



**GODALMING and ENVIRONS HERITAGE OPEN DAYS
SATURDAY 13th AND SUNDAY 14th SEPTEMBER 2025**

THE PROGRAMME

Organised by The Godalming Trust

INTRODUCTION

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 architecture. Godalming and the surrounding area has strong links with a number of well-known architects. Lutyens, Thackeray Turner and Voysey associated with the Arts and Crafts movement and others in Gothic revival style, who in Victorian times remodelled a number of local churches, for example, Pugin, Woodyer and Gilbert Scott. A number of the properties open are linked to these and other eminent architects.

Heritage Open Days is a national event see www.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.

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 Museum and Pepperpot during the weekend and on www.heritageopendays.org.uk

FREE BUT PRE-BOOKING REQUIRED

Applications for tickets, maximum 4 per person per venue, can be made on the following website <https://www.godalming-tc.gov.uk/godalming-heritage-weekend-ticket-requests-2025> between 9am on 11 August until 4pm on 22nd August 2025. Where demand is greater than the number of tickets available they will be allocated by ballot. You will get an email confirmation if your application is successful and this should be available to show at the venue. You may apply for tickets at more than one property/event. Some tickets may still be available after 23 August and both the website above and that of The Godalming Trust <https://www.thegodalmingtrust.org.uk/> will indicate where they are available.



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.

LOGOS –National Trust, People's Lottery, Godalming Town Council, Godalming Trust,



Insert At A Glance – separate file

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. 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.

Open courtesy of Godalming Town Council. **This may not be open if restoration work is not complete, please check the Heritage Open Day website.**

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, affectionately 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. Our fascinating galleries explore the way the town has developed since prehistoric times, and tell the stories of famous Godalming residents such as the famous garden designer Gertrude Jekyll, and the Titanic's wireless operator Jack Phillips. Visitors can relax with a hot drink in our coffee shop, get some sun in our Jekyll-inspired walled garden, and buy locally sourced gifts and souvenirs in our shop. Our family-friendly summer exhibition, **The Witley Camps during World War Two**, will share the story of how the soldiers at the Witley Camps lived, worked, and entertained themselves, along with items found from the camps. We will have plenty of crafts and activities running alongside the exhibition to keep your little ones entertained.

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 SUNDAY 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 1.30 – 4.00 pm and SUNDAY 1.00 pm – 4.00 pm

FREE – JUST TURN UP

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.

Local Quaker Meetings such as Godalming are part of a network of Area Meetings, Regional Meetings and - at the national level - Britain Yearly Meeting. But it doesn't stop there - 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.

George Fox (1624-1691) was amazing at networking. From the age of 24, he travelled extensively in Britain, Ireland (1669) and America (1671-3), preaching and protesting against hypocrisy and social injustice. He was frequently imprisoned, but was respected by many influential people. In 1665, King Charles II wrote an order for his release from Scarborough Castle where he had been incarcerated. His close associate, the Quaker William Penn, founded Pennsylvania in 1681.

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 137 Years

The original Masonic Hall in Godalming was built around 1888 in South Street and was replaced by the current Masonic Centre, opposite the Inn on the Lake, in 1988 when the Council undertook a major redevelopment of the town centre to relieve traffic congestion in the High Street. Whilst the current Masonic Centre is only some 37 years old, it was significantly refurbished internally during the COVID pandemic. Despite this refurbishment it continues to showcase features 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 "Architecture" resonates with Freemasonry as many masons were involved in building cathedrals and stately edifices not only in the United Kingdom, but across the world. It is worth mentioning that both Masonic Centres were designed and built by local architects and builders who were also freemasons.

Plans of the current one will be on display in the main hall and our talks in the temple will make reference to those themes.

Local freemasons will be on hand to answer questions on these and other topics of masonic interest.

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

LADYWELL CONVENT & THE FRANCISCAN CENTRE LADYWELL

Ashtead Lane, Godalming, GU7 1ST

First occupied in 1911 and previously known as Tuesley Court, the building was designed by London architect Sir Guy Dawber in an Arts and Crafts style, constructed of Bargate stone and set at intervals with leaded windows.

In 1956 the house and extensive grounds were purchased by the Franciscan Missionaries of the Divine Motherhood as their Motherhouse. Since then, the convent has been extended sensitively in the style of the original building including a magnificent chapel consecrated in 1959, with striking mosaics imported from Italy. In 2019, an extensive refurbishment project commenced, during which further examples of the original Arts & Crafts features were discovered within the Main House. The thriving Franciscan Centre provides a space for people to encounter God in the spirit of Francis and Clare of Assisi and for visitors to experience the history and missionary legacy of the Franciscan Missionaries of the Divine Motherhood.

Tours on SATURDAY at 2pm, 2.30pm and 3pm. (Tours are about 1 hour in duration)

FREE – BUT PRE-BOOKING REQUIRED

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 SATURDAY 9am to 12noon

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, because he sang in the church choir as a boy.

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

FREE – JUST TURN UP

UNITARIAN CHAPEL

Meadrow, Godalming GU7 3JB

This Grade II listed Chapel, in simple meeting-house style, is built of brick and stucco with stone quoins, with three round-arched windows at the front. It was completed in 1789. The porch was added later. The attached brick cottage dates from 1821.

The Chapel faces down a long graveyard with many memorials to the road entrance, where a new Gothic chapel was built in 1870, when the original building became a Sunday School. Roles were reversed in 1976, and the chapel at the road is now a Hall for community use.

