



The Farnham Society
presents



Heritage Open Days

Friday 11th to Sunday 20th September 2026



FREE
GUIDE

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

farnhamsociety.org.uk

Supported by



farnham.gov.uk

Please refer to listings for time and information

Key: ● Event ○ Event - Advanced Booking Essential

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Heritage Open Days in Farnham 2026

The Farnham Society welcomes you to Heritage Open Days!

This year the festival runs from Friday 11th to Sunday 20th September and this brochure contains details of a big and varied selection of activities on offer, with walks, talks and access to interesting buildings; entry to everything is free.

Farnham is a town with a great heritage, going back to Saxon times. Since the twelfth century we have had a connection with the Bishops of Winchester through the Castle. Just as old is Waverley Abbey, the first Cistercian monastery in England. We have one of the first Conservation Areas in the country and Farnham is England's first designated World Craft Town, home to the University for the Creative Arts.

The annual Heritage Open Days festival is organised centrally by the National Trust. Every year they nominate a theme and this time their chosen topic is "Everyday Histories", exploring ordinary working lives through the ages.

Farnham's history of hop farming is well known, keeping people working through the 18th and 19th centuries and up to WWII. But hop farming is only part of the story.

Waverley Abbey was a centre for the wool industry, influencing working lives through the middle ages while during the 17th century hostile naval activity in the Channel led to the development of overland trade routes and a major corn market in Farnham, second only to London.

The arrival of the railways, with the opening of Farnham Railway Station in 1849, turned Farnham into a commuter town. Expansion of retail to serve the new population gave us Elphicks. Originally opened as a draper's shop in West Street, Elphicks is still in business today as a department store.

The festival will also feature the ever popular family day at Farnham Castle on Sunday 13th, a Grade 1 listed building and the jewel in Farnham's crown.

You can see all the details in this brochure and on our website at

farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2026

Please note, some events must be booked in advance through our website. Booking opens at 8am on Wednesday 2nd September.

Heritage Open Days in Farnham is an occasion not to be missed. Everyone is welcome. And when you walk around the town, look for public art celebrating our history of working lives.



Rural Life Centre collection

FARNHAM CASTLE, Castle Street, GU9 0AG. Map 6.

The Bishops' Palace will be open Sun 13th Sept from 11am to 4.30pm. No need to book.

No parking available at the Castle except for visitors with a Blue Badge. 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. Wheelchair access to limited parts of the ground floor available on request.

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.



The Castle Keep, which is maintained by English Heritage, is currently closed to the public and is very likely to remain so during September.

ELPHICKS, 10/13 West Street, GU9 7DN. Map 5.

Open for HODs visitors Fri 11th to Sun 20th Sept during shop opening hours. These are Mon-Sat 9.30am to 5.15pm, Sun 10am to 4pm. No need to book.

We are a department store and for Heritage Open Days we will be showing different working lives through the years at Elphicks. There will be displays around the store on both floors starting at the front customer doors.

We hope you enjoy seeing, with the staff, our working life in a department store.



Elphicks can trace its history back to 1881 when George Elphick opened a drapery business at 13 West Street, Farnham and we still trade from the same location today.

Over the years the store has expanded and developed and we currently operate from over 26,000 sq. ft. on two floors.

The business continued to be owned by the Elphick family until October 2004, when Elphicks was acquired by Tudor Williams, another family-owned business.

Access: There are no restrictions, easy access to both floors by stairs, lift and escalator.



1981 Centenary photo

The details in this brochure were correct at the time of going to press. For any last minute changes to the programme, please check the Farnham Society website at

farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2026

or our Facebook page

"Farnham Heritage Open Days"

Many of our events must be booked in advance, see the event listings for details.

Booking opens at **8am on Wed 2nd September.**



ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, Upper Church Lane, GU9 7PW. Map 13.

Open for HODs visitors Sun 13th Sep and Sun 20th Sept, 2pm to 4pm.

