



The Farnham Society  
presents

# Heritage Open Days

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2023



Millennium Child by Sue Broadhead, Farnham in Bloom 2000

**Free Admission  
to all venues,  
tours and events**

[farnhamsociety.org.uk](http://farnhamsociety.org.uk)

Supported by



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# HERITAGE OPEN DAYS IN FARNHAM 2023

## Welcome

**by Alan Gavaghan, Chairman, The Farnham Society**

Our ancestors were certainly creative with tangible evidence of Farnham's history from the Castle to Waverley Abbey, and of course the magnificent buildings in and around the town. The town's reputation for creativity still lives on, from examples of innovative pottery design to the international reputation of The University for the Creative Arts. It can also be claimed that our Heritage Open Days Committee has created another programme of events which will again unwrap some hidden building gems of Farnham and the talents of guides and speakers, all with the support of many volunteers and members of the public. Each year the offers grow and still without cost to all those wishing to participate. One tip is to book early where required, as there is a high demand for places.

By the time you are enjoying all the events I will have stood down as Chairman of The Farnham Society and I have every intention of using the resulting spare time to join in the entertainment with you. See you there!

**and by Richard Hunt, the new Chairman of the Farnham Society**

I am delighted to have the opportunity to add my 'welcome' to this year's Heritage Open Day's Programme.

We are rightly proud of Farnham's heritage and the story our buildings and places tell of its development across the centuries. But also imagine for a moment the echoes of the footsteps of all those walking the town in their time, the varied lives they were living and how they helped to make Farnham what it is today. We hope this year's programme is not only full of interest but brings to life in your imagination some of those echoes of the past.

My thanks to our committee for all their work in making this programme possible and we hope you enjoy this year's Open Days

The details in this brochure were correct at the time of going to press. For any last minute changes to the programme, please check the Farnham Society website at

**[farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2023](http://farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2023)**

or our Facebook page

**"Farnham Heritage Open Days"**

Many of our events must be booked in advance, see the event listings for details.

Booking opens at 8am on Wed 30<sup>th</sup> August for events booked via the Farnham Society website .



**[farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2023](http://farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2023)**

# Creativity Unwrapped

## The National Trust's theme for Heritage Open Days 2023

Welcome to Farnham's Heritage Open Days!

This brochure will enable you to unwrap the town's wealth of creativity, all waiting to be explored. Farnham has the distinguished status of World Craft Town and here you will find the University for the Creative Arts, also Farnham Maltings, a regionally known arts and community centre, and the Farnham Pottery, a well preserved Victorian country pottery which is not only still a working pottery in its original buildings but also offers community-based arts and crafts education.

Farnham Museum occupies a Grade I Listed Georgian building in the centre of the town and all these notable places are putting on special activities for Heritage Open Days.

Farnham has a long history. It is the oldest recorded settlement in Surrey, first documented in the seventh century, and the Heritage Open Days celebration will offer rare opportunities to see some of its most distinguished older buildings.

Farnham Castle, dating back to the twelfth century and not normally open to the public will throw open its doors for an open day, and Waverley Abbey House, overlooking the atmospheric ruins of the Cistercian Abbey, will welcome visitors.

Farnham Pottery will host a special event, and the Museum of Farnham will celebrate its handsome Georgian building with art activities, trails and tours.

There will also be a full programme of talks by specialists on a variety of subjects, walks led by expert guides, and many of the town's historic buildings will welcome visitors. All the details are in this brochure.

For ten fascinating days in September, Farnham will unwrap its wealth of creativity. And don't forget, entry to everything is free!



**Farnham Pottery  
Greenware Owl Jug**

# Quick Guide

Please refer to listings for time and information

Key ● Event ● Event - Booking Required

Page	Open Days	Fri 8	Sat 9	Sun 10	Mon 11	Tue 12	Wed 13	Thu 14	Fri 15	Sat 16	Sun 17
25	10 Castle Street									●	●
23	Bush Hotel			●	●	●	●				
24	Caffe Piccolo							●			
6	Crafts Study Centre					●		●			
5	Farnham Castle										●
21	Farnham Masonic Centre		●								
8	Farnham Pottery		●	●						●	●
26	Guitar Village	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	
25	High Mill									●	●
22	Hones Yard		●								
7	Kiln/Village Hall Badshot Lea										●
9	Museum of Farnham									●	
21	New Ashgate Gallery	●	●			●	●	●	●	●	
22	Old Vicarage		●								
24	Partridge House			●							
6	University for the Creative Arts	●									
7	Waverley Abbey House		●								
23	West Street Chapel		●	●							
26	Zizzi	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

Page	Guided Walks	Fri 8	Sat 9	Sun 10	Mon 11	Tue 12	Wed 13	Thu 14	Fri 15	Sat 16	Sun 17
16	Architecture of The Borough and West St				●						
18	Blockbusters in The Bourne									●	
17	Courtyards and Passages of Farnham						●				
15	Farnham's Industries										
15	Moor Park House		●								
18	Rise and Fall of Waverley Abbey										●
16	Rowledge to Wrecclesham and back					●					
19	Shepherd and Flock to Waverley										●
17	Tice's Meadow Nature Reserve								●		
19	Victoria Garden										●

Page	Talks	Fri 8	Sat 9	Sun 10	Mon 11	Tue 12	Wed 13	Thu 14	Fri 15	Sat 16	Sun 17
12	Architecture of Castle Street					●					
13	Beauty and the Built Form							●			
12	Creativity in The Bourne over 2000 years						●				
10	Farnham Herald Archive	●									
13	Farnham Maltings								●		
12	Farnham's Flora					●					
13	Garden Design in Surrey							●			
14	George Bourne, Change in the Village									●	
11	300 Years of Striking Bells with Hammers				●						
10	Life and Times of St Andrew's Church		●							●	
14	More & More, the Miracle at Mount Olivet								●		
11	Pauline Baynes Exhibition	●	●								
11	Randolph Caldecott and Pauline Baynes		●								



## FARNHAM CASTLE, KEEP & DEER PARK, Castle Street GU9 0AG

The Bishops' Palace and Castle Keep are open Sun 17<sup>th</sup> Sept from 11am to 4.30pm. Advance booking not required. Map 5.

