

Farnham

A great place to live 2026

Four times gold
medallist at RHS
Britain in Bloom
Winner of multiple
gold awards and
category winners
at South & South
East in Bloom

Designated as
England's first
World Craft Town
Crowned Council
of the Year 2021
by the National
Association of
Local Councils



Badshot Lea
Boundstone
Compton
Dippenhall

Firgrove
Folly Hill
Hale
Heath End

Moor Park
Rowledge
Runfold
Shortheath

The Bourne
Upper Hale
Weybourne
Wreclesham



Farnham
Town Council

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Farnham in 2026

This year will see the biggest shake-up of local councils for over 50 years. Surrey's 11 borough councils and the county council are being replaced by two new unitary authorities. Farnham will form part of West Surrey. You can read more about the changes on page 26.

Closer to home, residents will be aware of the major changes taking place in the town centre. While the roadworks are causing some disruption, the end result will be a far more pedestrian-friendly Farnham. The project is being led by Surrey County Council and is expected to be completed by the end of this year. In the meantime, please continue to support local businesses and plan your journey into Farnham by visiting www.surreycc.gov.uk/farnhamworks

Farnham is often credited with being a great place to live and one of the reasons for this is because of the difference made by volunteers. Every year, people donate their time and skills to local organisations that support residents, care for our natural spaces, represent businesses and enrich community life. Their work complements the services provided by local councils and make Farnham a highly desirable place to live, work and enjoy free time.

There are so many ways to spend your leisure time in Farnham. From champion sports clubs to shopping or meeting up with old and new friends at the community cafés. There are also lots of ways to occupy your time that do not cost a penny including walks, exploring our craft roots and heritage and great free events in and around Farnham. For families, the new playground at Gostrey Meadow is a great place for children to play, and our events guide offers many more ideas. If you have leisure time to fill, please do consider getting involved in volunteering. Local organisations always need more volunteers, and you will be helping to keep Farnham vibrant and well cared for.

Finally, although we have concentrated on the positives of living in Farnham, we recognise that not everyone is finding life easy at the moment. If you are affected by the ongoing cost of living crisis or facing other challenges, please do find out about the organisations that can help you in this guide or visit our website and use the search facility to locate the many organisations here to support you.

We hope you find this 2026 residents' guide useful. Please do visit our website at www.farnham.gov.uk for lots more information about living in Farnham.

With all good wishes

Iain Lynch
Town Clerk

Contents

04-07

What's on

08

Community Café
Culture

09

Share your love
of gardening

10-11

Bowled over!

12

Explore Farnham
on foot

13

Celebrating 35 years
of friendship

14

Discover art
and craft

15

Step into
Farnham's past

16

Farmers' Market

17

Help when
you need it

18-19

Valuing Farnham's
young people

20

Greener, healthier
ways of travel

21

Stand up for nature

22-23

Connect with nature
in local green spaces

25

Say it with flowers
and support the
community in 2026

26

All change for
local councils

27

Celebrating
volunteering

28-29

Financial support

30-33

Meet your councillors

34-35

A-Z

Farnham Town Council gratefully acknowledges the support of all our advertisers, who have helped fund this guide. As a reciprocal gesture, Farnham Town Council would like to draw readers' attention to these announcements. However, it does wish to make it clear that Farnham Town Council can accept no responsibility for the products or services advertised. Thank you to everybody who contributed photos and images including © Farnham Town Council, Sarah Bray, Natalia Sharamova, Adam Isler, Helen Mortimer, David Gill, Hurlands Pickleball & Padel Club, Seamus Flanagan, Tam Traynor, Catherine Hill, Rural Life Living Museum, Farnham Cycle Campaign, Libby Ralph and New Ashgate Gallery. No part of this publication may be used or reproduced without the written permission of the copyright holder. Front cover – The new children's playground at Gostrey Meadow.

What's on in 2026

There's so much to look forward to in Farnham in 2026.

From lively music events and outdoor activities to creative workshops, children's fun, and friendly gatherings that bring the community together, there's something for everyone. Here's a taste of what's coming up in 2026, with plenty more to discover on our events calendar at www.farnham.gov.uk/events

January

Quilters' Fair
Sunday 11 January
Farnham Maltings
www.farnhammaltings.com

Farmers' Market
Sunday 25 January
Central car park
www.farnham.gov.uk

Music in the Vineyard
Sunday 25 January
Vineyard Church
www.farnham.gov.uk

February

Unravel – a festival of yarn
13-15 February
Farnham Maltings
www.farnhammaltings.com

Farmers' Market
Sunday 22 February
Central car park
www.farnham.gov.uk

Music in the Vineyard
Sunday 22 February
Vineyard Church
www.farnham.gov.uk

March

Farnham Literary Festival
5-15 March
Various locations
www.farnhamliteraryfestival.co.uk

Commonwealth Day
Monday 6 March
Farnham Town Council.
www.farnham.gov.uk

Great British Spring Clean
13-29 March
Location of your choice
www.farnham.gov.uk

Farmers' Market
Sunday 22 March
Central car park
www.farnham.gov.uk

Annual Town Meeting
of Electors
Thursday 26 March
www.farnham.gov.uk

Music in the Vineyard
Sunday 29 March
Vineyard Church
www.farnham.gov.uk

April

Easter Bloomin' Kids' Activities
Date and venue TBC
www.farnham.gov.uk

Farnham Beerex
23-25 April
Farnham Maltings
www.farnhambeerex.org.uk

Farmers' Market
Sunday 26 April
Central car park
www.farnham.gov.uk

Farnham Literary Festival



5-15 MARCH

Discover fresh stories, inspiring authors, thought-provoking conversations, creative workshops, live performances, film and competitions at the 2026 Farnham Literary Festival. Events are held in some of Farnham's best cultural spaces. Book early to avoid disappointment.

Music in the Meadow



Enjoy relaxing summer Sunday afternoons filled with live music in the riverside setting of Gostrey Meadow. Look out for special, extended events such as World Music Day. Music in the Meadow is a family-friendly event which is suitable for all ages and musical tastes. Bring a chair, pack a picnic, and soak up the atmosphere at this free event.

May

The Great Farnham Duck Race
Saturday 2 May
Gostrey Meadow

Farnham Walking Festival
9-31 May
Various locations
www.farnham.gov.uk

Farnham Wellbeing and Sustainability Festival
Sunday 17 May
Gostrey Meadow
www.farnham.gov.uk

Farmers' Market
Sunday 24 May
Central car park
www.farnham.gov.uk

Music in the Meadow
Sunday 24 May
Gostrey Meadow
www.farnham.gov.uk

June

Twinning concert by Stadtorchester Andernach
Friday 5 June
Farnham Maltings
www.farnham.gov.uk

Music in the Meadow
Sunday 7 June
Gostrey Meadow
www.farnham.gov.uk

Farnham Festival of Transport
Sunday 7 June
Upper Hart Car Park
www.farnhamfestivaloftransport.co.uk

Surrey Artists' Open Studios
6-21 June
Various locations
www.surreyopenstudios.org.uk

Music in the Meadow
Sunday 14 June
Gostrey Meadow
www.farnham.gov.uk

Music in the Meadow
Sunday 21 June
Gostrey Meadow
www.farnham.gov.uk

Armed Forces Flag Raising
Monday 22 June
Farnham Town Council
www.farnham.gov.uk

Farnham Carnival
Saturday 27 June
Town centre
www.farnhamcarnival.org.uk

Farmers' Market
Sunday 28 June
Central car park
www.farnham.gov.uk

World Music Day
Sunday 28 June
Gostrey Meadow
www.farnham.gov.uk

July

Hale Carnival
Saturday 4 July
Hale Recreation Ground
www.halecarnival.co.uk

The Bourne Show
Saturday 4 July
Bourne Green
www.thebourneshow.com

Music in the Meadow
Sunday 5 July
Gostrey Meadow
www.farnham.gov.uk

Music in the Meadow
Sunday 12 July
Gostrey Meadow
www.farnham.gov.uk

Music in the Meadow
Sunday 19 July
Gostrey Meadow
www.farnham.gov.uk

Farmers' Market
Sunday 26 July
Central car park
www.farnham.gov.uk

Farnham Food & Drink Festival



SUNDAY 27 SEPTEMBER

Taste your way through Farnham at the 2026 food festival. See the town transformed into a traffic-free plaza featuring local produce, street food, a food theatre, live music and the highly entertaining chilli-eating competition.

