



Gloucester
Civic Trust



heritage open days GLOUCESTER

Friday 11th –
Sunday 13th
September 2026

***FREE** tours, talks,
music and more!*



[gloucestercivictrust.org/
heritage-open-days](https://gloucestercivictrust.org/heritage-open-days)

Supported
by:



Praise for previous years:

"I spent a lovely weekend in Gloucester and thoroughly enjoyed the tours and walks. The guides were entertaining and knowledgeable. What a historic city!"

"We were so warmly welcomed. I had heard that it was a great weekend to be in Gloucester so we booked ourselves into the Travelodge and decided to write an itinerary. Everyone we met was fantastic... local or visitor, there was something for everyone."

KEY

◆ = Map ref.

♿ = Wheelchair friendly

B = Booking required

 = Everyday Histories theme

 = Date and Time

 = Duration

 = Location

 = Refreshments

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WELCOME

To Gloucester Heritage Open Days 2026

Gloucester Civic Trust extends a very warm welcome to you! We hope you enjoy this year's Heritage Open Days. With a rich history spanning 2000 years, we are keen to show off our wonderful city through tours, walks, talks and music, whether you're local or from further afield. 2026's national theme is Everyday Histories. Look for the symbol.

All events are free to access and most do not require booking. Advance booking will be essential for the few events where numbers are limited: these are indicated with a **B**. Unless otherwise stated, you can book online at tickettailor.com/events/gloucestercivictrustlimited, via the QR code or in person at The Folk of Gloucester, Tuesdays to Saturdays 10.00-16.00 from 10th August. Where booking is not required, there may still be restrictions on numbers entering at any one time. Stewards will advise.

You will find this brochure in key places around the City and its environs and on the Civic Trust website — www.gloucestercivictrust.org/heritage-open-days — where there will be additional information about other sites of interest. Please encourage friends and family to join us. We would love to hear from you about your experience, so please leave your feedback using the QR code below.

So many people are involved in making HODs happen - guides, stewards, speakers, venue owners and occupiers and my wonderful organising team. Thank you everyone.

Debbie Vass, HODs Co-ordinator, Gloucester Civic Trust
hod@gloucestercivictrust.org



Heritage Open Days hubs

We are pleased to welcome you to our three Heritage Open Days hubs, where you can attend events, enjoy food and drink before and after your tours, and chat with our volunteers.



The Folk of Gloucester

◆ C4

♿ (partial)



Friday 11th to Sunday 13th September 10:00 - 16:00



99-103 Westgate Street, GL1 2PG

A beautifully-preserved 500-year-old Tudor townhouse on Westgate Street and the hub of Gloucester Civic Trust. Enjoy hot and cold drinks, homemade cake and freshly-prepared lunches in the cafe, or relax in the tranquil garden. Please note that the building contains stairs and uneven floors. Only the ground floor, cafe and garden are wheelchair accessible.

For tours, see entry under Heritage Venues.

For events, see entries under Talks and Music.



St. Michael's Tower

◆ D6



Friday 11th to Sunday 13th September 10:30 - 16:00



The Cross, GL1 1PD

St Michael's Tower dates back to 1465. It contains informative displays on the history of the church that once stood on the site, alongside two heritage bells made in Gloucester in 1710 by Abraham Rudhall. Meet our volunteers to find out more about the history of the tower and beyond. Light refreshments and a seating area are available.



St. Mary de Crypt Church & Old Crypt Schoolrooms



**Friday 11th and Saturday 12th September 11.00 - 16:00,
Sunday 13th September 11:00 - 15:00**



Southgate Street GL1 1TP

◆ E5



Explore one of the most ancient churches in Gloucester and the Tudor schoolrooms. Discover stories from Gloucester's past: Robert Raikes, George Whitfield, Jemmy Wood and more. Stewards will be on hand to point out key features of interest, including the Tudor wall paintings recently discovered in the sanctuary. Light lunches and refreshments are available in the old schoolroom cafe. Please note: on Friday the 11th, there will be a ukulele group rehearsal from 11.00-12.30, and a regular service of prayers for the city from 13.00-13.30 to which you are very welcome.

