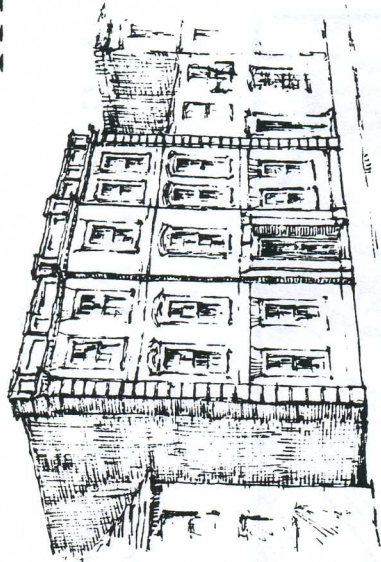
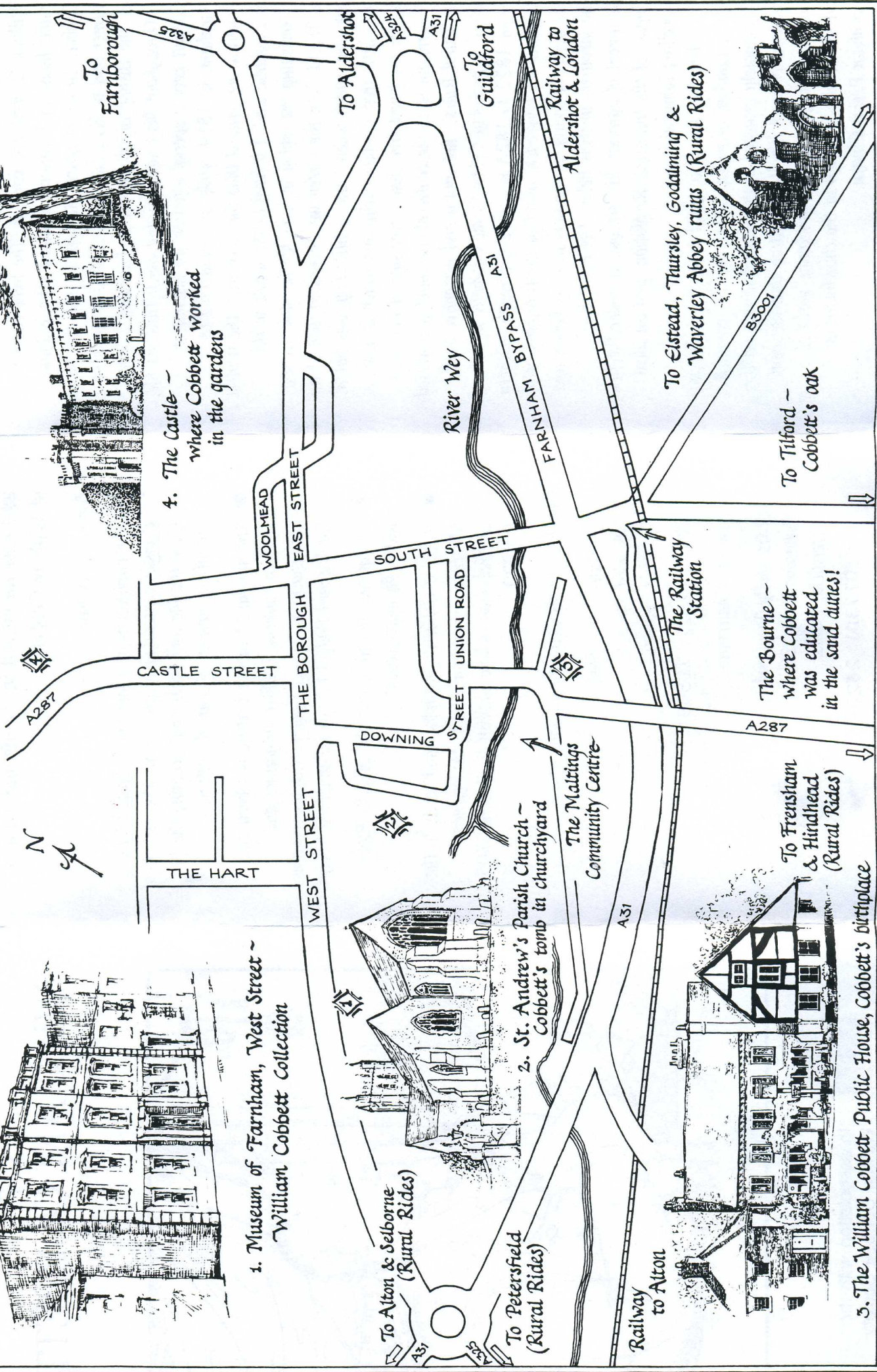