Music in the Meadow
Sunday 26 July
Gostrey Meadow
www.farnham.gov.uk

August

Music in the Meadow
Sunday 2 August
Gostrey Meadow
www.farnham.gov.uk

Music in the Meadow
Sunday 9 August
Gostrey Meadow
www.farnham.gov.uk

Music in the Meadow
Sunday 16 August
Gostrey Meadow
www.farnham.gov.uk

Farmers' Market
Sunday 23 August
Central car park
www.farnham.gov.uk

Music in the Meadow
Sunday 30 August
Gostrey Meadow
www.farnham.gov.uk

September

Farnham Pilgrim Marathon
and Half Marathon
Sunday 13 September
www.farnhampilgrim.org.uk

Heritage Open Days
11-20 September
Various locations
www.farnhamsociety.org.uk

Farnham Food Festival
Sunday 27 September
Location to be confirmed.
www.farnham.gov.uk

Farmers' Market
Sunday 27 September
Central car park
www.farnham.gov.uk



October

World Craft Town –
October Craft Month
1-31 October
Various locations
www.farnhamcrafttown.com

Farmers' Market
Sunday 25 October
Central car park
www.farnham.gov.uk

Autumn Bloomin'
Kids' Workshops
Date and venue TBC
www.farnham.gov.uk

November

Schools' Remembrance Service
Friday 6 November
Gostrey Meadow
www.farnham.gov.uk

Bloomin' Litter Pick
Saturday 7 November
Town centre
www.farnham.gov.uk

Remembrance Sunday
Sunday 8 November
Farnham town centre
www.farnham.gov.uk

Venison Dinner
Friday 13 November
The Bush Hotel
www.farnham.gov.uk

Christmas Lights Switch-On
Saturday 14 November
Gostrey Meadow
www.farnham.gov.uk

Farmers' Market
Sunday 22 November
Central car park
www.farnham.gov.uk

December

Farnham Civic Christmas
Carol Service
Wednesday 2 December
St Andrew's Church
www.farnham.gov.uk

Farnham Christmas Market
Sunday 13 December
Location to be confirmed.
www.farnham.gov.uk

Farmers' Market
Sunday 13 December
Central car park
www.farnham.gov.uk

Farnham Christmas Market



SUNDAY 13 DECEMBER

Step into the festive season at the 2026 Farnham Christmas Market. Shop for unique gifts, tasty treats and family-friendly Christmas experiences including Santa's grotto and a live nativity scene. Enjoy the live music and soak up the Christmas magic.

Advertise your
community event for
free at www.farnham.gov.uk/events

Community café culture

Community cafés are friendly, informal spaces where everyone is invited to drop in for good company, a warm drink, and something tasty to eat. Whether you're looking to meet new people, enjoy a relaxed chat, or simply spend time in a cosy, supportive environment, these cafés offer a comforting place to connect and feel part of the community. Find your nearest community café:

Rowledge

Coffee Spot

Where: Rowledge Village Hall

When: Every Friday from 9am to 12noon

What to expect: Enjoy delicious homemade cakes with a cup of tea or coffee served by village volunteers. Everyone is welcome and all profits go to the village hall. Email helen.mortimer0610@gmail.com if you would like to make cakes or help out.



Coffee Mug Café

Where: St James's Church, Rowledge

When: Second Saturday of the month, 10am to 12noon

What to expect: A monthly pop-up community café giving locals a place to meet and chat with family, friends and neighbours. Coffee, tea, juice and cakes are freely available. Donations welcome.

Hale

History of Hale Project Coffee Mornings

Where: Hale Village Hall

When: Last Saturday of the month from 10am to 12noon

What to expect: Try out the coffee and cake, browse the history exhibition and look through volumes of local postcards, family photographs and other material. Bring along your photos and memories about Hale. All welcome.

Seniors' Coffee Morning

Where: Hale Community Centre

When: Wednesdays from 10.30am to 12noon

What to expect: A very warm welcome plus coffee, cake, games and fun.

Warm Welcome Space

Where: Hale Community Centre

When: Tuesdays from 12.30 to 3.30pm, Wednesdays from 11.30am to 1.30pm, Fridays from 1 to 2.30pm

What to expect: A welcoming haven offering soup and refreshments on a Tuesday, a delicious pay-what-you-can lunch on Wednesdays and light refreshments on a Friday. Helpers are also on hand to give free energy advice whenever you need it.

The Bourne

Tuesday Coffee Morning

Where: Cobbett Room, St Thomas-on-the-Bourne

When: Every Tuesday at 10.30am

What to expect: A welcoming coffee morning open to everyone, hosted by Judith and her friendly team. Drop in, enjoy a warm atmosphere, and meet new people.

Wednesday Coffee Morning

Where: St Martin by the Green, Lower Bourne

When: Wednesdays from 10.30am to 12noon

What to expect: Drop in and meet others. All welcome.

Town centre

Sunflower Café

Where: Farnham Methodist Church, South Street

When: 11am to 12.30pm on Thursdays

What to expect: The café is aimed at people with dementia and their carers. Enjoy a cuppa, biscuits and good company as well as a weekly activity. A £2 donation is requested to help cover room hire and refreshments.

The Spire Café

Where: The Spire Church, South Street

When: Open 10am to 2pm Monday to Friday for hot food and 10am to 12noon on Saturdays for drinks and cake

What to expect: An independent café serving morning coffee, tea, light lunches and a selection of home-baked cakes and biscuits.

If you run a community café and are not listed, please do let us know and we'll make sure you are added to our online directory.

Share your love of gardening

If you want to stay active, meet new people and make a visible difference in your community, Farnham in Bloom is looking for volunteers and it could be just what you're searching for in 2026.

Many of our volunteers are retired or planning for retirement, and others have recently downsized and no longer have a garden of their own but still enjoy pottering around.

Join a 'Friends of...' group

These friendly volunteer teams help to care for Farnham's parks, open spaces and cemeteries. Tasks include planting bulbs, weeding, pruning, tending flowerbeds, planting trees and encouraging biodiversity. There are currently Friends groups at Gostrey Meadow and the Garden of Remembrance at West Street Cemetery as well as the Badshot Lea Bloomers. There are also plans to create a Friends of Farnham Library Garden.

Be a Bloomin' Friend

Bloomin' Friends help pot on plug plants, create the planters and containers seen in the town centre and villages, make hanging baskets, help with watering and complete small weeding tasks. It's social, rewarding and has a big visual impact.

Help keep Farnham tidy

If you love where you live, litter picking is a simple and flexible way to show pride in your neighbourhood. Many volunteers build it into a weekly walk or organise a monthly tidy-up of a favourite street or green space.



These are just some of the opportunities available. If you'd like to start your own group or transform a grot spot with a planter, spring bulbs, flowers or regular litter picks, Farnham Town Council can help with advice and equipment.

To find out more, email bloom@farnham.gov.uk or visit www.farnham.gov.uk to see the volunteers' calendar of events.

Valued volunteers

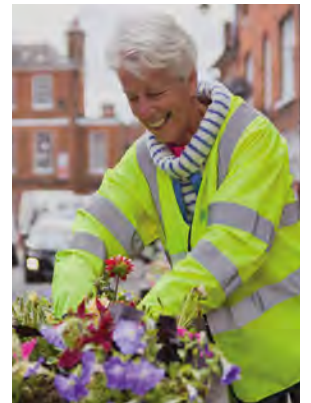
Meet Les

Les describes himself as "not much of a gardener", but that hasn't stopped him becoming a valued member of the Badshot Lea Bloomers. He volunteers at least twice a week and can be found helping out at the community garden with 'handy man' tasks, taking part in community clean up days, and setting up and clearing away equipment for the popular Bloomin' Kids' Gardening Workshops. Every Monday, he litter picks a set route around Badshot Lea – efforts that earned him the title of Litter Picker of the Year at the 2025 Farnham in Bloom Awards.



Meet Shirley

As a Bloomin' Friend, Shirley has helped plant thousands of plug plants and has created hundreds of hanging baskets and containers which can be seen throughout Farnham and its villages. She admits that even when she's not officially volunteering, she can't resist plucking out the odd weed she spots in a planter! Shirley volunteers because she loves it – especially the community spirit. She has met a wonderful group of people and says their paths might never have crossed if it weren't for their shared love of gardening.



Bowled over!