No parking is available at the Castle, except for visitors with Blue Badges. It is recommended that visitors use a town centre car park, or park in Farnham Park (entrance off Folly Hill) and enter the Castle via the main gates on Castle Hill.

**Strictly no dogs (assistance dogs permitted).**

**Access:** The ground floor, only, is accessible for limited mobility visitors – there are no lifts, and some steep steps.

**Self-guided tours of the Bishops' Palace** are available between 11am and 4.30pm. Volunteer Palace Guides will be present between 2pm and 4pm to offer historical information.

**Farnham Castle Keep** will be open throughout, with a climb up steep steps for an unrivalled view across Farnham and the historic Bishops' Deer Park, created by the great Bishop William of Wykeham, at the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Refreshments:**

Wood fired Pizzas, Cream Teas and Refreshments will be available to purchase.

### **Historic re-enactments:**

Fun for all the family! Historic Civil War re-enactments from 11am to 4pm featuring military drills.

### **900 years of living history!**

Farnham Castle dates from the twelfth century, and for 900 years, until the mid-twentieth century, was the home and power base of the Bishops of Winchester, and consequently frequently visited by royalty. The Keep and Palace are of great historical significance, and the historic buildings are Grade 1 and Grade 2 Listed.

Farnham Castle is now a private venue for Weddings, Events and Conferences, and is the jewel in Farnham's crown, looking down upon the town from its elevated position on Castle Hill.





**UNIVERSITY FOR THE  
CREATIVE ARTS (UCA),  
Falkner Road, GU9 7DS. Map 12**

**Fri 8<sup>th</sup> Sept, tours at 11am and 2pm.  
Tours last approx 45mins to 1 hour**

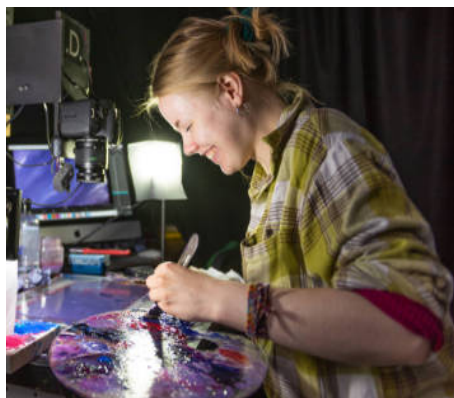
**Advance booking required (max 10  
per tour) at  
[farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2023](http://farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2023)**

The formal study of art in Farnham dates back 170 years to the 1860s when Lieutenant-Colonel John Luard, known as The Scarlet Lancer, founded the first school of art in the town.

The school grew in size and importance over succeeding decades to join first with the Guildford art school, then to become the West Surrey School of Art and Design, then the Surrey Institute of Art and Design, then Farnham University for the Creative Arts and finally the University for the Creative Arts.

Today UCA has state of the art facilities including a glassblowing hotshop, film studios and stop motion animation spaces. The tours guided by knowledgeable technicians will provide a comprehensive view of the campus showcasing these facilities. Tours take about an hour.

**Access:** campus is fully accessible.



**CRAFTS STUDY CENTRE,  
Falkner Road, GU9 7DS. Map 4**

**Open for conducted tours  
Tue 12<sup>th</sup> Sept 11am and  
Thu 14<sup>th</sup> Sept 11am**

**Advance booking essential  
(max 8 per tour) on the CSC's  
website:**

**[www.csc.uca.ac.uk/programme](http://www.csc.uca.ac.uk/programme)**

The Crafts Study Centre is a specialist university museum and research centre, home to internationally renowned collections of modern British craft.

At 11am on each open day there will be a free guided tour lasting one hour led by the Curator, of the current exhibitions ('Lineages' and 'New Craftsman, St Ives - the Craft of Selling) including a behind the scenes viewing of selected objects drawn from the collections.

**Access:** fully accessible for wheelchair users, automatic entrance door and lift to all floors.



**WAVERLEY ABBEY HOUSE,**  
**Waverley Lane, GU9 8EP.**

**Sat 9<sup>th</sup> Sept, house and ground/first floor open 10am to 4pm. No need to book.**

Café open for light lunches, home made cakes, ice creams and refreshments.

Waverley Abbey House is an elegant Georgian mansion set in spacious lawned grounds with a lake. It was built originally by Sir John Aislabie c. 1725, designed by the architect Colin Campbell, and was rebuilt and extended in the nineteenth century following a fire.

It occupies a peaceful setting a couple of miles outside Farnham with the River Wey running through the grounds, adding to the beauty and tranquillity of the place. In view of the house are the ancient ruins of Waverley Abbey, the first Cistercian monastery to be established in England. The house is now a venue for courses, conferences and events.

**Access:** Disabled access to ground floor only, stairs to upper floor.



**THE KILN / VILLAGE HALL,**  
**St George's Road, Badshot Lea, GU9 9LY.**

**Sun 17<sup>th</sup> Sept, 10am to 4pm**

**Tours throughout the day on an on-demand basis, no need to book.**

This is the old village hop kiln built in 1886.

Tours will take visitors throughout the building and will include the restored hop drying room. The history of the building will be described, and that of hop growing in the village, how the building functioned and how it functions now as a village hall. Many photographs and drawings will be on display.

**Access:** stairs only to the upper floors of the building to the restored hop drying room.



## FARNHAM POTTERY

**Quennells Hill, GU10 4QJ (off A325 through Wrecclesham).**

**Sat 9<sup>th</sup> and Sat 16<sup>th</sup> 10am and 2pm, and Sun 10<sup>th</sup> and Sun 17<sup>th</sup> at 10am there will be tours lasting 45 minutes, also demonstrations and CLAY events.**

**Advance booking essential on the pottery's website:  
[thefarnhampottery.co.uk](http://thefarnhampottery.co.uk)**

The Pottery is open every day 9am to 4pm, with café providing home cooked food.

