



Downing Street

DOWNING STREET

Continue down the left road past the old forge and to **Plaque 6** on the end right-hand side wall at the junction with the main road. You are now in Downing Street (the route taken by everyone going to and from Waverley Abbey which was the first Cistercian monastery in this country), which leads down to the River Wey. Ivy Lane faces you where the Conservative Club is, once a corset factory. To the left is the road junction of West Street and The Borough, where tolls were once demanded. Go down the street, to your right, until the corner is reached. **Cross over Lower Church Lane, note the gutter in the middle of the road.** In Tudor times gutters of this sort, in the middle of a street, were the places into which the household waste was thrown including the contents of chamber pots which were tossed from upstairs windows. **Turn right, then left into Wagon Yard car park.**

WAGON YARD

Plaque 7. As you enter the Wagon Yard car park the New Ashgate Gallery is on your right. The building at 31, Lower Church Lane is an example of a late 16th century building, with a 17th century frontage, which has been refurbished in the late 20th century by the Farnham (Buildings Preservation) Trust Ltd., in co-operation with Waverley Borough Council.



Wagon Yard

FARNHAM MALTINGS

Cross the car park, exit at the far left and walk to the timber bridge across the River Wey. Farnham Maltings now faces you. This is an arts and community centre which, to save it from demolition, was purchased by local people in the 1960s, from the Courage brewery. Today every-

thing from an aerobics club to antiques fairs, jazz concerts and a monthly market, are held here. Inside the visitor can find toilet facilities, food, beverages and, during some events, there is also a bar open for alcoholic drinks. Daniel Defoe, author of *Robinson Crusoe*, wrote in 1722 that a man had told him that he had once counted 1,100 teams of horses all drawing wagons or carts, loaded with wheat, in Farnham. As well as hops, in the past this town has been an important centre for both wheat and wool. Until the 1960s the River Wey regularly broke its banks and flooded the town to halfway up Downing Street. Widening the banks has now stopped the problem.

Turn left and walk along the river bank to Longbridge, over which traffic passes. **Plaque 8** can be found on the bridge. Look right and see William Cobbett's



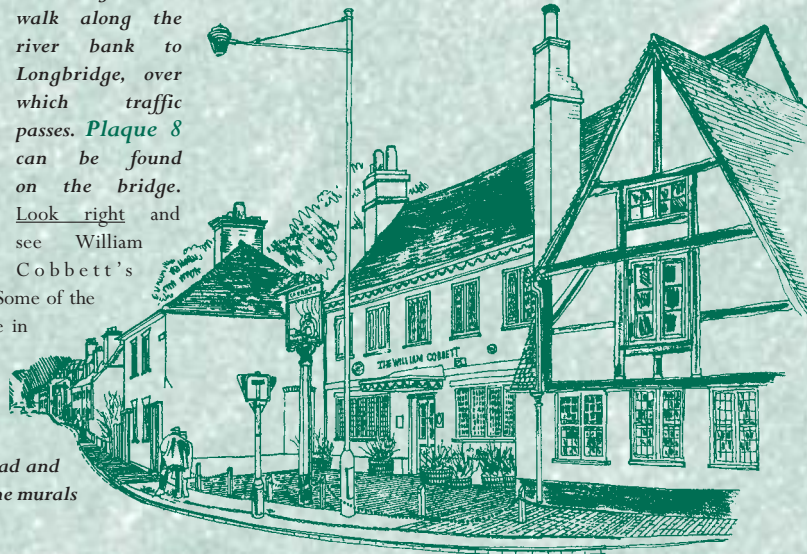
Farnham Maltings

birthplace, now a public house bearing his name, situated in Bridge Square. Some of the oldest domestic buildings in Farnham, dating back to the 15th century, are in Bridge Square. Look left, and into the far distance, to gain a splendid view of Farnham Castle. **At this point a detour can be made. Either go to the left, past the police station and turn left again.** Look at the murals on the station's walls. They illustrate much of the town's history in three comprehensive sections. Note, particularly, the hop garden workers on stilts. **Or cross the road and go into Gostrey Meadow by the entrance which faces you. If you go to see the murals retrace your steps to Plaque 8 before proceeding farther.**

GOSTREY MEADOW

Follow the path beside the river, walk across the wooden bridge, go past the war memorial and on to a pair of wrought iron gates. On your way look left and see Church House, with a weather vane showing it was built in 1909. When the building was completed a debt of £800 was still outstanding. In 1910 the first Farnham Pageant was held to offset this sum. A similar pageant has been held three times since. Neil "Boy" McCormick, an international boxer in the 1920s, who lived in Farnham, used this hall to spar in during training bouts. The building to its left was Farnham's second police station, the first was in Bear Lane.