By David Gill, Chair of Farnham Sports Council



If you live in Farnham or the surrounding area, you're very fortunate – for a town of our size, we have some of the very best sports and health clubs in the country.

The proverb 'a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step' is attributed to the Chinese philosopher, Confucius, but it might well apply to those considering taking up a new sport or fitness activity. Taking this crucial first step might just considerably enhance your quality of life.

Thanks to the dedication and quality of the volunteers running local sport, Farnham has many quite outstanding and inclusive community sports clubs and you can find out more information on any of them by linking Farnham to your favoured sport on the internet, or by checking the Farnham Sports Council website at farnhamsportscouncil.org.uk

Farnham is also very well served by some excellent multi-purpose sports, health and fitness clubs. These include Farnham Leisure Centre, the David Lloyd Club,



Nuffield Health and the Bourne Club. There are also a number of good quality fitness-specific clubs in the town, and in early 2026, the Hurlands Pickleball and Padel Club will add another valuable club to the town's sporting portfolio.

There's overwhelming evidence for the life-changing benefits of being active, from childhood through to old age. Also, let's not forget the mental health and social interaction benefits involved in sport and physical activity as we join up with family, friends or teammates, or make new friends and share uplifting moments together. Enjoy!



Top sporting tip for 2026 – Lawn Bowls!

It's likely that not that many people in Farnham have ever tried their hand at the sport of lawn bowls but it's a notable activity in our area and deeply rooted in our town's heritage.

Farnham Bowling Club, in Bear Lane, is probably our town's oldest sports club, they were established in 1878. To stumble across any one of our local village bowls clubs – whether it be at The Sands, The Bourne or Rowledge or in the adjacent villages – and stand and watch a game for a while is to witness a fundamental and still relatively unchanged way of life.

We probably all know the story of Sir Francis Drake wanting to finish his game of bowls before confronting the Spanish Armada and clearly bowls is one of Britain's oldest sports, played since the Tudor period.

In a fast-changing technological world, the sport is at a crossroads, and our local bowls clubs are keen to welcome new members to a social and sporting activity that is very easy to learn, though perhaps a little trickier to master.

Bowls is a sport for everyone, for all ages, and immensely enjoyable. From late April onwards, if you'd like to give bowls a try, check out the club websites for information and contact details – any of our local clubs will make you feel welcome and lend you all the equipment you need to have a go. It's our top sporting tip for 2026!

For contact details or further information, check out the websites for Farnham Bowling Club, Seale and Sands Bowls Club, Rowledge Bowling Club or Lower Bourne Social Club.



Explore Farnham on foot

Discover Farnham on foot in 2026 and enjoy the town at a slower pace. Whether you're in search of quiet green spaces, scenic countryside, or a new weekend activity, Farnham offers countless walking routes ready to explore.

Self-guided walks

Farnham's self-guided walks remain a favourite way to explore the area at your own pace. All routes are available through the free **Discover Farnham** app on the App Store and Google Play. Choose from themed trails such as public art, trees, heritage, and industrial history. The interactive map helps you stay on track with estimated walking times, search tools, and multiple map views.

For those who prefer to walk without digital distractions, illustrated printed guides can be collected from the Town Hall or downloaded from www.farnham.gov.uk

Farnham Walking Festival 2026

The popular **Farnham Walking Festival** returns from **9-31 May 2026**. With a different guided walk (or several!) every day, the programme offers something for everyone – from gentle, family-friendly strolls to more challenging hikes with steeper gradients. The full schedule will be available online ahead of the festival, so you can plan your perfect walking week.



Popular trails to explore

North Downs Way

Starting in Farnham, this iconic 153-mile national trail leads all the way to Canterbury, offering varied landscapes and historic landmarks.

St Swithun's Way

This 34-mile route connects Winchester to Farnham through scenic Hampshire and Surrey countryside. For a shorter outing, walk the 12 miles to Alton.

Blackwater Valley

Explore several nearby routes, including walks to Bentley and Aldershot (around 5 miles each). Expect riverside paths, wildlife, and picturesque open countryside.

Beautiful places to walk in Farnham

You don't need to be an avid hiker to enjoy Farnham's green spaces – there are plenty of peaceful parks, meadows, and woodlands perfect for a short wander.

Farnham's Cemeteries

An unexpected gem for gentle strolling, Farnham's cemeteries offer quiet paths, wildflower areas, and rich urban wildlife. Level footpaths provide good accessibility for those with mobility issues.

Tice's Meadow

This thriving nature reserve in Badshot Lea is a top spot for birdwatching and relaxed walking. Their website offers family-friendly printable nature trails – ideal for young explorers.

Caesar's Camp

Step into history at this Bronze and Iron Age hillfort. Wander through heathland and pine forest and enjoy sweeping views across Surrey and Hampshire.

Bishop's Meadow

Saved from development in 2009, this 30-acre community-owned site is an important wildlife haven and natural floodplain. A tranquil setting for low-key, nature-rich walks.

Farnham Park

A classic choice for fresh-air adventures. With wide open spaces, woodland edges, and a long tree-lined avenue, it's perfect for walking, running, picnicking, and family outings.

Alice Holt Forest

A favourite for walkers, cyclists, and families, Alice Holt offers miles of woodland trails – from easy loops to more strenuous routes. Cycle hire and family play areas make it a great all-day destination.

Celebrating 35 years of friendship

2026 marks a very special milestone for Farnham as the town celebrates the 35th anniversary of its twinning partnership with Andernach in Germany. The Deed of Friendship between the two towns was originally signed in Andernach in 1991 and reaffirmed in Farnham in 1992. As part of the anniversary celebrations, a delegation of visitors from Andernach will arrive in June, bringing with them the town's world class orchestra.

On Friday 5 June 2026, the Stadtorchester Andernach will join the internationally acclaimed Farnham Youth Choir for a concert at the Farnham Maltings, from 7-9pm. The evening promises to be an unforgettable celebration of music and friendship. Further activities will take place throughout the visit, providing opportunities for local residents, organisations and community groups to get involved.

About Andernach

Andernach is a beautiful historic town with a population of around 30,000 people. Positioned on the left bank of the Rhine, 13 miles north of Koblenz, it is one of Germany's oldest towns. Founded in 12BC by the Romans, Andernach is known for its medieval architecture, riverside promenades and vibrant cultural life.

Why twinning matters

Farnham's twinning with Andernach offers individuals, clubs, societies and businesses the opportunity to



make lasting links with like-minded people in their twin town. The Farnham Andernach Friendship Association promotes cultural exchange and international friendship by encouraging collaboration and shared learning. Through Andernach, Farnham also enjoys links with communities in France, Belgium, Austria, Germany and Israel.

Local twinning relies on community involvement and the 35th anniversary provides the perfect moment for new members to join and help shape the future of twinning in Farnham. Anyone interested in cultural exchange, travel, language, music or international friendship is warmly encouraged to get in touch.

For information about twinning in Farnham contact Nikki Gilbert, Chair of the Farnham Andernach Friendship Association at nikkingilbert@gmail.com or call 07895 682095.

A wider history of friendship

Farnham's international links extend beyond Germany. In 2025, the town proudly marked 75 years of friendship with Haren in the Netherlands – Farnham's first twin town. The relationship, formed in 1950, symbolised peace and cooperation in the years following the Second World War. Each year, Farnham plants tulips in Haren Garden a quiet and simple tribute, supported by a donation from local resident Hans du Moulin.

Celebrating 75 years of friendship with Haren.



Discover art and craft

Craft has long shaped Farnham's distinctive character and is home to makers of all ages and skill levels.

World Craft Town

In 2020, the World Crafts Council named Farnham England's first **World Craft Town**. This accolade placed Farnham on the global craft map in recognition of its deep craft heritage and welcomed the town into an international network of Craft Cities.

As a World Craft Town, Farnham is committed to supporting artists and makers through a series of residencies. Craftspeople from around the world are invited to apply for the opportunity to spend one month in Farnham creating a piece of work inspired by the area. The first artist in residence was a glass artist from Ireland followed in 2025 by an Italian ceramicist. In 2026, Farnham will welcome a jewellery and metalwork artist. The work created by the artists in residence can be seen on display at the Town Hall in South Street.

