

Free- pick me up!



heritage open days

THE PROGRAMME

GODALMING & ENVIRONS

SATURDAY 19TH TO SUNDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER 2026



Heritage Open Days in Godalming & Environs are organised by The Godalming Trust

Heritage Open Days which are England's contribution to a Pan-European event initiated by the Council of Europe (not the EU) has been in existence for over 30 years. The central principle is to offer free access to buildings which are normally closed to the public but now it includes tours and events which bring local history to life. Nationally, Heritage Open Days is coordinated by the National Trust with support from players of People's Postcode Lottery. Locally, it would not be possible without the support of individuals, businesses and organisations who give up their time to pass on their knowledge and enthusiasm for both the buildings and their associated history.

This year's national theme is 'Everyday Histories' exploring the working lives of the people, some of our properties will be featuring this.

Heritage Open Days is a national event see heritageopendays.org.uk for details of other properties open and of National Trust properties that are freely open during the festival.

Godalming was founded in Anglo-Saxon times; the earliest known reference to it is in the will of King



Alfred in about 890. It started as two settlements, one near to the Parish Church which grew out towards the High Street, the other near the wharf. The rivers and water courses along with the fertile ground and wooded surrounding area made it a good place to settle. Sheep and cattle were grazed

in the more sandy soil out of the river valley.

So at first glance Godalming is much like any other Surrey town, but if you know where to look, you can see signs of its industrial past with its wool trade, framework knitting, leather processing, paper making and stone quarrying. During the 18th and 19th centuries it was more like a northern mill town with a big industrial presence and a large number of non-conformist religions catering for the workers.

A number of National Trust properties are open for free during the Heritage Open Days but do look at property specific websites to check if they do and their opening times under the scheme.

Whatever you choose to do or see this weekend, enjoy this insight into our rich Heritage.

** Note Norrey Grange is open on Thursday 17th September 2026.*

ACCESS TO PROPERTIES

Most properties, all you need to do is turn up during their opening times. However, some require pre-booking. Therefore read all the instructions for booking carefully.

With regard to Munstead Wood, applications for tickets, maximum 2 per person, can only be made on the following website godalming-tc.gov.uk/godalming-heritage-weekend-ticket-requests-2026 between 9am on 10th August until 4pm on 21st August 2026.

As the number of applications is expected to far exceed places available they will be allocated by ballot after the closing date. You will only get an email confirmation if your application is successful and this

should be available to show at the venue. So please take a copy of the email with you.

For all other pre-booked properties tickets will be available at Godalming Town Council Offices, 109 High Street, Godalming from 10am to 12.30pm on Saturday 22nd August and continue to be issued during their office opening hours Monday to Friday 10am-3pm. No telephone or email applications. The Godalming Trust website will be updated to show when bookings are full at thegodalmingtrust.org.uk/.

Please be aware all venues have limited places available. If you are unable to attend any venue please return your tickets or email info@thegodalmingtrust.org.uk to inform them so others can visit. Please note Godalming Museum is not involved in the ticketing of events.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND THANKS

The Godalming Trust wishes to thank Godalming Town Council for their continued support in the promotion of the Heritage Open Days programme. They are also grateful to Jeni Goddard for allowing us to use Stephen's sketches in publicity material and to Stefan Reynolds at VantagePoint for setting the programme. And finally thank you to all those who welcome people to their buildings and events over the weekend without whom there would be no Heritage Open Days.

Neither the Godalming Trust nor any of its representatives can accept any legal responsibility for any accidents or incidents that might occur during HODs. This programme is correct at time of going to press, any changes will be posted in the Peppercot during the weekend and on heritageopendays.org.uk.