For Bones and Bells tours, see entry under Walks.

For events, see entries under Talks and Music.

GLOUCESTER Heritage Open Days



Alney Island

◆ E3

B



Sunday 13th September 11:00



Meet at the Steam Crane, North Warehouse GL1 2EP



Duration approx. 2 hours



Advance booking required. Max. 20 per tour

Take a guided walk around Alney Island and discover the history and importance of the western approaches to Gloucester. Please be aware that the route may be muddy and is not suitable for wheelchairs.



Beatrix Potter

◆ C5



Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th September 14:00



Meet outside Shire Hall, Westgate Street GL1 2TG



Duration approx. 45 mins

This guided walk takes in the places of Gloucester which are closely connected with Beatrix Potter and inspired her stories. The walk lasts about 45 minutes and will appeal to both adults and children.



Black & White Buildings of Gloucester

◆ E5



Friday 11th September 14:00



Meet at the cafe at St Mary de Crypt Church, Southgate Street GL1 1TP



Duration approx. 1 hr

A walking tour of 15th Century timber framed buildings in the city centre, pointing out structure, architecture and brief historical background. Are they really black and white?



Bones and Bells

◆ E5

B



Saturday 12th September 14:00



Meet in St Mary de Crypt Church, Southgate St GL1 1TP



Duration approx. 1 hr

Advance booking required. Max. 8 per tour

Visit one of the most ancient churches in Gloucester. Learn the history of deaths and burials, remembrance and mourning. Visit the crypt and find out about the many uses it has had, from charnel house to munitions store and alehouse. Explore the bell tower and have an opportunity to ring the bells with the Ancient Society of Crypt Youth, established in 1710!

GUIDED WALKS

No booking required for walks unless otherwise stated



Cathedral Precincts Tour ◆ B5 ♿

📅 Friday 11th September 11.00
Saturday 12th September 14.30

📍 Meet at Gloucester Cathedral South Porch, GL1 2LX

🕒 Duration approx. 1 hr

A history of the area surrounding The Cathedral from the earliest Minster church up to the most recent developments.



Eastgate Chamber ◆ E7 B

📅 Friday 11th September 10:30 & 14:00, Saturday 12th September 10:30 & 14:00, Sunday 13th September 11:00

📍 Meet outside Boots in Eastgate Street GL1 1PU

🕒 Duration approx. 45 mins

B Advance booking required. Max. 18 per walk

This underground chamber on Eastgate Street reveals the remains of the Roman city defences and the East Gate dating back to about AD 68 when Gloucester was founded. **This tour is not wheelchair accessible.**



Eastgate Street ◆ D6 ♿

📅 Saturday 12th September 14:00

📍 Meet at St Michael's Tower, The Cross GL1 1PD

🕒 Duration approx. 1 hr 15 mins

Take a tour along this tree lined Gate Street and see the Roman remains at the site of the East Gate. View the impressive 19th century buildings which include The Guildhall and Market Portico. Learn about the people and events that contributed to the prominence and history of Gloucester.



Gloucester's Medieval Churches ◆ A5 ♿

📅 Saturday 12th September 13:30

📍 Meet at St Oswald's Priory, Opposite Pelican Inn, St Mary Street GL1 2QS

🕒 Duration approx. 1 hr 30 mins

Take a tour and discover the history of some Gloucester's finest Medieval Churches, many of which will be open over the Heritage weekend.

GLOUCESTER Heritage Open Days



NEW for 2026: Gloucester and the General Strike

 **Friday 11th September 11:00** ◆ C5  

 **Meet at the steps of Gloucestershire Shire Hall,
Westgate Street GL1 2TG**

 **Duration: 1 hour**

Learn about Gloucester's unique role in the UK General Strike of 1926, when the city stood at the crossroads of industry and coalfields.



Gloucester Docks and Docklands Railway

 **Saturday 12th September 10:30** ◆ E3  

 **Meet at the Steam Crane, North Warehouse GL1 2EP**

 **Duration: 2 hours**

A special walk covering Gloucester docks and their railway, due to celebrate their Bicentennial in 2027. Many of the port's original buildings are still standing, and traces of the railway also remain.



