



**The Farnham Society**  
presents

# Heritage Open Days

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2025



**FREE  
GUIDE**

**Free Admission  
to all venues,  
tours and events**

[farnhamsociety.org.uk](http://farnhamsociety.org.uk)

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## Quick Guide

Please refer to listings for time and information  
Key ● Event ● Event - Booking Required

Page	Open Days	Fri 12	Sat 13	Sun 14	Mon 15	Tue 16	Wed 17	Thu 18	Fri 19	Sat 20	Sun 21
16	Badshot Lea School										●
12	Bush Hotel				●	●	●	●	●		
11	Crafts Study Centre					●					
4	Farnham Castle										●
8	Farnham Masonic Centre		●								
6	Farnham Pottery			●						●	
10	Guitar Village				●	●	●	●	●		
12	Liberal Club				●						
10	Lion and Lamb House	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
5	Museum of Farnham		●								
8	Nelson Arms				●	●	●	●	●		
14	New Ashgate Gallery		●					●	●	●	
13	Old Cottage			●							●
14	Old Vicarage					●					
16	Partridge House					●					
15	St Andrew's Church		●							●	
18	St James Church, Rowledge							●			
18	St Marks Church, Kitty Milroy Murals								●	●	
9	Sampson's Almshouses									●	
11	University for the Creative Arts	●									
17	Waverley Abbey House			●							
9	West Street Chapel				●	●					
7	Windsor Almshouses		●								
Page	Guided Walks	Fri 12	Sat 13	Sun 14	Mon 15	Tue 16	Wed 17	Thu 18	Fri 19	Sat 20	Sun 21
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20	Great Austins Architectural Tour			●							
21	Hidden Craft Histories									●	
19	Moor Park House		●								
21	Mother Ludlam's Cave									●	
21	St James' Conservation Area								●		
20	Tice's Meadow Nature Reserve						●				
22	Victoria Garden										●
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Page	Talks	Fri 12	Sat 13	Sun 14	Mon 15	Tue 16	Wed 17	Thu 18	Fri 19	Sat 20	Sun 21
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25	Architecture of South Farnham				●						
24	Blower Foundation	●									
24	Echoes in Stone		●								
25	Geometry that lies behind Architecture				●						
24	Reordering of St Andrews		●							●	
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## HERITAGE OPEN DAYS IN FARNHAM 2025

### Welcome from the Farnham Society

A very warm welcome to Heritage Open Days in Farnham! This year the festival runs from Friday 12<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> of September and in this brochure you will find details of a variety of fascinating places to visit plus details of some very interesting talks and walks in the town and surrounding countryside, all completely free.

Farnham is a town of many talents. It has a long history going back to Saxon times, and today it is England's first designated World Craft Town, a town of arts and crafts and home to the University for the Creative Arts (UCA).

Records of Farnham really begin when the Bishops of Winchester established a castle here in the twelfth century. Farnham provided a convenient stopping place on the road from Winchester to London, and the bishops remained here in their castle, looking down upon the town from their northern hill, until the early twentieth century.

The Castle, now a venue for weddings, is being specially opened for HODs visitors. For details see page 4.

The annual Heritage Open Days festival is organised centrally by the National Trust, and every year they offer a theme. This year the theme is Architecture, which suits Farnham down to the ground as in addition to the castle, it has interesting historic and beautiful buildings from as far back as the fifteenth century right up to the present day.

Architecture is many things.

Its purpose is of course to design buildings to provide living and working space for people, but buildings live longer than people and this makes it also a form of living history, a physical history that you can see, touch and experience. At its best architecture is also an art form and a pleasure to the eye. Farnham has a lot to show off.

The most famous view in Farnham is Castle Street, leading up to the Castle. The road is wide and the buildings which line it on each side are full of history and interest. Special events are celebrated here and the Castle perches at the top, half hidden by trees.

A talk on the architecture of Castle Street will be given for HODs by retired architect Michael Blower MBE, who has practised in the town for almost all of his working life. For all the details of this and other interesting talks, places to visit, and guided walks in the town and surrounding villages, read on!



**FARNHAM CASTLE, Castle Street, GU9 0AG. Map 3.**

**The Bishops' Palace will be open Sun 21<sup>st</sup> Sept from 11am to 4.30pm. No need to book.**

**No parking is available at the Castle except for visitors with Blue Badges.**

**It is recommended that visitors use a town centre car park, or park in Farnham Park (entrance off Folly Hill) and enter the Castle via the main gates on Castle Hill.**

**Strictly no dogs (assistance dogs permitted).**

**Self-guided tours** of the Bishops' Palace are available between 11am and 4.30pm. Volunteer Palace Guides will be present between 2pm and 4pm to offer historical information.

**Refreshments:** Wood-fired Pizzas, Cream Teas, Bar & Soft Drinks available.

**Historic re-enactments:** Fun for all the family! Historic Civil War re-enactments from 11am to 4pm featuring military drills.

**Access:** The ground floor, only, is accessible for limited mobility visitors – there are no lifts, and some steep steps.

**900 years of living history:** Farnham Castle dates from the twelfth century and, for 900 years until the mid-twentieth century, was the home and power base of the Bishops of Winchester and consequently frequently visited by royalty.

The Bishop's Palace is of great historical significance, and the historic buildings are Grade 1 and Grade 2 Listed.

Farnham Castle is now a private venue for Weddings, Events and Conferences, and is the jewel in Farnham's crown, looking down upon the town from its elevated position on Castle Hill.

At the time of printing, the Castle Keep, which is maintained by English Heritage, is closed to visitors and is likely to remain so during September. For latest details visit the English heritage website here:

<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/farnham-castle-keep/>

**MUSEUM OF FARNHAM, Willmer House, 38 West Street, GU9 7DX. Map 8.**

**Open for HODS visitors Sat 13<sup>th</sup> Sept from 10am to 4pm. No need to book.**

The Museum will be holding the Willmer House Family Day, a day full of free, fun and accessible activities themed around Willmer House, its occupants and construction.