In partnership with



Supporting Our Community

AT A GLANCE

Venue	Ticket needed?	Saturday	Sunday
The Pepperpot		10am-4.30pm	10am-4pm
Godalming Museum		10am-4pm	10am-4pm
3 Church Street	Yes	Tours at 10.30am and 12 noon	
St Peter & St Paul Church		1.30pm-4pm	1pm - 4pm
Bellringing	Yes	Tours at 2pm & 3.30pm	
Quaker Meeting House		10am-3pm	
Godalming Masonic Centre		10.30am-3.30pm	
St Mark's Church, Franklyn Road			2pm-4pm
Skillway Workshops			9am-12 noon
St John The Evangelist Church, Farncombe		10am-12 noon	2pm-4pm
Charterhouse	Yes		Tours at 10am, 12.30pm and 2.30pm
Prior's Field School	Yes*		10am-2pm, tours at 11am and 1.30pm
St John The Baptist Church, Busbridge			1pm-4pm
Munstead Wood	Yes*	Tours at 10.30am, 12.30pm and 2.30pm	Tours at 10.30am, 12.30pm and 2.30pm
Norney Grange	Yes	Tour at 10am on Thursday 17th September	
St Peter's Church, Hascombe		10am-4pm (Talk at 3pm)	2pm-4pm
St Mary and All Saints Church, Dunsfold		2pm-5pm	2pm-5pm
St Peter's Church, Hambledon		10am-4pm	1pm-4pm
King Edwards School, Witley	Yes	Tours at 2.30pm and 4pm	
Barrow Hills School			10am-2pm, tours at 11am and 1.30pm
St John The Baptist Church Womersh		10am-1pm	
Godalming Town History Walk			10.30am

*Check entry for booking details
*Online booking only

THE PEPPERPOT High Street, Godalming



Godalming's old Market House and Town Hall, built by public subscription in 1814 to replace the ruinous medieval structure. Designed by local architect John Perry, it has survived several attempts to knock it down for road improvements and has become the "trademark" of Godalming. The seat of the town's politics until the larger council offices

were built in 1908, it then became the town Museum until it moved in 1987. Recently major restoration work has been undertaken to ensure its presence for another 200 years. Come and see the High Street and Church Street from a different viewpoint, and also the Godalming Museum display of a timeline of the town's history. The 'Town's Plate' will be on display at some point during the weekend, this will be announced on the Heritage Open Days website. *Open courtesy of Godalming Town Council.*

Open SATURDAY 10am to 4.30pm and SUNDAY 10am to 4pm.

FREE – JUST TURN UP

GODALMING MUSEUM High Street, Godalming

Godalming Museum was founded in 1921 and is located opposite the Old Town Hall, known as the

Pepperpot. The museum is a friendly and welcoming place for all to visit and tells the story of Godalming and the surrounding area. The fascinating galleries explore the way the town has developed since prehistoric times and tell the stories of famous Godalming residents such as garden designer Gertrude Jekyll, and the Titanic's wireless operator Jack Phillips. The award winning



garden, inspired by Gertrude Jekyll, offers visitors a place to sit and enjoy refreshments. Our September temporary exhibition Godalming in Miniature explores the town through the eyes of a local artist. During the weekend

there will be opportunities for visitors (both young and old) to get involved in hands-on crafts inspired by the local paper-making and weaving industries. Wheelchair access to ground floor only.

Open SATURDAY and SUNDAY 10am to 4pm.

FREE- JUST TURN UP

3 CHURCH STREET

Godalming
Nye Saunders Ltd, Chartered Architects

A three storey oak framed former town house, just over 460 years old, jettied on two floors with decorative ogee curved braces.

Tours on SATURDAY at 10.30am and 12 noon. *Please note that there are steep and narrow stairs to negotiate for these tours.*

FREE BUT PRE-BOOKING REQUIRED

GODALMING MINSTER CHURCH STREET - ST PETER & ST PAUL'S CHURCH

Come and walk through history at Godalming's Grade 1 Listed parish church. There has been a church here since Saxon times. Stones from the church font, the earliest in England, dating from 820 to 840 are on display. The Normans added a short tower and the distinctive oak framed, lead covered spire was in place by 1375. Over the centuries the church has expanded to meet the demands of a growing population with a number of refurbishments throughout the 18th and 19th centuries, the last major changes being done with the help of Sir George Gilbert Scott in 1878.

Open SATURDAY 1.30pm-4pm and SUNDAY 1pm-4pm.

FREE – JUST TURN UP

BELL RINGING



The bell tower of SS Peter & Paul Church Godalming will be open. In the summer of 2017 we installed an entirely new ring of eight bells and we are very pleased with them. Come and visit the ringing chamber and hear for yourself how good the bells sound. There will be a short talk about English church bell ringing and a demonstration of this ancient art, more-or-less unique to the UK.

Tours on SATURDAY at 2pm and 3.30pm (lasts about 1 hour). Please note, for safety reasons, under 18s must be accompanied by a parent or guardian and that access is via a very steep, narrow staircase.

FREE BUT PRE-BOOKING REQUIRED

QUAKER MEETING HOUSE

The Mint, Mill Lane, Godalming



The Society of Friends, or Quakers as they are known, has a long history in the Godalming area. 2014 was the tercentenary of the Meeting Room, built from the ruins of a cottage called Goreways in 1714.

