The Farnham Society presents

Farnham’s Heritage Open Days

Thursday 8 to Sunday 11 September 2016

Free Admission to all venues, tours and events

www.farnhamsociety.org.uk

Supported by

www.farnham.gov.uk
Welcome to Farnham, one of the oldest settlements in Surrey. This lovely old town, set in a valley of the River Wey, has a wonderful heritage of historic buildings of every century from the 12th onwards. This year, the theme for Heritage Open Days is “Art and Craft in Farnham”.

**Brief history of the town**

The Wey valley and surrounding countryside are rich in prehistoric sites and there was a period of Romano-British occupation here in the form of small scattered settlements, many of which appear to be associated with the production of pottery.

The earliest documentary record of Farnham is in AD 688 when the town was given by Charter to the Church by the Saxon King Caedwalla, and it has been a town of significance for many hundreds of years. Six watermills in the Hundred of Farnham are recorded in the Domesday Book. In the 12th century the Bishops of Winchester built their castle here, and laid out the street pattern in the town centre which remains substantially unchanged today. In the medieval period the wool trade brought prosperity, and in the 17th century Farnham’s Corn Market was said to be the greatest in England. From the 17th century to the mid-20th century the hop growing, brewing and malting industries created wealth and had a great influence on Farnham’s architecture, with elegant Georgian town houses built by well-to-do brewers. When the railway came in the mid-19th century the town grew rapidly, and over the years to the present day the population of the town and its villages has reached nearly 40,000.

**Farnham craft town, its art and architecture**

Farnham is now officially known as a craft town, and this aspect of its life has been adopted as the theme for Heritage Open Days 2016. The
town has a 150 year long tradition of the teaching and application of arts and crafts, and the buildings used for these purposes are highlighted.

Farnham’s oldest industry is pottery making and an exhibition at the Museum of Farnham traces the history of the craft here from Roman times to the present day. The Farnham Pottery founded in 1872 in Wrecclesham will be open displaying work by today’s craft potters.

Our Heritage Open Days programme this year has more attractions than ever before! Welcome to Farnham, and all it has to offer.

**Love Architecture**

Sponsored by the Royal Institute of British Architects

For the second year running, the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) is partnering with Heritage Open Days to tell the architectural story of buildings.

Events which are badged as Love Architecture may offer talks, tours, special activities or provide architectural information on special interpretation boards. Look out for the Love Architecture logo – and you can search for Love Architecture events on the Heritage Open Days website.

In Farnham the spotlight will be on the Grade I listed Willmer House, built in 1718 and now the home of the Museum of Farnham; Farnham Pottery in Wrecclesham, a fascinating example of very specific building designed for a particular use; the new Aldridge Theatre at Frensham Heights School; the Pavilions, inside St Andrews Parish Church, designed by Ptolemy Dean; the 21st century Crafts Study Centre at the University for the Creative Arts, and tours of the university campus guided by architects, looking at a range of postwar buildings.
Advance bookings
Please note that advance booking is essential for most walks and tours. The booking period is Wednesday 24 August to Sunday 4 September. For details please see the relevant entries below.

Guided walks and performances

Thursday 8 September

TEA AND TOURS AT FARNHAM CASTLE, 13.30-16.30. Details in main castle entry (see below).

Friday 9 September

“FROM WELLS TO MAINS, THE STORY OF FARNHAM’S WATER SUPPLIES”, a walk at 14.30. No advance booking required. Meet at the church of St Thomas-on-the-Bourne, Frensham Road (A287), South Farnham (parking available). Conservation Group volunteers will lead a walk on the theme of Farnham’s water supplies, including a visit courtesy of South East Water to the Victoria Reservoir, and the bore hole in Sturt Walk which together supply all Farnham’s drinking water today. Guides will describe the effect that a good supply of water, the coming of the railway and the new Aldershot Army Garrison had on the area.

Saturday 10 September

“A POT OF PAINT IN THE PUBLIC’S FACE”, two performances, 14.00 and 15.30, no advance booking required, in the Culver Room, Farnham Library, 28 West Street. Taking up the theme of art and craft, Farnham Rep presents readings of poetry and prose about artists and their work. Full disabled access.

FARNHAM TREE WALK Part Two, 10.30, 90 mins to 2 hours. Advance booking essential between 24 August and 4 September at sfbrads@btinternet.com, for up to 20 people. Meet outside the Council Offices in South Street. Dress for weather. Following up on the town centre tree walk which he led last year, tree expert Peter Bridgeman will lead a walk identifying over 30 native and exotic trees in the Victoria Garden, Borelli Walk, the Sports Centre, East Street, and the southern part of Farnham Park including the Avenue, within the grounds of Farnham Park and in
Castle Street. Mainly on pavements, some grassed areas. The walk will be crossing busy roads, care needed with children and dogs. Farnham Town Council has produced a leaflet describing the trees featured in last year’s town centre walk.