The Museum of Farnham is situated in Willmer House, a Grade I listed building of national significance. Built in 1718 for John Thorne, a local hop merchant, Willmer House is a very rare building because the façade is built entirely of 'gauged brickwork'. Gauged brickwork was, and still is, one of the most expensive materials and building methods, a clear demonstration of the wealth that hop-growing brought to the town in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and today, there are probably only 10 to 20 buildings of this type left in the United Kingdom.

At over 300 years old the building has started to show its age and urgent repairs are now needed to save this exceptional building. A restoration project began in early 2025 and will run until summer 2026. Throughout this period the museum will remain open and there will be a number of community engagement events where the public can meet the conservators and learn more about their work and the history of the building.

Behind the house is a sheltered walled garden, secluded and quiet. The Garden Gallery is a teaching and exhibition space which can be hired for private events.

**Access:** The main entrance to the museum has two steps. There is a second accessible entrance 5 metres along the street to the right of the main entrance. There is a doorbell there that rings in the main house and a member of the Museum Team will come and assist you. The ground floor of the museum (research library, shop and ground floor exhibitions) is fully accessible and there is an accessible toilet with baby changing facilities on this level.

The first floor is only accessible via a staircase, which is wide in design with large steps.

The walled garden is situated at the back of the museum. There is a ramp down to the path as you come out of the back door. The garden is flat and has paths throughout. Registered assistance dogs are welcome throughout the museum, walled garden and Garden Gallery.





**FARNHAM POTTERY** Quennells Hill, Wrecclesham, GU10 4QJ.  
(off A325 through Wrecclesham).

Open for HODs visitors on Sun 14<sup>th</sup> Sep and Sat 20<sup>th</sup> Sep between 9am and 4pm. No need to book except for the tours.

History tours, of 45 minute duration, will be provided on both Sun 14<sup>th</sup> and Sat 20<sup>th</sup> at 11am and again at 2pm. This will include a guided tour of areas not normally open to the public, a description of the industrial process and architectural features of the site.

Advance booking for these tours (max 20 per tour) essential through the Farnham Pottery website - [www.thefarnhampottery.co.uk](http://www.thefarnhampottery.co.uk)

The 150 year old Farnham Pottery literally grew from the ground it stands on with five generations of the Harris family digging clay to make every twin hole brick in the building; the ornate windows and unique detailing throughout. A charming Victorian country pottery, historically run as a commercial business, making a range of practical wares as well as the internationally recognised Farnham Pottery greenware range.

It was saved by The Farnham Building Preservation Trust from potential demolition in 1998, moving into private ownership in 2012 to become a thriving arts and making centre.

**Access:** We can provide wheel chair access to the ground floor and have a disabled toilet. There are some uneven floor surfaces that require care and there are relatively steep stairs to the first floor spaces.



## CASTLE STREET

“A street, indeed, which for sheer visual delight has few equals in all England” – Alec Clifton-Taylor.

Farnham’s famous Georgian panorama, a wide perspective leading up to the Castle on the hill. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, fashionable Georgian frontages were added to existing older buildings, so many of them are older than they look.

There will be a virtual walk, “The Architecture of Castle Street”, on Tues 16<sup>th</sup> Sept at 11.30 at the Maltings (see page 25 for details, no need to book).

**WINDSOR ALMSHOUSES, 53-56 Castle Street, GU9 7LN. Map 18.**

Welcoming HODs visitors to the residents’ private communal garden on Sat 13<sup>th</sup> Sept between 10am and 4pm. No need to book.

Volunteers and trustees will be in attendance to answer any questions.

An opportunity to learn about the history of the Andrew Windsor Almshouses and enjoy the communal gardens of these much admired Grade II\* listed historic almshouses in the heart of Farnham town centre.

The Andrew Windsor Almshouse Charity has provided accommodation for residents of retirement age for over 400 years and the ten almshouses are all currently occupied.

Little changed from 1619 when they were constructed for “the habitation and relief of eight poor honest and impotent persons”. Andrew Windsor, who was a landed gentleman from a long established family living at Bury Court in Bentley, set up the trust which, despite its ups and downs over the centuries, still manages the almshouses.

More accommodation constructed at the rear during the 1970s houses a further six people while in the 1980s the eight original almshouses were extensively renovated and converted into four roomier dwellings.

**Access:** Flat paved surface.



**FARNHAM MASONIC CENTRE,**  
42 Castle Street, GU9 7JB.  
Map 4.

**Open for HODs visitors Sat 13<sup>th</sup> Sept**  
**from 10.30am to 4pm.**  
**No need to book.**

Now the home of Farnham Freemasons, the first floor and Temple which will be laid out for a ceremony along with a display of masonic regalia.

The origins of this building date back to some time before the English Civil War. From 1673 it was a 'Musick House' and from 1820 a school. In 1877 a charity was formed known as 'The Working Men's or Castle Street Institute' and was used among other things for church meetings.

After a sale in 1909 it was used by Surrey County Council for training purposes. The Farnham Masonic Hall Company was formed in 1946 and in 1952 the building became the Freemasons' Hall. The external appearance of the building has changed little since 1763 and it remains a handsome red brick landmark at the top of Castle Street.

**Access:** Three steps into the front hall, then a single person lift to the 1st Floor and the Masonic Temple.



**THE NELSON ARMS, 50-52**  
Castle Street, GU9 7JQ. Map 9.

**Open for HODs visitors Mon 15<sup>th</sup> to**  
**Fri 19<sup>th</sup> Sept, 12pm to 10pm.**  
**No need to book.**

The Nelson Arms public house was originally three 14<sup>th</sup> Century farm cottages that belonged to Castle Farm, part of the Bishop of Winchester's estate. In 1888, then the Baker's Arms, it comprised basement cellars, parlour, taproom, bar, bar parlour, and four bedrooms. In the courtyard were a stable, a cart shed, and a loft over its gateway. In the cellar beneath the pub is a sealed tunnel that is rumoured to run to the Castle, the Bishop of Winchester's residence.