The other building, originally a stable, is believed to date from the 1600s. Less than two miles away, in Binscombe, is a Quaker Burial Ground used between 1659 and 1790 and Fox's Barn, so called because the Society's founder, George Fox, reputedly preached there in 1655. Quaker groups and communities exist all over the world. Inspired by our faith and a

commitment to working for equality and peace, we forge connections with other groups and organisations who share our vision of a more just and peaceful world. A Godalming Quaker will be on hand to explain the history of Quakerism in Godalming, the history of the buildings and the site.

Open SATURDAY 10am to 3pm.

FREE – JUST TURN UP AND TALK TO US

GODALMING MASONIC CENTRE

Ockford Road, Godalming GU7 1RQ

Part of the Godalming Community for almost 140 years, the original Masonic Hall in Godalming was built around 1888 in South Street and was replaced by the current Masonic Centre in 1988, which continues to showcase historic features transferred from the original building, including a large stone fireplace, two beautiful stained glass windows, several ornate chairs and a variety of other masonic items still in regular use in the temple today. This year's Heritage theme of "Celebrating the lives of ordinary men and women" resonates with Freemasonry as a great number of men and women have enjoyed being members of this world wide organisation for many years. Our talks will reflect this theme, with local Freemasons on hand to answer questions about it and other Masonic topics.

Open SATURDAY between 10.30am and 3.30pm.

Ample free car parking on site.

FREE – JUST TURN UP

GODALMING MINSTER - ST MARK'S CHURCH FRANKLYN ROAD

St Mark's Church celebrated 91 years last year. The foundation stone was laid on 8th August with the dedication service on 18th December 1934. It has been at the centre of community life since then. The Church expanded in the late twentieth Century to include a number of rooms, including a small hall, toilets and kitchen. It is now part of Godalming Minster in Franklyn Road. Why not visit the Award-Winning Eashing Cemetery alongside the church?

Open SUNDAY 2pm-4pm, there will be displays of events over the years and refreshments will be available.

FREE – JUST TURN UP

SKILLWAY WORKSHOPS

Nightingale Cemetery, Deanery Road, Godalming, GU7 2PG



Skillway (Charity) was founded in 1997 to support teenagers by providing them with training that develops both their practical and personal skills. Our

tutors are skilled craftspeople, supported by volunteers, who work alongside young people in a peer-to-peer relationship in the workshop. Our aim is to strengthen student's employability, self-esteem and positive outlook on their future. We are located in The Old Chapel (Grade II Listed) within the classic Victorian Nightingale Cemetery, where the Jack Phillips memorial stone can be seen next to the caretaker's garden. A copy of the cemetery records will be available for reference.

Open SUNDAY 9am to 12 noon.

FREE - JUST TURN UP

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST CHURCH FARNCOMBE

Built in 1849 in response to the rapid population growth created by the railway. Designed in the early English Gothic style by Sir George Gilbert Scott. There is a tablet in memory of John George (Jack) Phillips, the wireless operator on the Titanic, as he sang in the church choir as a boy.

Open SATURDAY 10am-12 noon and SUNDAY 2pm-4pm.

FREE - JUST TURN UP

CHARTERHOUSE

Godalming GU7 2DE



One of the country's great public schools, founded in 1611, Charterhouse has now been on its current site for over 150 years, having moved away from insalubrious surroundings in London in 1872 to new greener surroundings on the outskirts of Godalming. The School is a major Godalming employer.

Guided tours will include architectural gems such as the historic South African Cloister, Memorial Chapel, the Main Hall, Library and Scholars' Court.

Tours on SUNDAY at 10am, 12.30pm and 2.30pm. (Tours take a little over 1 hr). *The tours involve a lot of walking and some steps, but a wheelchair accessible tour can be arranged with prior notice.*

FREE BUT PRE-BOOKING REQUIRED

PRIOR'S FIELD SCHOOL

Priorsfield Road Godalming GU7 2RH

Prior's Field, an Arts and Crafts original house was designed by the architect Charles Francis Annesley Voysey. Prior's Field was opened as a progressive school for girls in 1902 by Julia Huxley, mother of the biologist, Julian Huxley, and novelist, Aldous Huxley. W.B. Yates, Lewis Carroll and George Bernard Shaw were all family friends. On the tours you will see the school's picturesque rose garden, designed in consultation with Gertrude Jekyll, the Edwardian extension designed by Voysey's pupil, Thomas Muntzer,

photos and film from the school's archive and other parts of the school with historical interest. Toilets; very limited disabled access; refreshments; parking.