Take part

October Craft Month Each October, Farnham celebrates its creative spirit with a month-long programme packed with workshops, demonstrations, fairs and exhibitions. Programme details are available at www.farnhamcrafttown.com

Last year, a new plaque was unveiled on Farnham's 'Notable Names' wall in South Street for Lieutenant Colonel John Luard. The plaque is in honour of his extraordinary contributions as a distinguished soldier, author, artist, and the founding chairman of the Farnham School of Art – now the internationally renowned UCA.



Open Studios Meet local artists and explore their working spaces during June's Open Studios events (www.surreyopenstudios.org.uk). The North Farnham Artists' Trail (www.nfat.co.uk) also hosts open studio sessions throughout the year.

Explore craft around Farnham

- **Crafts Study Centre** – A museum at UCA with internationally recognised British craft collections, plus exhibitions by leading makers. www.csc.uca.ac.uk | 01252 891450
- **Farnham Maltings** – A vibrant arts centre offering workshops, events and exhibitions. www.farnhammaltings.com | 01252 745444
- **Farnham Pottery** – A heritage pottery site with studios, exhibitions, workshops and beginner classes. www.thefarnhampottery.co.uk
- **James Hockey and Foyer Galleries** – Public galleries showcasing student works across creative disciplines. www.uca.ac.uk
- **New Ashgate Gallery** – A hub for contemporary arts and crafts with exhibitions, workshops and seminars. www.newashgate.org.uk
- **Public Art Trail** – A self-guided route highlighting the town's carvings, sculptures, engravings and public artworks. www.farnham.gov.uk
- **Rural Life Living Museum** – An open-air museum of countryside history, including traditional crafts. <https://rural-life.org.uk> | 01252 795571

Step into Farnham's past

Farnham's long and eventful history is woven into every corner of the town. Whether you're exploring centuries-old landmarks, enjoying living traditions, or uncovering archaeological secrets, Farnham offers countless ways to experience the past in vivid detail.

Experience Farnham's History

Museum of Farnham

Explore Farnham's social history through beautifully presented artefacts discovered, crafted or closely linked to the town and its surrounding villages. The museum also hosts a lively programme of activities for all ages. www.farnhammaltings.com/museum

Farnham Castle

Guided tours of the Bishop's Palace run every Wednesday from 2-4pm. Tours cost £5 for adults and are free for under 18s. www.farnham-castle.com

Waverley Abbey

Britain's first Cistercian monastery offers a striking glimpse into monastic life. Walk through the remains of the 12th-century refectory, explore the lay brothers' quarters and admire the ancient yew tree. www.english-heritage.org.uk

Heritage Open Days

Every September, Farnham takes part in Heritage Open Days, offering special talks, tours and rare behind-the-scenes access to historic buildings and stories across the town. www.farnhamsociety.org.uk



The Venison Dinner

Each November, Farnham hosts the historic Venison Dinner – a tradition believed to be unique to the town. First held in 1605 to discourage the poaching of deer from Farnham Park, it has evolved into a much-loved annual event. Tickets will be available on Eventbrite.

Notable Names

In South Street, a commemorative wall features plaques honouring people who have achieved significant things in Farnham or beyond. With over 30 plaques already installed, the collection continues to grow.

Town walks

Guided walks around historic Farnham take place on the first Sunday of the month. Meet at 10am at Waggon Yard car park. Walks cost £5 with all proceeds going to charity.

Hidden Heritage – Revealing Farnham's buried past

Delve deeper into Farnham's archaeological and historical story with the Hidden Heritage leaflet series. Each leaflet explores a different period or theme ranging from the Stone Age and Roman era to Medieval, Industrial and Wartime Farnham. You'll discover timelines, key facts and insights into the industries and crafts that shaped the town across the centuries.

Download copies at www.farnham.gov.uk or pick up printed versions from the Town Hall or the Museum of Farnham.



Farnham Farmers' Market

This year is the 25th anniversary of Farnham Farmers' Market which is held on the fourth Sunday of the month (except December) from 10am to 1.30pm in Central Car Park, off Victoria Road.

Fresh, local and seasonal produce, sold to you direct from the producer.

A-Z of regular producers who you may find at the market			
2020 Coffee Company	Coffee beans, hot chocolate and loose teas	Olives & Things	Olives
52North Drinks	Rum	Pickle Bear Preserves	Preserves
A Basing Bake	Gluten-free bakes	Raw Honey Distillery	Honey gin
Beres Bakes	Sourdough bread	R.C. Court & Sons	Herbaceous perennials and annuals
Big Ginger Sauce	Chilli sauces	Ringden Farm	Fruit and juices
Butler Country Estates	Smoked trout, pâtés & fillets	Roni B's Kitchen	Filipino sauces & condiments
Cheese on the Wey	Cheese	Simon's Pies	Pies and pasties
Collaroy Farm Eggs	Eggs	SS Patisserie	Patisserie
Four Walls Flower Farm	Seasonal bunches of flowers	Suncatcher Gallery	Handmade stained glass
Gransfield	Home-grown garden plants	Sylvia's Patisserie	Traditional French patisserie
Harvey's Farm Supplies	Poultry	T and V Veg	Fruit / vegetables
Hampshire Game	Game produce	The Cottage Chocolatier	Homemade chocolate
Hell's Bakery	Cakes and sweet treats	The Gay Farmer	Olive oil
Hilton's Charcuterie	Charcuterie	The Hairy Pig	Meat
Homegrown Soaps and Stuff	Soaps and cosmetics	The Surrey Copper Distillery	Artisan gins
Imbhams	Cereals and oats	Vesuvio	Italian and cooked foods
Isle of Wight Tomatoes	Tomatoes and sauces	VJ Game and Sussex Smokers	Smoked meat, fish & pâtés
Jake's Artisan Foods	Pies and cold snacks		
Juthan Chocolate	Homemade chocolate		
Kilinside Orchards	Cider		
Kota Coffee	Fresh coffee		
Lazy Bear Breweries	Beer		
Love2Eat	Ready meals and pesto		
Luv Biltong	Biltong		
Mrs B's Bees	Bees wax products & honey		
Nut Knowle Farm	Goat's cheese		
No.38 Candle Co.	Candles, reed diffusers and room sprays		

If you are a local producer and would like to attend the farmers' market, please visit www.farnham.gov.uk for more information.

Help when you need it

Support is available right here in Farnham for those times when you need a helping hand. Here are some of the local organisations that are ready to provide practical help, guidance and a listening ear.

Free, confidential and impartial advice

Citizens Advice South West Surrey (Farnham)

Free, confidential and impartial support. Advisors can help with benefits, debt, housing, employment, family matters and more.

Website: www.casws.org.uk

Phone: 0808 812 7087 (10am to 4pm, Monday to Friday)

Drop-in: Monday 10am to 12noon, Wednesday 1pm to 3pm and Thursday 10am to 12noon. The office is at Farnham Memorial Hall, Babbs Mead, West St, GU9 7EE.

Money Advice

Frontline Farnham

Confidential support with managing money, debt, and benefits. You can drop in without an appointment or contact them for phone, email or video support.

Drop-in: Wednesdays 10am to 12noon at Bethel Baptist Church, Rushden Way, GU9 0QQ Fridays, 10am to 12noon at Vineyard Centre, Union Road, GU9 7PT.

Website: <https://farnham.frontlinemoneyadvice.org>

Phone: 01252 560752

Email: info@ffma.org.uk

Food and groceries

Farnham Foodbank

Emergency food parcels for people in crisis. Referrals are available through GPs, schools and local support agencies.

Website: <https://farnham.foodbank.org.uk>

Phone: 07901 581539

Community Fridges and Cupboards

Open to everyone, regardless of financial circumstances.

Hale Community Centre

Open: Wednesday 12noon to 1.30pm and Friday 1pm to 3.30pm

During the week, food is available in the foyer area. The Community Fridge and Cupboard is for people living within 5 miles of the Centre.

Brambleton Hall (Talbot Road)

Open: Every Friday afternoon

Community meal service

Brightwells Gostrey can deliver freshly prepared hot meals, puddings, sandwiches and frozen ready-to-heat meals to your door.

Phone: 01252 725330

Website: www.brightwellsgostrey.org

The Hygiene Bank

Provides hygiene essentials, toiletries, beauty items and personal care products for anyone who needs them.

Email: FarnhamandAldershot@thehygienebank.com

Website: www.thehygienebank.com

Energy Support

Farnham Lions

Project Wenceslas offers help with heating and cooking costs for those struggling to afford essential energy bills.

Website: www.farnhamlions.org.uk

Farnham Support Fund

See page 28 for more details about how to get help with paying your gas/electricity bill.