The Chapel interior is cleared of pews, though some line the walls. There is an enclosed gallery. In keeping with its General Baptist origins, there is a full-immersion baptistry under the floor; though not in use for over a century, it will be open for viewing.

Open SATURDAY 11am to 4pm. Refreshments available.

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 150 years, having moved away from insalubrious surroundings in London in 1872 to new greener surroundings on the outskirts of Godalming. Guided tours will include architectural gems such as the historic South African Cloister (architect W.D. Caroe), Memorial Chapel (designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott), the Main Hall (Sir Arthur Blomfield), the Library and Scholars' Court (Philip Hardwick).

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 3pm. Guided tours at 11am and 1pm

FREE – but to participate in guided tour you must book in advance by email to

events@priorsfieldschool.com

ST NICHOLAS PEPPER HAROW CHURCH - "A HIDDEN GEM!"

Pepper Harow, Off Elstead Road GU8 6BQ.

Grade II listed church dating back to the fifteenth century, remodelled in the 1840s by architect A W N Pugin, probably best known for his work on the Houses of Parliament, with further work in the 1870s by Thomas Jackson who was knighted for his saving of Winchester Cathedral from collapse by the use of a diver to secure the foundations, and recently restored following a disastrous fire in 2007.

Tour on SATURDAY at 10.30am (church not otherwise open except for services).

Wheelchair accessible.

FREE – JUST TURN UP

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 WW1 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 SATURDAY 10.00am - 4.00pm and SUNDAY 1pm-4pm.

The Yew Tree Café in the churchyard is open 10.00am-2.00pm and until 2.30pm for takeaway on Saturday only.

FREE – JUST TURN UP

MUNSTEAD WOOD

Munstead Wood is the handsome, yet simple, Arts and Crafts home of garden designer Gertrude Jekyll. It is tucked away behind a long garden wall, in a quiet corner on the edge of Godalming, and yet, it is of international significance. 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. A zeal which would change the way we garden for ever and touch the lives of gardeners worldwide to this day.

Jekyll was a born collaborator and developed connections with people across Godalming, Surrey and the world. The influence that her working relationship with Lutyens had in architecture and design can hardly be understated. 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, its remarkable owner, its Architect and our work.

Tours on SATURDAY and SUNDAY at 10.30, 12.30 and 14.30.

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.

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](http://www.hascombe.com). NADFAS (now the Arts Society) children's trail available

Open SATURDAY 10.00 – 4.00 pm 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. Refreshments available.

Open 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 10.00am till 4.00pm

Open SUNDAY 1.00pm till 4.00pm

FREE - JUST TURN UP

RAKE COURT

Station Road, Milford GU8 5AD

Rake Manor (formerly Rake House, the home of the owner of Rake Mill — hence Milford) is a fine Tudor brick and timber building. From c.1880, what is now Rake Court was gradually added to the old house to form a Kitchen wing, together with a Billiards/Music Room. The architects for these additions include Lutyens and Baillie Scott.

Visitors will get a view of the house from the outside & the lake. Only the Billiard Room will be open inside the house where we have an exhibition of art by Alfred Bestall of Rupert Bear fame.

The garden is suitable for wheelchair access but the Billiard Room is not.

Tour on SATURDAY at 3.30pm

Car parking is available in the courtyard.

FREE - BUT PRE-BOOKING REQUIRED

KING EDWARD'S SCHOOL WITLEY

The School was founded in 1553 in the City of London and has a history which represents the cornerstone of its renowned links with the City. Initially housed within Bridewell Palace on the banks of the River Thames by Royal Charter of the boy King Edward VI, the mission of the parent foundation – Bridewell Royal Hospital – was to home and educate poor children living in London. In 1830 the Foundation moved to Southwark where a new House of Occupations was opened. Greater emphasis prevailed on the education of the children rather than the reforming of character. 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. In 1867 the school relocated to Witley allowing pupils to benefit from fresh air and the green countryside of Surrey. Situated in 100 acres of Surrey countryside, the School has over 400 day and boarding pupils. The strapline is 'United by Diversity since 1553'. In September 2022, our new and innovative Academic Hub and Reception area, containing a Learning Resource Centre, opened and 2023 saw the addition of our new Upper Sixth Form House which has been designed as a stepping stone to university education. 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 King Edward's tour features a number of stairs and steep slopes. Car parking and toilets are available.

Tours on SATURDAY (note change of day) at 2.30 pm and 4pm

FREE - BUT PRE-BOOKING REQUIRED

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH AND WONERSH VILLAGE WALK

Why not make Wonersh, Surrey your destination on Saturday 13th September. You can combine a visit to the Grade II listed Church of St John the Baptist 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, taking in many of its fascinating older buildings, and which can be picked up at the Church on Saturday morning. *Those taking part in the walk do so at their own risk.*

St John’s Church, probably originally Saxon, was re-built shortly after the Norman Conquest in the eleventh century, with additions made until the fifteenth century. Major rebuilding “in Meeting House style” was undertaken by Lord Grantley in 1793, after a fire, and further restoration took place in 1901 under Sir Charles Nicholson. Nevertheless, the core is still the Norman church. Members of Wonersh History Society will be on hand to answer questions.

St Johns Church: Open SATURDAY 10am to 1pm

Refreshments, wheelchair access, car parking and toilets are available at the Church.

All 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 with Graham Kimber and Pam Talbot.

Starting opposite the Pepperpot on SUNDAY at 10.30am

FREE-JUST TURN UP