The present pub's name is a result of the local support for Admiral Horatio Nelson who visited the town to see his paramour, Lady Hamilton. Legend has it that Nelson's glass eye was once embedded in one of the pillars

**Access:** Two steps in main entrance, one small step from bar to restaurant area, and from restaurant area to toilets. Narrow walkway points, due to old architectural beams. Access for wheelchair use through courtyard when requested.



## WEST STREET

Part of the ancient east-west trade route around which Farnham grew up, with some of the town's oldest buildings and some very fine Georgian townhouses built by wealthy hop growers in the 18th century.

**SAMPSON'S ALMSHOUSES,**  
West Street, Farnham GU9 7AW.  
Map 14.

**Open Sat 20<sup>th</sup> Sept, tours at**  
**10.30am to 12pm and 1.30pm to**  
**3pm.**

**Advance booking essential (max 10**  
**per tour) at**  
**[farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2025](http://farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2025)**

Visitors can only view the exterior of buildings as the Almshouses are all occupied.

In 1854, the Sampson family, local brewers, gave five cottages in Mead Lane for use as almshouses, founding the Sampson's Trust. By 1930 the dwellings had fallen into disrepair but the Charity was bequeathed land and local architect Harold Falkner was commissioned to design a new terrace of five cottages which were formally opened in 1934. The accommodation was extended in 1977 with eleven new bungalows.

**Access:** Entrance driveway on mild incline, all footpaths paved within lawned grounds.



**WEST STREET CHAPEL, West**  
Street Cemetery, GU9 8AP.  
Map 17.

**Open for HODs visitors, Mon 15<sup>th</sup> and**  
**Tues 16<sup>th</sup> Sept from 10am to 4pm.**

**No need to book.**

Special opening of the Chapel which is not normally open to visitors.

The little Chapel of Rest is now the workshop of sculptor Ian Bishop who will be present to welcome visitors.

Built in the 1870s of the local white clunch or chalk stone, there were originally two chapels, one for Church of England burials and the other for Nonconformists with a space between the two for the hearse. The two buildings were amalgamated at a later stage.

The chapel was closed in the 1980s when there were few burials, and restored as an artist's studio by Farnham Town Council.

**Access:** Two steps into the building.





**GUITAR VILLAGE, 80-82 West Street, GU9 7EN. Map 5.**

**Open for HODs visitors Mon 15<sup>th</sup> Sept to Fri 19<sup>th</sup> Sept, 10am to 6pm. No need to book.**

Tree ring dating of timbers in this building reveal that it is one of Farnham's oldest buildings, built in 1467. It was a 'Wealden' house, a spectacular form of medieval open hall house. The original 15th century building would have been timbered, infilled with wattle and daub. The present infill of long narrow bricks was probably added in the Tudor period.

**Access:** There are low doorways, steps within the building and narrow steep stairs to the first floor.



**LION AND LAMB HOUSE (HARRIS + HOOLE), 113b West Street, GU9 7HH. Map 7.**

**Open for HODs visitors all day Monday-Saturday 7-6, Sunday 8-5. No need to book.**

Now a Harris + Hoole coffee shop, this 16<sup>th</sup> century building has a long and chequered history.

In the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries it was an inn called The White Hart, which became the Lion and Lamb in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century and was divided into tenements. By the early 20<sup>th</sup> century the building was in a very bad condition and was largely reconstructed in 1921 on its original lines. A minstrel's gallery overlooks the yard and there is a magnificent carved oak fire surround in the front room.

**Access:** Front via West Street or side via the Lion and Lamb Yard.



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**"Farnham Heritage Open Days"**

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## THE HART AND FALKNER ROAD

In earlier years the Hart led to the Hart hopground, on land now the home of the UCA. Falkner Road, leading to Beavers Road, is named after the influential Farnham architect Harold Falkner

**UNIVERSITY FOR THE CREATIVE ARTS (UCA), Falkner Road, GU9 7DS. Map 15.**

**Tours on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> Sept at 10am and at 2pm. Advance booking essential (max 12 per tour) at [farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2025](https://farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2025)**

Explore the inner workings of the UCA by joining us on a tour with an unprecedented look at the many unique facilities students get to enjoy and also learn about its incredible history.

The formal study of art in Farnham dates back to the 1860s. The school grew in size and importance to become today's University for the Creative Arts with its state of the art facilities including a glassblowing hotshop, film studios and stop motion animation spaces.

**Access:** All areas of the campus are accessible by wheelchair. Let us know of any additional support needs in advance so we can best assist.



**CRAFTS STUDY CENTRE, Falkner Road, GU9 7DS. Map 2.**

**Open for conducted tour Tue 16<sup>th</sup> Sept at 11am.**

**Tour takes approx. 90 minutes.**

**Advance booking essential (max 20 people) at [farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2025](https://farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2025)**

Tour of the Crafts Study Centre, a specialist university museum and research centre, home to internationally renowned collections of modern British craft.

Free guided tour including a behind the scenes viewing of selected objects drawn from the collections.

**Access:** Accessible museum with lifts.



## THE BOROUGH AND SOUTH STREET

The Borough runs east and west across the foot of Castle Street. South Street was built in 1869 and was at first known as New Road, providing direct access from the town to the new railway station. Farnham's cattle market was on the site of what is now Sainsbury's.

**BUSH HOTEL,**  
The Borough, GU9 7NN. Map 1.

**Welcoming HODS visitors 10am to 5pm from Mon 15<sup>th</sup> to Fri 19<sup>th</sup> Sep. No need to book.**

It is believed that the Bush existed as an alehouse or inn during the Plantagenet times; its first official reference is dated 1618. The oak lounge, now nestled in the main building was the original bar. In 1931 the Frescoes were discovered along the side wall of the oak lounge. It is thought they date back to between 1750 and 1850. On the ceiling of the oak lounge, you will see a painted sundial dating back to 1800s with the words "of that day and hour" painted on it. Indoor sundials are very rare. Historical documents will be on display and a printed history available

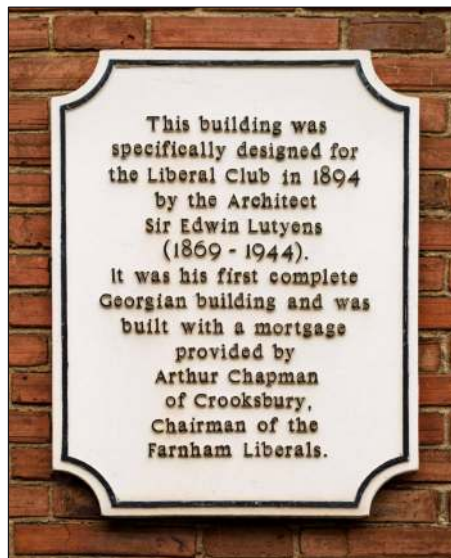
**Access:** Disabled access via rear of the property through the gardens. Front entrances have steps into the building. No lift access throughout.