NEW for 2026: Hillfield Gardens & Church House

 **Friday 11th September 10:30 and 14:00**

 **Meet at Denmark Road entrance, GL1 3PL**
Parking bays available in Denmark Road

 **Duration: 1 hour 15 mins** ◆ B10  (partial)

Take a guided tour of these beautiful gardens which are the home to many fine trees and monuments of historical significance. This year, by kind permission of the Diocese of Gloucester, a visit to Church House is included in the tour. Please wear footwear suitable for uneven ground. While there will be no guided walks on Sunday 13th, the chapel of St Mary Magdalene will be open from 14.00 -16.00 for general viewing.

Historic Characters

◆ E5  

 **Saturday 12th September 14.30**
Sunday 13th September 14.15

 **Meet outside St Mary de Crypt Church, Southgate GL1 1TP**

 **Duration: approx. 1 hour**

This tour brings alive some of the famous and influential people and colourful characters who were born and lived in Gloucester. Their achievements extended far and wide, but we remember their local origins.





Historic Docks

◆ G3  

 **Friday 11th and Saturday 12th September 11.00**
Sunday 13th September 14.00

 **Meet outside the National Waterways Museum in Gloucester Docks GL1 2EH**

 **Duration: approx. 1 hour**

Take a guided walk around Britain's most inland port, set to celebrate its 200th anniversary in 2027. Find out about the history and significance of this once-bustling port up to the present day.



The King's Bastion

◆ D7 **B**

 **Friday 11th September 10.30, 11.10, 11.50, 12.30, 13.10 & 13.50**

 **Meet by the entrance in King's Walk Shopping Centre, Gloucester GL1 1EA by the silver trap doors.**

 **Duration: approx. 30 minutes**

B Advance booking required. Max. 10 per tour.

Two metres below the ground, The King's Bastion contains the remains of a section of the Roman city wall with a defensive tower, probably constructed during the reign of Henry III. This rarely seen gem is located under a trapdoor in the King's Walk Shopping Centre, right under shoppers' feet! Tours are suitable for ages 11+ (no unaccompanied under 18s). Not accessible for wheelchairs or those with mobility issues. Please wear footwear suitable for uneven surfaces (no heels/open shoes).

Booking essential via the Museum of Gloucester website: museumofgloucester.co.uk/events



Llanthony Secunda Priory ◆ G1 (some uneven paths)

 **Friday 11th September, Saturday 12th September and Sunday 13th September 11:00 and 14:00**

 **Meet in the information room at Llanthony, Priory Junction (next to Gloucester College) GL2 5FA**

 **Duration approx. 1 hr**

Founded in 1136, by the end of the 15th century Llanthony was the richest Augustinian house in England, entertaining the court of Henry VII in 1500 and 1501. In the medieval period priory scholars created a very special library that is considered one of the richest and best-documented medieval English book collections in the country, now scattered across the world. See entry under Heritage Venues for general visits and History Huddle.

GLOUCESTER Heritage Open Days



Monks, Canons and Friars ◆ A5 ♿ (for most of walk)

📅 **Saturday 12th September at 14.30**

📍 **Meet at St Oswald's Priory, Archdeacon Street GL1 2QX**

🕒 **Duration approx. 1 hr 30 mins. Sensible footwear required**

Discover the lives lead by those who served in the many religious communities in Medieval Gloucester. This guided walk will take you to the sites of some of the places in which they lived, worked and prayed.



The Story of Gloucester's Pubs & Inns ◆ D6

♿
(for most of walk)

📅 **Sunday 13th September 11:45 & 14:30**

📍 **Meet outside The New Inn, Northgate Street GL1 1SF**

🕒 **Duration approx. 1 hr 30 mins**

This tour explores some of the fine historical pubs in Gloucester's city centre and the stories that surround them.



