



The Farnham Society

Heritage Open Days Report to 2026 AGM

The Farnham Society worked with Farnham Town Council to present the 2025 Heritage Open Days festival, which took place between Friday 12th and Sunday 21st September. These dates were set by the National Trust as national organiser. The theme for 2025 was Architecture, also set by the National Trust.

We presented a number of events inspired by this theme, including:

- The Blower Foundation and its online archive of architectural drawings of buildings both in Farnham and beyond.
- The geometry underlying the design of beautiful buildings.
- A comparison of Farnham architecture with that of Kharkiv, in Ukraine.
- A presentation on the work of Lutyens, who spent his early years in West Surrey. The event was held in the Tilford Village Institute, an early Lutyens building.
- A guided walk of the Great Austins Conservation Area, showcasing some houses from the early 20th century by notable local architects.
- The reordering of St Andrews Church, around 2000.
- The former Liberal Club, the only Lutyens building in Farnham, now restored and repurposed as The Third Monkey restaurant.

In addition, Michael Blower presented his ever popular virtual walk along Castle Street.

There was a guided walk in the St James area, which was at the time under consideration as a new Conservation Area.

We welcomed some new participants, including Badshot Lea School, who had planned to enter before, but were prevented by Covid; also the Nelson Arms

We were pleased to welcome the Castle back after the previous year's absence from the festival.

We would like to acknowledge the support of the many volunteers who worked on the organisation and running of the festival, and without whose help the events could not have taken place.

Simon Bradbury