Transport

Care Farnham

Volunteer drivers provide transport to GP and hospital appointments for a voluntary contribution.

Phone: 01252 716655

Website: www.carefarnham.org.uk

Farnham Hospital hoppa

Farnham Hospital hoppa service, which has been part-funded by Farnham Town Council, will take you from your home to your medical appointment at Frimley Park Hospital and other local hospitals and medical centres. The buses are wheelchair accessible. Register to use the service.

Website: www.hoppa.org.uk

Phone: 01428 681701



Valuing Farnham's younger people

Supporting children and young people is a key priority for Farnham Town Council. From investing in safe social spaces to funding outreach work and holiday activities, the Council is helping create positive opportunities for the next generation.

In 2025/26, Farnham Town Council allocated over £100,000 specifically to support projects designed for younger residents. This included grants for youth outreach work, support for school holiday programmes, and funding towards the running costs of three important local youth hubs: Hale Community & Youth Centre, 40 Degreez, and The Jubilee Hub.

Partnership working at its best

Farnham Town Council's approach to youth support is intentionally collaborative. Rather than running services directly, the Council works closely with community-based organisations that already have strong relationships with young people and the specialist skills to help them.

The three youth hubs supported by Farnham Town Council each offer something different. They operate in varied settings and have different offerings for most age groups, but they share a core purpose: to provide safe, supportive spaces where young people can spend time, build confidence, learn new skills and enjoy being part of their community.

Hale Community & Youth Centre

Hale Youth Centre offers sessions four nights a week for 7-19 year olds, plus weekly outreach. Programmes include open access, a Girlz Club, a Boys Night In, and a Code Club. A variety of educational, craft, and physical activities, including holiday programmes are also offered.

40 Degreez

Situated close to Farnham town centre, 40 Degreez is known for its long history supporting young people through sport, music, informal education and drop-in

sessions. The centre offers a safe space to relax with friends, talk to trained youth workers, or get involved in projects that build confidence and life skills.

The Jubilee Hub

Based at Jubilee Church, The Jubilee Hub hosts The Den and Jabble – lively youth sessions offering games, creative activities, group events and space to socialise. Although based within a church building, activities are non-faith based, inclusive and open to all.

Keeping younger people active and engaged during the holidays

Over the past year, a programme of free school holiday activities ensured that hundreds of young people in Farnham were kept active, engaged, and safe during the holidays. Designed to support children and teens of all ages, particularly those from financially disadvantaged backgrounds, the initiative provided opportunities for fun and learning.

Local organisations were awarded grants totalling £20,000 to run activities ranging from sports and arts to educational workshops. These sessions not only reduce boredom and isolation but help families manage childcare pressures and offer valuable enrichment opportunities.



Investing in the future

Farnham Town Council remains committed to working alongside residents, schools, charities and youth professionals to ensure every young person in Farnham has the chance to thrive.

Younger people's directory

Visit the younger people's directory to find activities and services for younger people.

If you are an organisation that provides services or activities, you can add your details to the directory. Visit www.farnham.gov.uk



Free family fun

The new playground at Gostrey Meadow has been a great success and is in constant use.

The playground was designed to reflect Farnham's heritage and natural features. There's a meandering blue footpath which represents the River Wey, and a multi-tower unit which resembles a mill local to Farnham. Play equipment and facilities that can be accessed by all children have been incorporated into the design.

A strawberry tree and paper bark maple have been planted in the new playground with a katsura, which has heart shaped leaves and smells of toffee apples in the autumn at one of the entrance gates. As well as eventually providing welcome shade, the three semi-mature trees have been chosen for their year-round interest.

Construction of an amenity building which will include new toilets and storage for the equipment which is needed for the many events held at Gostrey Meadow will begin later this year. This second phase will also include more play equipment for pre-schoolers including a sensory Lions' Den and a small water play area.



Greener, healthier ways to travel

If you can, why not leave the car at home and enjoy a more active, sustainable way to travel? If you need an added incentive, download the BetterPoints app and earn local rewards for active and sustainable travel. You can earn points for walking, cycling, and using community or public transport.

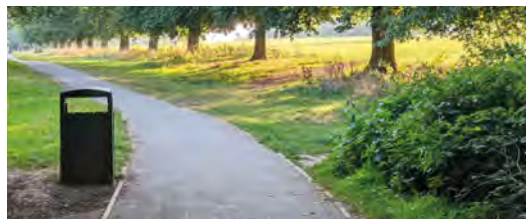
Cycle

Cycling is one of the quickest and healthiest ways to get around town. It helps reduce congestion, cuts emissions and keeps you active – all while saving money. With over 30 cycle racks across Farnham, parking your bike is simple wherever you're heading.

To help you find the best route for cycling, visit <https://cycle.travel> or download the free app. Enter where you are starting your journey from and where you want to go, and it will generate a bike-friendly route tailored to you.

Location of cycle parking

- 40Degreez
- Badshot Lea Garden Centre
- Brightwells Tennis Club
- Brightwells Yard cycle shelter
- Central Car Park
- College Gardens, West Street
- Coxbridge Business Park (four locations)
- Crondall Place, Coxbridge Business Park
- David Lloyd
- East Street
- Farnham Hospital main entrance
- Farnham Hospital, Hale Road entrance
- Farnham Leisure Centre
- Farnham Library
- Farnham Maltings, Red Lion Lane
- Farnham Memorial Hall, Crosby Way
- Farnham Rugby Club
- Farnham Station (three locations)
- Farnham Town Council
- Frensham Garden Centre
- Lidl
- Long Garden Walk / Lion & Lamb
- Nuffield Health & Wellbeing Centre
- Premier Inn / Beefeater
- Sainsbury's South Street
- Sainsbury's Water Lane



- Union Road
- Vineyard Church
- Waggon Yard
- Waitrose exit, Lower Hart

To see a map showing the locations of the cycle parking, visit www.farnham.gov.uk

Bus services

Stagecoach provides regular connections to nearby towns. For routes, times and fares, visit: stagecoachbus.com

Waverley hoppa Community Transport

Door-to-door travel in wheelchair-accessible minibuses. Once registered, you can book journeys to almost anywhere in the Farnham travel zone including garden centres, supermarkets, hairdressers, social occasions and more. Visit www.hoppa.org.uk

Surrey Connect

Using the Surrey Connect app, simply select your start and end points and you'll be guided to a nearby virtual bus stop for a flexible, reliable journey. See surreyconnect.org.uk

Town centre improvements

The Farnham Infrastructure Programme continues to make steady progress. This year will see the delivery of key improvements designed to make the town safer, greener and easier to travel around. The phases for work scheduled in 2026 are:

January-March – The Borough

January-April – Royal Deer Junction

April-November – Castle Street

Please do continue to visit the town and support local businesses. If you need to travel by car, you can see current roadworks and information about the works programme on Surrey County Council's website at www.surreycc.gov.uk/farnhamworks

Stand up for nature

Farnham is home to many thriving environmental groups, offering practical, social and worthwhile ways to help nature. Whether you want to learn something new, volunteer regularly, or simply make small changes at home, there are plenty of ways to contribute to a greener future.

Here is a snapshot of some of Farnham's environmental groups:

Badshot Lea Bloomers

A friendly community group that organises litter picks, planting days and volunteering at Badshot Lea Pond. They also created the flourishing Badshot Lea Community Garden, complete with allotments, heritage hops and a wildlife pond. www.facebook.com/BLBCGI

Hive Helpers

Promoting wellbeing through beekeeping and conservation, welcoming adults and children to take part in nature-based activities. www.hivehelpers.co.uk

Space2grow

A beautiful acre of land in central Farnham offering gardening, wellbeing projects, youth activities, parenting classes, Men in Sheds and more. www.space2grow.space

Farnham Community Farm

A community growing project offering weekly veg shares for members, plus regular volunteering and events. www.farnhamcommunityfarm.com

Tice's Meadow Bird Group

A community-led team caring for Tice's Meadow Nature Reserve through habitat creation and conservation projects. www.ticesmeadow.org

Farnham Biodiversity Action Group

Working to protect, record and improve biodiversity in Farnham. www.farnhambap.org.uk

Bourne Conservation Group

Volunteers help maintain local green spaces and rights of way for people and wildlife. www.bourneconservation.org.uk

Bloomin' Friends

Volunteer with Farnham in Bloom all year round – from planting and watering to litter picking, gardening groups and community events. www.farnham.gov.uk/bloom

Plastic Free Farnham

A volunteer-led initiative reducing plastic waste locally, and the first Surrey community to achieve Plastic Free status. www.plasticfreefarnham.org

Farnham Repair Café

Bring along your broken items and see if Farnham Repair Cafe can save you the expense of buying new or give new life to a treasured possession. The cafe meets on the second Saturday of the month at the Spire Church in South Street. <https://frc.cfsd.org.uk>



Connect with nature in local green spaces

In 2026, Farnham Town Council continues to champion biodiversity across the town. By planting native species, protecting wildlife habitats and adopting sustainable gardening practices, we are creating green spaces that are not only vibrant and welcoming, but that actively support a wide range of plants, insects and animals.