FARNHAM TOWN CENTRE HISTORY WALK, 14.30. 90 minutes. Advance booking essential between 24 August and 4 September at sfbrads@btinternet.com for up to 20 people. Meet at the entrance to the Waggon Yard car park off Lower Church Lane. Cobblestones, uneven pavements, wear comfortable shoes. Jill Whittingham, Farnham Town Guide, will lead a history walk round the town centre.

MORRIS DANCERS, 11.45-12.30 in Lion and Lamb Yard, and 13.30-14.15 outside the Hop Blossom pub, Long Garden Walk. Come along, enjoy the party atmosphere and watch these skilled performers.

FARNHAM PARK WALK, 15.00. 90 minutes. Advance booking essential between 24 August and 4 September at sfbrads@btinternet.com for up to 30 people. Meet at the main car park entrance off Folly Hill. A ramble conducted by Robin Crowther, Park Ranger, through 700 years of park history, looking at the historic landscape. Some steep slopes, uneven ground, not suitable for buggies or wheelchairs.

AN EXTRA OPPORTUNITY to explore the Park on Sunday 18 September, 14.00. No advance booking required. Approx. 40 minutes on an easy access area, then an optional 40 minutes on a rougher area. Meet at Visitor Centre, main car park off Folly Hill. Another opportunity to explore the Park on 18 September, with archaeologist David Graham. Walk around the southern half of the Park visiting archaeological and historic features illustrated by site plans, excavation photographs and actual finds. The second 40 minutes of the walk covers a wooded area with narrow paths and footbridges, not suitable for people with disabilities.

Sunday 11 September

THE RISE AND FALL OF WAVERLEY ABBEY, 09.00 and 11.00, two tours of the Abbey ruins, 90 minutes each. Off Waverley Lane (B3001), GU9 8EP. Advance booking essential between 24 August and 4 September at sfbrads@btinternet.com for up to 30 people per tour. Meet in the car park by the gate to Waverley Abbey House. Join guide Roger Jude for a walk round the Waverley Abbey site, describing the Abbey Church ruins, the Chapter House, the Monks’ dormitory and the undercroft of the
Lay Brothers’ dormitory. The terrain is the rough footpaths and grassy surrounds of the Abbey. Sturdy footwear recommended, not suitable for buggies or wheelchairs.

CASTLE STREET ARCHITECTURE WALK, 14.30. 90 minutes. Advance booking essential between 24 August and 4 September at sfbrads@btinternet.com for up to 20 people. Meet outside Lloyds Bank in Castle Street. Retired architect Michael Blower will lead a walk in Castle Street pointing out the architectural treasures of Farnham’s famous Georgian street. The walk includes a visit to the Masonic Centre.

Exhibitions

EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS BY MICHAEL BLOWER
Open Saturday 10 September to Saturday 17 September, Long Kiln Room, Farnham Maltings. A collection of about 40 paintings of the local area by Michael Blower FRIBA AADipl FRSA. Disabled access via lift to first floor. Over the course of 60 years, retired architect Michael Blower of the Farnham practice Stedman Blower has amassed a huge collection of paintings and drawings of the local area. This is a selection of his popular paintings, recently exhibited in Hampstead.

RECRAFTING FARNHAM – CULTIVATING CONSIDERED PLACEMAKING
Open Fri Sat and Sun 11.00-15.00 at The Hive, Woolmead, East Street, GU9 7TS. Following up on two very well attended public discussion sessions held earlier this year, this new “Recrafting Farnham” exhibition will involve planners, conservation officers, highway consultants, landscape consultants and urban designers developing ideas leading towards a workable Masterplan for Farnham.

Art and Craft Highlights

Look for the 🎨 on the entries below.

Public Art

Look out for public art around the town. Some important examples include the new statue of William Cobbett in Longbridge; the Lion and Lamb sculpture in Lion and Lamb Yard; “The Matriarch” in Borelli Yard; the abstract mural “Farnham and the way it sits in hills and valleys” on the front wall of the Post Office in West Street; and the Golden Jubilee mosaic in Mosaic Court at the top of the Central Car park.
FARNHAM CASTLE, KEEP AND DEER PARK

900 years of living history

Tea at the Bishops Palace, Map 1

Open Thursday, 13.00-17.00 for free guided tours (about 90 mins) of the Bishops Palace and grounds. Advance booking essential for tea and music in the Bishops Palace, 01252 721194, info@farnhamcastle.com (full afternoon tea £15 per person, or tea with scones, clotted cream and jam £7 per person). Historical displays by the English Civil War Society. Disabled access to ground floor only, steep stairs within the building. Parking at the castle for disabled only, parking available in Farnham Park (entrance off Folly Hill) with entry to the Castle grounds through the postern gate.

