

PRESS RELEASE

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Celebrating Farnham's World Craft Town status

a short film highlighting Farnham's makers

In June 2020, Farnham was awarded 'World Craft City' status by the World Crafts Council and became the first town in England and the third region in Europe to join the network of world craft cities. Other European holders of the designation include the Outer Hebrides for Harris tweed and the Danish island of Bornholm, famous for its glass production and pottery using locally worked clay.

The World Crafts Council welcomed Farnham to the network of world craft cities which is a contribution to the UNESCO Creative Cities programme. Only 36 other regions and cities across the globe have been awarded Craft City status.

Today marks the launch of a short film that is being released to explain what it means for Farnham to be a World Craft Town and raise awareness of the designation in advance of Farnham's Craft Month. The film highlights Farnham's thriving community of makers, world-class creative institutions and activities happening within the town and local area. It celebrates the rich history of craft in Farnham and encourages the wider community to feel proud of this aspect of the town and motivated to get involved.

List of featured makers

Ian Bishop – 3D Designer
Lucy Burley - Potter
Alice Howard Graham – Printed Textile Maker
Max Humphries – Puppet Maker
Allison Ellen – Textile Maker & Hand Knitter
John Cooksley - Blacksmith
Ashley Howard - Potter
Nao Fukomoto – Weaver
Ruta Brown – Jeweller

"We are absolutely delighted with the film: we can't stop grinning, and we feel very lucky to be in what is a work of art in itself. The film is beautiful to look at and a perfect encapsulation of our lovely town as a treasure-trove of Craft."

Lucy Burley, Potter and Ian Bishop, 3D Designer

The video also features the town's creative landscape including the Farnham Maltings, The University of Creative Arts, the International Textiles Research Centre run by Professor Lesley Millar MBE; the internationally renowned Crafts Study Centre, celebrating its 50th year; The New Ashgate Gallery, one of the leading contemporary arts galleries in the south east of England; Farnham Pottery, founded by Absalom Harris in 1873, which has the oldest wood fired kiln in Europe; and a wide range of community-led activities that take place throughout the year.

The film can be viewed here youtu.be/UyHLj1aoE8M.

A subtitled version is available here youtu.be/x799nRO6mDA

Stills from the film can be requested from niki.hanmer@farnhammaltings.com

The film was produced by Key Productions, based in Farnham keyproductions.tv

Farnham World Craft City is designated by the World Craft Council and delivered by Farnham Maltings and Farnham Town Council in partnership with the town's many craft organisations and with support from an advisory group of craft makers, institutions and local authority partners including Waverley Borough Council.

Background about the World Crafts Council

The award is given by the World Crafts Council which was established in 1964 as a non-profit membership organisation. It was set up to promote an international interest in crafts and encourage contact between the craftspeople of different countries. Its memberships are active in Europe, Asia, North America, Latin America and Africa. The WCC has awarded a network of creative craft cities worldwide. This was in response to the growing awareness of the contribution of local authorities, craftspeople and communities to cultural, economic and social development.

For more info www.wccinternational.org

ENDS

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For requests for interviews or high res images please contact Niki Hanmer at niki.hanmer@farnhammaltings.com or communications@farnham.gov.uk

Notes to Editors:

Farnham Town Council and the Farnham Maltings have worked together on promoting Farnham as England's Craft Town since 2013, celebrating the immense range of craft activities that take place every year.

Farnham Maltings is a creative organisation that works with the artists and communities of South East England to encourage the greatest number of people to make, see and enjoy the best art possible. From a range of buildings, set in the heart of Farnham, we present events and workshops from large scale craft festivals to intimate cabaret shows, as well as providing space for voluntary and

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community groups to deliver their own ambitions. We enable artists making craft, theatre and dance work to thrive by providing affordable studio and rehearsal space, offering producing and tour booking, developing networks, sharing resources and equipping artists with the skills and opportunities to promote their work locally, nationally and internationally. farnhammaltings.com

Farnham Town Council is a key partner in the town's designation as Craft Town England and its World Craft City Status. It positively promotes craft through the South Street Trust and its Community Grants scheme. Opportunities to access craft are an integral part of the Town Council's events programme. The Council's planning policies preserve and enhance the town's craft heritage. Farnham Town Council is looking to shape Farnham as a place for creative makers to be a key sector in the local economy. farnham.gov.uk