We manage a growing number of parks, gardens and open spaces across Farnham and with the onset of local government reorganisation, we are in discussion with Waverley Borough Council regarding the transfer of further sites. Our aim is to create flourishing environments where people and nature thrive together.

A guide to green spaces managed by Farnham Town Council

Gostrey Meadow and River Wey, Union Road

A much-loved green space and riverside location at the heart of Farnham. Easily accessible, it serves as a central venue for cultural activities, heritage events and community gatherings such as the annual duck race and festivals.

Gostrey Meadow was officially opened as a park in 1910 after improvements and donations transformed what had been a neglected area of wasteland. Once part of the Bush Hotel estate, the land fell into disrepair after the estate was broken up but today stands as a key destination for residents and visitors alike.



Batting's Garden

Junction of A287 and The Ridgway – enter through the oak gate

A charming wildlife garden tucked behind a hedgerow at a busy junction, offering a peaceful escape among grasses, wildflowers, birds and insects. Cared for by conservation volunteers, it was presented to the town in 1933 by Walter Batting, a draper and outfitter from Alton who later retired to Great Austins.

Haren Garden

Enter from South Street (east side)

Created to celebrate the friendship between Farnham and its Dutch twin town of Haren, this garden is known for its spectacular tulips – a must-see in spring and early summer. Mature trees and varied shrubs offer shade and interest, while the River Wey provides a gentle backdrop.

The garden also stands as a reminder of Farnham's support for the people of Haren during the Second World War and after the 1953 floods.

Evelyn Borelli Garden of Rest – Falkner Road

A tranquil setting for quiet reflection, enhanced by several pieces of public art. This thoughtfully designed space offers a modern and creative place to walk, pause or sit in peace.

Badshot Lea, Green Lane, Hale and West Street Cemeteries

Alongside their primary role as places of rest, Farnham's cemeteries are important wildlife havens. They provide shelter and food for birds, insects and small mammals, as well as green corridors that help wildlife travel safely through the landscape. If visiting Badshot Lea or West Street Cemetery, look out for the dormice boxes on tree trunks.



The Garden of Reflection – West Street Cemetery

A peaceful corner dedicated to remembering loved ones. A predominantly white planting scheme is complemented by seasonal bulbs, plants and shrubs, while subtle screening provides privacy from neighbouring allotments.

Flying the flag for excellence

Farnham's commitment to biodiversity is reflected in its ever-growing number of Green Flag Awards – a national benchmark for high-quality parks and green spaces that demonstrate excellence in environmental management, biodiversity support and community involvement.

Farnham Town Council has received Green Flag Awards for Hale, Badshot Lea and West Street Cemeteries and Gostrey Meadow.

Discover Farnham's Bee Trail

Follow the self-guided walking trail through green spaces and bee hotspots. Learn about native bees and the plants they love, enjoy fresh air and nature, and collect brass rubbings at each stop. The trail was created by Hive Helpers in partnership with Farnham Town Council. Copies can be downloaded from www.farnham.gov.uk or pick up a copy from the Town Hall.



Greening your garden

By Libby Ralph, Chair, Farnham Biodiversity Partnership

Wildlife and biodiversity are hugely important across all of our green spaces and across the town. Green features and gardens also help cool the environment and filter air pollution. It is great when more and more of you get involved and incorporate wildlife features in your gardens, helping to connect corridors between the town's green spaces. Bee-friendly borders, bird boxes and bug hotels can all help, as can leaving areas of unmown grass in the spring/summer. After a very dry 2025, water may be an issue this year, and we can all help by capturing and using rainwater in our gardens and for washing cars, reducing run-off on our driveways, and even creating ponds and bog gardens. Fruit trees and native hedging plants also contribute to providing homes and food for our wildlife in the town. Every little helps.



For more ideas about greening up your garden and biodiversity, visit:

www.rhs.org.uk/wildlife
www.wildlifetrusts.org/gardening
<https://wlgf.org/>

Farnham Town Council

Grow Your Own

Allotment plots now available in Farnham



Enjoy fresh air, home grown produce and connect with nature by joining Farnham's community of allotment holders.

Farnham Town Council has eight allotment sites at:

- Alderley Farm West Street
- Farnborough Road, off Weybourne Lane
- Morley Road
- Shepherd and Flock roundabout
- Six Bells roundabout, Hale Road
- West Street
- West Street extension
- Wrecchesham, off Riverdale

Allotments are a fantastic way to get hands-on experience with gardening. To apply for a plot visit www.farnham.gov.uk/allotments



Farnham Town Council

Farnham Farmers' Market

Celebrating 25 years



Buy fresh, local seasonal produce direct from those that grow it, rear it, make it or bake it.

Fourth Sunday of the month
10am to 1.30pm
Central car park

Over 40 stalls
Charity tea tent
Entertainment

Find out more about the farmers' market and the stallholders visit www.farnham.gov.uk/farmersmarket



Say it with flowers and support the community in 2026

Do you run a business in Farnham? Would you like your business to be proudly associated with the award-winning Farnham in Bloom or one of the town's highly successful community events? We are now seeking sponsors for 2026, with a range of packages to suit businesses of all sizes and budgets.

If you are a town centre business, you can welcome customers with a beautiful hanging basket right outside your premises. For £90, we will:

- Supply and hang a fully planted basket
- Maintain and water it throughout the summer
- Help you stand out as a business that cares about the local community.

For greater visibility, you could sponsor a statement planter in a prominent town centre location. As passersby stop to admire the display, they'll also see your:

- Business name
- Logo
- Contact details displayed on a smart sponsor plaque which we'll provide.

Larger companies may be interested in our Principal, Gold, and Silver sponsorship packages. These offer:

- High profile association with Farnham in Bloom
- Support for local environmental projects
- Involvement in community initiatives that promote wellbeing and pride of place.



Event sponsorship opportunities

Farnham hosts a vibrant calendar of events throughout the year. Sponsoring an event is a fantastic way to get your business noticed and connect with the local community. Associate your business name with a variety of events including live music concerts at Gostrey Meadow, Farnham Food Festival, the Literary Festival, Farnham Food Festival, Farnham in Bloom and environmental events. Sponsorship packages can include:

- Your business logo on banners, printed materials, and press releases
- Mentions in social media posts promoting the event
- Opportunities to host a promotional stand at the event

Niche and digital sponsorship

Looking for a more targeted approach? You can sponsor specific community initiatives such as the 'Bloomin' Kids' gardening workshops or the Allotment Show, aimed at families and gardening enthusiasts. Packages include logo placement on materials, press releases, and social media mentions, allowing focused marketing to your chosen audience.

All sponsorships also benefit from Farnham Town Council's digital presence, including links and promotional features on the council website, reaching both local residents and visitors online.

Whether your marketing objective is to make your business more visible, mark a business anniversary, demonstrate corporate social responsibility, or provide your staff with a team-building opportunity, Farnham Town Council can offer the perfect sponsorship solution.

Full details about the sponsorship programme and benefits can be found at www.farnham.gov.uk/sponsorship, or contact customer.services@farnham.gov.uk to discuss a package tailored for your business.



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All change for local councils

Big changes are afoot in Surrey following one of the biggest shake-ups in local government for more than half a century.

At the end of last year, the government announced that Surrey's county council and 11 district and borough councils will be replaced by two new unitary authorities called East Surrey and West Surrey. In 2028 a strategic mayoral authority is also expected to be created. Farnham will be in the West Surrey unitary authority along with the rest of Waverley and the existing Guildford, Runnymede, Spelthorne, Surrey Heath and Woking boroughs.