No need to book.

Church open to the public.

"Pop Up Cafe" serving refreshments.

Tower Tours will be run for groups of up to ten throughout both afternoons according to demand.

"A Day in the Life of a Clergyman"

Sun 13th Sept at 2pm, no need to book

A talk in the church by Revd. David Uffindell.

"Family Fun Day" with Bouncy Castle and Craft activities

Sun 20th Sept 2pm to 4pm

The church has a long history – the chancel dates back to the 12th century with some Norman remains.

The east window is nineteenth century, by A.W.N Pugin, but the surrounding original stonework is unchanged.

Extensive works in the 19th century included the raising of the originally small tower to 115 ft, and work in the 2000s by architect Ptolemy Dean featured the setting up of The Pavilions at the west end of the church.

The Church is open every day.



Access: Access ramp, disabled toilet and baby change available at ground floor level.

The Tower Tours are not suitable for anybody with mobility issues.

The tower has steep stairs and no disabled access.

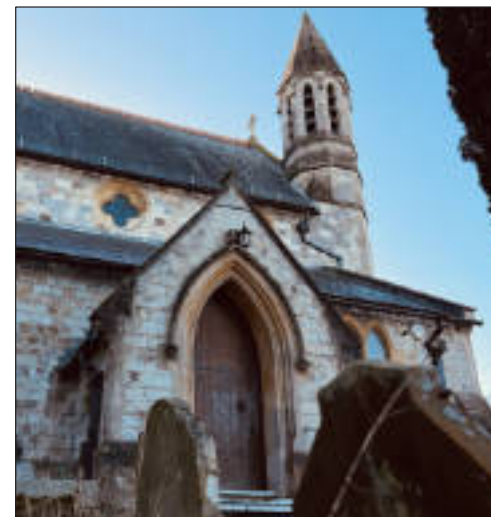


THE HISTORY OF ST PETER'S CHURCH AND RESTORING ST PETER'S CHURCHYARD

Sat 12th Sept at 2pm, St Peter's Church, Beales Lane, Wrecclesham, GU10 4PY.

Advance booking essential at farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2026

The event will involve a short talk on the history of the church at St. Peter's Church, a guided walk around the church and the churchyard including the newly restored Lychgate and seven War Graves. Our event will end with tea and homemade cakes in the Leverton Hall, finish by 4pm.



St. Peter's Church, Wrecclesham was consecrated on 1840 in the flourishing village of Wrecclesham. It was almost totally rebuilt between 1861-1876, featuring unique chalk stone construction, known as clunch.

The church has continued to evolve over the years and has several historic stained glass windows, a Victorian font and a Hunter organ. In St. Peter's Churchyard, the 'Greening Wrecclesham' project by Wrecclesham Conservation Group is ongoing in order to restore the churchyard as a respectful burial site as well as a green space for the community.

Access: St. Peter's Church is wheelchair friendly, but the conservation area of St. Peter's Churchyard can be limited for people with mobility issues or for wheelchair users, as our path is rather hilly and uneven.

Anyone with wheelchairs or disabilities who would like to attend our guided tour at the churchyard, please do contact the Wrecclesham Conservation Group at wreccleshamcg2024@gmail.com in advance to discuss the details.

Sturdy footwear recommended for the churchyard guided walk.



**MUSEUM OF FARNHAM, Willmer House, 38 West Street, GU9 7DX.
Map 10.**

FRIDAY 11th: BEHIND THE SCENES: GEORGIAN COSTUMES

Fri 11th Sept at 10.30 am. No need to book.

Join us for a behind the scenes peek at some of our Georgian costume collection, as we prepare for our 2027 exhibition: Country Living: Fashion in Georgian Farnham. This exhibition, which opens in April 2027, will celebrate the fashions of rural people with examples spanning from the 1740s through to 1830s.

