





# Industrial Farnham

AD 1750 - 1900



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1 Depiction of early 19th century hop-picker (Artwork by V Ambros)



2 Brick-built Georgian Willmer House, built by Thomas Hunter Jr c.1718, built over earlier foundations and now the Museum (Museum of Farnham)

3 Red-brick Georgian townhouse at 70 Castle Street, built by George West the Elder c.1775, with original cellar still intact

4 Late 19th century hop-pickers and drying kilns from Pitt Farm, Frensham © Peeps into the Past

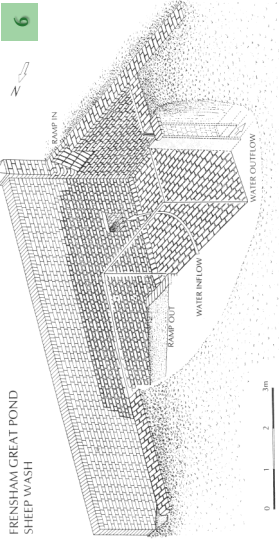
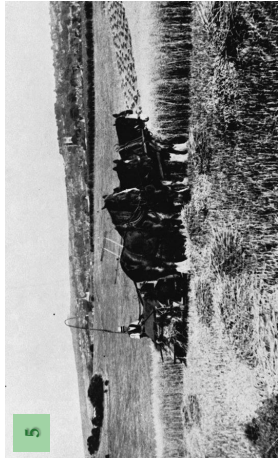


## Hop production

Possibly the biggest influence on Farnham's prosperity in the Georgian period was the successful agricultural production of hops, which had replaced the wheat market as the town's mainstay by the middle of the 18th century. Much rebuilding took place as a result of investment from the wealthy growers and businessmen, and though many new Georgian town houses sprang up, sometimes only a brick façade replaced earlier timber-framing.

## 19th century countryside

Besides its nationally acclaimed hops, Farnham's surrounding fields were used for other crops as well as sheep rearing. The oak woodlands of Alice Holt were also well-noted at that time, with the timber even used for ship-building for the Royal Navy.



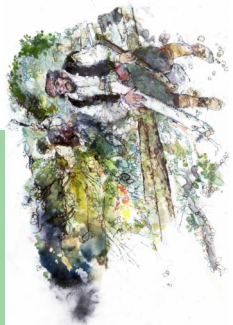
5 Fields along Crondall Lane c.1900 currently under crop, but later hop fields © Peeps

6 Reconstruction drawing of Victorian sheep wash at Frensham, used to clean sheep before shearing (A Graham)

7 Hay-makers c.1900 working in Badshot Lea © Peeps



8 Wood-cutter (V Ambros)



## Victorian changes and innovation

As hop gardens extended to the very edge of Farnham houses, it is no surprise that maltings and breweries began to spring up. The increased wealth from the success of these markets led to emphasis on personal possessions, and a number of high class shops arose throughout the thriving town. Despite this, clean water was still a luxury – sold at the door for 1d. a bucket – and sewers were not laid until the 1880s. By the 19th century's end, the town had over 5,000 residents, and surplus hop land was given over for further housing development.



10 Hand-pump from c.1779 from what was originally an open yard behind 112 West St (Photo D Graham)



11 Excavations of 19th century corset factory behind Boots, showing machinery foundations (Photo D Graham)



12 19th century town water cistern at bottom of Castle Street (D Graham)



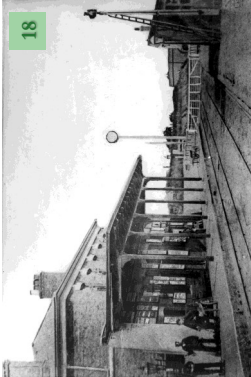
13 Jeffery's shop, The Borough c.1900: jewellers, watch and clock-makers and gunsmiths © Peeps

14 Early 19th century wall clock by Charles Borelli & Sons

17 Late 19th century view of West Street from Downing Street © Peeps

## Transport and a changing town

With the arrival of the railway in the mid-19th century, a much wider range of goods and supplies was able to be transported to the town, as well as enabling two-way traffic with the army camp at Aldershot. This increased traffic led to changes in the town's layout, as well as the number of pubs which sprang up and catered to the visiting soldiers. However, it is the motor car which is Farnham's main claim to transport history, including Knight's 1895 traffic fine on Castle Street.

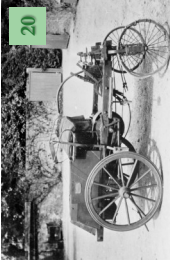
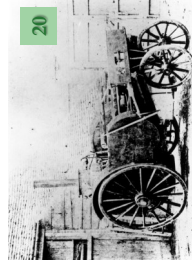


18 Farnham Station in the days of the London and South Western Railway, looking towards Aldershot c.1870 at the level crossing © Peeps



19 South Street c.1904 (looking north), constructed c.1870 for a more direct route to the station © Peeps

John Henry Knight's steam car c.1868 at Weybourne House, which (though unlicensed) was driven on local roads as far as Alton, despite running off the road and through hedges into hop fields several times, and his pioneering motor car (bottom left) which was likely the third ever to run on British roads © Peeps



21 Workmen for Farnham Urban District Council conducting road-laying with an Aveling & Porter 10-ton steam roller c.1900 © Peeps

## Pottery production

Established in 1873 by local potter Absalom Harris, Farnham Pottery in Wrecclesham is considered one of the finest preserved Victorian rural potteries in the country.

At its founding, the works mainly produced tiles and drainpipes still seen in some local houses today. However, from the 1880s Harris shifted into the making of pottery, whose green lead glazing – known as Farnham Greenware – was akin to the 13th century styles popular on the Surrey-Hampshire border.



22 Absalom Harris, whose family ran Farnham Pottery for five generations



23 Farnham Pottery and bottle kiln today (top) and in c.1905 (bottom left), with William F Harris in studio 1905 (right) (Photos D Graham / © Peeps)



24 Green-glazed earthenware vase made c.1893 by A. Harris and Sons at the Wrecclesham pottery works © Victoria and Albert Museum, London

