

Event «

farnham  
maltings

# Which craft?

Festival OF Crafts 2015

Saturday 17 &  
Sunday 18 October

£3

Image credit: Illustration by Telegramme, commissioned by Farnham Maltings; Shell ring by Donna Collinson

It's time to dust off that sewing machine and get busy! On October 17th and 18th, creative makers will return to Farnham to share their skills at what has become one of Britain's leading independent craft festivals, writes **Liz Nicholls**

Farnham Maltings' annual festival of crafts is now in its 19th year. Since its launch in 1996, the festival has consistently attracted about 2,000 craft and making enthusiasts from across the country.

Visitors can enjoy contemporary craft in all its forms and the event will offer a busy marketplace showcasing work from more than 70 of the best makers in the UK today. Local craft organisations taking part include 318 Ceramics, the Craft Study Centre, and the Surrey Guild of Craftsman, with members on hand to encourage visitors to try their hand at new crafts. There will be a selection of free, hour-long workshops for craft-lovers of all ages and levels. One highlight includes willow-weaving with Judith Needham, a willow worker and basketmaker who specialises in fairytale playhouses and dens for children (and from ceramics, to jewellery and furniture design).

If it's shopping rather than making you're after, you can browse all manner of wares, from ceramics to jewellery and furniture design.

"Craft is the country's most popular hobby with about

one in six of the adult population choosing to take up tools and work with their hands," says Jon Mileman of the Maltings. "There is something special about the everyday making activities – whether knitting, sugar craft, pottery or woodwork – which make us content and have an ability to bring us all together.

"Our enthusiasm for making springs partly from our location. Farnham has a rich tradition in the crafts and the presence of the Crafts Study Centre, the University for the Creative Arts, Farnham Pottery, the Rural Life Centre and the New Ashgate, alongside the Maltings, means we have access to a unique blend of entrepreneurial, academic and creative expertise. It's no surprise Farnham now has a reputation as a craft town – replicating Hay-on-Wye's success as a national centre for books. We believe this places us in a strong position to raise the ambition and impact of the crafts across the region, ensure they prosper and are celebrated."

● Festival of craft runs Saturday 17th 10am–5pm and Sunday 18th October 2015, 10am–4pm Sunday. Tickets: £3, including festival catalogue; free for under-15s. Visit [www.farnhammaltings.com](http://www.farnhammaltings.com) or call **01252 745444**.