SATURDAY 12th: 20th CENTURY FARNHAM: OBJECT SHOW & TELL

Open for HODS visitors Sat 12th Sept from 10am to 11am. No need to book.

Take a trip back to 20th century Farnham as we share some rarely seen objects from our collection. Learn about the extraordinary and everyday histories of these items, plus find out more about our new gallery display plans.

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 18th 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 a restoration project began in early 2025; throughout the restoration, the museum remains open.

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 left of the main entrance where there is a doorbell to push that rings in the main house. 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.



Waverley Borough Council and The Farnham Society present



Restoring Willmer House

Join us for an engaging panel discussion exploring the ongoing restoration of Willmer House, home to the Museum of Farnham.

Monday 14 September 2026, 7:30 - 9:00pm

Farnham Maltings, Bridge Square, Farnham, GU9 7QR

Book your FREE place: Box Office 01252 745 444

Hear from a panel of experts, including representatives from:

- Arts Council England
- National Heritage Lottery Fund
- Graham Abrey – Conservation Consultant
- Emma Simpson MBE – Historic Brick Conservator
- Dr. Roy Waight – Local historian and author



They will share insights on:

- The architectural significance of Willmer House
- What 'conservation-led restoration' means in practice
- Fascinating and little known stories from the building's past

Every brick counts

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waverley.gov.uk/BuyABrick

Act now to play your part in preserving Farnham's history



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WAVERLEY ABBEY HOUSE, Waverley Lane, GU9 8EP.

Sun 13th Sept from 10am to 4pm. No need to book.

Discover the rich story of the 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.

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

Note also: on Sunday 20th Sept there will be a guided tour of the adjoining Waverley Abbey Ruins, see page 19 for more details. The ruins are looked after by English Heritage, open free of charge all year round.



ANDREW WINDSOR ALMSHOUSES, 53-56 Castle Street, GU9 7LN. Map 20.

Welcoming HODs visitors to the residents' private communal garden on Sat 12th 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 in Bentley, set up the trust which, despite its ups and downs over the centuries, still manages the almshouses. More accommodation built 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.



THE KILN/VILLAGE HALL, St Georges Road, Badshot Lea, GU9 9LY.

Sun 20th Sept from 10am to 4pm. Tours throughout the day, on an on-demand basis, no advance booking required.

This is the old village hop kiln, built in 1886. The tours will take visitors throughout the building and will include the restored hop drying room. The history of the building will be described, and that of hop growing in the village, how the building functioned, and how it now functions as a village hall. Many photographs and drawings will be on display.

Access to the upper floors of the building to the restored hop drying

room is limited, via a set of concrete stairs but a motorised Evac Chair can transport individuals to the upper floors if required. Access throughout the ground floor is not restricted.



THE ST MARK'S MURALS BY KITTY MILROY, St. Mark's Church, Alma Lane, Upper Hale, GU9 0LT

Thu 17th Sept at 2pm and Sat 19th Sept at 3.15pm.

Advance booking essential (max 20) at farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2026 Refreshments will be provided.

The Mural paintings at St. Mark's Church were painted between 1911 and 1920 by Kitty Milroy. They have survived against the odds being badly damaged in 1942 by water and deteriorating slowly since then.

In 2018 the Vicar Lesley Crawley with a small committee led by Nick

Seversway set about an urgent attempt to preserve these unique paintings. With the expert help of internationally renowned conservators Rickerby and Shekede they were cleaned, consolidated and restored. This talk is about that process and the life of Kitty Milroy.

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

On Sat 19th Sept there is also a craft market in the church from 11am - 2pm.



RESTAURANTS AND CAFES

The two premises on this page are working locations and there will not be a guide to show you around the premises. Instead a short one page printed information sheet will be available at the properties to enable visitors to self guide. Access to non-public areas will not be possible. Thank you.

CAFFE PICCOLO, 84 West Street, GU9 7EN. Map 3



Open for HODs visitors Wed 16th and Thur 17th Sept from 12 noon to 3pm.