From its prominent position on Castle Hill, Farnham Castle has overlooked the town of Farnham for nearly 900 years, and from the 12th to the 20th centuries it was a home and power base of successive Bishops of Winchester. The 12th century Norman Keep and impressive Bishops Palace, set in elegant grounds, tell the story of the castle’s hundreds of years of almost continuous occupancy. In the 1950s when the castle was no longer needed by the Church Commission it was in danger of being abandoned and left as a romantic ruin. Fortunately, after intervention by the Farnham Society it was let on a full repairing lease to the International Conference and Briefing Centre, which gradually restored the buildings and used them until 2012. Farnham Castle Intercultural Training continues to operate its global business from the Bishops Palace and recently the castle has undergone a successful transformation into a thriving Events, Conference and Wedding venue, while the Norman Keep remains open to the public daily. Kings and Queens of England have visited and been entertained at Farnham Castle since the 12th century and on Thursday 8th September Heritage Open Days visitors are invited to join a guided tour of the Bishop’s Palace and enjoy a delicious afternoon tea in the elegant setting of the Great Hall with music provided by the Farnham Chamber Music Club.

THE CASTLE KEEP AND HISTORY EXHIBITION

Open Mon to Fri 09.00-17.00, Sat and Sun 10.00-16.00. Disabled access to the keep is limited to the ground floor. This is a shell keep, an early 13th century structure enclosing the Norman keep, which dates from 1138. Uneven stone steps lead to the top, with superb views over Farnham and a covered platform from which you can see down into the original 12th century structure. The Living History exhibition is in the stables in the outer courtyard.

FARNHAM PARK

Pedestrian entrance off High Park Road, vehicle entrance off Folly Hill. The historic Bishops’ deer park, established around 1376, now a public park, with open landscape, ancient trees and wonderful views. Much of the parkland is now managed to encourage wildlife. (Two guided walks available, on Saturday 10th and Sunday 18th September, see p.5.)
A walk around the town
Your step by step guide to properties on view in Farnham town centre

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

Chapel of Rest, West Street Cemetery, Map 2.
Open Thur-Sat 10.00-16.00. Wheelchair accessible.

The West Street cemetery was opened in 1856 by the newly appointed Farnham Burial Board. The Chapel of Rest is a Grade II Listed Building, constructed of the local chalk ‘clunch’ or malmstone. The Chapel was closed in the 1980s and was empty for many years but it has recently been beautifully restored by Farnham Town Council and let to Ian Bishop, sculptor, who looks forward to welcoming visitors for Heritage Open Days to see demonstrations and work in progress.

RIBA ‘LOVE ARCHITECTURE’ selected building
Museum of Farnham, 38 West Street, Willmer House, Map 3.
Open Thur/Fri 10.00-17.00, Sat/Sun 10.00-16.00. Tours focusing on the history and architecture of the Grade I Listed Building on Thur and Fri, 11.00 and 14.00. Advance booking required, 01252 715094 or museum@farnhammaltings.com. Disabled access to the ground floor, garden and Garden Gallery (entry via side door avoiding steps), stairs within the building. On Sat and Sun The Garden Gallery hosts an exhibition “Farnham’s Potted Past” on the history of Farnham’s pottery industries.

The Museum of Farnham occupies one of Farnham’s only two non-ecclesiastical Grade 1 Listed Buildings, built in 1718 by John Thorne, maltster, hop merchant and gentleman of Farnham. The initials J.T. and date 1718 can be seen on the drainpipe heads to the side of the building. It
is an exceptional symmetrical early Georgian town house with Baroque design influences and many original interior features. The front façade is a tour de force of rubbed and gauged red brickwork with fine putty joints. Behind the house is a sheltered walled garden, with the modern Garden Gallery at the end, used for exhibitions and educational purposes.

**Guitar Village, 80-82 West Street, Map 4.**
Open Thur-Sat, 10.00-18.00. Sun 11.00-17.00. Narrow stairs, disabled access to ground floor only.

The age of the original building is uncertain though it is likely to be 17th century or earlier. It was substantially rebuilt at a later stage using some spectacular ancient timbers. It was restored in 1929, when a Tudor fireplace was revealed, said to be in excellent condition, and made good. In the 19th century this property was owned by a cooper selling tubs, barrels, baskets and bowls. In 1930 it was a pub called The Mitre and it opened as Caffé Piccolo in 1995.

**Caffé Piccolo, 84 West Street, Map 5.**
Welcoming HODs visitors Thur 15.00-16.00. Some steps to parts of the building.

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

**Farnham Library, 28 West Street, Vernon House, Map 6.**
House and library open Thur and Fri 09.30-17.00, Sat 09.30-16.30. Sat at 14.00 and 15.30 in the Culver Room in the old house, two performances by Farnham Rep: “A
POT OF PAINT IN THE PUBLIC’S FACE”, readings of poetry and prose about artists and their work. No advance booking required.

Vernon House partly dates from 1563, with street front dated at 1721, but with later changes following a fire in about 1860. Visit the panelled Culver Room on the ground floor, where Charles I is said to have stayed on his way to his trial and execution in London. The panelling has been recently restored. The library itself is in a new building behind the house and the big garden, with a great cedar tree and some modern sculptures, is terraced down to the river meadows.

20A West Street, Graham & Co., Jewellers, Map 7. Open Thur Fri and Sat 09.30-17.00.

This little shop hides an astonishing secret, an ornately plastered ceiling dating to the mid-17th century which was made for the Earl of Shaftesbury as a ‘pattern’ for a ceiling in his house at Wimborne. The ceiling was later covered up but it was rediscovered in the 20th century. An information sheet will be available.