The new unitary authorities will be responsible for all the services currently delivered by the boroughs and county council. This includes adult social care, waste collection, planning, children's services, highways, housing and environmental health. See page 35 for the full list of services.

Elections for the new unitary authorities will take place in May 2026. The new unitary authorities will run alongside the existing boroughs and county council until 1 April 2027 when they formally take over responsibilities. At this point, Waverley, Surrey and the other boroughs will cease to exist.

What does this mean for Farnham Town Council

Although town and parish councils were not included in the local government review, the reorganisation provides opportunities for Farnham to acquire assets and services which are important to its community. This will reduce the risk of them being sold by the new West Surrey unitary authority and lost to Farnham people.

Further information about the changes can be found at www.surreycc.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/lgr

Could you be a councillor?

In May 2026, six councillors will be elected to represent the Farnham area in the new West Surrey unitary authority. These councillors will prepare the budget and determine the best structure for West Surrey so it is ready to operate from 1 April 2027.

This is an incredibly exciting time to be involved in local politics and is an opportunity to play a mighty role in shaping West Surrey for the future.

If standing for election appeals to you, here's what to do next:

1. Decide whether to stand. Chat to friends and family if that helps: would they encourage you to stand?
2. Check that you are eligible to stand and decide whether to stand as an independent candidate or for a political party. The Electoral Commission provides guidance about standing as a candidate including information about eligibility to stand.
3. Contact Electoral Services at Waverley Borough Council for a nomination form and return it by the deadline given.
Email electoralservices@waverley.gov.uk.
4. Plan and carry out your campaign.
5. Wait for the result on polling day.

Useful sources of information:

www.nalc.gov.uk
www.electoralcommission.org.uk
www.local.gov.uk

Ensuring Farnham has a voice

West Surrey will represent over 670,000 residents. In preparation for ensuring engagement with local communities is not lost, pilot Neighbourhood Area Committees (including in Farnham) have been tested and are expected to be implemented across the new unitaries. Farnham Town Council has proposed that these need to be more than talking shops and have the ability to meet the needs of local communities directly. For what happens in the pilot see farnhamnac.commonplace.is and give your thoughts. Further updates will appear on farnham.gov.uk



Celebrating volunteering in Farnham

Each year, Farnham celebrates the remarkable commitment of its volunteers through the Services to Farnham Awards. These awards recognise those who have given many years of dedicated service to the town. In 2025, seven outstanding volunteers were honoured for their tireless contributions across a wide range of local needs.

The following summaries provide a flavour of the achievements. The nominations can be read in full at www.farnham.gov.uk/servicestofarnham

Gill Cox for services to inclusion and literacy

Gill Cox has made a lasting contribution to Farnham through her work promoting inclusion and literacy, particularly for refugees and people for whom English is not a first language. A former teacher, she founded a self-funded reading club at the Spire Church, building language skills, confidence and community through compassion, dedication and inspiring leadership.

David Gibbs for services to Sailability and services to Farnham

David Gibbs has given outstanding service to Farnham through long-term volunteering with organisations including Farnham Sailability, Probus, Care Farnham and Phyllis Tuckwell. For over 15 years he has helped Sailability thrive, combining leadership, practical skills and generosity, including funding a new dinghy and enabling inclusive sailing opportunities for people with disabilities.

Sean Kavanagh for services to Farnham Sea Cadets

Sub Lieutenant (SCC) Sean Kavanagh RNR provides dedicated service to Farnham through his tireless commitment to TS Swiftsure. Volunteering several days a week, he supports training, parades and civic events, ensuring cadets represent Farnham with pride while fostering confidence, skills and personal development in a safe, supportive environment.

Graham Mollart for services to art and culture

Graham Mollart has played a pivotal role in Farnham's cultural life through leadership in art and education. A former Head of Art at Farnham Heath End School and founding member of Farnham Art and Design Educational Group, he initiated landmark projects including the Big Draw and Unseen Artists exhibitions,



while championing Farnham's World Craft Town status and supporting the wider community.

Jacqui Priddle for services to Farnham through Citizens Advice and Rotary

Jacqui Priddle is a quiet cornerstone of Farnham's community, giving 40 years of service as a Citizens Advice volunteer while also playing a leading role in the Rotary Club of Farnham. Her dedication, organisational skill and commitment to helping others have supported countless individuals and strengthened community life across the town.

Libby Ralph for services to Farnham's natural environment and biodiversity

Libby Ralph has shown exceptional leadership in protecting Farnham's natural environment and biodiversity. As Chair of multiple environmental groups, she leads conservation projects, advises councils and champions green corridors. Her practical work, strategic influence and generous sharing of knowledge have delivered lasting environmental benefits for Farnham and surrounding areas.

Phil Williams for services to Farnham through the Farnham Lions

Phil Williams has provided outstanding service to Farnham through his long-standing involvement with Farnham Lions. He has led innovative community projects including computer refurbishment for disadvantaged families, founded the Lions Roar project which encourages creative learning in schools, and chaired Farnham Beerex, continually finding creative ways to support residents of all ages.

If you know someone who deserves recognition for the time, energy and care they give to our community, you can nominate them for a Services to Farnham Award at www.farnham.gov.uk/servicestofarnham

Funding for individuals and organisations

Funding is available for people who are in financial difficulty.

Farnham Town Council also administers the South Street Trust and Community Grants scheme which help to fund a variety of community projects.

Applying is straightforward and can be done online.

All information, including application forms and funding criteria can be found at www.farnham.gov.uk/grants

SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUALS

Farnham no-interest loan scheme

Farnham residents who are struggling financially can apply for a no-interest loan to help with essential costs. Funded by Farnham Town Council and administered by Boom Community Bank, the scheme provides crucial support for people who may not be able to access traditional credit. The aim is to ease immediate financial pressures and strengthen long-term financial resilience. Loans of £300 to £1,500 can be used for essentials such as:

- Furniture and appliances
- Educational resources

- Car repairs and MOT
- Eyecare and dental needs
- Season tickets
- Other necessary household costs

Find full details and how to apply at: <https://boomcb.org.uk/loans/farnham-nils>

Farnham Support Fund

The Farnham Support Fund offers grants of up to £350 to individuals and families facing sudden financial hardship. It can help with urgent essentials such as:

- Gas or electricity payments
- School uniform and shoes
- Replacing a broken cooker or other vital household appliance
- Equipment such as a wheelchair or care alarm
- Beds, bedding and household items
- Other emergency needs

How to apply: Apply at www.farnham.gov.uk/grants. Applications must be supported by a referee such as a GP, headteacher, social worker or health visitor.

Assessment process: A panel representing organisations that helped establish the fund during COVID reviews each application. Most applicants receive a decision within two weeks.

Surrey Crisis Fund

For emergencies or disasters where no other support is available, Surrey residents can apply to the Surrey Crisis Fund. More information is available at www.surreycc.gov.uk

SUPPORT FOR ORGANISATIONS

Local organisations can apply for funding through the Community Grants Scheme and the South Street Trust. These grants help deliver projects that benefit the Farnham community, including support for vulnerable groups, arts and culture, sports initiatives and environmental improvements.

Application forms and full criteria can be found at www.farnham.gov.uk/grants



	Community grants	South Street Trust
What does it fund?	Projects that benefit Farnham's community life or environment.	Arts-based educational activity. By 'art,' the Trust means art and allied subjects but not performing arts.
Examples of successful applications	Play facilities, community building repairs, projects for older people, environmental sustainability projects, heritage projects.	Clay exploration for school children. Commissioning an artist to work with schools.
Who is eligible?	Not-for-profit organisations.	Farnham organisations with Farnham beneficiaries.
How much?	Up to £2,500 subject to matched funding.	No maximum stated per grant but the total fund available per year is around £25,000.
How long?	One-off projects or schemes needing funding for up to three years.	One-off projects.
When to apply?	September to mid-November	September to mid-November
When are grants paid?	May. Decisions are made in January.	April-May. Decisions made in January.

Larger grants

Larger grants are awarded for key activities which are seen as supporting the strategic priorities of Farnham Town Council and key services which help the community. Examples include Farnham CAB, Brightwells Gostrey and Waverley hoppa Community Transport.

Other sources of funding

Farnham's thriving community sector means there are other organisations looking to fund projects that benefit local people. Each has its own priorities, criteria and application process so visit their websites to find out if they are suitable.