The age of the building is uncertain. Nos 83 and 84 are Grade II Listed and are under one roof containing the remains of a timber framed building.

Records start in 1780 and from then until the 20th century No. 84 was let to a variety of tenants - in the 19th century there was a cooper here selling tubs, barrels, baskets and bowls.

In 1929 a Tudor fireplace was revealed during building work and from the 1930s to the 1970s it was The Old Mitre tea rooms, taking its name from the 18th century alehouse at No. 83 (now KallKwik).

It opened as Caffè Piccolo in 1995 and re-opened in 2022 after a major fire.

Access: stairs within the building, no disabled toilet.

LION AND LAMB HOUSE (HARRIS + HOOLE), 113b West Street, GU9 7HH. Map 9.



Open for HODs visitors Mon to Sat 6.30am to 7pm, Sun 7.30am to 6pm. No need to book. Mon to Fri preferable for HODs visitors because Sat/Sun are very busy days but welcome any time.

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

In the 16th and 17th centuries it was an inn called

The White Hart, which became the Lion and Lamb in the early 18th century and was divided into tenements. By the early 20th 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 door in West Street is only step free access. Access via side door in Lion and Lamb Yard has a step.

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



Tours on Fri 11th Sept at 10am and 2pm. Advance booking essential (max 12 per tour) at farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2026

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.

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, University for the Creative Arts, Falkner Road, GU9 7DS. Map 4.



Tour on Fri 11th Sept at 11.30am. Advance booking essential (max 25 people) at farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2026

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

A guided tour lasting one hour led by the Director including a behind the scenes viewing of selected objects drawn from the collections.

Access: The venue is accessible with lift access to the galleries.

A HISTORY OF FARNHAM STATION, Station Hill, GU9 8AD. Map 8.



Welcoming HODs visitors Tue 15th Sept from 10am to 3pm.

A temporary history display charting over 175 years of Farnham Railway Station, first opened in October 1849.

Compiled by local historian Roy Waight and the Wey Valley Community Rail Partnership, the exhibition features historic photographs

and information exploring the station's development and its role in the community. Visitors can browse the display panels on the platform between 10am and 3pm at their own pace.

Access: Station is accessible

PRIVATE HOUSES

This year we have three houses which the owners have very kindly agreed to open to HODS visitors. Please bear in mind that these are not stately homes open to the general public - they are private houses which the owners have opened for a small party to view heritage features. Please respect those areas that are not included in the tour, no photography or filming of the properties without the consent of the owner or guide and with regret no dogs allowed. Thank you.

TANYARD COTTAGE, Bridge Square, Farnham GU9 7QR. Map 14.



Guided tours of this private house on Mon 14th Sept at 2pm and 3pm.
See note about Private Houses above.
Advance booking essential (max 6 per tour) at farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2026

Tanyard Cottage is a cottage with a small garden, dated by ring dating of timbers to 1475-1485. Exposed timbers visible in the attic.

Entrance is from the Maltings inner courtyard, to the left and rear of Tanyard House.

Access: Steep stairs, low beams, unsuitable

for those with mobility issues or who use any mobility aids such as wheelchairs.

THE OLD COTTAGE, 11 Bridge Square, GU9 7QR. Map 12.



Guided tours of this private house on Sun 20th Sept at 11am, 12 noon and 2pm.
See note about Private Houses above.
Advance booking essential (max 8 per tour) at farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2026

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: Steps to access and in the property so not accessible for those with mobility issues or who use any mobility aids such as wheelchairs.

10 CASTLE STREET, GU9 7HR. Map 1



Guided tours of this private house on Sun 20th Sept at 12 noon and 1pm.
See note about Private Houses on previous page.

Advance booking essential (max 10 per tour) at farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2026

This is an early 18th century house built on the site of Farnham's old Corn Rooms, a group of buildings used for either storage, marketing or exchange of corn.