The Farnham Pottery in Wrecclesham is celebrating 150 years of existence. It is a unique Victorian country pottery run until 1998 by five generations of the Harris family then saved from potential demolition by the Farnham Building Preservation Trust which carried out structural repairs.

Of five kilns in use during the heyday of the pottery business, one rare example of a wood-fired kiln remains. Since 2012 the present owners have pursued a programme of restoration of the buildings, bringing all parts into use.

The Pottery will be showing the Farnham 'greenware' collection recently donated by Katie Williamson and the public are invited to bring along their favourite Harris pot to put on short term display. The CLAY master potter will be demonstrating his craft using locally dug clay with designs echoing the Harris tradition. The pottery will have an art exhibition (Borderlands Society) and the café will be available.

**Access:** floors are uneven and there are steep stairs. No disabled access to the upper floor. Accessible toilet.





**MUSEUM OF FARNHAM,  
Willmer House, 38 West Street, GU9 7DX. Map 7.**

**Sat 16<sup>th</sup> Sept, special open day. No need to book.**

Join us on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> to unwrap the creativity of Willmer House as the museum celebrates the man-made and natural beauty of the building and its garden through art activities and trails.

The Museum is open Wed to Sat 10am to 4pm.

Willmer House, the home of the Museum of Farnham, is an outstanding and little altered example of a Georgian townhouse. It was built in 1718 for a wealthy hop merchant, John Thorne, and today it is one of Farnham's only two non-ecclesiastical Grade I Listed Buildings. It is a symmetrical early Georgian townhouse with Baroque design influences and many original interior features. The front façade is a tour de force of rubbed and gauged red brickwork with fine putty joints, though this is currently obscured by scaffolding pending repair work.

Behind the house is a sheltered walled garden, secluded and quiet, with a portrait bust of William Cobbett. The modern Garden Gallery is a teaching and exhibition space which can be hired for private events.

**Access:** disabled access to ground floor, Garden Gallery and garden, disabled parking and accessible toilet. Stairs to upper floors.



## TALKS

Advance booking not required except for the Old Court House (Farnham Herald Archive Open Day)

**Access:** lifts are available at all venues except the Old Court House (Farnham Herald)



### “Farnham Herald Archive Open Day”, talk and tour by the Herald Archive Project Team

**Fri 8<sup>th</sup> Sept, two sessions, 11am and 2pm, The Old Court House, Union Road, GU9 7PT. Map 21**

**Advance booking essential (max 12 per session) at [farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2023](http://farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2023)**

An introduction to the Herald Archive, which charts the history of Farnham and neighbouring communities such as Alton, Bordon, Haslemere, Liphook and Petersfield since the 19<sup>th</sup> century. There will be a short tour of Tindle Newspapers’ headquarters at the historic Old Court House which once served as Farnham’s police station and magistrates’ court.

**Access:** ramp available at front steps; staircases within the building; no lift.



### “The Life and Times of St Andrew’s Church”, talks by the Revd. H. David Uffindell

**Open mornings Sat 9<sup>th</sup> and Sat 16<sup>th</sup> Sept from 10am to 1pm, St Andrew’s Church, Upper Church Lane (off Downing Street), GU9 7PW. Map 20.**

**No need to book for the talks.**

The open mornings will include two short talks by Rev David Uffindell at 10 and 11am, on “The Life and Times of St Andrew’s Church” and tours of the tower, a wonderful opportunity for photos from the top!

The church has a long history – the chancel dates back to the 12<sup>th</sup> century with some Norman remains. The east window is nineteenth century, by A.W.N Pugin, but the surrounding original stonework is

unchanged. Extensive works in the 19<sup>th</sup> century included the raising of the originally small tower to 115 ft, and work in the 2000s by architect Ptolemy Dean featured the setting up of The Pavilions at the west end of the church. A new art work, “Aerial Aquarium” has recently been hung in the chancel. Refreshments will be available all morning.

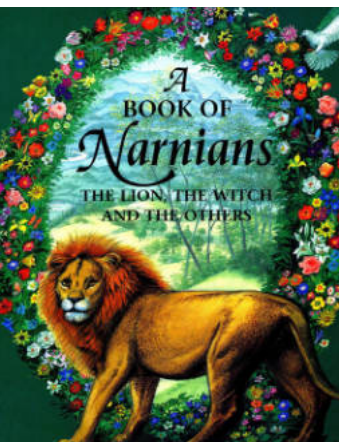
**Access:** the church is fully accessible apart from the tower which can only be accessed by a steep narrow spiral staircase.



### “Two Great Illustrators, Randolph Caldecott and Pauline Baynes”, talk by Roy Waight

**Sat 9<sup>th</sup> Sept at 10.30am, Council Chamber, Town Hall, South Street, GU9 7RN. Map 18 No need to book.**

The artist Randolph Caldecott, 1846-1886, essentially originated children’s book illustration. He lived for the latter part of his life in Frensham. A century later Pauline Baynes, illustrator for C.S. Lewis’s Narnia series and also for J.R.R. Tolkien’s “Lord of the Rings” lived just a mile away. Neither of these brilliant illustrators has featured prominently in accounts of Farnham’s past. This talk will attempt to correct that omission, alongside an exhibition of Pauline’s work described below.



### Exhibition of Pauline Baynes’ work, courtesy of Alberto Ceccatelli

**Will be held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, South Street, GU9 7RN. Map 18. No need to book.**

**Thu 7<sup>th</sup> Sept 12 noon to 5pm / Fri 8<sup>th</sup> 9am to 4.30pm / Sat 9<sup>th</sup> 12.30pm to 4pm.**

**Last entry half an hour before closing.**

Linked to Roy Waight’s “Two Great Illustrators” talk, the exhibition will display a wide selection of Pauline Baynes’ work. This is a rare opportunity to view the artistic output of one of the finest book illustrators of our time, including copies of illustrations from the world famous Narnia series and Tolkien’s “Lord of the Rings”.