At the gates turn left. Walk to the traffic island, at the junction of South Street and Union Road and cross over at this point so that you are outside the Methodist Church. To your right is the Locality Office and Tourist Information Bureau. It has some fine windows and, in its entrance, a number of green tiles which were made at the celebrated local Wrecclesham Pottery. Now walk past the church and stop outside the Liberal Club. Read the large plaque giving information about the building which was the first public work designed by Edwin Lutyens to be built. Note the clever mixing of small and large bricks at the corner. **At the northern edge of this building find Plaque 9.**



The William Cobbett

VICTORIA GARDEN

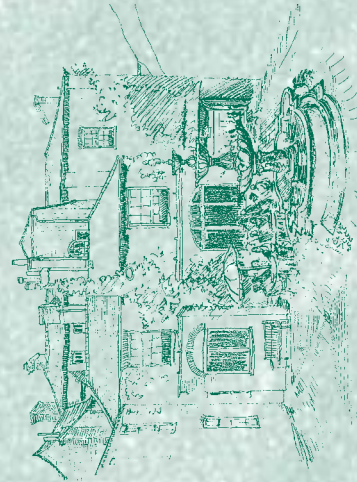
Walk along the path at the side of the Liberal Club. Look at the large arch which is a continuation of the side of the Lutyens building. This was the former entrance to Farnham Swimming Baths which were built, by public subscription, to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897. White painted lettering can still be seen on the wooden lintels above the two window frames at each side of the arch, another of Harold Falkner's designs. The concave marks in the bricks were made by generations of children, with the pennies they held, while waiting in a queue to get into the baths. Victoria Garden, is behind the wall.

Victoria Garden

THE BOROUGH

Stop outside the Bush Hotel Courtyard at **Plaque 11.** This is the town's oldest hostelry, where people have imbibed beer, wines and spirits for over 500 years. It reputedly has several ghosts, and was once a coaching inn. Walk under the arch and into the courtyard. Note the large gates and huge vine growing up the building. Go inside to the Oak Lounges, if it is free, and see the indoor sundial on the ceiling. **Leave the Bush, continue westwards along The Borough.** Adjacent to the HSBC Bank stop at Borelli Yard where is **Plaque 12.** Look up in the archway and find the date 1610. Go down the yard, under the next archway. Look at the statue by Ben Franklin and the plaque giving information about a mediaeval tile kiln which was excavated here in the 1980s. **Return to The Borough and cross the road to the left-hand corner of Castle Street, where your tour began.**

It is hoped that having followed this route, and directions on the map, visitors should have spent an enjoyable hour or two on a whistle-stop tour of Farnham. More information about the town's history can be found at the Museum of Farnham and in a number of books available both there and in local bookshops.



The Bush Hotel Courtyard

THE WOOLMEAD

Continue to walk towards the town centre traffic lights, noting the display on the wall of Farnham's most famous sons, cross over the road to The Woolmead open area and **Plaque 10** is on the building at the extreme left. Stand by the flower beds at the crossroads. Look to the right, up Bear Lane and observe the proximity of both the park and castle to the town. Note the milestone adjacent to the traffic light pole. This spot was once the site of a toll bar at the entrance to the town. Look left, up South Street. This was completed in 1870 (at a cost of nearly £3,000), to connect the town to the railway station which had been built in 1849. South Street is the only major town street in Farnham not to have buildings numbered consecutively. **Cross the road diagonally, at the traffic lights, then go right.**