**THE FORMER LIBERAL CLUB,**  
46 South Street, GU9 7RP. Map 6.

**Welcoming HODS visitors Mon 15<sup>th</sup> Sept between 3pm and 5pm. No need to book.**

What was for many years the Liberal Club, and more recently the South Street Social Club, closed its doors in 2023 and has now been converted into a restaurant, the Third Monkey, across two floors and a roof terrace. Built in 1894, it is one of Lutyens' most important early commissions and his first in the Neo-Georgian style.



## UNION ROAD &amp; GOSTREY MEADOW

Union Road was built in the 19<sup>th</sup> century to connect South Street, also new at the time, with Downing Street. Before the construction of these two roads, the route leading to southern parts of the town and Waverley Abbey was via Longbridge and Abbey Street. Gostrey Meadow is the one-time Victorian rubbish dump that was converted into a public park by Farnham Urban District Council in 1909.

## LONGBRIDGE, BRIDGE SQUARE AND RED LION LANE

Longbridge is the site of a ford long predating the first bridge, and this area, with the area around the parish church are thought to be the oldest parts of Farnham, possibly settled in the Saxon period although no direct evidence has been uncovered. Before the Farnham Bypass was built, the narrow little Red Lion Lane was a main traffic route through Farnham!

**A number of talks for HODs are being held in the Maltings, see pages 25 and 26 for full details.**

## THE OLD COTTAGE, 11 Bridge Square, GU9 7QR. Map 11.

**Tours on Sun 14<sup>th</sup> and Sun 21<sup>st</sup> Sept, at 11am, 12noon and 2pm.**

**Advance booking essential (max 8 people) at [farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2025](http://farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2025)**

A 30 minute tour led by the owner of this grade II listed cottage, built circa 1470, originally a three bay "Wealden" house with the middle bay open to the roof although a 17th century improvement added a brick chimney and a ceiling over the open hall.

The house was built close up to the side of the hill and just across the river to the south of Farnham and would have been the first house of this important town seen by travellers from the south.

**Access:** Not accessible for those with disabilities as steps to access and steps in the property.





### DOWNING STREET & CHURCH LANES

Downing Street, leading to Longbridge and Abbey Street, is the old route 'down' to Waverley Abbey. When Castle Street was first named in Tudor times it was known as Upping Street ('up' to the castle).

The Church Lanes form three sides of a square off Downing Street, with St Andrew's Parish Church and churchyard facing Middle Church Lane.

Lower Church Lane retains its old ironstone cobbles with a drainage channel in the middle, into which people used to throw slops from their upper windows, warning passers-by with a cry of "Gardy loo" ("gardez l'eau")!

**THE OLD VICARAGE**, Vicarage Lane, off Lower Church Lane, GU9 7PR. Map 12.

**Tours on Tue 16<sup>th</sup> Sept at 2pm and 3pm led by Cathy Cook.**

**Advance booking essential (max 10 people) at [farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2025](http://farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2025)**

The Old Vicarage is Grade II\* Listed, and is one of the oldest buildings in Farnham, accurately tree ring dated to 1418. It was built by John Forrest, Archdeacon of Surrey as his ecclesiastical Court House. The rear garden leads down to the river.

**Access:** steps up to the front door, uneven floors, steep narrow stairs and low beams



**NEW ASHGATE GALLERY**, Waggon Yard, Lower Church Lane, GU9 7PS. Map 10.

**Meet the Artist, Sat 13<sup>th</sup>, Thur 18<sup>th</sup>, Fri 19<sup>th</sup> and Sat 20<sup>th</sup> Sept, from 11am to 4pm. No need to book.**

Join us to watch Susie Lidstone, known for her intricate watercolours of Farnham's historic buildings, painting live in the gallery, located in the 17<sup>th</sup> century Grade II building in the centre of historic Farnham.

The gallery building, once the site of a pub called The Feathers, was one of the few older buildings to survive the almost wholesale clearance of the area in the 1960s to create the Waggon Yard car park.



**ST. ANDREWS CHURCH**, Upper Church Lane, GU9 7PW. Map 13.

**Open for HODs visitors Sat 13<sup>th</sup> Sep and Sat 20<sup>th</sup> Sept, 2pm to 4.30pm. No need to book.**

Church open to the public.

**"Pop Up Cafe"** serving refreshments.

**"Vinegar Bible"** on display

At 2pm on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 2.30pm on the 20<sup>th</sup> - **"The re-ordering of St Andrew's Church from 1997-2005"**, a talk by Philip German on the works carried out by F.W. German and Sons builders, reordering St Andrews Parish Church, describing how the job came together and working with Ptolemy Dean, Rev Andrew Tuck and the Church Wardens. Philip hopes it will be an interesting account of a very special job.

Reordering refers to the rearrangement and adaptation of churches including the introduction of secular uses, while retaining their primary purpose as places of worship.

**Tower Tours** will run for groups of up to 10 throughout the afternoon according to demand. The top of the tower can only be accessed via a steep narrow staircase which may be tricky for young children or those with mobility difficulties.

**Access:** Access ramp and disabled toilet available at ground floor level.





### SURROUNDING AREAS

Farnham is surrounded by long-established villages, large and small, each with own character.

As well as the properties shown on this and the next two pages, other events include two open days at Farnham Pottery in Wrecclesham, see page 6.

There are also a number of walks and talks, see pages 19 to 26, including Moor Park House, an architectural tour of Great Austins, Tice's Meadow in Badshot Lea and a talk on Lutyens in the Tilford Village Institute.