### “Three Hundred Years of Striking Bells with Hammers”, talk by Roy Attwood

**Mon 11<sup>th</sup> Sept at 10.30am, St Andrew’s Church, Upper Church Lane, GU9 7PW. Map 20. No need to book.**

Chime machines have been playing tunes on the bells in the tower at St Andrew’s Church since 1706. The first two machines were like giant musical boxes but the present machine is much smaller. This illustrated talk describes each machine and how they chimed the same tune over Farnham every three hours, day and night. Chime number Two has recently been restored to working order by Men in Sheds and will be demonstrated during the talk.

**Access:** no restrictions.





### **“Farnham’s Flora”, talk by Peter Bridgeman**

**Tue 12<sup>th</sup> Sept at 2 pm, Mansey Room, Memorial Hall, West Street, GU9 7EE. Map 19.**

**No need to book**

An illustrated talk showing some 90 native and naturalised wild flowers seen in and around Farnham. The photographs show their obvious visual attractions and the talk will describe their sensory delights such as sounds, touch, tastes, or culinary, medicinal, herbal and practical uses, some being poisonous. At times some of these woody, herbaceous and annual plants are so successful they become weeds whilst others have significant wildlife benefits. All contribute to our biodiversity.



### **“The Architecture of Castle Street”, talk by Michael Blower MBE**

**Tue 12<sup>th</sup> Sept at 3.30pm, Mansey Room, Memorial Hall, West Street, GU9 7EE. Map 19.**

**No need to book.**

Retired architect and artist Michael Blower will take his audience on a ‘virtual walk’ around the buildings lining the famous panorama of Castle Street, drawing attention to architectural details large and small.

Castle Street was described by the author Alec Clifton Taylor saying “for sheer visual delight this street has few equals in all England” and this talk by a professional justifies the claim.



### **“Creativity in The Bourne over 2000 years”, talk by Noel Moss**

**Wed 13<sup>th</sup> Sept at 2pm, Church of St Thomas on the Bourne, Frensham Road, Farnham GU9 8HA.**

**No need to book.**

This talk explores the wealth of creative activities that have taken place in the Bourne area from ancient times until the present and the people that have made this possible including writers, artists, architects and musicians.

The talk will last about one hour.



### “Beauty and the Built Form”, talk by Yolande Hesse

**Thu 14<sup>th</sup> Sept at 10am, Barley Room, Farnham Maltings, Bridge Square, GU9 7QR. Map 16. No need to book.**

Yolande’s talk will illustrate the way in which natural geometry found in nature is connected to the human body. She will attempt to show how this geometry, when used as reference points, affects our appreciation of beauty in the built form.

The talk will last about 90 minutes.



### “Garden Design in Surrey”, talk by Sarah Dickinson

**Thu 14<sup>th</sup> Sept at 11.30am, Barley Room, Farnham Maltings, Bridge Square, GU9 7QR. Map 16. No need to book.**

This talk by the chair of the Surrey Gardens Trust will describe the design of the Victoria Garden in Farnham and garden design, using Surrey examples which have a rich heritage; preservation and conservation of these designed landscapes; and sustainability for future generational involvement.

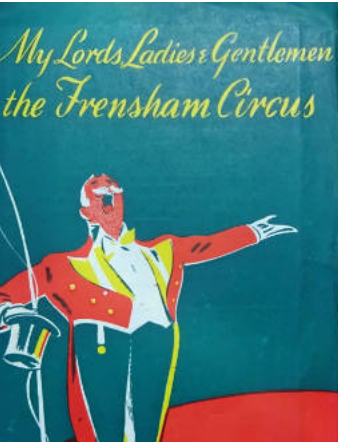


### “Farnham Maltings”, talk by Peter Glanville

**Fri 15<sup>th</sup> Sept at 10am, Cellar Bar, Farnham Maltings, Bridge Square, GU9 7QR. Map 16. No need to book.**

Farnham Maltings is a leading arts and cultural centre with a regional, national and international reach, and this talk is the first opportunity to hear from the new CEO Peter Glanville about exciting new plans for what is to come. Peter will take his audience right through from the building’s eighteenth century beginnings as a tannery to some of the exciting future plans for this vital organisation, which also runs the Museum of Farnham. The story of Farnham Maltings is a truly remarkable example of community achievement.





**“More and More - The Miracle at Mount Olivet”,  
talk by Roy Waight**

**Fri 15<sup>th</sup> Sept at 11.30am, Cellar Bar, Farnham Maltings,  
Bridge Square, GU9 7QR. Map 16.**

**No need to book.**

Roy’s talk will explain how today’s More House School in Frensham originated with the extraordinary Reg Gard’ner and the monastery he set up, Mount Olivet, at Moons Hill. Roy will describe the astonishing Frensham Circus, the only circus in history run by schoolboys. Everybody knows about the Frensham Ponds – not everybody knows that it was once home to an extraordinary and bizarre experiment in education.



**“George Bourne: Change in the Village - the  
Bourne in the 1900s”, talk by Dr Christopher  
Herbert**

**Sat 16<sup>th</sup> Sept at 10.30am, Council Chamber, Farnham  
Town Hall, South Street, GU9 7RN. Map 18.**

**No need to book.**

George Sturt, aka George Bourne, published his classic book “Change in the Village” in 1912. He looked back at the changes that had occurred in The Bourne over the previous fifty years. This lecture is a ‘compare and contrast’ account of that period, examining the similarities and differences between George Sturt’s account and evidence from the Bourne Parish Magazines for the same period. The results are a little surprising.

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## GUIDED WALKS

Advance booking is essential for many of the guided walks

To book please visit the Farnham Society's website  
[farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2023](http://farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2023)

Booking opens 8am on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> August



**Moor Park House, Moor Park Lane, GU10 1FH,  
 garden tour with guide Fred Wilkinson**

**Sat 9<sup>th</sup> Sept at 11am and 2.30pm**

**Meet at the gates of Moor Park House.  
 Park in the field opposite.**

**Tour length: approx. 1.5 hours. No need to book.**

A guided walk around the grounds of Moor Park House with an outline history of the property which dates from the twelfth century. The walk will describe the seventeenth century period, the time of Sir William Temple and Dorothy Osborne, and continues the history up to the present day.