Produced by Farnham Town Council



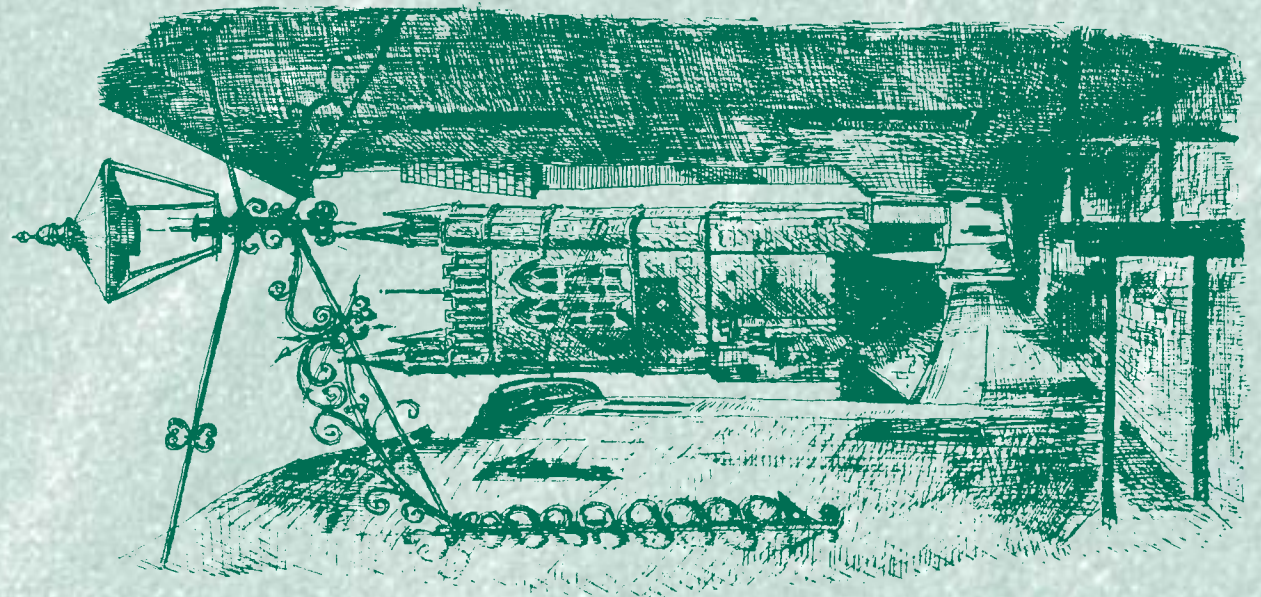
Town Council Office, South Street,
Farnham, Surrey GU19 7RN

Text © Jean Parratt 1997 Illustrations © Michael Blower

Revised and reprinted 2003

Designed and Printed by Riverprint, Farnham 722771

FARNHAM HERITAGE TRAIL



You can start your walk at any point on the circular route. Farnham Heritage Trail plaques can be found at each site, corresponding to the numbers on this map.

CASTLE STREET

Plaque 1 is at the bottom, left-hand corner of Castle Street on a lamp-post. On the opposite side of the street, at this point, was the Market House, (which was also a jail). It was built in 1566 and demolished in 1866. See plaque on pillar for more details. Note the hop vines, moulded on the rainwater down-pipes of the building at the same corner, which is still known as the Town Hall Buildings. Farnham hops were once the most expensive in the country. Look up the road and see Farnham Castle, started early in the 12th century and home to Bishops of Winchester for more than 800 years. Start to walk up the street and look at fanlights above doors, also note the following information.

The first motoring offence to warrant a fine took place in this street, in 1895. What is believed to be the first-ever Two-Minute Silence, initiated by J. Alfred Eggar, an estate agent of Castle Street, and now observed

annually on Armistice Day, was held by the archway leading to St. George's Yard, in May 1916. Continue up the street and go into the courtyard leading to the Pizza Piazza and look at the exterior of the building. It was here that the Castle Theatre flourished for around 40 years. Sir Michael Redgrave said this was the most haunted theatre in which he had ever acted. Go back into the main street and cross over the road, close to the red telephone box.

Castle Street

Plaque 2 is on a wall at the right of the footpath leading to Long Garden Walk. Look across the road to your right and see the Golden Hind on top of the Town Hall Buildings. Look across the road to your left and note the plane trees planted in 1897 and the almshouses behind them, built in 1619, as homes "for eight poor, honest, old, impotent persons." To the left of these is the Nelson Arms, with a hand-carved wooden sign. The energetic can walk up the steps to Farnham Castle where the keep is open, daily, from April 1st to October 31st. There are guided tours around the main part of the castle every Wednesday 2-4pm (except Christmas Day). Check first for availability. Although much of this street appears to be Georgian many buildings are much older and only have Georgian facades. Many people consider the view down Castle Street to be one of the best in Southern England.