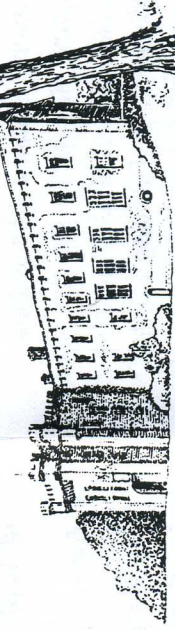
THE WILLIAM COBBETT TRAIL



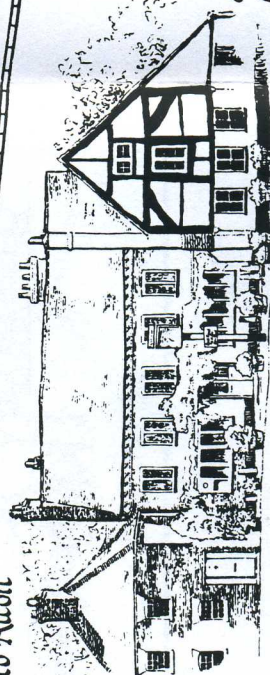
1. Museum of Farnham, West Street - William Cobbett Collection



2. St. Andrew's Parish Church - Cobbett's tomb in churchyard



4. The Castle - where Cobbett worked in the gardens



5. The William Cobbett Public House, Cobbett's birthplace



To Elstead, Thursley, Godalming & Waverley Abbey ruins (Rural Rides)

To Tilford - Cobbett's oak

The Bourne - where Cobbett was educated in the sand dunes!

To Frensham & Hindhead (Rural Rides)

To Alton & Selborne (Rural Rides)

To Petersfield (Rural Rides)

The Maltings Community Centre

Railway to Alton

The Railway Station

Railway to Aldershot & London

To Guildford

To Aldershot

To Farnborough

WILLIAM COBBETT

(1763 - 1835)

William Cobbett was born at 'The Jolly Farmer' public house in Farnham, renamed 'The William Cobbett' in recent years. He was the son of a small farmer and in his youth he worked as a gardener for the Bishop of Winchester at Farnham Castle.

Throughout his combative and much travelled life, Cobbett kept a special affection for his native Farnham. In 1819, while in virtual exile in America, he recalled that the town was 'the neatest in England, and, I believe in the whole world'.

Revisiting the region in later life he took his son to Tilford. 'On the Green we stopped to look at an oak tree, which when I was a little boy, was but a very little tree, comparatively, and which is now... by far the finest tree that I ever saw in my life.'

Farnham is at the centre of the country traversed in 'Rural Rides', that angry and perceptive book which is probably Cobbett's most famous work.

From 1822 to 1826 he travelled through southern England on horseback, avoiding the turnpikes, with the object of seeing the farmers in their homes and the labourers in their fields. The result is a document of agrarian life, struggling under the first impact of the Industrial Revolution, and an ideal travelling companion.

Cobbett was forced to spend most of his working life in London, or exiled abroad, but he remained passionately attached to the natural world and the patterns of rural life. It was fitting that he spent his last years farming at Normandy, north of Farnham, and is buried in the churchyard of Farnham Parish Church.

THE WILLIAM COBBETT SOCIETY was founded in 1976 to bring together those who have an interest in the life and writings of William Cobbett.

Among its activities are:-

- The publication of a journal, Cobbett's New Register containing articles on various aspects of Cobbett's life and times and including the full text of the annual Memorial Lecture.
- The annual Memorial Lecture has been given by such eminent Cobbett authorities and enthusiasts as George Spater, Richard Ingrams, Sir Richard Body M.P., and Humphrey Phelps.
- The annual re-run of one of Cobbett's Rural Rides, by motor coach!
- Visits to Cobbett's birthplace and tomb, to the Museum of Farnham and to Botley, near Southampton, where Cobbett lived from 1805 to 1820.

Details of the Society are available from:-

Museum of Farnham,
38 West Street,
Farnham, Surrey.
Tel: (01252) 715094

Further information can be obtained from the Society's website
www.williamcobbett.org.uk
or from

David Chun, 1, Meadow View Cottages,
Spring Grove, Bursledon, SO31 8BB

IN THE STEPS OF WILLIAM COBBETT



WILLIAM COBBETT
from a print in 'The Amusing Chronicle'



In association with the
William Cobbett Society