**Walking conditions:** mostly hard surfaces, tarmac, gravel and paved paths with some steps.



**“Farnham’s Industries” with guide Chris Shephard**

**Sat 9<sup>th</sup> Sept at 10am, tour length approx. 2 hours  
 (distance 3.5 miles)**

**Meet at the entrance to the Wagon Yard car park,  
 Lower Church Lane, M20 1RQ**

**Advance booking essential (max 12) at  
[farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2023](http://farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2023)**

A gentle stroll through Farnham town centre to visit sites which have hosted a wide variety of industries ranging from tinne and corsets to tooth brushes and the assembly of the greatest timber framed roof in England.

**Walking conditions:** some steps but all on hard surfaced paths. Some paths are too narrow for wheelchairs



**“Architecture of The Borough and West Street” with guide Sam Osmond**

**Mon 11<sup>th</sup> Sept at 11.30am**

**Advance booking essential (max 12) at [farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2023](http://farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2023)**

**Meet at the corner of Castle Street and The Borough Map 15.**

**Walk length: 45 minutes**

A walk around 500 m. of historic central Farnham from the Bailiff’s Hall in The Borough to Farnham Museum in West Street.

The walk will include the architect Harold Falkner’s recreations of historic buildings.

**Walking conditions:** no access problems, but crossing some roads. Easy walking on pavements.



**“Rowledge to Wrecclesham and back” with guide Roy Waight**

**Tue 12<sup>th</sup> Sept at 10am**

**Advance booking essential (max 20) at [farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2023](http://farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2023)**

**Meet at St James’ Church, Church Lane, Rowledge, GU10 4EN.**

**Walk length: 2.5 hours.**

Anyone who completes the walk will be welcome afterwards at The Old Vicarage in Rowledge for a glass of wine and nibbles.

Rowledge is not an old village. Wrecclesham is and Rowledge owes its origins to Wrecclesham. The walk follows old footpaths from Rowledge to Wrecclesham

passing Absalom Harris’s nineteenth century pottery, now a thriving pottery and arts centre. Crossing the A325 the route continues down to the River Wey and Willey Mill before returning to Rowledge via the old Holt Pound Oval Cricket Pitch, across the A325 and back following ancient footpaths, and through Rowledge back to the church.

**Walking conditions:** there are stiles and steps, including one taxing climb up steps and the paths can be muddy. Walking boots recommended. Not suitable for pushchairs or wheelchairs.



### “Courtyards and Passages of Farnham” with guide Roger Jude

**Wed 13<sup>th</sup> Sept at 2pm, takes approx 1.5 to 2 hours**

**Advance booking essential (max 12) at [farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2023](http://farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2023)**

**Meet outside Farnham Maltings, Red Lion Lane, GU9 7QR. Map 16.**

A visit to some of the lesser known areas of central Farnham which provide an insight into the town's agricultural/industrial past in the seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The tour will point out some of Farnham's finest historical buildings, many of which were built on the proceeds of the agricultural trade including hop growing and drying, brewing and later malting barley. Locations and

buildings of historic interest will also be included in the tour but it will not include the interiors of buildings, or Farnham Castle or St Andrew's Church.

**Walking conditions:** the walk will be at a gentle pace and is not lengthy but there is traffic to contend with and busy roads to cross. Good footwear such as trainers is recommended.



### Tice's Meadow Nature Reserve, Badshot Lea, GU9 9NB – “From Farm to Quarry to Community Nature Reserve”

**Fri 15<sup>th</sup> Sept at 10am, takes approx. 2.5 hours**

**Advance booking essential (max 30) at [farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2023](http://farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2023)**

**Meet at the reserve's main entrance on Badshot Lea Road, opposite Farnham Van Sales.**

**On-street parking only.**

**Guide: Mark Elsoffer with volunteers from the Tice's Meadow Bird Group**

A 2.5 km walk around the reserve explaining the history of the site from prehistoric settlement to farming, quarrying and finally restoration to an award-winning nature reserve. Over 1500 species of wildlife

have been recorded at the reserve including 200 species of bird.

The walk will follow the Biodiversity Trail taking in woodland, meadow, reed bed and river habitats. The guide will help you spot the resident wildlife. Binoculars will be available but bring your own if you have them.

**Walking conditions:** the route is flat, along unsurfaced footpaths which can get muddy after rain. Walking boots or wellies recommended. There is little shelter if it is raining. If it is dry, parts of the route are suitable for sturdy off-road mobility scooters and some wheelchairs – access via a RADAR gate, please phone 07990 618530 to discuss beforehand.



**“Blockbusters in The Bourne” with guide Noel Moss of the Bourne Conservation Group**

**Sat 16<sup>th</sup> Sept at 10am, takes approx. 2.5 hours**

**Advance booking essential (max 18) at [farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2023](http://farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2023)**

**Meet at The Bourne Cricket Pavilion on the Bourne Green, Old Frensham Road, GU10 3PR.**

A woodland walk of about 3 miles in length taking in a wide variety of creative highlights in The Bourne especially scenery featured in many recent movies.

**Walking conditions:** this is a country walk over uneven ground with some steep hills to climb.



**“The Rise and Fall of Waverley Abbey” with guides Roger Jude and Roy Waight**

**Sun 17<sup>th</sup> Sept, two tours at 10am and at 11.30am**

**Meet at the Waverley Abbey car park off Waverley Lane, GU9 8EP.**

**Walk length: approx. 1.5 hours. No need to book.**

The walk from the car park passes in front of Waverley Abbey House and continues about 400 yards to the site of Waverley Abbey which was the first Cistercian monastery to be founded in this country, by thirteen monks from the Abbey of Aumône in France, in 1128.

The Cistercians were a very austere monastic order whose life consisted of work and prayer. They grew their own food and had extensive lands which were used largely for raising sheep. The tour will show the

remains of the thirteenth century Abbey Church, the Chapter House, the monks’ Dormitory and the undercroft of the lay brothers’ Refectory. The Abbey was dissolved by Henry VIII in 1535 and much of the stonework was sold and used in local grand houses such as Loseley House near Guildford.