It is distinguished from its neighbours in that it is set back behind a garden fronted by fine wrought iron gates which are reputed to have come from Moor Park House. It was built about 1730 by a London grocer, Thomas Piggott, and although it was altered in the Victorian period it was restored in the 20th century and now retains most of its original 18th century appearance.

Access: no level access - steps into the front garden from the street and also into the house itself. Unsuitable for those with mobility issues or who use any mobility aids such as wheelchairs.

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



Open for HODS visitors Sat 12th Sept from 10am 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.

Started out as a stable block for the Castle and is a Grade II listed building. It was also the barracks for Cromwellian Soldiers.

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 1951 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: There are three steps into the building from street level, with hand rails. There is a single person (not wheelchair) lift to the first floor where the Masonic Temple is situated.

BUSH HOTEL - OAK LOUNGE, The Borough, GU9 7NN. Map 2.

Welcoming HODS visitors from Sun 13th to Wed 16th and also Fri 18th Sept, from 10am to 5pm. 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.

Printed copies of the hotel's history will be available at reception.

Access: Step free access is via the rear of the hotel, through the hotel car park (via Victoria Road). Front entrances have steps into the building. No lift access throughout.

NEW ASHGATE GALLERY, Waggon Yard, Lower Church Lane, GU9 7PS. Map 11.

Meet the Artist, Tue 15th to Sat 19th Sept, 11am to 4pm. No need to book.

Visit the gallery during Heritage Open Days 2026 and meet artist Susie Lidstone as she paints in the gallery.

Susie is a British watercolour artist renowned for her detailed architectural paintings. Responding to this year's theme, Everyday Histories, Susie will create work inspired by

Farnham's hidden spaces, local stories and overlooked details. Her paintings often explore the quiet character of familiar places, making this a thoughtful and engaging way to see the town through an artist's eyes.

Visitors are welcome to drop in, watch Susie at work, ask questions and hear more about the ideas behind her forthcoming 2027 calendar.

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.

Access: All galleries are accessible to people with disabilities, including wheelchair users.

**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. 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. We also have a series of filmed discussions on matters of local interest, 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



Advance booking is essential for three of the guided walks.
To book please visit the Farnham Society's website,
farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2026
where booking opens at 8am on Wednesday 2nd September.

CHANGE IN THE VILLAGE: ECHOES OF WORKING LIFE IN THE BOURNE



Sat 12th Sept at 10am.
Meet at the St Thomas-on-The Bourne Church, Frensham Road, GU9 8HA
Advance booking essential (max 15) at farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2026

A circular walk of approximately 2 miles, starting from St Thomas-on-The Bourne Church, and looking at the lives of some of those who lived and worked in the Bourne, mainly in the 19th and early 20th century. The walk will take in the Old Churchyard, and stop off at the Old Vicarage and George Sturt's house.

Access: Parts of the walk will be on unsurfaced and quite steep paths. Unsuitable for those with mobility issues or who use any mobility aids such as wheelchairs.

"WAVERLEY ABBEY CAR PARK TO MOOR PARK HOUSE"



Sun 13th Sept at 10am. Meet at Waverley Abbey car park with parking overflow if needed into Waverley Abbey House car park.
Advance booking essential (max 15) at farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2026

A two-hour, there and back walk, led by Richard Holway, from Waverley Abbey car park to Mother Ludlam's Cave and Moor Park House.

Access to the Cave is not possible but Annabel and Mike Grindy will be available to talk about its history and Mother Ludlam.

Jim Rice will give a talk on the history of Moor Park House, a 17th Century grade II listed property, and give a tour of the gardens.

Access: Flat walk which could be muddy if wet. The walk is unsuitable for those with mobility issues or who use any mobility aids such as wheelchairs. The B3001 to the Greensand Way is narrow and has no footway.