#### PARTRIDGE HOUSE, 102 The Street, Wrecclesham, GU10 4QR.

**Tue 16<sup>th</sup> Sept, half hour tours at 2pm and 3pm.**

**Advance booking essential (max 10 per tour) at [farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2025](http://farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2025)**

This is one of Farnham's oldest buildings, dating back to c.1390.

Two bays of the original house remain, the missing bays being replaced with 18<sup>th</sup> century additions.

Soot blackened trusses are visible plus an open screen of wattle and daub in the upper part of the building.

**Access:** Seven steps up to the front door, uneven floors, steep narrow stairs and low beams.



#### BADSHOT LEA VILLAGE INFANT SCHOOL, Badshot Lea Road, Badshot Lea, GU9 9LE.

**Open for HODS visitors Sun 21<sup>st</sup> Sept from 10.30am to 3.30pm.**

**No need to book.**

Badshot Lea Village Infant School is 130 years old this year.

To celebrate, the school will be open to visitors with a display of the log books from 1895 and many other old documents including the punishment book!

Visitors will be able to look at a variety of photographs, plans and maps from across the years.

**Access:** Fully accessible.



#### WAVERLEY ABBEY HOUSE, Waverley Lane, GU9 8EP.

**Sun 14<sup>th</sup> Sept from 10am to 4pm. No need to book.**

Discover the rich story of Waverley Abbey House and the sacred ground it stands on. Set beside the tranquil River Wey and the ruins of Britain's first Cistercian monastery, this elegant Georgian mansion is steeped in centuries of prayer and history.

Built in 1723 and lovingly restored after a 19th-century fire, the house has witnessed everything from political leadership to wartime healing - caring for over 5,000 wounded soldiers during WWI. Today, it serves thousands of guests a year, as an ultimate countryside experience to be refreshed, restored and revived in.

Join us for a self-guided tour of the house and grounds, enjoy homemade cakes and light lunches in our Café, and experience the quiet beauty of one of England's most spiritually significant estates.

No need to book - just come and explore.

**Access:** Level access into the ground floor. Upper floor only accessible via stairs.

**Note also:** on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> Sept there will be a guided tour of the adjoining ruins of Waverley Abbey, see page 22 for more details. The ruins are looked after by English Heritage, open free of charge all year round.



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### ROWLEDGE AND THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES

**Thur 18<sup>th</sup> Sept at 11am, meet at the Church in Church Lane, Rowledge, GU10 4EN.**

**Advance booking essential (max 24) at [farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2025](http://farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2025).**

**Talk around 30 minutes, walk around the church 30 minutes, then repair to The Old Vicarage where people are welcome to stay as long as they like, but, say, finish at 1. So 2 hours including lunch/wine.**

The Church of St James in Rowledge is neither historic, nor magnificent, unlike St Andrews. But it is a pleasant church, designed by G H Howell, the great Victorian architect of lunatic asylums. It was one of two hundred or so churches erected under the inspiration of Charles Sumner, the great Victorian Bishop of Winchester. The

model was always the same - to cope with an expanding population by building a new church, school and parsonage. These, together, constituted Victorian society in microcosm.

The event will involve a short talk on the history of the church and parish, both established in 1871, a walk around the church and graveyard, and will end with 'wine and lunch (sandwiches)' in the Old Vicarage opposite the church, which, though modest, exhibits some characteristic features of a small and modest Victorian parsonage.

**Access:** Access to the church is easy, wheelchair accessible. The Old Vicarage has a step which is not accessible to a heavy wheelchair.



### THE MURALS OF KITTY MILROY

**Fri 19<sup>th</sup> Sept at 11am and Sat 20<sup>th</sup> Sept at 3pm at St. Mark's Church, Alma Lane, Upper Hale, GU9 0LT.**

**No need to book. Refreshments will be provided.**

Exploring the life of the artist and an explanation of the paintings at St. Mark's Church.

The Milroy family came to live in Upper Hale in 1902. After training at The Slade School of Art, Kitty started work on the chancel walls in 1911, completing the work in 1920. The paintings suffered a major catastrophe in the 1940s from water damage and over subsequent years deteriorated further until the position had become critical.

In 2018, Rector Lesley Crawley & Nick Seversway, a local picture restorer, began raising funds for their restoration, leading to a full cleaning and restoration project.

**Access:** There is a ramp leading up to the church entrance.

## GUIDED WALKS

Advance booking is essential for many of the guided walks.

To book (except for the Hidden Craft Histories walk) please visit the Farnham Society's website, [farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2025](http://farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2025) where booking opens at 8am on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September.

### ARCHITECTURE AND PEOPLE OF THE BOURNE

**Sat 13<sup>th</sup> Sept at 10am, starting at St Thomas-on-the-Bourne Church, Frensham Road, Farnham GU9 8HA. Walk takes approx 2 hours.**

**Advance booking essential (max 15) at [farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2025](http://farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2025)**

A circular walk of approximately 3 miles, looking at buildings dating from various periods and the people who lived in the area, and in some cases lived in these buildings.

**Access:** Part of the walk will be on unsurfaced, quite steep, footpaths.



### MOOR PARK HOUSE, Moor Park Lane, GU10 1FH, a garden tour with guide Fred Wilkinson.

**Sat 13<sup>th</sup> Sept at 2.30pm.**

**Meet at the gates of Moor Park House. Park in the field opposite by the corner of Compton Way and Moor Park Lane.**

**Tour length: approx. 90 minutes. No need to book.**

A guided walk around the grounds of Moor Park House with an outline history of the property which dates from the twelfth century. The walk will describe the seventeenth century period, the time of Sir William Temple and Dorothy Osborne, and continues the history up to the present day.

**Access:** Walking conditions: mostly hard surfaces, tarmac, gravel, a cobbled yard and paved paths with some steps.







### GREAT AUSTINS AREA ARCHITECTURAL TOUR

**Sun 14<sup>th</sup> Sept at 11am, meet at the junction of Mavins Road with Greenhill Road, tour takes approx 90 mins.**

**Advance booking essential (max 16) at [farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2025](https://farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2025)**

A guided walk through the Conservation Area, focusing on the houses by the architect Harold Falkner and his contemporaries, plus one or two others of interest.