Richard III

◆ D6 ♿

📅 **Friday 11th September & Sunday 13th September 14.00**

📍 **Meet at Emperor Nerva Statue, Southgate Street, GL1 1TP**

🕒 **Duration approx. 1 hr**

Hear about Richard III's important three-day visit to Gloucester in 1483, as part of his Royal Progress. The walk explains the granting of the significant Charter to the city. Find out how Richard spent his time here and see some of the buildings Richard would have known.



Robert Raikes

◆ D6 ♿

📅 **Friday 11th September 11.45 & Sunday 13th September 14.30**

📍 **Meet at St Michael's Tower, The Cross GL1 1PD**

🕒 **Duration approx. 1 hr**

This walk tells the story of Robert Raikes: newspaper publisher, prison reformer, and promoter of the Sunday School movement, and shows some of the buildings in Gloucester connected with him.

GUIDED WALKS

Roman Times

◆ E7 B

📅 Friday 11th September 11.00 & Sunday 13th September 11.30

📍 Meet outside The City Museum, Brunswick Road GL1 1HP

🕒 Duration approx. 1 hr B Booking required: Max 18

Hear how the Romans came to Gloucester. See the walls they built and walk through the site of the Roman Forum, now buried 3 metres beneath our feet. Discover the importance of Emperor Nerva in the story of Roman Gloucester. See mosaics, pottery and Roman weapons in the Museum.



Saxon Gloucester

◆ C4 ♿

📅 Friday 11th September 11.00, Saturday 12th September 15.00 & Sunday 13th September 11.00

📍 Meet at The Folk of Gloucester, 99-103 Westgate St. GL1 2PG

🕒 Duration approx. 1 hr 15 mins

Discover the traces of Gloucester's Saxon history. Hear the story of Aethelflaed, lady of the Mercians, who built St Oswald's Priory and was buried there in 918. Learn how she shaped the city as we know it.



The Siege of Gloucester 1643

◆ D6 ♿

📅 Friday 11th September 11.15, Saturday 12th September 10.30 & Sunday 13th September 11.15

📍 Meet at St Michael's Tower, The Cross GL1 1PD

🕒 Duration approx. 1 hr 45 mins

Visit some of the places of interest connected with the Siege of Gloucester which took place during the English Civil War. This was arguably Gloucester's finest hour, when the small garrison of parliamentarians held out against the might of the Royal Army led by the King himself.



Westgate Street & Cathedral Quarter Heritage Walk

📅 Saturday 12th September 14:00 & Sunday 13th Sept. 14:30

📍 Meet at St Michael's Tower, The Cross GL1 1PD

🕒 Duration approx. 1 hr 15 mins

◆ D6 ♿

Westgate is one of the oldest and best-preserved areas of Gloucester. See its stunning historic buildings including the 15th Century timber framed Fleece Inn, Judge's Lodgings and finishing at The Folk of Gloucester.



GLOUCESTER Heritage Open Days

Access to the Ed Shed is via The Folk of Gloucester, 99-103 Westgate Street, GL1 2PG. All talks at the Ed Shed are 45 minutes long plus Q&A. No booking required for talks unless otherwise stated.



Shire News: The Future of Local News? ◆ C4



📅 Friday 11th September 11.00- 12.00

📍 The Ed Shed at The Folk of Gloucester, Westgate St.

Will Luker is a Gloucestershire journalist who writes his own local independent newsletter called The Shire News, inspired in part by J.R.R Tolkien's depiction of the quintessential "Shire". Join Will as he talks journalism, the current challenges for local news, its future and what makes a good local news story.



Regal, Gloucester: Now and Forever ◆ C4



📅 Friday 11th September 12.30-13.30

📍 The Ed Shed at The Folk of Gloucester, Westgate St.

Join Ross Campbell on a journey through the cinema / theatre's fascinating history, from opening night of 19th March, 1956, to singing sensations like Tommy Steele and the Beatles, to King's School speech days, the glory of the G.O.D.S' stage shows, and the sun-filled fun of Gloucester Carnival. Books will be available to buy at the talk.