"FROM FARM TO QUARRY TO COMMUNITY NATURE RESERVE"



Wed 16th Sept at 10am at Tice's Meadow Local Nature Reserve, Badshot Lea, GU9 9NB.
Advance booking essential (max 20) at farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2026

Approx 2.5 hour walk, meet at the main entrance on Badshot Lea Road:
<https://w3w.co/bottle.enter.talked>

A 2.5 km walk around the reserve to discover the history of the site and see the environmental regeneration since the gravel extraction finished. Over 1500 species of wildlife have been recorded at the reserve including 200 species of bird.

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

Access: Disabled access is weather dependant due to potential muddy footpaths after rain. 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. The unimproved nature of the site means that it is currently not suitable for wheelchair users.

"WAVERLEY ABBEY RUINS", a tour with Roger Jude



Sun 20th Sept at 10am. Meet at the Waverley Abbey car park off Waverley Lane, GU9 8EP.
No need to book.

The approx 90 min. 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 heyday it was crucial to the local economy, more significant than Farnham itself in some ways. Its church was

as big as a small cathedral but had sadly declined long before final dissolution under Henry VIII.

All this is described and questions are welcomed.

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

TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS

Access: lifts are available at all venues where needed.

“WHEN ADAM DELVED AND EVE SPAN, THE WOOL TRADE IN MEDIEVAL FARNHAM”



the Staple was a Farnham man.

This illustrated lecture by the Rt. Revd. Christopher Herbert will explore this fascinating subject.

Fri 11th Sept at 8pm, St Joan's Church Hall, 19 Tilford Road, GU9 8DJ. Map 18. No need to book.

Wool was at the heart of Farnham's medieval life. The Bishop of Winchester owned huge flocks of sheep as did the Cistercians at Waverley Abbey. Farnham wool was not only spun locally but it was also exported via Calais where, in the 15th century, the Mayor of

“NOT A LOT OF PEOPLE KNOW THAT... THE TOWN CRIER AT WORK”

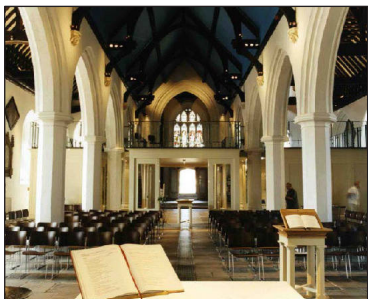


Sat 12th Sept at 10am, Council Chamber, Town Hall, South Street, GU9 7RN. Map 16. No need to book.

Meet Michael Stephens, Farnham's Town Crier and hear about the surprising role of the Town Crier through the years. Michael regales his experience heralding coronations to hosting hundreds of visiting American CEOs, to launching a new gin and even a brush with drag queens at Tower Bridge.

The talk will last about an hour.

“A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A CLERGYMAN”



Sun 13th Sept at 2pm, St Andrews Church, Upper Church Lane, GU9 7PW. Map 13. No need to book.

A talk in the church by Revd. David Uffindell.

Part of a number of activities at St Andrews Church on both Sundays, see page 6 for further details.

“HISTORY OF NATIVE AND EXOTIC TREES IN FARNHAM”



Wed 16th Sept at 10am, Barley Room, Farnham Maltings, Bridge Square, GU9 7QR. Map 17. No need to book.

An illustrated talk by Peter Bridgeman on trees starting with the establishment of native trees since the end of the last ice age some 10,000 years ago, then going through the millennia to the present day to show the introduction of exotic trees from most parts of the temperate world. Photographs will show examples of trees as seen in Farnham and surrounds and Peter will explain what this picture has to do with Farnham trees in the 14th century !

“VICTORIAN WRECCLESHAM AND ROWLEDGE - WORK, GOD AND LEISURE”



Wed 16th Sept at 11.30am, Barley Room, Farnham Maltings, Bridge Square, GU9 7QR. Map 17. No need to book.