**Access:** The walk will be on public pavements and entry into some private driveways to gain a closer view of the architecture. All are wide enough for wheelchairs and on level or gently sloping ground. Driveways are either gravelled or hard paved, so normal footwear that is suitable for the weather conditions will be appropriate.



### TICE'S MEADOW LOCAL NATURE RESERVE, Badshot Lea, GU9 9NB.

**"From Farm to Quarry to Community Nature Reserve"**

**Wed 17<sup>th</sup> Sept at 10am, takes approx. 2.5 hours**

**Advance booking essential (max 20) at [farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2025](https://farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2025)**

**Meet at the main entrance on Badshot Lea Road: <https://w3w.co/bottle.enter.talked>**

A 2.5 km walk around the reserve explaining the history of the site from prehistoric settlement to farming, quarrying and finally restoration to an award winning nature reserve. Over 1500 species of wildlife have been recorded at the reserve including 200

species of bird. The walk will follow the Biodiversity Trail taking in woodland, meadow, reed bed and river habitats.

The guide will help you spot the resident wildlife. Bring binoculars if you have them.

**Access:** The route is flat, along unsurfaced footpaths which can get very muddy after rain. Walking boots or wellies (if it has been raining recently) recommended. There is no shelter or facilities on site so please dress for the forecast weather. Not suitable for wheelchairs.

### ST JAMES' CONSERVATION AREA

**Fri 19<sup>th</sup> Sept at 2.30pm, meet at junction of Bear Lane & High Park Road. Map 21. Duration approx 90 mins. Advance booking essential (max 12) at [farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2025](https://farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2025)**

A circular walk, starting and ending in Bear Lane, visiting the district to the east of the town centre. St. James Avenue formed one of the main entrances to Farnham Park. During the 19<sup>th</sup> century the area was developed to provide a range of housing, from Zingari Terrace accommodating the growing middle classes from London, to St Cross Road and nearby streets featuring artisan cottages.

### MOTHER LUDLAM'S CAVE

**Sat 20<sup>th</sup> Sept at 10am. Meet at Waverley Abbey car park with parking overflow if needed into Waverley Abbey House car park. PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF MEETING PLACE FROM PRINTED BROCHURE.**

**Advance booking essential (max 12) at [farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2025](https://farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2025)**

A short walk led by Richard Holway to Mother Ludlam's Cave with optional, self-guided, extension to Waverley Abbey.

**Access:** Flat walk, could be muddy if wet. An optional visit to Father Foote's Cave is up a steep, short slope. The walk is unsuitable for those with mobility issues or who use any mobility aids (like wheelchairs).

### HIDDEN CRAFT HISTORIES

**Sat 20<sup>th</sup> Sept at 2pm, meet a few minutes before at the New Ashgate Gallery, Waggon Yard, Lower Church Lane, GU9 7PS. Map 10.**

**Advance booking essential direct with the Gallery at <https://tinyurl.com/mrxrtam>**

Join musician and councillor Brodie Mauluka for a special guided walking tour exploring Farnham's hidden craft heritage. This experience uncovers lesser-known stories of craft and making that have shaped the town's identity, past and present.

Discover how materials such as clay, wood, textiles and metalwork connect to themes of migration, belief and community. Along the way, participants will be invited to reflect on the lives and skills of under-recognised craftspeople whose influence remains visible in Farnham today.

Walk organised by the New Ashgate Gallery, see also page 14.





### WAVERLEY ABBEY, a tour with Roy Waight

**Sun 21<sup>st</sup> Sep at 10am**

**Meet at the Waverley Abbey car park off Waverley Lane, GU9 8EP.**

**Walk length: approx. 90 minutes. No need to book.**

The walk starts at the car park and then proceeds to the ruins. There, looking across the site, the brief history of the Abbey and the Cistercians is given, before we all walk over and look at the remains.

Waverley Abbey was the mother Cistercian Abbey in England and spawned several daughter abbeys. In its hey day it was crucial to the local economy, more significant than Farnham itself in some ways. Its church was as big as a small cathedral. It had sadly declined long before final dissolution under Henry VIII.

All this is described and questions are welcomed.

It takes about one hour and twenty minutes usually. People can leave or stay behind and chat as they wish. The whole event will be definitely be over in 90 minutes.

**Access:** The walk is only about a mile in total, and along the flat, although owing to kissing gates, is not accessible to wheelchairs.



### VICTORIA GARDEN, a talk and walk with Alison Gordon.

**Sun 21<sup>st</sup> Sept at 10.30am**

**Brightwells Road, GU9 7RN (off South Street by Sainsbury's car park). Map 16.**

**Advance booking essential (max 12) at [farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2025](http://farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2025)**

**Meet at garden entrance archway. The talk will last about 30 minutes with an opportunity to have a tour of the garden afterwards.**

This award winning garden in the centre of Farnham was created in 1997 on the site of Farnham's first open air swimming bath, built in 1897 to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. The old pool fell

into disrepair after an indoor pool was built at the Leisure Centre in the 1980s, and the site in the middle of the town has been transformed into a quiet and peaceful garden. It is maintained by a group of volunteers who ensure that there is colour and interest all year round. It has a mix of trees, shrubs and flowers, with seating, a children's maze, a chessboard and a hopscotch bed.

**Access:** Easy access on paths. One set of steps can be avoided by using a path.



## THE FARNHAM SOCIETY

**Shaping our future,  
protecting our heritage**

We were founded in 1911 by some of the leading figures in Farnham. Our prime objectives were to preserve the architectural heritage of Farnham, to encourage integrity in the construction of new buildings, sympathetic to their surroundings, and to maintain the quality of life for future generations of its residents.

We continue to pursue those objectives, making every possible effort to preserve the quality of life in and around Farnham. To this end we promote the highest standards of planning and architecture in the built environment. In addition we support preservation of the green environment and we take an active part in the fight for air quality and against traffic congestion. And we help showcase the best of Farnham in the annual Heritage Open Days festival.