The Dempster Trust
www.thedempstertrust.org.uk

The Farnham Institute Charity
www.farnhaminstitutecharity.org

Farnham Round Table
www.farnhamroundtable.org.uk

Hale Carnival
www.halecarnival.co.uk

The Hedgehogs
www.the-hedgehogs.org.uk

High Sheriff Youth Awards
www.highsheriffsofsurrey.com

Isabella Schroder Trust (Wrecclesham only)
www.farnham.gov.uk/grants

Lions Club of Farnham
www.farnhamlions.org.uk

Community Foundation for Surrey
www.cfsurrey.org.uk

Rotary Club of Farnham and
Rotary Club of Farnham Weyside
www.rotary-ribi.org

Visit www.farnham.gov.uk/grants and Voluntary Action South West Surrey (www.voluntaryactionsws.org.uk) for more sources of support.



Meet your councillors and their wards

The area represented by Farnham Town Council includes the town centre and surrounding villages which include Badshot Lea, Rowledge, Upper Hale, The Bourne, Heath End, Weybourne and Wrecchlesham. There are eight wards covered by a total of

Badshot Lea and Moor Park

At the heart of Badshot Lea is a fine church, an active infants' school and several individual shops. The village boasts a large garden centre with a popular cafe, a community centre and a village pond.



Badshot Lea has an active community association led by volunteers. Badshot Lea Bloomers is a sub-group of the Association. Volunteers help with the upkeep of the village by organising litter picks, working parties at the pond and helping to look after the church and school grounds.

Badshot Lea Cemetery won Gold and was Champion of Champions in the Small Cemetery category at South & South East in Bloom 2025.

For anglers, Farnham Angling Society provides some wonderful fishing opportunities at Badshot Lea big and small ponds.

Tice's Meadow, an award-winning nature reserve on the site of a former quarry, is considered to be one of the best inland sites to watch birds in the south east of England. The site is managed by Tice's Meadow Bird Group. Visit www.ticesmeadow.org for information and details of volunteering opportunities.



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The Bourne



The Bourne is a vibrant village with shops and a large village green which has been the location for the annual Bourne Show for over 90 years.

St Thomas-on-the-Bourne is a lively church at the heart of the community and Langham's recreation ground has a popular children's playground. The Bourne Woods are owned by the Forestry Commission and have featured in several blockbuster movies.

The village is well served by community groups, sports clubs and activities for young people.

The Bourne Beautification Project enhances the appearance of the village centre. Volunteers help with watering the hanging baskets and flower tubs and carry out regular litter picks.

An insight from your councillors

Councillor Murray recommends a visit to Bourne Woods for impressive views over the surrounding pine forests and the chance to visit the filmset of many blockbuster films such as Gladiator and Harry Potter.



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Castle



An insight from your councillors

Councillor Hesse describes the jewels in Castle Ward as the Bishop's Meadow behind Crosby Way, the Museum Garden and Garden Gallery West Street. He also gives a mention to Farnham Town Football Club who are riding high in the amateur leagues. For cultural experiences, Councillor Hesse recommends the museum and the New Ashgate Gallery in Waggon Yard for its unique range of all types of craft work.



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Farnham North West



An insight from your councillors

Councillor Beaman describes Farnham North West ward as a ward of great contrasts over a wide area. To the west is an area of small hamlets such as Dippenhall surrounded by agricultural fields. Moving westwards the ward is more urban than rural in character with the Coxbridge Business Park and the location of a new residential development at Coxbridge. Also in the ward is the large expanse of Farnham Park with Farnham Castle.



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Hale and Heath End



North of the town centre is the area of Hale and Upper Hale. Hale has a successful annual carnival and fayre held on the first Saturday in July on the recreation ground.

Adjacent to the recreation ground is an enclosed playground, a tennis court and two basketball courts which are free to use. An 11 a side football pitch and a cricket pitch can be booked via Waverley Borough Council. There is a scout hut, cemetery, Hale Chapels' Garden, Hale Institute Village Hall, two hairdressers and two pubs.

The area has a number of churches. Visit St Mark's to see Emily, the beautiful Edwardian pipe organ and murals painted by artist Kitty Milroy.

Heath End has access to Rowhill Nature Reserve which is good for walking and provides a haven for wildlife and flora.

The area is also home to Farnham Rugby Union club and Aldershot and Farnham Hockey Club. Heath End has a private gym and Farnham Heath End School with its all-weather pitch for community use.

An insight from your councillors

Councillor Dickson suggests a visit to Hale Chapels Garden followed by a picnic at Caesar's Camp where, on a clear day, you can admire the view all the way to London.



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Shortheath and Firgrove



Shortheath and Firgrove is a mainly residential area south of the A31.

This area includes Farnham College plus schools such as St Peter's, St Polycarp's, Highfield South Farnham and Weydon.

Shops, services and businesses are clustered around the railway station. There is also a vet, pubs and a business park.

Farnham Town Council manages Green Lane Cemetery and Morley Road allotments.



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Weybourne



Located to the east of Farnham, Weybourne has a village hall, sub post office, shops, a bakery, pubs, private gym and recreation ground. Weybourne House was once home to John Henry Knight, inventor, engineer and local landowner. He is famous for building the first petroleum carriage for two people made in England in 1895.

An insight from your councillors

Councillor Brown recommends a trip to Beagley's bakery followed by a picnic on Weybourne recreation ground.



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Wrecclesham and Rowledge

Wrecclesham has a recreation ground which hosts the annual village fair, plus cricket, football and tennis clubs. Wrecclesham Community Centre is a focal point for local clubs and activities.



The village of Wrecclesham is best known for its pottery which is one of the best-preserved examples of a working Victorian country pottery in England.

In 2025, Wrecclesham History Project published a book called The History of Wrecclesham.

To the south of Farnham is Rowledge which has a thriving centre made up of a butcher, post office and convenience store, coffee shop, hairdresser, garage, village hall and pub.

An insight from your councillors

Councillor Woodhouse rates cricket on the green at Rowledge 'for its significant family membership and how it encourages kids and families to get involved at the social events on the green on a Friday evening during the spring and summer months'.



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A to Z of council services

A guide showing which council to contact about services in Farnham. For a more detailed A-Z or to report a problem, visit www.farnham.gov.uk/report

At Farnham Town Council, our core services include:

- A regular events programme
- Managing four cemeteries
- Managing eight allotment sites
- Managing Farnham in Bloom throughout the year
- Managing open green space which belongs to Farnham
- Reviewing planning applications (approximately 1,000 per annum)
- Supporting the business community through Make it Farnham
- Organising a range of civic events throughout the year including Remembrance Sunday, a Civic Christmas Carol service and other events or receptions celebrating volunteering, commemorating Commonwealth Day, and Armed Forces Day.





Farnham Town Council

www.farnham.gov.uk 01252 712667

 ALLOTMENTS	 FARMERS' MARKET
 BUS SHELTERS	 FARNHAM IN BLOOM
 CCTV	 GRAFFITI REMOVAL
 CEMETERIES	 GRANTS
 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS	 MAYOR
 CIVIC EVENTS	 PLANNING CONSULTEE
 COMMUNICATION	 TOILETS
 COMMUNITY EVENTS	 TOWN PARTNERSHIPS
 COUNCIL MEETINGS	



Waverley Borough Council

www.waverley.gov.uk 01483 523333

 BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION	 LEISURE AND PLAYGROUNDS
 BUILDING CONTROL	 LEISURE CENTRES
 COLLECTING COUNCIL TAX AND BUSINESS RATES	 LICENSING
 ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATION	 OFF STREET CAR PARKING
 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH	 PLANNING APPLICATIONS
 FLOODING	 RUBBISH AND RECYCLING
 HOUSING	 STREET CLEANING
	 WAVERLEY TRAINING SERVICES

To contact your borough councillor, visit www.waverley.gov.uk/councillors



SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

www.surreycc.gov.uk 0345 600 9009

 CHILDREN'S SERVICES	 LIBRARIES
 EDUCATION	 ROADS
 FIRE AND RESCUE	 ON-STREET PARKING
 FOOTPATHS	 SOCIAL CARE
 HIGHWAY DRAINS/GULLIES	 TRADING STANDARDS

To contact your county councillor, visit www.surreycc.gov.uk/councillors

In May 2026 elections will take place for the new West Surrey Unitary Authority. This new council will operate alongside Waverley Borough Council and Surrey County Council until April 2027 which is when the county and borough councils in Surrey will cease to exist.



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