

LET'S CELEBRATE A TRUE DEMOCRAT

We are grateful for ongoing support and encouragement from:

- Sir Ray Tindle and the Tindle Newspapers
- Museum of Farnham and the Museum Society
- The Farnham Castle Briefing and Conference Centre
 - Farnham Town Council
 - The University of the Creative Arts
 - The Maltings

and organisers of the Carnival, Beerex, the Heritage Open Days and many others

If either you or your organization, would like to participate in the 250th Anniversary Celebrations, or learn more about the William Cobbett Society, please contact Richard Thomas (rht2010@talktalk.net), Charles Stuart (charles.stuart@talktalk.net), Stewart Edge (stewartdedge@hotmail.co.uk) or Gloria Dyche (01252) 722947

Blog: www.williamcobbett.org Twitter @RuralRides



Cobbett's gridiron sign used as the masthead for his Political Register and the logo of the Cobbett Society

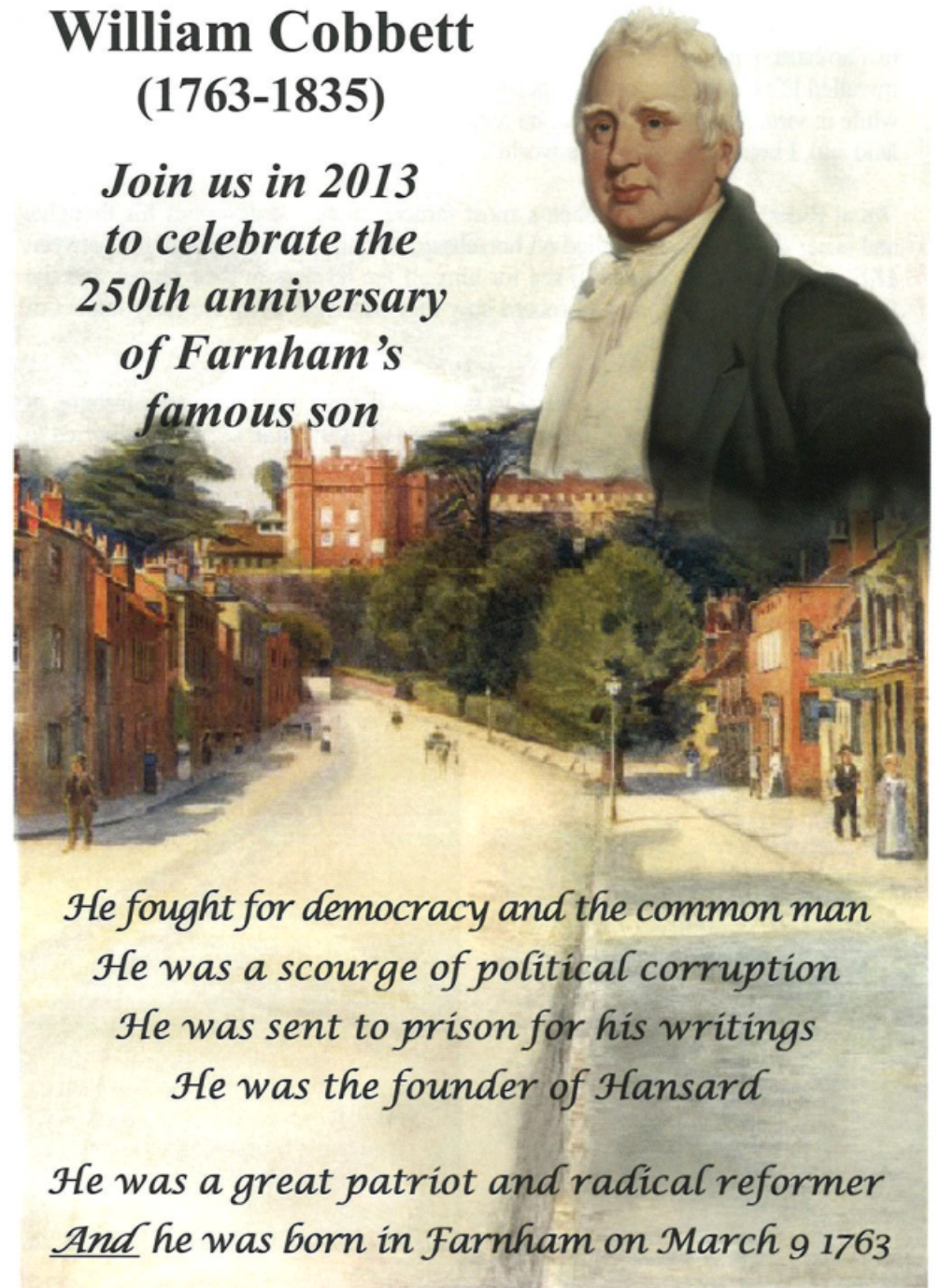
"Put me on a gridiron and broil me alive if I am wrong."

Supported by



William Cobbett (1763-1835)

*Join us in 2013
to celebrate the
250th anniversary
of Farnham's
famous son*



*He fought for democracy and the common man
He was a scourge of political corruption
He was sent to prison for his writings
He was the founder of Hansard*

*He was a great patriot and radical reformer
And he was born in Farnham on March 9 1763*

William Cobbett was born on March 9th 1763 at 'The Jolly Farmer' public house in Farnham, renamed 'The William Cobbett' in recent years. Throughout his much travelled life Cobbett retained a special affection for his native Farnham. In 1819, while in virtual exile in America, he recalled that the town was 'the neatest in England and, I believe, in the whole world'.

'Rural Rides' is probably Cobbett's most famous work. It describes his thoughts and observations as he travelled on horseback, through Southern England, between 1822 and 1826. He wanted to see for himself the farmers in their homes and the labourers in their fields, and to record how they survived under the early impact of the industrial revolution.

Surrey and Hampshire were central to his life. He spent his last years farming at Normandy, to the north of Farnham. He died on the 18th June 1835 and is buried in the churchyard of Farnham Parish Church.



The William Cobbett Public House, Cobbett's birthplace



St. Andrew's Parish Church - Cobbett's tomb in churchyard



Museum of Farnham, West Street - William Cobbett Collection

We believe we should celebrate the 250th anniversary of his birth in order to do justice to his inspiration and achievements. Farnham will honour his name and acknowledge his legacy, which is as important and relevant today as it was in his time.

The Farnham Town Council and the William Cobbett Society are beginning to plan the celebrations. There will be many opportunities for local organisations to participate. The William Cobbett Society will re-enact some of his 'Rural Rides'; Cobbett 'Walks' will be conducted around Farnham. Further events will be held at the Museum, the Castle and the Maltings.

Cobbett was a compulsive writer and the foremost political journalist and polemicist of his period. He was not just a 'friend of the poor' and nostalgic for an idealised rural England; he also wrote on the Church of England, Gardening, Grammar, Paper Money, Cities (he hated London), Education, Parliamentary Reform, and the Press. He was usually contentious, sometimes contradictory, always readable and often funny.

*His words ring down
the centuries*



"It is upon the hungry and wretched that the fanatic works. The dejected and forlorn are his prey" (Cottage Economy).

"The press, whose trade is to buoy up the spirits of the people, have uttered falsehoods so long, have played so many tricks that (their work) seems quite empty".