In this talk Roy Waight examines three very different Victorian lives: Those of an agricultural labourer in the years after parliamentary enclosure and the impact of mechanisation; a vicar, the Revd. Julius of Wrecclesham, who helped create the Parish of Rowledge; and a man of leisure, C E N Charrington, who built Frensham Hill. He contrasts three very different 'everyday histories'.

“THE JEWEL HEIST OF WINCHESTER: A TUDOR WHODUNNIT”



A Goldsmith in his Shop by Petrus Christus

Thur 17th Sept at 10am, Barley Room, Farnham Maltings, Bridge Square, GU9 7QR. Map 17. No need to book.

The year is 1538 and Henry VIII's men go to Winchester Cathedral to remove all the treasure they can get their hands on. Instead of an enormous payday, they uncover hundreds of counterfeit gemstones. Join artist, Alison Whitaker, as she presents her original research uncovering the characters involved and the possible links that Farnham has with one of the biggest jewellery heists of Tudor England.

“THE ARCHITECTURE OF CASTLE STREET”

Thur 17th Sept at 11.30am, Barley Room, Farnham Maltings, Bridge Square, GU9 7QR. Map 17. 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

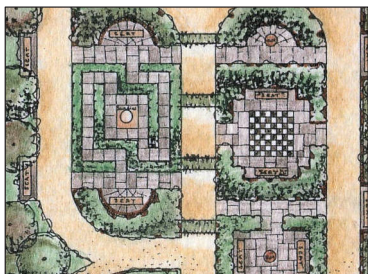
delight this street has few equals in all England” and this talk by a professional justifies the claim.

“THE FARNHAM WORKHOUSE”

Sat 19th Sept at 10am, Council Chamber, Town Hall, South Street, GU9 7RN. Map 16. No need to book.

A description by Ian Wallace of the scandalous condition of the Farnham Workhouse for the poor and unemployed in 1890s.

A subsequent Parliamentary Inquiry led to improvements in the system across England.

“VICTORIA GARDEN”, a talk and walk with Alison Gordon.

Sun 20th Sept at 10.30am. Brightwells Road, GU9 7RN (off South Street by Sainsbury's car park). Map 19.

Advance booking essential (max 12) at farnhamsociety.org.uk/hods2026

Meet at garden entrance archway. The talk will last about 30 mins. 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.

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 1.30pm 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 27 September in Farnham town centre.

FARNHAM CRAFT MONTH

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

FARNHAM LANTERN FESTIVAL

Visit Gostrey Meadow for live entertainment and a community lantern procession on Thursday 29 October. This is a family-friendly celebration which offers an alternative to trick or treating.

VENISON DINNER

Experience more than 400 years of local tradition at this historic dinner on 13 November. The evening promises fascinating speakers, ceremonial traditions and a memorable time for all.

CHRISTMAS IN FARNHAM

Experience the magic of this special time of year in Farnham. Enjoy the Christmas Lights Switch-On (14 November), and Christmas Market and Farmers' Market on 13 December.

