Judging the "Best Pub in Bloom" is always a pleasure!



Guildford in Bloom has been running for over 26 years and its success is thanks to a dedicated team of volunteers working hand-in-hand with the Council. I am proud and privileged to have been a part of this for the last 4 years and have thoroughly enjoyed every minute. As we continue to grow and expand, please come and join us by becoming a sponsor of our 2020 campaign.

- ◇ Become a committee member
- ◇ Volunteer to Judge or become a category specialist
- ◇ Help run our schools gardening competition
- ◇ Encourage entry into our gardening competition
- ◇ Become a sponsor
- ◇ Engage and work with our communities
- ◇ Write articles for our newsletter
- ◇ Support our fun events
- ◇ Share your knowledge on gardening, wildlife etc.



For more information and an informal chat, phone Lysandra McCulloch on 01483 444 718 or email [Lysandra.mcculloch@guildford.gov.uk](mailto:Lysandra.mcculloch@guildford.gov.uk)



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[parks@guildford.gov.uk](mailto:parks@guildford.gov.uk)



We hope you enjoy planning your 2020 gardening season,  
from all on the Guildford in Bloom Committee,



*Merry Christmas*

## Contact Us

Guildford in Bloom

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01483 444718

[parks@guildford.gov.uk](mailto:parks@guildford.gov.uk)

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