

PICK OF THE MARKET

THREE RESIDENTIAL MARKET LEADERS SET OUT THEIR STALLS FOR **CHERYL MARKOSKY**



Farnham Park in Surrey / Peter Sterling / iStock

Popular market towns aren't prized just because they literally have thriving weekday or farmers' markets. In the cool age of Netflix where we want the best of everything now, these locations also offer instant satisfaction in town and country living.

"Farnham, Haslemere and Alton are sought-after areas for Londoners wanting to leave the city, but not wanting to leave it far behind," explains Jamie Freeman of Haringtons.

All three places suit commuters keen to retain access to the buzzy capital, while enjoying close proximity to train stations, good road networks and lovely countryside, he adds.



ACACIA GARDENS, WRECCLESHAM, FARNHAM FROM £365,000

Only two miles from the traditional market town of Farnham, new two-, three- and four-bed homes with Help to Buy and part exchange. Ideal for commuters, with direct trains to Waterloo taking only 52 minutes. www.bewley.co.uk



GOLDCREST, RUSHMOOR, FARNHAM £950,000

Renovated in 2016, a three-bed house close to Frensham Common with bespoke oak and glass staircase, and dining/sitting room with log burner that opens out onto the garden. www.savills.com



VILLIERS HOUSE, LOWER BOURNE, FARNHAM

£1,850,000

Built by Millgate Homes, this detached six-bedroom house comes with a bespoke kitchen, gym, and en suites attached to master and guest bedrooms. Close to Bourne Infant School and a village green with tennis courts. www.burnsandwebber.com

FARNHAM, SURREY

WHAT'S SPECIAL A medieval deer park, 12th-century castle, Georgian architecture, National Trust land, Raymond Blanc's Brasserie Blanc, Rosemoor Kitchen, Waitrose, Oliver Bonas, Apothecary, Whistles, Elphicks department store, The Lion and Lamb Yard, a monthly farmers' market, and arts centre Farnham Maltings.

WHAT'S NEW Brightwells Yard (Crest Nicholson) and Froyle Park (Linden Homes).

CONNECTIONS Speedy commute to London Waterloo (53 minutes), and a 30- to 40-minute drive to Heathrow.

Second-class annual ticket £4,152.

SCHOOLS Excellent education establishments are certainly a draw for families from the capital, suggests Rory McKenzie of Savills. "Having league-topping schools, such as South Farnham, Bourne Infant and Weydon, on your doorstep is a key factor when swapping Fulham for Farnham."

PROPERTY PRICES Millie Yeomans of Burns & Webber notes that a two-bedroom cottage in town starts at £380,000, and

a grander three-bed place is valued from £800,000 and upwards.

"A detached four-bedroom house in south Farnham costs about £1.1 million, while a four-bed semi in a nearby village is £750,000," says Strutt & Parker's Richard Banes-Walker.

Zoopla average asking price £624,409.

HOT TIPS "The village of Wrecclesham on the south side of Farnham is good value, with a three-bed detached house starting at a sensible £570,000." Millie Yeomans of Burns & Webber

"Think about where you need to get to when taking your kids to school or going to work. There can be some traffic during rush hour, so rather than rely solely on online research, do come and take a look." Richard Banes-Walker, Strutt & Parker

"Farnham suits those making that first move out of London, as you can enjoy upmarket shops and good places to eat, but still get back into the city to go to the theatre or check out a new exhibition at an art gallery." Bill Spreckley, Stacks Property Search and Acquisition

HASLEMERE, SURREY

WHAT'S SPECIAL Arthur, the Siberian bear mascot of Haslemere Educational Museum; Haslemere Town Band (one of the oldest brass bands in the country), Hengelo (for women's clothing), Oasis, Space NK, Pizzza Express, Waitrose, regular farmers' market, and good pubs such as The Lickfold Inn, The Duke of Cumberland and The Rising Sun. Also, posh sporting events like racing at Goodwood, polo at Cowdray Park and sailing off the south coast at Chichester are de rigueur in this neck of the woods.

WHAT'S NEW King Edward VII Estate (City & Country), Bramshott Place (Inspired Villages), and a one-off contemporary five-bed house in Farnham Lane (through savills.com).

CONNECTIONS Good links to the A3 for the M25, London, Gatwick, Heathrow and the south coast.

You're less likely to encounter much riff-raff on your daily commute, as it's believed the town has the highest number of first-class season ticket holders in the country.