Open SUNDAY 10am to 2pm. Guided tours at 11am and 1.30pm.

FREE – but to participate in guided tour you must book in advance by email to events@priorsfieldschool.com.

NEW - NORNEY GRANGE

The Stable Lodge Entrance, Shackleford Road Godalming GU8 6AE

Use [What3words](#) [spots.ashes.monorail](#) or [Google Maps](#).



This grade II* listed house was built in 1897 and is set in 21 acres of grounds. The house was designed by C.F.A. Voysey for Reverend Leighton Crane and was further extended by him in 1903 for a subsequent owner. Voysey was an architect and designer of furniture and textiles, who was renowned for his Arts and Crafts style. The house interior shows his attention to detail and the restoration by the present owners has been done with great care. With 21 acres of beautiful walking paths, trees, rhododendrons and a walled garden with glass house. The owners say it has been an exciting adventure to bring this garden back to life. It is not suitable for wheelchair users. No photos inside the house please, no dogs, no smoking anywhere, children must be supervised at all times. Please take note of the further instructions that accompany your tickets.



Tour of house and garden on **THURSDAY 17th September** at 10am please arrive 15 minutes before as tours start promptly.

FREE BUT PRE-BOOKING REQUIRED

GODALMING MINSTER BRIGHTON ROAD - ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH BUSBRIDGE

This special little Victorian Gothic Revival church is a treasure trove of designs by the grand designers of the day. Designed by Sir George Gilbert Scott, it has a remarkable metal chancel screen by Edwin Lutyens, who also designed the WWI memorial and the Jekyll family memorial. There are lovely stained glass windows by Edward Burne-Jones for Morris & Co, and later ones by A K Nicholson. The cobbled paths may have been designed by Gertrude Jekyll, who was an active church member. The graveyard also has some interesting occupants. There will also be information on the graveyard and a quiz for children.

Open **SUNDAY 1pm-4pm.**

FREE – JUST TURN UP

MUNSTEAD WOOD



Munstead Wood is the handsome, yet simple, Arts and Crafts home of garden designer Gertrude Jekyll. Building it together was a decisive turning point in the careers of both Gertrude Jekyll and the architect Edwin Lutyens and set in motion a creative zeal in Jekyll. Whether it was with an article for the Manchester Guardian, a book about gardening with children, sewing a banner for the local suffrage society or recording the history of her beloved West Surrey, Jekyll was passionate about connecting with a wide audience. A private home since it was built, the house and 11 acres of the original gardens are now owned by the National Trust. The property remains closed to the public while we work to ensure a sustainable future for



this remarkable home and garden. Join us for a behind the scenes tour of Munstead Wood to learn about its history and its remarkable owner.

Tours on SATURDAY and SUNDAY at 10.30am, 12.30pm and 2.30pm. Tours take approximately 70 minutes. Visitors should not attempt to reach the property independently. Access and travel arrangements will be sent with confirmation of successful ticket application. Please note the gate may be locked between tours.

FREE BUT PRE-BOOKING REQUIRED

ST PETER'S CHURCH, HASCOMBE



Grade II listed and consecrated in June 1864, built to replace the derelict old church, believed to have been built around 1220. Designed by Henry Woodyer in the general style of the 13th century, it is built of Bargate stone, quarried within the parish, with a shingled bellcote. Many items were salvaged from the old church including the 1690 Purbeck Marble font, much of the wood in the porch and the oak chancel screen. Services on www.hascombe.com. NADFAS (now the Arts Society) children's trail available.

Open SATURDAY 10am-4pm and SUNDAY 2pm-4pm. Tour with short talk on SATURDAY at 3pm.

FREE - JUST TURN UP

ST MARY & ALL SAINTS CHURCH, DUNSFOLD



William Morris called this church 'the most beautiful country church in all England'. This late 13th century church, with its 15th century bell tower retains many of its original features, including fragments of wall paintings, the original door and rare early 15th century pews. The ancient Holy Well nearby was reputed to cure eye diseases.

Open SATURDAY 2pm-5pm including a small exhibition & demonstration of bell ringing & SUNDAY 2pm-5pm.