Coming up**BLOOMIN' KIDS ACTIVITIES**

OCTOBER HALF TERM

BLOOMIN' LITTER PICK

7 NOVEMBER

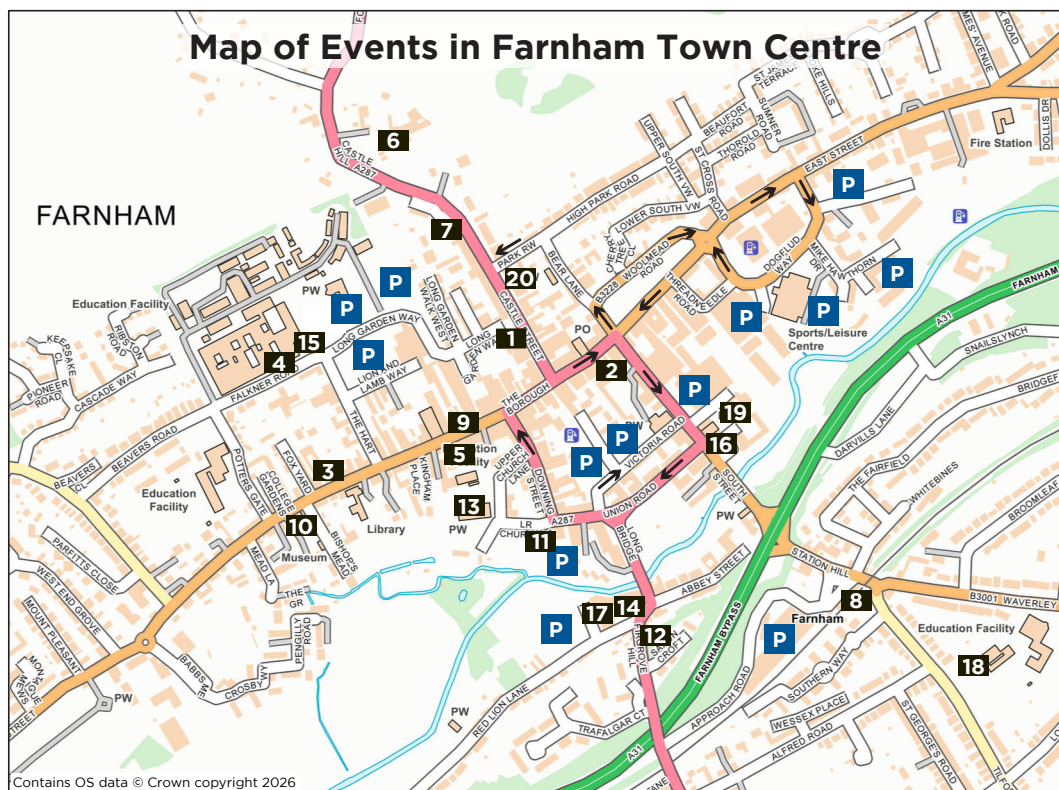
REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY PARADE

8 NOVEMBER

MUSIC IN THE VINEYARD

LAST SUNDAY OF JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

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 [f](#) [i](#) [t](#) Follow @FarnhamOfficial
Contact us on 01252 712667 or email customer.services@farnham.gov.uk



Events in Town Centre

- 1 10 Castle Street (*page 15*)
- 20 Andrew Windsor Almshouses (*page 10*)
- 2 Bush Hotel (*page 16*)
- 3 Caffè Piccolo (*page 12*)
- 4 Crafts Study Centre (*page 13*)
- 5 Elphicks (*page 5*)
- 6 Farnham Castle (*page 4*)
- 7 Farnham Masonic Centre (*page 15*)
- 8 Farnham Station (*page 13*)
- 9 Lion and Lamb House (*page 12*)

- 10 Museum of Farnham (*page 8*)
- 11 New Ashgate Gallery (*page 16*)
- 12 Old Cottage (*page 14*)
- 13 St Andrew's Church (*page 6*)
- 14 Tanyard Cottage (*page 14*)
- 15 University for the Creative Arts (*page 13*)

Venues for Talks

- 16 Council Offices (Town Hall) (*pages 20&22*)
- 17 Farnham Maltings (*pages 21&22*)
- 18 St Joan's Church (*page 20*)
- 19 Victoria Garden (*page 22*)

The cover photo is a detail from the carved panels on the walls of Hawthorn Lodge, Longbridge, opposite Gostrey Meadow and next to the statue of William Cobbett on horseback. When Farnham Police Station was built in 1961 a competition was held for the design of three carved panels which was won by two students from the Wimbledon College of Art. The two panels shown on the cover illustrate sources of the town's wealth, wool and hops. When Hawthorn Lodge replaced the police station in 2015, the developers preserved the panels and placed them on the new building.

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, 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 2026 events possible by generously giving their time and expertise free of charge.