Lion and Lamb House, Goldsmiths Jewellers, 113 West Street, Map 8. Open Thur and Fri 10.00-16.00, Sat 11.00-15.00.

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. The date 1537 is cut on a brick plaque under the archway entrance to Lion and Lamb Yard but the plaque may have come from somewhere else. By the early 20th century the building was in a very bad condition and was largely reconstructed in 1921 on its original lines. A minstrels gallery overlooks the yard. There is a magnificent carved oak fire surround in the front room.

THE HART AND FALKNER ROAD
The Hart used to lead to the Hart hopground on the site part of which is now the University for the Creative Arts.

RIBA ‘LOVE ARCHITECTURE’ selected building
University for the Creative Arts, Falkner Road, Map 9. Open for tours of the campus guided by architects, with information about
the main buildings. For details and booking information, please email sfbrads@btinternet.com between 24 August and 4 September.

Tours will look at the architecturally interesting and diverse buildings, several of which have won awards. Arts education has been important in Farnham since the 1860s when the original School of Art was established. Over the years the school occupied premises in different parts of Farnham, moving to its present site in Falkner Road in the 1960s, and the little 19th century School of Art has now grown into a fully fledged university – the present University for the Creative Arts which attracts students from all over the world. Tours will look at the 1960s street frontage, and later buildings including the Foyer entrance, the Norman Taylor Student Village and the Elaine Thomas Library.

RIBA ‘LOVE ARCHITECTURE’ selected building
Crafts Study Centre, Falkner Road, Map 9, see photo front cover.
Open daily, Tues to Fri 10.00 to 17.00; Sat 10.00-16.00. On Thur Fri and Sat at 11.00, guided tours led by the Director or Curator. Advance booking required, 01252 891450. istocker@ucreative.ac.uk or mmadden@ucreative.ac.uk for up to 8 people per tour. Full disabled access.

Tours of the galleries will include a behind the scenes visit to the research room to see a selected group of objects from the collection not normally on display. The Crafts Study Centre is the University Museum of Modern Craft with works from unrivalled permanent collections and archives of 20th century craft.

The building was designed by London architects A & Q Partnership. Opened in 2002, it is steel-framed with an infill of block work. Contemporary craft has been integrated into the building, including the light installation.

CASTLE STREET
Farnham’s famous Georgian street, a wide panorama leading up to the Castle on the hill. Many of the Georgian frontages were actually added in the 18th century, and the older buildings remain behind the street elevation. On the west side, No. 10 was the site of the Farnham Corn Exchange. The old Farnham Market House, built in the 16th century but demolished in 1866, stood at the foot of the street where the shop pavilions are now.

LOOK OUT FOR: on the east side, Windsor Almshouses, built in 1619 “for the habitation and relief of eight poor honest old impotent persons” according to the plaque on the front; the Nelson Arms, an old pub with a legend claiming that Nelson’s glass eye is embedded in one of the pillars; and Guildford House, just below the castle, a striking Regency-style building on the grand scale.

The Farnham Masonic Centre, 42 Castle Street, (west side) Map 10. Open Sat and Sun, 10.00-16.00. Steep
stairs to first floor, stair lift available. Imposing building dating back to between 1750 and 1800, imparting a real sense of local history and continuity. Previously a school, then the Working Men’s Institute before becoming the Freemasons’ Hall in the 1950s. The Lodge Room will be laid out and the Freemasons Regalia will be on display. Hosts Geoff Swann and Ian Goolding will be there to welcome you, to show you the attraction and intrigue that is Farnham Masonry. Visitors will be encouraged to ask questions about Masonry in general and in particular Farnham Freemasonry.

Zizzi’s, 68 Castle Street (east side) Map 11.
Welcoming HODs visitors Thur 10.00-16.00. Disabled access to ground floor.

This was the home of the Castle Theatre, founded in the 1940s in what was then a barn, by an itinerant troupe of actors returning from France. By the early 1970s the theatre had become so popular that it had outgrown its capacity of 167 seats, and the new Redgrave Theatre was built with public subscription in Brightwells Road where it continued until it closed in 1998. There are pictures of the Castle Theatre in the upstairs restaurant at Zizzi’s and the staff are looking forward to welcoming visitors and showing them around.

THE BOROUGH
The Borough runs east and west across the foot of Castle Street.
LOOK OUT FOR: The Town Hall Buildings (despite its name, not the council offices) at the foot of Castle Street, built in the 1930s replacing the earlier neo-Gothic Corn Exchange. Note the clock tower with its weather vane carrying an image of Francis Drake’s ship the Golden Hind, representing the Ship of Plenty, also the fine colonnade in the Borough, with ceiling moulding and alternating brick and stone columns. The Bailiff’s Hall at the eastern end was rebuilt by the Farnham architect Harold Falkner in a style which imaginatively recreates its older, possibly 16th century appearance, with a tall decorative brick chimney salvaged from Norman Shaw’s Knights Bank in Castle Street (demolished in the 1930s and replaced with the present Lloyds Bank building).