Commuting's fantastic, with five direct trains an hour to Waterloo in 49 minutes, according to Strutt & Parker's James Brine. "You can get a seat on the train – unlike at Guildford and Godalming – and the station car park's been upgraded and doubled in size."

However, there's currently a two-and-a-half-year waiting list to bag a space for

your vehicle in the station car park, cautions Stacks's Bill Spreckley.

Second-class annual season ticket £4,240.

SCHOOLS Knight Frank's Russell Grieve points out that there's an excellent choice of schools, including Grayswood C of E Primary, St Bartholomew's C of E Primary, The Royal Senior, St Ives Prep, St Edmund's, The Royal Junior, Highfield and Charterhouse.

PROPERTY PRICES "Expect to pay a bit more in Haslemere, compared to Farnham and Alton, as prices are nearly as high as in the Guildford area," comments Jamie Freeman of Haringtons.

Zoopla average asking price £645,199.

HOT TIPS "Dog walking groups have formed at King Edward VII Estate, because we allow pets. We even have a dog washing facility with hose, dog shampoo and towels." Suzanne Aplin, City & Country

"Bramshott Place in Liphook, with its own walking trail and just a 15-minute drive from Haslemere, is in its final phase of two- and three-bedroom retirement cottages." James Cobb, Inspired Villages

"It's a good time to buy a home in Haslemere, as prices are depressed somewhat. You can negotiate with a seller who's keen to move on." Bill Spreckley, Stacks Property Search and Acquisition



THE FORGE, HASLEMERE

£1,350,000

A blend of period and contemporary in this 18th-century country house with exposed oak beams, inglenook fireplaces and an original bread oven. Landscaped gardens of 1.2 acres surround the country retreat.

www.knightfrank.co.uk



FORESTERS COTTAGE, HASLEMERE

£950,000

Just three miles from Haslemere's centre, this 1920s house has four bedrooms, drawing and dining rooms, over half an acre of land, and potential to extend outwards.

www.struttandparker.com



BRAMSHOTT PLACE, LIPHOOK, HASLEMERE

FROM £295,000

Retirees in cottages and apartments can enjoy the pool, gym, games room, restaurant, bar, library and 50 acres of parkland at Inspired Villages' scheme, just over four miles from Haslemere.

www.bramshottplace.co.uk



KING EDWARD VII ESTATE, MIDHURST, HASLEMERE

FROM £265,000

Spacious one- and two-bed apartments in a converted Arts-and-Crafts sanatorium with a grand communal lounge, and a quiet sanctuary overlooking Gertrude Jekyll gardens and the South Downs National Park.

www.cityandcountry.co.uk



MAYGATE PLACE, MEDSTEAD, ALTON

FROM £375,000

Bijou scheme of 17 two- and three-bed houses, each with a sunroom, terrace or garden, allocated parking, and pets are allowed. Rural setting, but within easy reach of the shops.

www.beechcroft.co.uk



MAPLE FIELDS, ALTON

FROM £369,950

A comfortable locale between town and country, these 82 three- to five-bed homes are less than a mile from Alton's town centre and train station.

www.martingranthomes.co.uk



ALTON, SURREY

WHAT'S SPECIAL Quaint High Street with butcher, post office, Sainsbury's and Waitrose; Denstone Farm Shop, The Bull's Head pub, traditional weekly street market, and the attractive surrounding villages of Long Sutton, Upton Grey, Wield, Bentworth, Upper and Lower Farringdon. And one for the future: Alton's getting a new sports centre that will have a spa and large pool.

WHAT'S NEW Maple Fields (Martin Grant Homes).

CONNECTIONS Great communication links via Alton station and the A31, leading to the A3 or M3 into London, says The Buying Solution's Bobby Hall. "The train takes about 70 minutes into London Waterloo, making it a viable option for commuters."

Second-class annual ticket £4,336.

SCHOOLS Schools are a big draw, says Robb Grant of Martin Grant Homes. Notable educational favourites include Eggar's, Alton Infants, Alton School, Amery Hill, Anstey Junior, Perins and Alton College.

PROPERTY PRICES Affordable house prices compared to neighbouring Farnham or Guildford.

Zoopla average asking price £484,110.

HOT TIPS "There are wonderful villages around Alton – such as Selborne, and East and West Worldham – that have a very rural feel about them." Rory McKenzie, Savills

"The countryside outside Alton is welcoming. When you drive down the lane by Maple Fields, there are just fields behind us." Robb Grant, Martin Grant Homes