**Walking conditions:** the tour will be undertaken at an easy pace but some of the ground is rough pasture, not suitable for wheelchairs. Good footwear is required and the total distance walked is 1 km.





### The Victoria Garden with guide Alison Gordon

**Sun 17<sup>th</sup> Sept at 10.30am**

**Brightwells Road, GU9 7RN (off South Street by Sainsburys' car park). Map 17.**

**Advance booking essential (max 12) at [farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2023](http://farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2023)**

**Meet at the garden entrance archway for a 20 minute talk with a walk round the garden afterwards.**

This award winning garden in the centre of Farnham was created in 1997 on the site of Farnham's first open air swimming bath, built in 1897 to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. The old pool fell into disrepair after an indoor pool was built at the Leisure Centre in the 1980s, and the site in the middle

of the town has been transformed into a quiet and peaceful garden. It is maintained by a group of volunteers who ensure that there is colour and interest all year round. It has a mix of trees, shrubs and flowers, with seating, a children's maze, a chessboard and a hopscotch bed.

**Walking conditions:** there is easy access to all parts of the garden with one set of steps at the entrance which can be avoided by using entrances at the side or rear.



### "Shepherd and Flock to Waverley" with guide Robert Blower

**Sun 17<sup>th</sup> Sept at 2.30pm**

**Advance booking essential (max 18) at [farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2023](http://farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2023)**

**Meet by the Shepherd and Flock pub on the A31 roundabout, GU9 9JB.**

**Tour length: approx. 1.5 hours**

An architectural ramble along the River Wey to Waverley Abbey, noting the estate of Moor Park House, three watermills, a witch's cave, WW2 pill boxes and the ruins of Waverley Abbey.

Make your own arrangements for the return journey, there is a car park at the entrance to Waverley Abbey.

**Walking conditions:** the path can be muddy so wear suitable shoes.



# THE FARNHAM SOCIETY

## Shaping our future, protecting our heritage

We were founded in 1911 by some of the leading figures in Farnham. Our prime objectives were to preserve the architectural heritage of Farnham, to encourage integrity in the construction of new buildings, sympathetic to their surroundings, and to maintain the quality of life for future generations of its residents.

We continue to pursue those objectives, making every possible effort to preserve the quality of life in and around Farnham. To this end we promote the highest standards of planning and

architecture in the built environment. In addition we support preservation of the green environment and we take an active part in the fight for air quality and against traffic congestion. And we help showcase the best of Farnham in the annual Heritage Open Days festival.



We have engaged with our members through regular evening talks and daytime social gatherings. While live events were suspended during the Covid-19 pandemic we started a series of filmed discussions on matters of local interest. These have continued into 2023, they are available on our website under the title 'In Conversation'.

Being a member of The Farnham Society enables you to have your say on the future of the town, and helps us to protect it. The more members we have, the louder our voice can be, and the better our chance of being heard on crucial issues.

You can join via our website at [farnhamsociety.org.uk](http://farnhamsociety.org.uk)

## PROPERTIES OPEN

**Advance booking is essential for some of the properties**

**To book please visit the Farnham Society's website:  
farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2023**

**Booking opens Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> August at 8am**

**New Ashgate Gallery, Lower Church Lane, GU9 7PS. Map 10.**

**Open Tue to Sat 10.30am to 5pm.  
No need to book.**

**Please check with the gallery for confirmation of Kate's availability.**

The gallery building was once the site of a pub called The Feathers. It is one of the few older buildings to survive the almost wholesale clearance of the area in the 1960s to create the Waggon Yard car park.

During September the gallery is hosting the DAISY Residency (Disability Arts in Surrey) with Kate Kennington Steer who is a writer, photographer and visual artist and a member of the Creative Response community in Farnham. While at the gallery she will be combining paint, print, photography and poetry to focus on the Brightwells Yard development in Farnham.



The gallery is also honouring the wood artist, carver and painter John Bryce, who died in 2022.

**Farnham Masonic Centre, 42 Castle Street, GU9 7JB. Map 6.**

**Sat 9<sup>th</sup> Sept from 10am to 4pm.  
No need to book.**

The temple will be laid out as for a ceremony, and there will be regalia on display.

The original structure of 42 Castle Street was an outbuilding or barn belonging to Farnham Castle, seat of the Bishops of Winchester. It was built before the English Civil War (1642-1648) during which the castle became the headquarters of the Parliamentary Army of the West and No. 42 was used as extra barrack accommodation for the Roundhead troops. When the bishops returned to the castle it continued as a barn or coach house until it was acquired by a William or Thomas Baker of Castle Hill in 1753, who rebuilt it as a 'Musick House' in which he installed a large organ. In 1800 Mrs Hall, a residuary legatee of Thomas Baker, presented the Parish Church with a handsome full toned organ which may well have been the same one. It was installed in the west gallery of the church near the tower and later removed to the Chancel Chapel off the aisle. The external appearance of the building has changed little since 1753 and it remains a handsome red brick landmark at the top of Castle Street.

**Access:** There are three steps into the building but there is a lift to the first floor and Masonic Temple.

**Hones Yard, Downing Street,  
GU9 7PH. Map 9**

**Sat 9<sup>th</sup> Sept 10am to 3pm**

**No need to book.**

**Entrance to the right of the  
Traditional Plaice restaurant.**

Step away from the bustle and traffic of modern Downing Street into a different world.

This is the site of an old farm offering a glimpse back into the important local hop industry which flourished in Farnham from the 16th to the mid-20th centuries, with a 17th century barn and 19th century hop kiln.

A guide will be present to explain the history and there will be some exhibits.

