

# Farnham Literary Festival - 5 to 13 March

Farnham has inspired many authors past and present. In honour of their talents and how their contributions have enriched lives, Farnham Town Council is delighted to introduce the inaugural Farnham Literary Festival.

This new festival is set to become an annual event with organisers ambitious to see it grow and sit alongside literary extravaganzas such as those held at Cheltenham, Hay and Petworth.

The Farnham Literary Festival will showcase the work of leading, emerging and acclaimed local and international authors and provide literary events for all and will celebrate the written word in all its many guises.

Events include:

- Talks by the writer, podcaster, broadcaster and comedian Sandi Toksvig
- Readings
- Talks by local authors
- Weydon School TED talks
- Writing workshop
- Performance and talk by UK Drill artist 678Nath and DJ Renz
- Modern calligraphy workshop
- Handstitched book binding workshop

Farnham Town Council shall also be seeking out the novelists and writers of tomorrow with the Farnham Fiction Award.

The festival complements Farnham Town Council's year-round events programme which aims to boost the local economy.

*For details about events, booking and ways to get involved, visit [www.farnhamliteraryfestival.co.uk](http://www.farnhamliteraryfestival.co.uk).*

## ***Some famous authors connected to Farnham***

### **Jonathan Swift (1667-1745)**

Jonathan Swift is best known as the author of 'Gulliver's Travels'. He came to Moor Park in 1689 as secretary and literary assistant to Sir William Temple. Several of Swift's best-known works were written at Moor Park, including 'Tale of a Tub' and 'The Battle of the Books'.

### **William Cobbett (1763-1835)**

William Cobbett wrote Rural Rides and was the founder of Hansard. For nearly 40 years he occupied a unique position of power using his pen to support the labouring poor by exposing corruption and dishonesty, earning himself the name, The Poor Man's Friend. William Cobbett is buried in the centre of Farnham at St Andrew's Church.

### **George Sturt (1863-1927)**

On his father's death in 1884,

Sturt took over the running of the family wheelwright's business in East Street. His true ambition was to become a writer and he found his success in sensitive but unsentimental depictions of rural life in and around the Bourne where he lived. His books included The Bettesworth Book, The Wheelwright's Shop and A Small Boy in the Sixties. George Sturt is buried in Green Lane cemetery.

### **Jean Parratt MBE (1935-2016)**

Jean Parratt wrote ten illustrated books on Farnham. From 2004 to 2015 Jean, alongside her husband Ted produced a monthly newspaper called the Farnham Diary.

Plaques honouring the work of some of these writers and others who have made a contribution to the life of Farnham, can be seen on the famous names of Farnham wall in South Street.



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for 8 inspirational days of reading, writing and the spoken word

**5 to 13 March** #farnhamlitfest [www.farnhamliteraryfestival.co.uk](http://www.farnhamliteraryfestival.co.uk)

Discover new local talent Fire your imagination Meet new people Visit stimulating venues

ORGANISED BY **Farnham Town Council**

The banner features a row of colorful books at the bottom and a green town council logo.