We engage with our members through evening talks and daytime social gatherings. While live events were suspended during the Covid-19 pandemic we started a series of filmed discussions on matters of local interest. These are available on our website under the title 'In Conversation'.

Being a member of The Farnham Society enables you to have your say on the future of the town, and helps us to protect it. The more members we have, the louder our voice can be, and the better our chance of being heard on crucial issues.

You can join via our website at [farnhamsociety.org.uk](http://farnhamsociety.org.uk)



Visit to Greyfriars Vineyard, May 2024



## TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS

Access: lifts are available at all venues where needed.



### “THE BLOWER FOUNDATION”

**Fri 12<sup>th</sup> Sep at 11.30am, St Thomas-on-the-Bourne Church, Frensham Road, Farnham GU9 8HA. No need to book.**

The Blower Foundation seeks to save architectural drawings that might otherwise be lost, especially those from an era when drawings were still largely done on a drawing board. The Collection includes thousands of drawings of buildings, often built and of all types and sizes with a special focus on the West Surrey area. This illustrated talk by Damien Blower will survey the work of the Foundation and the architects who are represented in the Foundation's Collection.



### “ECHOES IN STONE, ARCHITECTURAL STORIES FROM KHARKIV AND FARNHAM”

**Sat 13<sup>th</sup> Sept at 10.30am, Council Chamber, Town Hall, South Street, GU9 7RN. Map 19. No need to book.**

A talk by Anastasiia Zavorina follows a personal journey from Kharkiv, Ukraine to Farnham, Surrey, exploring how architecture reflects the identity and history of each town. Through stories of key buildings and the lives connected to them, the speaker will offer a glimpse into Kharkiv's bold Constructivist designs, Soviet-era planning, and academic grandeur, contrasted with Farnham's Georgian streetscapes, medieval heritage, and market-town warmth.

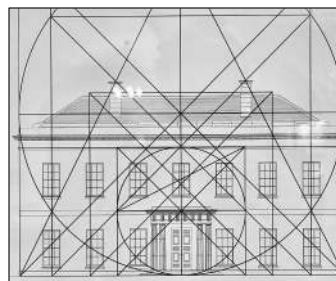
Blending personal reflection with historical insight, the talk invites the audience to see familiar places from a different perspective and discover unexpected links between two distant architectural worlds.



### “REORDERING OF ST ANDREWS”

**Sat 13<sup>th</sup> Sep at 2pm and Sat 20<sup>th</sup> Sep at 2.30pm, St Andrews Church, Upper Church Lane, GU9 7PW. Map 13. No need to book.**

A talk by Philip German on the works carried out reordering St Andrews Parish Church, how the job came together and working with Ptolemy Dean, Rev Andrew Tuck and the Church Wardens. Philip hopes it will be an interesting account of a very special job. Part of a number of activities at St Andrews on both Saturdays, see page 15 for further details.



### “THE GEOMETRY THAT LIES BEHIND ARCHITECTURE”

**Mon 15<sup>th</sup> Sep at 10am, Barley Room, Farnham Maltings, Bridge Square, GU9 7QR. Map 20. No need to book.**

An exploratory talk by Yolande Hesse on what makes a building look in harmony with Human Geometry.



### “THE ARCHITECTURE OF SOUTH FARNHAM PROVIDED BY PEOPLE AND ANIMALS”

**Mon 15<sup>th</sup> Sep at 11.30am, Barley Room, Farnham Maltings, Bridge Square, GU9 7QR. Map 20. No need to book.**

A talk by Noel Moss, a review of the buildings that have supported human life in the area since the earliest times and how these are complemented by the animal world.



### “TREES IN TOWNS”

**Tue 16<sup>th</sup> Sept at 10am, Barley Room, Farnham Maltings, Bridge Square, GU9 7QR. Map 20. No need to book.**

A talk by Peter Bridgeman on “Trees in Towns” - especially amid Farnham's historic architecture. Mainly illustrating trees in harmony with the built environment but also reference to trees too close to buildings, good and not so good tree selection and planting and dangerous trees.



### “THE ARCHITECTURE OF CASTLE STREET”

**Tue 16<sup>th</sup> Sept at 11.30am, Barley Room, Farnham Maltings, Bridge Square, GU9 7QR. Map 20. No need to book.**

Retired architect and artist Michael Blower will take his audience on a ‘virtual walk’ around the buildings lining the famous panorama of Castle Street, drawing attention to architectural details large and small. Castle Street was described by the author Alec Clifton Taylor saying “for sheer visual delight this street has few equals in all England” and this talk by a professional justifies the claim.





### “STORY OF FARNHAM” FILM SCREENING

**Tue 16<sup>th</sup> Sept at 7pm, Great Hall, Farnham Maltings, Bridge Square, GU9 7QR. Map 20.**

**Advance booking required at [farnhammaltings.com/events/the-story-of-farnham](http://farnhammaltings.com/events/the-story-of-farnham)  
Organised by the Museum of Farnham.**

Join us at the Farnham Maltings for a screening of a local student's 51 minute documentary about the history, architecture, conservation and challenges of our ancient market town. Alex Sidebottom, now studying at Oxford University, was tasked with producing a documentary about Farnham during his final year at college. The resulting documentary was awarded an A\* and has been highly praised by all who have watched it. The documentary features interviews several people who have specific expertise in Farnham's history or some of its challenges today.



### “SIR EDWARD LUTYENS, MADE IN SURREY”

**Thur 18<sup>th</sup> Sept, doors open 6.45pm for a 7pm start, Tilford Village Institute, Tilford Rd., Tilford GU10 2DA.**

**No need to book - talk 40 mins plus 20 mins Q&A.**

Known as 'Britain's greatest architect', Lutyens (1869-1944) produced some of the distinguished buildings we treasure today. His Surrey roots explain what shaped his career but what was his winning formula in designing such outstanding gems from Munstead Wood to the Washington Embassy, New Delhi to the Thiepval Memorial and Castle Drogo?