SOUTH STREET
South Street, first known as New Road, was built in 1869 to provide direct access from the town to the new railway station. On the west side there are some handsome Victorian
and Edwardian buildings. LOOK OUT FOR: The Farnham Institute (now the Bush Hotel Conference Centre) opened in 1891, designed by the architect Paxton Hood Watson. Note the relief murals on the south wall, symbolising learning. Also The Mercure Bush Hotel, an ancient inn dating back to the 17th century or earlier, with modern extensions at the rear. Visit the panelled Oak Lounge with a rare indoor sundial on the ceiling and 18th century murals. Sit with a cup of coffee or tea in the old coaching yard with its fountain, or in the peaceful rear garden with shady yew trees.

Farnham United Reformed Church, (opposite Sainsburys) Map 12. Open Thur and Fri 10.00-14.00, Sat 10.00-12.00, with displays illustrating the history of the building. Full disabled access, disabled toilet in The Spire coffee shop. The church with its lofty steeple was designed in 1872 by architect Thomas Wonnacott for the Congregational Church, with 20th century additions by Farnham architect Arthur Stedman.

The Victoria Garden, off South Street by Sainsburys car park, Map 13. Open daily 09.00-17.00. Full disabled access. A charming little flower-filled oasis with works of art and craft, next to Sainsburys car park. It is run and funded by volunteers, and was created in 1997 to mark the centenary of the opening in 1897 of Farnham’s first open-air swimming bath commemorating Queen Victoria’s Diamond Jubilee. The impressive brick entrance archway is by Farnham architect Harold Falkner. Note the original arts and crafts lettering over the windows, and the modern oak panel also with arts and crafts lettering under the arch recording the opening of the garden in 1997. Art and craft features: inside the garden, look for the bronze statue by sculptor Jane Jones of a little shivering boy standing at the edge of the swimming bath; the mosaic hopscotch pitch; and ceramic wall plaque also by Jane Jones, marking two Diamond Jubilees, those of Queen Victoria and Queen Elizabeth II. The garden also features a lifesize chessboard and a box maze for children.

Farnham Council Offices, Map 14. Open Thur and Fri 9.30-16.00, Sat 10.00-16.00. The Tindle Suite on the ground floor and the Council Chamber on the first floor will be open with local paintings, maps and heritage items on display.
Full disabled access (lift to first floor) and disabled toilet.
The building, opened in 1903, was designed for Farnham Urban District Council by architect Paxton Hood Watson in neo-Georgian style and included the town’s Fire Station. A rear extension was added in the 1990s.

UNION ROAD
Union Road was built in the 19th century to connect the new South Street with Downing Street. Gostrey Meadow with the river running through between sloping grassy banks is beside the road and has a children’s play area. Note the drinking fountain by Farnham architect Harold Falkner at the Union Road entrance.

LOOK OUT FOR: *Church House*, Farnham’s best Arts and Crafts building.

The Old Court House, Map 15.
Tours of the building (one hour) Thur and Fri 10.00. Advance booking essential, 01252 735667. Numbers are limited. Steep stairs to upstairs court room.
Set back behind railings, the Old Court House was built in 1888 as Farnham’s police station. The tours include a visit to the Magistrate’s Room and part of the old Court (up steep stairs). One of the cells has been preserved, so you can imagine yourself in custody! Tea or coffee and biscuits will be offered at the end of the tour. The building is now the head office of Tindle Newspapers Ltd. and is opened for Heritage Open Days by the generosity of Sir Ray Tindle.

LONGBRIDGE, BRIDGE SQUARE AND RED LION LANE
The William Cobbett pub in Bridge Square is the birthplace of William Cobbett, 1763-1835, the great soldier, politician and author of “Rural Rides”. A major new sculpture by the late Sheila Mitchell FRBS representing Cobbett on his horse has just been unveiled at the newly built Hawthorn Lodge in Longbridge. The areas around Longbridge, where the old ford crossed the river, and around the parish church are thought to be the oldest part of Farnham, settled in the Saxon period. Before the Farnham Bypass was built, the narrow little Red Lion Lane was a main traffic route through Farnham!

LOOK OUT FOR: The late 15th century Tanyard House, next to the Maltings, and painted signs saying “Sampson Licensed Maltster” and “Farnham United Brewery” recalling the hop industry, on the Maltings buildings.

Farnham Maltings, Red Lion Lane, Map 16.
Public areas open Thur and Fri
A military Fair will be taking place on Sun. Special event: Sat 14.00 to 16.00, Pop-up Craft for Families – drop-in intergenerational craft activities for families. Full disabled access to main public areas, disabled toilet.

EXHIBITION: an exhibition of paintings by Michael Blower FRIBA, AADipl, FRSA, open from Sat 10 Sept to Sat 17 Sept, in the Long Kiln Room. A collection of some of Michael Blower’s popular paintings of buildings in the local area, produced over the 60 years in which he has lived in Farnham and run his architectural practice in the town.

Farnham Maltings is an old Maltings and tannery, now a thriving arts and community centre with Riverside coffee shop. It was saved from demolition in 1969 by the people of Farnham who raised £30,000 to buy it from the owners, the brewers Courages.