FREE - JUST TURN UP

GODALMING MINSTER - ST PETER'S CHURCH HAMBLEDON

The first mention of a church at Hambledon is in 1291, but St Peter's was almost entirely rebuilt in 1846. Set in beautiful countryside and a stone's throw from the Greensand Way, this Grade II listed church is built of Bargate stone, with ashlar dressings and Welsh slate roof and a mostly chalk interior. In the churchyard there are two immense and ancient yews, the larger of which measures 30ft in circumference and is hollow. Across the footpath is a disused lime kiln, a reminder of Surrey's past brickmaking industry.

Open SATURDAY 10am-4pm and

SUNDAY 1pm-4pm.

FREE - JUST TURN UP

KING EDWARD'S SCHOOL WITLEY



The School was founded in 1553 when Nicholas Ridley, Bishop of London, convinced the boy King Edward VI to grant his palace at Bridewell to the Lord Mayor of London as a place for the training and education of poor children. In 1830, the Foundation moved to Southwark where a new House of Occupations was opened and children aged 8 to 18 were accepted from the City, county of Middlesex and the Borough of Southwark. In 1860, a new charity scheme for the Bridewell Royal Hospital was set up and the House of Occupations was renamed King Edward's School. Seven years later, against the backdrop of the Industrial Revolution, the school relocated the boys to Witley allowing them to benefit from fresh air and the green countryside of Surrey. Having played their part in the war effort during World War II, girls joined the school in Witley again in the early '50s, and the site developed over the following few decades. Today, the School has over 400 day and boarding pupils. The tours will start at New Reception situated off the Gurdon's Lane entrance to the school. The tours are available to children; please note that the tour features a number of stairs and steep slopes. Car parking and toilets are available.

Tours on SATURDAY at 2.30pm and 4pm.

FREE BUT PRE-BOOKING REQUIRED

BARROW HILLS SCHOOL

Roke Lane Witley GU8 5NY

Great Roke, the principal building of Barrow Hills School was built in 1909 in the Arts and Crafts Style. The house was designed by the architects Buckland and Haywood Farmer and it has been said to be the most ambitious

house undertaken by the partners and it is arguably one of the finest houses produced by the Birmingham Movement. Plaster work is by Catterson-Smith Jnr. Visitors will be able to see the garden originally designed by Gertrude Jekyll, but since substantially altered.



Open SUNDAY 2pm to 4pm, tours at 2pm and 3pm, please arrive promptly at 2pm or 3pm at the front door, for your tour of Barrow Hills School.

FREE - JUST TURN UP

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH AND WONERSH VILLAGE WALK

St John the Baptist church, Wonersh, probably



originally Saxon, the church was re-built shortly after the Norman Conquest in the eleventh century and despite two major restorations still retains its Norman features. Members of Wonersh History Society will be on hand to answer questions about the church and some of the people, both famous and ordinary, who have passed through its portals. You can combine your visit with a 45 minute self-guided walk "Exploring Historic Wonersh" using a free leaflet and map which guides visitors around the centre of the pretty village of Wonersh, and which may be picked up at the Church on Saturday morning. *Those taking part in the walk do so at their own risk.*

St Johns Church: Open SATURDAY 10am-1pm. Refreshments, wheelchair access, car parking and toilets available at the Church.

FREE - JUST TURN UP and enjoy both Church and Village

GODALMING TOWN WALK

Enjoy a guided walk around Godalming this weekend. Please note children should be accompanied by an adult. A guided history walk around Godalming looking at its wider and sometimes surprising heritage through its buildings by members of The Godalming Trust.

Starting opposite the Pepperpot on SUNDAY at 10.30am.

FREE-JUST TURN UP



THE GODALMING TRUST is a voluntary organisation working to maintain our heritage and quality of life in Godalming and Farncombe by promoting high standards of planning, conservation and regeneration.

Godalming and its surrounding lands are special. Set in the valley of the River Wey, with its unique Lammas Lands, the town is a vibrant place which retains a sense of community and attracts many visitors.

The Godalming Trust exists to bring together all who are interested in the town and its environs, aiming to stimulate interest in their history and character, and to promote a healthy sustainable balance between preservation of ancient buildings and new developments in building and landscaping.

The Godalming Trust is an independent body and all activities are organised and staffed by volunteers. Its campaigning role needs the financial and practical support of all those who care for the Godalming of today and tomorrow.

Please pick up an application form to join The Godalming Trust during Heritage Open Days. You can also download one from our website which contains much more information about us at:

www.thegodalmingtrust.org.uk