This talk by Deborah Mayes of the Lutyens Society will give insight into the maestro's work, his character and legacy and why he deserves our attention.



### “TOWN CRYING - YESTERDAY AND TODAY”

**Sat 20<sup>th</sup> Sept at 10am, Council Chamber, Town Hall, South Street, GU9 7RN. Map 19.**

**No need to book.**

A talk by Michael Stephens, the Farnham Town Crier, about the history of the role of Town Crier and of the variety of roles undertaken today.

In the age of Artificial Intelligence, what is the relevance of a town crier today? Michael looks forward to sharing his thoughts.

The talk will last about an hour.

## Farnham Town Council

# What's on in Farnham

Look no further than Farnham for fun-filled, family friendly events and memorable experiences brought to you by Farnham Town Council.

### FARNHAM FARMERS' MARKETS



Held on the fourth Sunday of the month from 10am to 1pm in Central car park. Local seasonal produce direct from those that grow it, rear it, make it or bake it.

### FARNHAM FOOD & DRINK FESTIVAL



Delicious cuisine, live demos, local produce, and fun for all ages. Don't miss this culinary celebration on Sunday 28 September in Farnham town centre.

### OCTOBER CRAFT MONTH



Discover your inner creativity at October Craft Month! Meet makers and artists and take part in workshops and master classes. There will also be exhibitions and expert-led talks.

### CHRISTMAS IN FARNHAM



Experience the magic of this special time of year in Farnham. Enjoy the Christmas lights switch-on, (15 November) and the Christmas Market on 14 December.

### MUSIC IN THE VINEYARD



Brighten up the winter. Enjoy live music at the Vineyard Church on the last Sunday of the month in January, February and March.

### FARNHAM LITERARY FESTIVAL



Look out for details about how to get involved in March's Farnham Literary Festival. There will be a line-up of best-selling authors and local talent, inspiring talks, workshops, and competitions.

## Coming up

### BLOOMIN' KIDS ACTIVITIES

28 OCTOBER

### BLOOMIN' LITTER PICK

8 NOVEMBER

### REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY PARADE

9 NOVEMBER

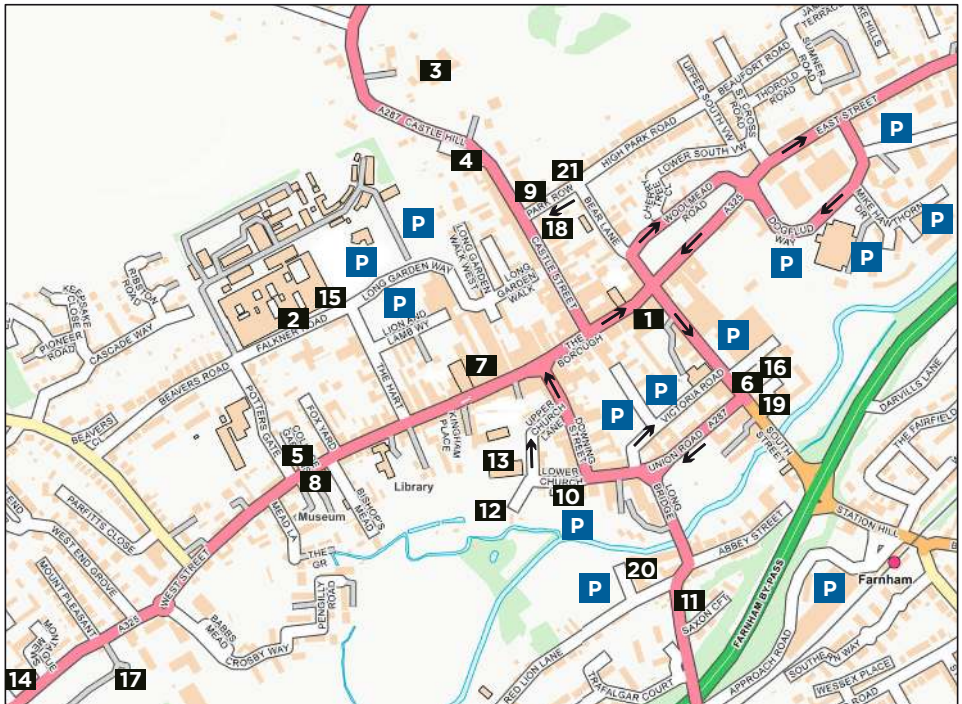
### VENISON DINNER

14 NOVEMBER

Explore Farnham on foot. Download the free Discover Farnham app from the App store or Google Play. For details about events in Farnham visit [www.farnham.gov.uk](http://www.farnham.gov.uk) [f](#) [i](#) [t](#) Follow @FarnhamOfficial  
Contact us on 01252 712667 or email [customer.services@farnham.gov.uk](mailto:customer.services@farnham.gov.uk)



# Map of Events in Farnham Town Centre



Note that Downing Street is scheduled to be closed to traffic during HODS.  
All car parks remain open.

## Events in Town Centre

- 1 Bush Hotel
- 2 Crafts Study Centre
- 3 Farnham Castle
- 4 Farnham Masonic Centre
- 5 Guitar Village
- 6 Liberal Club
- 7 Lion and Lamb House
- 8 Museum of Farnham
- 9 Nelson Arms
- 10 New Ashgate Gallery
- 11 Old Cottage

- 12 Old Vicarage
- 13 St Andrew's Church
- 14 Sampson's Almshouses
- 15 University for the Creative Arts
- 16 Victoria Garden
- 17 West Street Chapel
- 18 Windsor Almshouses

## Venues for Talks

- 19 Council Offices (Town Hall)
- 20 Farnham Maltings

## Walks - Meeting Point

- 21 St James' Conservation Area

The annual Heritage Open Days events in Farnham presented by The Farnham Society, supported by Farnham Town Council.

Programme organisers, brochure layout and text Simon Bradbury, Cathy Cook, Gez Evans, Sue Farrow, David Lang, Alex Lentz, Richard Sandars, Gillian Ward and Erica Wilkinson.

The Farnham Society would like to thank all the property owners, guides and speakers who have made the 2025 events possible by generously giving their time and expertise free of charge.