



**The Farnham Society**

presents

## **FARNHAM'S HERITAGE**

### **OPEN DAYS**

**Thursday to Sunday**

**9 - 12 September 2010**

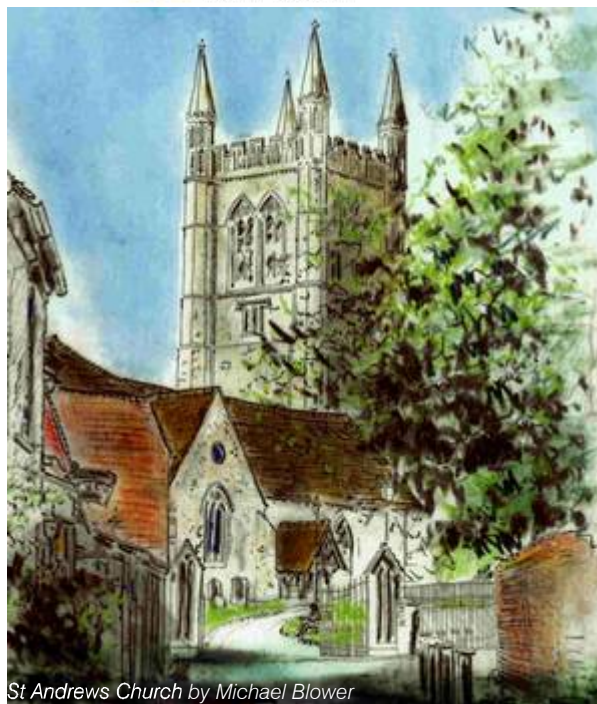
In partnership with



**Farnham**  
Town Council



**open**



*St Andrews Church by Michael Blower*

### **All venues and events are free!**

**History builds the town**

The story of a town is that of its people, their needs, occupations and how they moved about. You are invited to visit some of Farnham's historic streets and buildings and learn about its rich heritage.

The list of properties is arranged in two parts, the first listing properties accessible as a walk around Farnham town centre, and the second as outlying buildings and churches a short car journey from the town.

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## WEST STREET

West Street has some of Farnham's oldest buildings (eg No.80, Guitar Village, concealing a medieval hall house), and some of the finest Georgian houses. Note the old working yards off the street, a reminder of industries of the past.



**Sandford House,  
39 West Street**

*Map 20*

One of West Street's finest Georgian houses, built in 1757.



**Museum of  
Farnham,  
Willmer House  
38 West Street**

*Map 19*

Grade I listed townhouse, built in 1718, with peaceful walled garden behind,

containing the Garden Gallery. and an education garden.

### **The Culver Room, Farnham Library, Vernon House, 28 West Street** *Map 18*

The Culver Room is in Vernon House, Grade II listed and partly dating from 1563, though much altered in later years. King Charles I spent a night here in 1648, on his way to his execution in London.



**24 West Street** *Map 17*

Grade II listed building, built as a pair with No 23 in 1790. Formerly the home and workplace of the architect Harold Falkner, who

greatly influenced the development of the town in the first half of the 20th century.

### **LION AND LAMB YARD**

This pedestrian shopping area is named after a long gone pub on the corner of West Street. It was redeveloped with shops and cafés in the early 1980s, and it is the home of the popular Lion and Lamb sculpture, by Edwin Russell, on which children constantly play.

### **Sculpture Garden, University of the Creative Arts, Falkner Road, *Map 16***

To the north of the main Waitrose car park, a footpath runs through the garden from which various sculptures can be seen, some by well-known artists and some by students.

### **CASTLE STREET**

One of the finest Georgian streets in the south of England, a wide panorama leading up to Farnham Castle. The Farnham Market House, demolished in the 1860s, once stood at the bottom where the small shops now are. On the east side, note the Windsor Almshouses, built in 1619 "for the habitation and relief of eight poor honest old impotent persons" as the plaque on the front says. Above it, the majestic Guildford House, just below the castle grounds.

### **The Masonic Centre, 42 Castle Street, *Map 24***

Dating from the late 18th century, in the 19th century this imposing building was first a school and later The Working Men's Institute. It became the Freemasons' Hall in 1950.



### **The Bishops Palace, Farnham Castle, *Map 26***

Dating from the 12th century, and added to progressively until the 18th century, Farnham Castle with its 300-acre

Winchester, and in the 20th century the Bishop of Guildford. Kings and Queens including Victoria visited the castle, which is now the International Briefing and Conference Centre.