Plaque 3 is on a wall by the large gates. Turn right into West Street. On the wall of the building opposite observe the roundel showing the birthplace of Augustus Toplady, author of the hymn *Rock of Ages*. Walk along to the right and just past the post office. Note the unusual building, in Malthouse Yard, once owned by a hop garden tallyman. Note, too, a rare example of an 18th century shop front at 104a, brought from the Cornhill, London, by Harold Falkner (one of the town's most famous, but eccentric, architects), and erected in West Street, behind giraffe-like arches, in 1950. Stop at the corner of the lane next to a timber-framed building on which is **Plaque 4**.

The building on which this plaque has been placed was once a public house known as The Prince of Wales. The lane running northwards is Timber Close which is believed to be the place of construction, in 1395, of the hammer-beam roof of Westminster Hall, in London, where it can still be seen today. After construction in Farnham, it was then taken, piece by piece, to London and erected there. Cross the main road and continue westward to visit Farnham Library and the Museum of Farnham. Both places have delightful gardens in which visitors can sit and eat sandwiches or just enjoy the bird sounds. Part of the library building is Vernon House (which is in front of its lending section). Vernon House carries a roundel telling visitors that King Charles I stayed here as a prisoner, for one night, in December 1648, before going to London, and his execution there a month later. At the Museum of Farnham, which won the only mainland Britain Special Commendation in the European Museum of the Year competition, in 1994, is the morning cap which King Charles I gave to his host, Sir Henry Vernon, in thanks for his hospitality. Admission to the museum is free and it is open from Tuesday to Saturday 10am to 5pm.