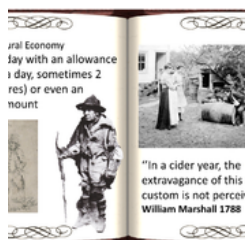
Our Heritage of Song ◆ C4



📅 Friday 11th September 14.00-15.00

📍 The Ed Shed at The Folk of Gloucester, Westgate St

Local folk singer Robin Burton looks at our English heritage of traditional song and the process which creates "traditional" song. It also covers how we so nearly lost this heritage and how it was rescued from oblivion.



Gloucestershire Observed ◆ C4



📅 Friday 11th September 15:30 - 16:30

📍 The Ed Shed at The Folk of Gloucester, Westgate St

Local historian Tony Conder looks at 500 years of Diary entries on life in Gloucestershire. From drinking and pay, to the local take on National news and worries about potholes, they offer an inside view of the city.



The Sanctuary Project: what we know about the wall paintings to date



Friday 11th September 14:30

◆ E5 ♿



St Mary de Crypt Church, Southgate Street, GL1 1TP



Duration: Approx. 40 minutes

On the back wall of St. Mary de Crypt's sanctuary area can be seen an important Tudor wall painting called The Adoration of the Magi. Recent research suggests that paintings of six human figures, just visible beneath another damaged wall painting, are medieval - and may potentially be of national importance. Hellen O'Connor will explain what we know so far.



The Carriage Building

◆ C8 ♿



Saturday 12th September: tour and talk 10.00-11.00



Roberts Limbrick, Bruton Way GL1 1DG

The Carriage Building was constructed in 1894 by the Gloucester Carriage and Wagon Works as a showroom for horse-drawn carriages. After lying empty and neglected for many years, it was wonderfully restored in 2011 as the office of Roberts Limbrick. Come and hear a short talk about the refurbishment and have a tour around this fine building, which is now on Gloucester's Local List.



Origins & History of the Mariners Chapel ◆ F3 ♿



Saturday 12th September 13.00-14.00



Mariners Chapel in Gloucester Docks

Pat Prosser, a current Chapel trustee, will give a short talk on the origins of Gloucester's Mariners Chapel, its fascinating 175+ years of history, and its current role as living church in the city. *See entry under Places of Worship for Chapel opening times during Heritage Open Days.*



Wotton House: 100 years of Education ♿



Saturday 12th September 11.00-12.00



International School, Wotton House, Horton Rd GL1 3PR

This year's talk will cover the family history of the building and its occupants since construction in 1707, but will also focus on the various colleges to which it has been home since 1925. It will be delivered by John Swann, Head of Humanities at Wotton House International School.

GLOUCESTER Heritage Open Days



The Story of Imjin River and the 75th anniversary

📅 Saturday 12th September 11:00-12:00 ♦ C4 ♿ 

📍 The Ed Shed at The Folk of Gloucester, Westgate St

This talk by Robert Dixon is a tribute to the men of Gloucestershire and beyond who served in the Korean War from 1950 to 1953. Robert says: "When I joined the 1st Battalion The Gloucestershire Regiment in 1966, there were still around 50 veterans serving. I got to know them well, and in the following years many more survived. My talk is a compilation of what I learnt as a result. I hope it acts as both a memorial and an inspiration for present and future generations". Includes book signing.



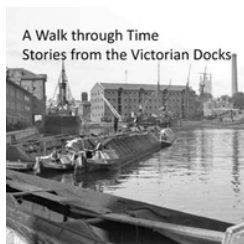
Songs from the Workhouse

♦ C4 ♿ 

📅 Saturday 12th September 12:30-13:30

📍 The Ed Shed at The Folk of Gloucester, Westgate St

Local Folk choir Shepherd's Crook sing songs collected at Winchcombe workhouse by Percy Grainger and Cecil Sharp at the turn of the 20th Century, and talk about what life was really like in these institutions.