**Farnham Castle,  
The Keep** *Map 25*

Scheduled Ancient Monument (1138), this amazing stone fortress has just been re-opened after major repair and refurbishment.

Uneven stone steps lead up to the top of the Keep with commanding views over Farnham and a newly constructed viewing platform from which you can see down into the original 12th century construction.



**Farnham Park, Folly  
Hill,** *Map 36*

Originally the smaller of two deer parks owned by the Bishops of Winchester, Farnham Park was established about

1376 and was first known as the New or Little Park. Its 320 acres overlook the town and there is an impressive 1 km long avenue of trees with superb views over Farnham. Its open landscape, old oak trees and winding stream give it great character.

## **THE BOROUGH**

On the corner of Castle Street note the Town Hall Buildings (not used as a town hall), rebuilt in the 1930s by three architects including Harold Falkner. The weather vane on top of the clock tower represents Sir Francis Drake's ship the Golden Hind, the Ship of Plenty. At the end of the colonnade in the Borough is the Bailiff's Hall, incorporating a 16th century building, recreated by Falkner in the style of its original appearance.



**The Mercure  
Bush Hotel, 26-  
27 The Borough,**  
*Map 23*

An inn probably  
existed here in the  
14th century, and  
the Bush was an  
important  
coaching inn in

the 18th century. The Borough façade was built in 1840 and modernised in the 1930s. From the Borough you enter a delightful courtyard, and in the Oak Lounge you will find some recently restored 17th century murals and a rare example of an indoor sundial.

## **SOUTH STREET**

Not part of Farnham's medieval street pattern but constructed in 1869 to provide direct access to the station. Note the Victorian buildings on the west side, especially No.13, the Farnham Institute, by the architect Paxton Watson, with external mural decoration on the south wall. Older buildings on the east side of the street were demolished in the 1980s to make way for Sainsburys. Further down note the Liberal Club, an early work by Edwin Lutyens (1894).

**United Reformed Church, corner of Victoria  
Road, *Map 31***

Originally the Congregational Church, this is by the architect Thomas Wonnacott. He was a Dissenter who chose to build churches rather than pubs.



**The Victoria Garden  
(adjacent to  
Sainsburys car park)**  
*Map 4*

The impressive  
entrance arch by  
Harold Falkner

commemorates Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897. The garden was the site of Farnham's first public swimming bath. Attractions in the garden

include the sculpture of a little boy shivering on the edge of the pool, by local sculptor Jane Jones, a mosaic hopscotch, a giant chessboard, and a boxwood maze.



**The Council Chamber, Council Offices, Map 5**

*Disabled access to first floor.*

The Council Offices were built for Farnham Urban

District Council by the architect Paxton Watson and completed in 1903. The Chamber is on the first floor.

**UNION ROAD**

Built to connect South Street with the much older Downing Street. Gostrey Meadow, with bandstand, is on one side opposite Church House, Farnham's best Arts and Crafts building, opened in 1909 by the Duchess of Albany.

**The Old Courthouse, Map 6**

Built in 1888 as Farnham's Police Station. One of the original cells has been preserved. The Magistrates' Room and Court can be seen (up steep stairs). Now the headquarters of Tindle Newspapers Limited.

**LONGBRIDGE, BRIDGE SQUARE AND RED LION LANE**

Longbridge is the site of the ancient river ford. It leads into Bridge Square with the William Cobbett pub (previously the Jolly Farmer) which was the birthplace in 1763 of William Cobbett, the remarkable soldier, politician, founder of Hansard and author of "Rural Rides". As you walk into Red Lion Lane, note the late 15th century Tanyard House.



**The Farnham Maltings, Red Lion Lane,**

*Map 8*

The old brewery buildings, bought from Courages in 1969 by the people

of Farnham, are now a thriving community and arts centre, listed Grade II. The south wing, adjacent to Red Lion Lane, is the oldest part. Note the recently restored undercroft opposite the Great Hall and an exhibition of drawings in the Kiln Gallery by the Farnham architect Michael Blower.

**The New Ashgate Gallery, Wagon Yard, *Map 11***

One of very few buildings which survived large-scale clearance of old working buildings in the 1960s in order to create the Wagon Yard car park. Once a pub called The Feathers, it is now the New Ashgate Gallery, with exhibitions and sales of works of contemporary fine art and craft.