LOWER, MIDDLE AND UPPER CHURCH LANES, VICARAGE LANE

The Church Lanes form three sides of a square off Downing Street, with St Andrew’s Parish Church and churchyard facing Middle Church Lane. The Rectory stands at the junction of Middle and Upper Church Lanes. Lower Church Lane retains its ironstone cobbles with a drainage channel in the middle, into which people used to throw their slops from their upper windows, warning passers-by with a cry of “Gardy loo” (gardez l’eau)!

New Ashgate Gallery, Lower Church Lane, entrance in Waggon Yard car park, Map 17. Open Thur to Sat 10.00-17.00. Free exhibitions include Hothouse 6. Meet the best new award-winning makers, Katherine Lees (ceramics) and Scenes in Print by Tim Southall, also prints of Farnham scenes by John Bryce. The exhibitions demonstrate the value and importance of innovative handmade craft. Colouring activities for children. Full disabled access.

The Gallery, run by a not-for-profit trust, cultivates the pursuit of excellence in a marketplace environment. It is celebrating the 50th anniversary of its occupation of this 17th century Grade II listed property. Once the site of a pub called The Feathers, it is one of the few buildings which survived the 1960s clearance of the area now the car park. The New Ashgate is a fine arts and crafts gallery showing work of an exceptionally high standard.

The Old Vicarage, Vicarage Lane, off Lower Church Lane, Map 18. Open Sat only, for tours at 14.00,
15.00 and 16.00, guided by Rod Wild, tree ring dating expert. Advance booking essential between 24 August and 4 September for up to 12 people per tour, catherinecook@onetel.com.

This is probably the oldest domestic building in Farnham, listed Grade II*. It was built in 1418 by Henry Beaufort, Archdeacon of Surrey as his ecclesiastical court house. The rear garden leads down to the river.

St Andrew’s Parish Church, Middle Church Lane, Map 19. Open Thur to Sun 09.00-17.00. On Sat 12.00-16.00, Parish Fayre – family fun with parachuting Teddies, Mr Giant the Big Entertainer, stalls, a Grand Draw and more.
St Andrew’s Church is a Grade I Listed Building on the site of an earlier Saxon church. Parts of a Norman structure remain but the main part is 15th century, extensively remodelled in the 19th century when the church tower was raised in height.

Features: the Great East stained glass window has five lights depicting the Life of Christ. Installed in 1853, it was designed by pioneering Gothic Revival architect A.W.N. Pugin and had previously been shown at the Great Exhibition in Hyde Park in the same year.

On the south west buttress of the West tower is a simple stone tablet with elegant carved lettering designed by Eric Gill, commemorating the life of the noted Farnham author George Sturt.

RIBA ‘LOVE ARCHITECTURE’ selected building
The Pavilions, St Andrew’s Church, designed by Ptolemy Dean, 2005. Winner of Waverley Design Awards 2005.
The West End pavilions, providing two meeting rooms, a kitchen and a gallery, were designed to evoke memories of the Georgian box pews removed during the Victorian re-ordering. Ptolemy Dean also designed the new organ casement. Further information will be available for visitors during Heritage Open Days.

St Andrew’s CE Infant School, Upper Church Lane, Map 20. Open Sat 12.00 to 16.00. An opportunity to have a wander round the school and study log books and photographs covering its history. Some steps and narrow passages.
This lovely little Victorian school was opened in February 1860 by Bishop Sumner on a site known as Parsonage
Yard. It is built in the neo-Gothic style, in the same pale clunch stone as the church. The two cottages next to Church Passage, also of clunch and in the neo-Gothic style, were built for the headmaster and headmistress of the school (these properties are not open to visitors).

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

Hone’s Yard, Downing Street, next to Hone’s Greengrocers (shop now closed), Map 21.

Open Thur and Fri 09.00-17.00 for unattended visits to the yard. On Sat, from 12.00 to 15.00 there will be a small display of local hop growing with guide Chris Cleland present to do short tours.
Site of an old farm and a fascinating glimpse of the local hop industry with 17th century barns and a 19th century hop kiln.

Ivy House, Ivy Lane, off Downing Street (Farnham Conservative Club), Map 22.
Open Sun 12.00-16.00. Disabled access to ground floor, steep stairs to first floor.
The house is likely to have been built about 1700 and at the time would have been one of Farnham’s largest town houses, surrounded by fields and meadows and with uninterrupted views of the countryside to the south-east. In the late 19th century there was a corset factory in outbuildings, and in 1901 an outdoor rifle range for ladies was opened in the grounds. It was bought by The Farnham Working Men’s Conservative Club in 1894.
THE FARNHAM SOCIETY

Protecting our heritage, shaping our future

MEMBERSHIP

The Farnham Society aims to promote the highest standards of planning, architecture and traffic management in Farnham and its surrounding area. 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. It also gives you the opportunity to attend evening lectures at a reduced price and with other members enjoy interesting visits throughout the year.