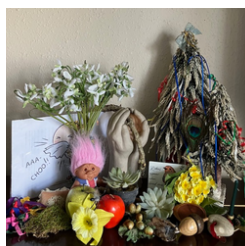
"A Walk Through Time": Stories of the Victorian Docks

♦ C4 ♿ 

📅 Saturday 12th September 14.00-15.00

📍 The Ed Shed at The Folk of Gloucester, Westgate St

This talk by Tony Conder delves into the everyday life of the docks in Victorian times, as seen by the dock's policeman. From murder to the mundane, we follow the lack of health and safety and trouble with 'foreigners'. Drawn from the pages of the Citizen.



Touchwood

♦ C4 ♿ 

📅 Saturday 12th September 15.30-16.30

📍 The Ed Shed at The Folk of Gloucester, Westgate St

Why have we always muttered phrases to ourselves or repeated actions to explain the unexplainable? Actions or words not based on reason, logic or science have always guided our lives and hopes, helping us foretell and dispel bad luck. They are as old as the mists of time and will never cease to fascinate us - touch wood! A talk by Katherine Kear.



Waites of Gloucester

◆ B4 ♿

📅 Friday 11th September 11:00

📍 St Nicholas's Church, Westgate Street GL1 2PG

🕒 Duration: 30-45 mins

From medieval times to the early 19th century, every British town and city of any note had a band of Waites. The Waites of Gloucester performed from the later Elizabethan period until at least the end of James II's reign. Their four modern counterparts play music of this era on reproduction instruments, such as shawms, curtals, and recorders.



Third Age Folk

◆ B4 ♿

📅 Friday 11th September 14.00

📍 St Nicholas's Church, Westgate Street GL1 2PG

🕒 Duration: 30-45 mins

Gloucester & District u3a folk band, Third Age Folk, has been regularly entertaining at local events since its formation in 2015. Their repertoire includes folk music from around the world, but for Heritage Open Days, the programme will focus on traditional music from Gloucestershire.



Theoc Baroque

◆ E5 ♿

📅 Friday 11th September 15:15

📍 St Mary de Crypt Church, Southgate Street GL1 1TP

🕒 Duration: approx. 45 mins

Theoc Baroque was formed to explore the rich repertoire of music for voices and continuo from the 16th and 17th centuries. Their line-up of sopranos (Kate Oakley and Jill Davies), bass (Kenneth Roles), organ (Michael Oakley) and theorbo (Philip Turner) has given them the opportunity to explore some wonderful sacred music from Italy, France and Germany. For their return visit to Gloucester Heritage Open Days, they are delighted to present some of the beautiful devotional music they have discovered by Buxtehude, Allegri, Grandi, Rigatti, Cima, Monteverdi and Charpentier.

GLOUCESTER Heritage Open Days



Bygonz Wandering Minstrels

 **Saturday 12th September 10.30-11.15 and 12.30-14.00**

 **“Gate” streets and The Cross (city centre)**

Once again, catch Rob playing hurdy gurdy and Gillian playing pipe and tabor in traditional dress, performing their mediaeval-inspired instruments around the centre of our ancient city.



Bygonz

◆ B4 

 **Saturday 12th September 11.30**

 **St Nicholas's Church, Westgate Street GL1 2PG**

 **Duration: 30-45 mins**

Follow Bygonz to the wonderful St Nicholas's Church for a concert. Enjoy pipe and tabor and hurdy gurdy – part of the popular musical life of the country for centuries – played by local musicians Rob and Gillian, wearing traditional dress.



Carnival of Cryptids

◆ E5 

 **Saturday 12th September 13.30**

 **St Mary de Crypt Church, Southgate Street GL1 1TP**

 **Duration: 30-45 mins**

The Carnival of Cryptids is a “feral” folk choir singing unusual folk songs and occasional covers with a repertoire that varies depending on the time of year and event. It was formed to allow people with commitment issues, whether that be work, health or anything else, to still be able to join in and sing. They sing mainly at community events around Gloucestershire.