**CHURCH LANES**

Lower, Middle and Upper Church Lanes, lined with old cottages, connect St Andrew's Church with Downing Street. Lower Church Lane still has its ironstone cobbles and central drainage channel.



**St. Andrew's Parish Church**

*Map 32*

There has been a church on this site since the Saxon period. Parts of the present building are 15th century

but there was extensive remodelling in 1855, when the tower was raised to its present height. Note the tomb of William Cobbett by the north door.

**St Andrew's C of E Infants School** *Map 18*

This small gothic-style school, built in the same pale stone as the church, was opened in 1860. The two cottages adjacent to it were built as the Master and Mistress's houses.

**DOWNING STREET**

The old route "down" to the river and thence to Waverley Abbey via Abbey Street. Several old working yards open off the street.



**Hones Yard, 82  
Downing Street**

*Map 7*

The site of an old farm, in the days before the land around Downing Street was built up. Medieval barns and a hop kiln still survive in the yard.

**OUTLYING BUILDINGS AND  
CHURCHES**



**Farnham Pottery,  
Quennells Hill,  
Wrecclesham, GU10  
4QG.** *Off A325  
through Wrecclesham*

Founded in 1872 by potter Absalom Harris, and run by five successive generations of the Harris family until 2000, when the business closed down, the Grade II listed Farnham Pottery is a remarkable survival of a working Victorian country pottery. A very rare example of a double updraught wood-fired bottle kiln remains, preserved but not in working order. The buildings, which have been carefully restored, are let and there is a farm shop and coffee shop, and displays of sculpture and ceramics.

**Waverley Abbey House, Waverley Lane,**

**GU9 8EP** *B3001 towards Elstead.*

The present house in the Abbey grounds may not be the first one on the site after the Dissolution, and a 1737 engraving shows something very different from the present house which was probably built slightly later and added to subsequently. It was largely rebuilt in 1833 after a fire. The house is now the home of CWR, Crusade for World Revival, which runs conferences and courses.



**Waverley Abbey  
(ruins), Waverley  
Lane GU9 8EP**

*Entrance by  
Waverley Abbey  
House.*

Built in 1128, this was England's first Cistercian abbey.

It was complete by 1160 but rebuilt in the 12th century and continued to grow until the 14th century. The "White Monks", as they were known, provided shelter for pilgrims and an infirmary for the sick. The abbey was suppressed by Henry VIII in 1536 in the Dissolution and fell into ruin. The stones were used as building material locally. Today the abbey ruins are a tranquil place, lying in quiet fields beside the river.

**Rural Life Centre, Reeds Wood, Reeds Road,  
Tilford GU10 2DL** *Tilford Road south of Farnham;  
follow Museum signs.*

This is a museum of country life privately founded in 1973 by Mr and Mrs Henry Jackson and now run by a charitable trust. It occupies ten acres of woodland and meadow and the exhibits are housed in a collection of buildings many of which are reconstructed historic buildings, including a prefab, village hall, cricket pavilion, chapel and schoolroom.

## CHURCHES

### **St Thomas on the Bourne, Frensham Road, GU9 8JL** *A287 south of Farnham*

Built before and after the First World War to replace an old church a short distance away in Vicarage Hill, where the Bourne Old Churchyard still lies.

### **Church of St John the Evangelist, Farnborough Road, Hale, GU9 9RP** *A287 north of Farnham*

In the Romanesque style with a distinctive tall round bell tower, this church was opened in 1844 and designed by Benjamin Ferry, a pupil of Pugin. It was founded by Bishop Sumner of Farnham Castle, who, with his wife Jennie is buried in the churchyard below the east wall.

### **Church of St Mark, Alma Lane, Upper Hale, GU9 0LT** *B3005 off A3016*

Built in 1883 as a daughter church of St John's, Hale, on land given by Bishop Sumner of Farnham Castle. Local people helped to build it by collecting from the nearby common the unusually large unknapped flints for the walls, and local children acted as models for the wall paintings in the chancel which were painted by Miss Kitty Milroy between 1911 and 1920.

### **St George's Church, Badshot Lea, GU9 9LD** *A324*

The Foundation Stone (inside the church on the left of the west end) was laid by the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey Viscount Middleton in 1902 and the church was consecrated in 1903. However the south aisle was not built until 1999 when the new Church Room was added.

#### **LOOK FOR THE SIGN:**