**Access:** uneven floor in barn, otherwise accessible.



**The Old Vicarage, Vicarage Lane  
off Lower Church Lane,  
GU9 7PR. Map 11.**

**Open for conducted tours Sat 9<sup>th</sup>  
Sept 2.30 and 3.30pm**

**Advance booking essential (max 10  
per tour) at  
[farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2023](http://farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2023)**

**Meet in the churchyard in front of  
the house**

**Guide: Cathy Cook**

The Old Vicarage is Listed Grade II\*, and is one of the oldest buildings in Farnham, accurately tree ring dated to 1418. It was built by John Forrest, Archdeacon of Surrey as his ecclesiastical Court House. The rear garden leads down to the river.

**Access:** steps up to the front door, uneven floors, steep narrow stairs and low beams



The details in this brochure were correct at the time of going to press. For any last minute changes to the programme, please check the Farnham Society website at

**[farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2023](http://farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2023)**

or our Facebook page

**“Farnham Heritage Open Days”**

Many of our events must be booked in advance, see the event listings for details.

Booking opens at 8am on Wed 30<sup>th</sup> August for events booked via the Farnham Society website .

## West Street Chapel, West Street Cemetery, GU9 7AP. Map 13.

**Sat 9<sup>th</sup> Sept and Sun 10<sup>th</sup> Sept from 10am to 4pm.**

**No need to book.**

Special opening of the Chapel which is not normally open to visitors.

The little Chapel of Rest is now the workshop of sculptor Ian Bishop who will be present to welcome visitors.

Built in the 1870s of the local white clunch or chalk stone, there were originally two chapels, one for Church of England burials, and the other for Nonconformists with a space between the two for the hearse.

The two buildings were amalgamated at a later stage. The chapel was closed in the 1980s when there were few burials, and restored as an artist's studio by Farnham Town Council.

**Access:** two steps into the building.



## The Bush Hotel, South Street, GU9 7NN. Map 2.

**Welcoming HODs visitors Sun 10<sup>th</sup> to Wed 13<sup>th</sup> Sept, 10am to 5pm.**

**No need to book.**

“Bush” as an inn sign dates back to the Romans who hung vine leaves, the sign of Bacchus, outside their Tabernae. In Britain’s cold climate a bush was substituted.

Farnham’s Bush Hotel is reputed to have existed since the 14<sup>th</sup> century, but the first documentary evidence comes in the early 16<sup>th</sup> century. In the 17<sup>th</sup> century the old estate of 11 acres included the whole of what is now South Street and was known as Gostreeds. As shown in a 19<sup>th</sup> century plan it extended right down to the river and included a cricket ground.

Today’s Oak Lounge, the old bar, has some interesting features, a very rare indoor sundial painted on the ceiling, and a series of frescoes on a wall.

These were discovered in 1931, and date back to the 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Information sheets will be available.

**Note:** the Oak Lounge can be booked for private events; it is recommended that visitors phone to check if it is free.

**Access:** there are steps in the entrance hall, but there is level access from the car park at the rear and through the garden.





**Partridge House, 102 The Street, Wrecclesham, GU10 4QR.**

**Sun 10<sup>th</sup> Sept, tours at 2.30pm and 3.30pm**

**Advance booking essential (max 10 per tour) at [farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2023](http://farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2023)**

**Guide: Cathy Cook**

This is one of Farnham's oldest buildings, dating back to c.1390.

Two bays of the original house remain, the missing bays being replaced with 18<sup>th</sup> century additions.

Soot blackened trusses are visible plus an open screen of wattle and daub in the upper part of the building.

**Access:** seven steps up to the front door, uneven floors, steep narrow stairs and low beams.



**Caffe Piccolo, 84 West Street, GU9 7EN. Map 3**

**Thu 14<sup>th</sup> Sept 12 noon to 3pm**

**No need to book**

The age of the building is uncertain. Nos 83 and 84 are Grade II Listed and are under one roof containing the remains of a timber framed building.

Records start in 1780 and from then until the 20<sup>th</sup> century No. 84 was let to a variety of tenants - in the 19<sup>th</sup> century there was a cooper here selling tubs, barrels, baskets and bowls.

In 1929 a Tudor fireplace was revealed during building work and from the 1930s to the 1970s it was The Old Mitre tea rooms, taking its name from the 18th century alehouse at No. 83 (now KallKwik).

It opened as Caffé Piccolo in 1995 and re-opened in 2022 after a major fire.

**Access:** stairs within the building.



## High Mill, 1 Moor Park Lane, GU10 1NS.

Sat 16<sup>th</sup> and Sun 17<sup>th</sup> Sept, conducted  
tours at 11am, 2pm and 3.30pm.

**Advance booking essential (max 6  
per tour) at**  
[farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2023](http://farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2023)

**Directions:** park by the Shepherd and Flock pub (inside the A31 roundabout) with a 10-15 minute stroll to High Mill. Limited parking at High Mill down the unmade, single-track road.

From the Shepherd and Flock, go past the pub and follow the unmade road under the A31 and then the railway bridge. Shortly afterwards take the first right to High Mill.

The Mill House and mill buildings date from the 18<sup>th</sup> century and are listed Grade II. High Mill is one of six watermills in Farnham listed in the Domesday Book, and was named as 'la hyghe' in 1258. This is a rare example of an old water powered mill where the 18<sup>th</sup> century wooden mill workings are still in situ and can be inspected. The buildings are fronted by the mill pond.

**Access:** steep open ladders in the mill workings.



## 10 Castle Street, GU9 7HR. Map 1

Sat 16<sup>th</sup> and Sun 17<sup>th</sup> Sept,  
two tours each day at 12 noon and  
2pm

**Advance booking essential (max 8  
per tour) at**  
[farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2023](http://farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2023)

This is an early 18<sup>th</sup> century house built on the site of Farnham's old Corn Exchange.

It is distinguished from its neighbours by the fact that it is set back behind a garden fronted by fine wrought iron gates which are reputed to have come from Moor Park House.

It was built about 1730 by a London grocer, Thomas Piggott, and although it was altered in the Victorian period it was restored in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and now retains most of its original 18<sup>th</sup> century appearance.