Join via our website www.farnhamsociety.org.uk or contact our Membership Secretary: David Berry, 16 Monks Well, Farnham GU10 1RH
Tel. 01252 781801 dc.berry@outlook.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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A selection of Farnham’s magnificent outlying properties

WRECCLESHAM

This year four very interesting properties are open in Wrecclesham. This historic village has its own Conservation Area and many Listed Buildings from the 16th century onwards. It has grown from what used to be a small agricultural community of only 700 people, completely separate from Farnham, a place where life was hard for the inhabitants with only seasonal work, no sanitation and water supply dependent on wells or the river. In the 19th century the village was surrounded by hop grounds and many of the farm workers took their wages in ale, which may explain their reputation for heavy drinking. The building of St Peter’s Church in 1840, and the arrival soon afterwards of the school, had a calming influence however!

RIBA ‘LOVE
ARCHITECTURE’

selected building
Farnham Pottery,
Quennells Hill, GU10 4QJ
(off A325 through Wrecclesham).
Open Sat and Sun 10.00 to 16.00. The
buildings are the centrepiece of the
exhibition with exhibits of Harris ware
and production artefacts. Guided
tours available. Disabled access to
ground floor, uneven floors and steep
stairs. Disabled toilet.
The Farnham Pottery is a very rare
surviving example of a Victorian
country pottery. It was opened in
1872 by farmer potter Absalom Harris,
trading as A. Harris & Sons and using
old farm buildings which the potters
extended as the need arose. They
used their own materials and artefacts
including tiles, bricks, windows and
drainpipes and these can be seen
today. Over the years there has been
only minor modernisation of the
buildings which have remained much
as they were when built. Previously very
successful, the Harris business began
to struggle in the postwar years and
ceased trading in 2000. In 1998 when
the land and unique buildings were in
danger of imminent demolition the
property was acquired by the Farnham
Building Preservation Trust which
over twelve years carried out essential
structural repairs, gradually bringing
workshops back into use. Farnham
Pottery, now privately owned, is run as
a very successful centre for ceramics
and creative industries.

Developing the Heritage Open Days
2016 theme of Art and Craft in Farnham,
the exhibitions and tours will seek
to illustrate and connect the historic
industrial pottery of the Harris era with
the craft activities on the site today.

St Peter’s Church, Beales Lane
(off School Hill).
Open Thur to Sat 10.00-12.00 and
14.00-16.00, Sun 14.00-16.00 with
display boards relating to the church
and the village of Wrecclesham. Slide presentations will be shown during the opening hours. Full disabled access. St Peter’s Church was built in 1840, then rebuilt and enlarged in 1876. It has recently been extensively refurbished with provision of full disabled access a key feature of the refurbishment. Parishioners and members of the Wrecclesham History Project will be in attendance to assist visitors.

Yew Tree Cottage, 68 The Street, GU10 4QR (next to Riverdale turning, parking in Recreation Ground car park).
Open Thur and Fri for tours of the ground floor at 11.00 and 14.00. Advance booking essential between 24 August and 4 September for up to 15 people per tour, hods@dcsv.co.uk.

Steps down to lower level in the house, and steps in the garden with no handrail. Yew Tree Cottage is a Grade II Listed Building. Tree ring dating has given a date of 1561 for the oldest part of the building. It is one of the oldest buildings in Wrecclesham and is currently under restoration by the Farnham Building Preservation Trust.

Partridge House, 102 The Street, GU10 4QR (parking in Recreation Ground car park, short walk up the hill).
Open Sun for tours at 14.00 and 15.00. Advance booking essential between 24 August and 4 September, catherinecook@onetel.com for up to 10 people. Steps with handrail on front path and at front door. Steps within building.
Partridge House is a Grade II Listed Building, the oldest part of which is believed to have been built in the early 15th century. Two bays remain of an open hall house with crown post roof. The missing bays are replaced with 18th century additions. Soot blackened trusses are visible, plus an open section of wattle and daub. The brick floor is thought to have been laid over the dirt floor about 400 years ago. It was a pub called The Dog and Partridge, one of many 19th century pubs in Wrecclesham when the village was a centre for hop growing.

THE BOURNE

Church of St Thomas-on-the Bourne, A287 Frensham Road, GU9 8HA.
Open Sat 11.00-13.00. There is much fine stained glass in the church, and in 1985 students from the art college competed to make and design a set of seven creation windows, in the frontage of the church rooms. Tea and
coffee will be available. Full disabled access, parking and toilet.
The Church was built before and after World War 1, replacing an older church a short distance away in Vicarage Hill. The Bourne Old Churchyard still remains on the old site, with a lych gate and some interesting monuments.

MOOR PARK AND WAVERLEY

Moor Park
House, Moor Park Lane (off Moor Park Way), GU10 1FE.
Open Sat for guided tours at 10.30 and 14.30, approx. 1 ½ hours each. No advance booking required. Tours will take visitors round the outside of Moor Park House and around the grounds. Park off road in the field opposite and meet at the main entrance gate. Mostly level ground, some steps, cobbled courtyard.
Moor Park House is one of Farnham’s historic great houses, listed Grade II, bought in the 1680s by Sir William Temple who laid out five acres of superb formal gardens. Most of the present house dates from the 18th century, with outbuildings and the clock tower added in the 19th century.