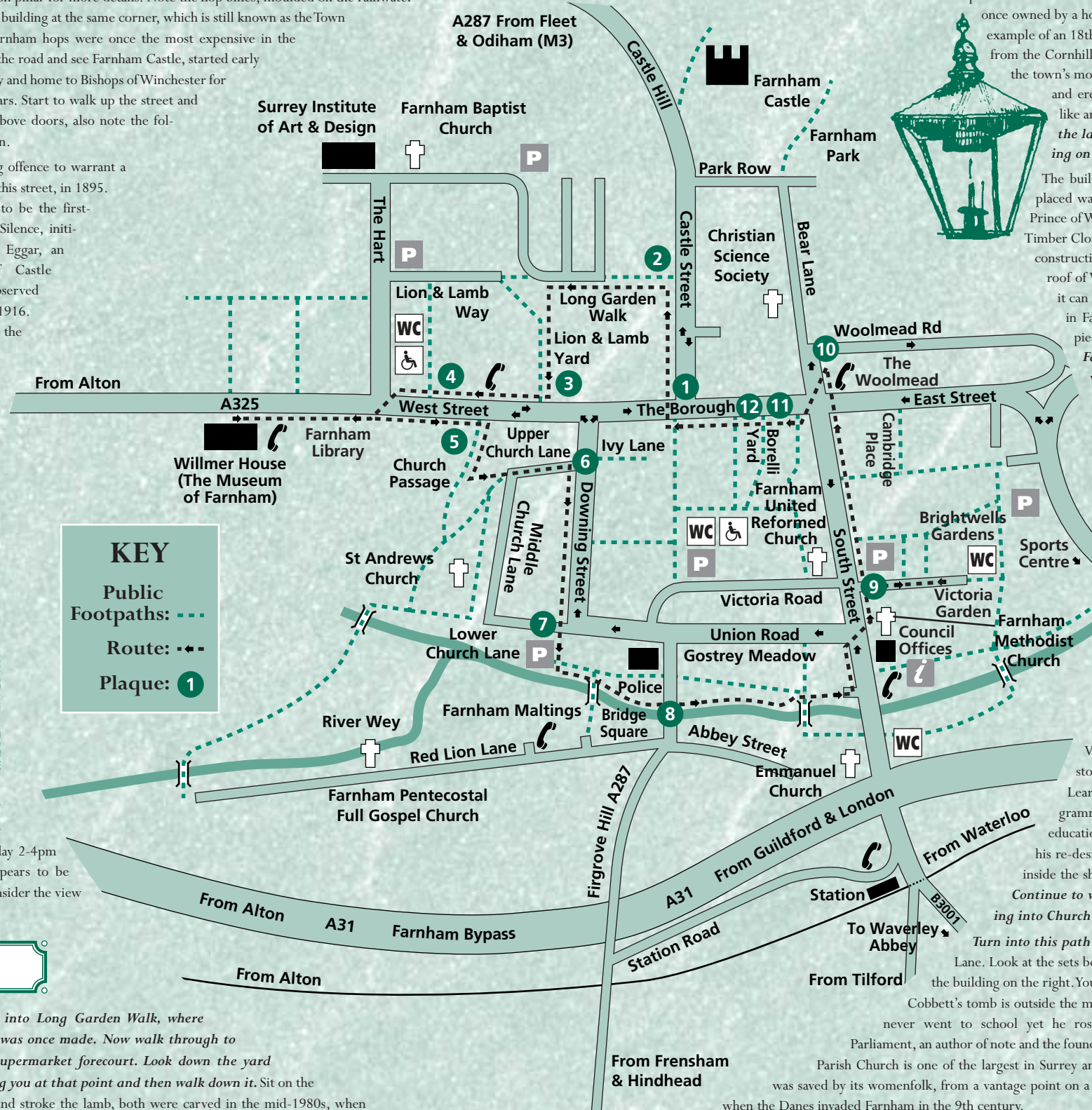
CENTRAL FARNHAM

Upon leaving the museum glance across the road. The small bungalows are on the site of the first senior military college which later moved to Camberley to become the Staff College. William Willett, the man who originated the idea of daylight saving, was born in a cottage here in 1856. The left-hand shop, opposite to the museum and currently selling guitars, has part of a mural on the first floor, which can be seen by the general public upon request. Now retrace your steps back towards the town centre. Pass Vernon House and the Bishop's Table Hotel, both of which are reputed to be haunted, and stop outside the large Victorian building a few yards farther on (known as the Farnham Adult Learning Centre). Farnham has a long history of first-class education. This building has been a grammar school for boys, a grammar school for girls, an art college and is now a place for the education of adults. Adjacent, with a black and white plaque on the wall, and opposite to one of his re-designed buildings at 104a, is Harold Falkner's house. Stop at Toto, a ladies' fashion shop, go inside the shop and look at the magnificent plaster ceiling, or peer in the window if the shop is shut. Continue to walk to the pedestrian crossing lights. Stop at **Plaque 5** which is on the wall leading into Church Passage.

Turn into this path which leads to the Parish Church. This passage is also known, locally, as Streaky Bacon Lane. Look at the sets beneath your feet for the reason! Once William Kingham's bacon-smoking factory occupied the building on the right. You are now approaching St. Andrew's Church and handboards inside give its history. William Cobbett's tomb is outside the main door. Cobbett is, arguably, Farnham's greatest son. Because of his family's poverty he never went to school yet he rose to become a Member of Parliament, an author of note and the founder of the present *Hansard*. The Parish Church is one of the largest in Surrey and legend states that the town was saved by its womenfolk, from a vantage point on a former tower on this church, when the Danes invaded Farnham in the 9th century.

UPPER CHURCH LANE

Take the left path which leads to Upper Church Lane. Note the gate posts constructed in memory of a pet dog and look at the mathematical tiles on the building facing you, the end of a terrace. Let your eye move upwards from the porch until you find E. Bradley 1757 scratched into one tile. Such tiles were often used as a way of avoiding the Brick Tax which was introduced in 1784 to finance the war with the American colonies. Note the hinges on the front door of the house. They were made when the forge was in existence next door.



KEY

- Public Footpaths: - - - -
- Route: - - - -
- Plaque: 1

LION AND LAMB

Lion and Lamb Yard

Turn into Long Garden Walk, where rope was once made. Now walk through to the supermarket forecourt. Look down the yard facing you at that point and then walk down it. Sit on the lion and stroke the lamb, both were carved in the mid-1980s, when most of the upper part of this yard was built, the exception being the listed barn on the left, currently owned by Laura Ashley Ltd. At one time this barn was used as a garage for the repair of vehicles used by William Kingham and Sons, wholesale and retail grocers, whose warehouse occupied the land on which the present supermarket now stands. At the bottom of the yard, note the old water pump on the right, cellar doors of the former Lion and Lamb Hotel (the building from which this courtyard derived its name), a wooden block path under the archway and large gates, with a smaller gate within one of them.



Upper Church Lane



Farnham Castle



Castle Street



West Street