**Access:** no level access - steps into the garden from the street and also into the house itself.



## EVENTS WITH NO SPECIAL OPENING HOURS

**Zizzi, 68A Castle Street,  
GU9 7LN. Map 14.**

**Open daily to 10pm**

From 1939 to 1974 this was the home of the Castle Theatre, founded by an itinerant group of actors returning from France at the beginning of the war. They set themselves up in the building which had previously been The Picture Palace, Farnham's first cinema. By 1974 the theatre had become so popular that it had outgrown its capacity, and a new theatre, The Redgrave, was built in Brightwells Road where it continued until it closed in 1998. There are pictures of the Castle Theatre in the upstairs restaurant at Zizzi's.

**Access:** disabled access to the ground floor only.



**Guitar Village, 80-82 West  
Street, GU9 7EN. Map 8.**

**Open Monday to Saturday**

Nos 80 and 81 are a medieval open hall house with smoke blackened timbers buried under Georgian rafters. Tree ring dating reveals that it is one of Farnham's oldest buildings, built in 1467. It was a 'Wealden' house, a spectacular form of medieval open hall house. The original 15<sup>th</sup> century building would have been timbered, infilled with wattle and daub, and the present infill of long narrow bricks was probably added in the Tudor period.

**Access:** there are steps within the building and steep stairs to the first floor.



# What's on in Farnham 2023

Look no further than Farnham for fun-filled, family friendly events and memorable experiences brought to you by Farnham Town Council.

## FARNHAM FARMERS' MARKETS



Fourth Sunday of every month, Central car park, 10am-1.30pm  
Fresh, tasty, local food direct from the producer.

## FARNHAM GIN AND FIZZ FESTIVAL 2 SEPTEMBER



Enjoy all-things gin related - with a dash of sparkling wine at this ticket-only event.

Book tickets in advance



## FARNHAM FOOD & DRINK FESTIVAL 24 SEPTEMBER



Taste, eat, drink, watch, shop, learn and celebrate food and drink. There will be everything you expect at a food festival plus much more!

## WORLD CRAFT TOWN - OCTOBER CRAFT MONTH



A month-long celebration of craft events with plenty of interest expert crafters and those wanting to try out a new craft.

## CHRISTMAS IN FARNHAM



The joy of Christmas begins on 18 November at the Christmas lights switch on. On 10 December, visit the Christmas Market for unusual gifts, decorations and more.

## FARNHAM LITERARY FESTIVAL, MARCH 2024



A packed programme of events inspired by books, reading and writing brought to you by published authors, passionate educators and thought-provoking experts.

## Coming up this autumn

### BLOOMIN' KIDS' ACTIVITIES

24 OCTOBER

### VENISON DINNER

10 NOVEMBER

### BLOOMIN' LITTER PICK

11 NOVEMBER

### REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY PARADE

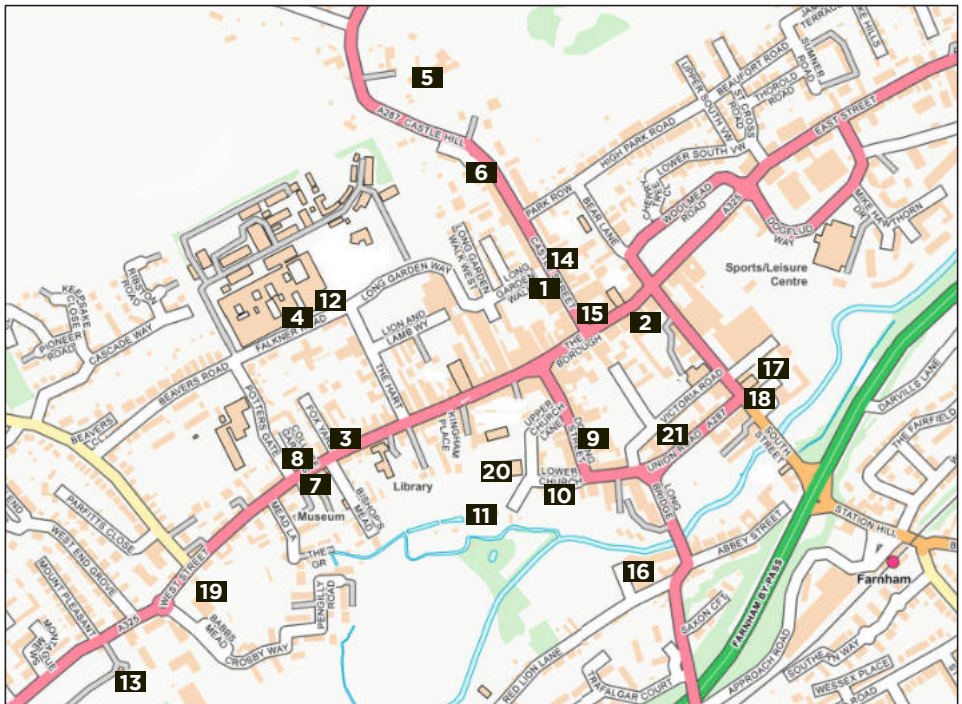
12 NOVEMBER

Explore Farnham on foot. Download the free Discover Farnham app from the App store or Google Play.

For details about events in Farnham, visit [www.farnham.gov.uk](http://www.farnham.gov.uk) or follow @FarnhamOfficial on Facebook and Twitter.



# Map of Events in Farnham Town Centre



## Events in Town Centre

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- 5 Farnham Castle
- 6 Farnham Masonic Centre
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- 8 Guitar Village
- 9 Hones Yard
- 10 New Ashgate Gallery
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- ~~10 Farnham's Industries~~
- 17 Victoria Garden

## Venues for Talks

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- 16 Farnham Maltings
- 19 Memorial Hall
- 20 St Andrew's Church
- 21 The Old Court House

The annual Heritage Open Days events in Farnham presented by The Farnham Society, supported by Farnham Town Council. Programme organisers Simon Bradbury, Cathy Cook, Dave Clough, Gez Evans, Sue Farrow, David Lang, Alex Lentz and Gillian Ward.

The Farnham Society would like to thank all the guides and property owners who have made the 2023 events possible by generously giving their time and expertise free of charge.

Brochure text by Sue Farrow, brochure layout by David Lang.

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