Waverley Abbey House,
Waverley Lane, GU9 8EP.
Open Sun, 10.00-16.00. Guided tours of the interior of the house, no advance booking required. Access to the grounds.
Magnificent Grade II* Listed mansion with lake, opposite Waverley Abbey ruins. The original house was built in 1723 by Sir John Aislabie MP using stone from the abbey ruins, but it was rebuilt and extended in the 19th century following a fire. In the First World War it was a military hospital and later it was converted to apartments. Since the 1980s the present owners have carried out careful and extensive restoration and it is now a venue for conferences and events.

Waverley Abbey ruins, off Waverley Lane, GU9 8EP, next to Waverley Abbey House.
Open all the time. Two tours 90 mins each, Sun 09.00 and 11.00, with guide Roger Jude. Advance booking essential between 24 August and 4 September, sfbrads@btinternet.com for up to 30 people per tour. Meet in the car park. Grassed areas and rough footpaths, wear suitable shoes.
The ruins of Waverley Abbey are a hauntingly atmospheric and peaceful place, hidden in the river meadows and hardly visible from the road. The Abbey Church was founded in 1128, the first Cistercian abbey to be established in England. It was suppressed by Henry VIII in 1536 during the Dissolution. Tours will take in the Chapter House, the Monks’ dormitory and the undercroft of the Lay Brothers’ dormitory.

FRENSHAM

Ellel Pierrepont, Frensham
GU10 3DL (off A287 in Frensham).
Open Sat 13.00 to 14.30 for tour of the main house and grounds with guide Sam Osmond. Advance booking essential between 24 August and 4 September, catherinecook@onetel.com for up to 15 people. Disabled access to most areas. This house, dated 1876 is a magnificent example of Richard Norman Shaw’s ‘Old English’ style with Aesthetic Movement interiors. It was built for Richard Henry Combe, brewer, of Watney Combe and Reid. The house is now owned by Ellel Ministries.

ROWLEDGE

RIBA LOVE
ARCHITECTURE
selected building
Aldridge Theatre, Frensham Heights School, Rowledge, GU10 4EA (off the Long Road in Rowledge). Open Thur 18.00-20.00 and Fri 17.00-19.00. Advance booking essential, info@frensham.org for up to 30 people on each day. An opportunity to see the award winning theatre and its newly built ‘cousin’ housing the drama and photography studios. The Aldridge Theatre is situated in the grounds of a listed Edwardian mansion built in 1902 for brewer Charrington, with glorious views across National Trust woods and farmlands, in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The theatre, designed by architects Burrell Foley Fischer LLP in 2000 is purpose built for teaching and public performance and has won several awards including the Royal Fine Art Commission/Sky TV Building of the Year Award in the Education category.

RUNFOLD

The Antiques Warehouse, Badshot Farm, St George’s Road, Runfold GU10 1PL. From A31 towards Guildford, follow signs to Runfold and the Antiques Warehouse. Open Thur Fri Sat and Sun 10.30-17.00. On Sun from 14.00, Antiques Road Show! You are invited to bring along your treasures to be identified and valued by local expert Gordon Patrick. Demonstrations of chair caning, gilding and traditional upholstery. Disabled access, four shallow steps with handrails. The Antiques Warehouse occupies two stunning listed Elizabethan tithe barns, possibly the finest unadulterated examples of their kind, on a farm complex in open countryside.
Farnham Town Council

Farnham Town Council was created in 1984 and has 18 elected councillors who represent nine wards and a total population of around 40,000 people.

The Town Council works closely with local resident groups, community organisations and other local authorities such as Waverley Borough Council and Surrey County Council.

Farnham Town Council’s services include:

- Allotments
- Annual Town Meeting of electors
- CCTV and community safety
- Christmas lights
- Civic events
- Cemeteries
- Community enhancement including:
  - Farnham in Bloom
  - Noticeboards
  - Street furniture
- Farmers’ Markets
- Graffiti removal
- Grants for community organisations
- Planning – statutory consultee
- Managing the South Street Trust
- Managing bookings for street banners above the highway
- Toilets
- Tourism and events
- Town Partnerships /twinning with Andernach (Germany), Woodland Park (USA) and other friendships
- War memorials

The Town Council offices in South Street are open to the public for Heritage Open Days. Visitors can learn about the history of the building, view a temporary exhibition and take a look at historical cemetery records.

To find out more about Farnham Town Council, visit the website

www.farnham.gov.uk

Farnham Town Council, Council Offices, South Street, Farnham, Surrey GU9 7RN
Tel: 01252 712667
The annual Heritage Open Days events in Farnham are brought to you by the Farnham Society, supported by Farnham Town Council. The programme is organised by a small group of volunteers and visitors are invited to come and enjoy four special days when the town will show off its splendid architectural heritage and tradition of arts and crafts.

The Farnham Society thanks all the property owners who generously open their buildings to visitors and organise special events.