GLOUCESTER
FOLK TRAIL

10th anniversary

19th-21st
February 2027

GLOUCESTER
BID 



Chris Cundy

◆ B4 ♿

📅 Saturday 12th September 12.30

📍 St Nicholas's Church, Westgate Street GL1 2PG

🕒 Duration 30-45 mins

Chris Cundy returns to Heritage Open Days this year. The bass clarinetist, composer and sound installation artist has been awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Music by the University of Gloucestershire. He has previously partnered with The Roman Baths in Bath and the Corinium Museum in Cirencester, and this year, was commissioned by Saint Louis Art Museum (USA) to create a sound installation for their exhibition *Ancient Splendor: Roman Art in the Time of Trajan*. Now, we are excited to have him perform pieces from his fourth album, *Of All The Common Flowers*, within this wonderful old church.



Nethra Academy of Performing Arts (NAPA)

📅 Saturday 12th September 14.00

◆ C4 ♿

📍 The Folk of Gloucester, Westgate Street GL1 2PG

🕒 Duration: approx. 45 mins

NAPA was founded in January 2018 as a cultural organisation to promote Indian classical performing arts - Bharatanatyam (Dance), Carnatic Vocal, and Instrument (Mridangam), and to support the local communities in Gloucestershire. We are thrilled to welcome them back to Heritage Open Days 2026.



Ypotryll

◆ B4 ♿

📅 Saturday 12th September 14.30

📍 St Nicholas's Church, Westgate Street GL1 2PG

🕒 Duration: 30-45 mins

Ypotryll is a mythical medieval creature that lends its name to a trio who play and sing secular music of the Middle Ages, from 1200-1500. Instruments include harp, dulcimer, psaltery, vielle, recorder, and clavicembalum, all of them used in various combinations with voice. An unmissable performance.

GLOUCESTER Heritage Open Days

No booking required for heritage venues unless otherwise stated



Reinstated for 2026: Bearland House ◆ D4 B

ground floor only

📅 Friday 11th September: tours at 11.00 & 14.00

📍 Longsmith Street, GL1 2HT ⌚ Duration: 45 mins



B Advance booking required. Max. 15 per tour

An impressive 18th century building, Bearland House has an ornamental facade, forecourt and fine wrought iron railings and gates outside and an interior with a carved wooden staircase and decorated ceilings. It is now the busy and thriving atelier of shirt-makers Emma Willis, employing many highly skilled local cutters and seamstresses.



Beatrix Potter Museum

◆ C6 ♿

📅 Friday 11th & Saturday 12th September 10.00-16.00

📍 9 College Court GL1 2NJ

In 1903 Beatrix Potter published one of her most loved tales, The Tailor of Gloucester. It was inspired by a visit she made to the city. The Museum showcases donated Beatrix Potter memorabilia and displays include books, figurines, needlecraft and rare toys. A highlight is the replica waistcoat created by the Womens' Institute, embroidered over four hundred hours using a High Sheriff's wedding dress.



Brockworth Court

B

📅 Sunday 13th September: tours at 14.00 & 16.00

📍 Court Road, Brockworth GL3 4QU

⌚ Duration: 45 mins **B** Advance booking required. Max. 15

A Grade II* listed building, Brockworth Court was initially the residence for the Priors of Llanthony Priory. Following the dissolution of the monasteries, the Guise family owned it until the late 19th Century. The present owners, the Wiltshires, have lovingly restored the property and gardens. Interesting features include the tithe barn and a priest hole in the house. *More information is available at at: historichouses.org and greatbritishgardens.co.uk*

HERITAGE VENUES



Please note: steep and ancient steps make this site unsuitable for wheelchairs or those with mobility issues.

The Fleece Hotel and Undercroft

◆ D5 B



Friday 11th September 10.30, 11.30, 13.00, 14.00 & 15.00

Westgate Street, Gloucester GL1 2RD
Meet at the Golden Fleece archway on Westgate Street

Duration: 45 mins (Please wear practical footwear)

B Advance booking required. Max. 12 per tour.

The Fleece Inn was built around 1500, one of the “Great Inns” built by St.Peter’s Abbey. By 1665, it was known as the Golden Fleece, which reflected the wool trade. The property was sold by the church in 1799 and remained in private ownership until 2004. Now owned by Gloucester City Council, it is being completely renovated. You have a chance to see the work in progress and some points of interest that were uncovered. The 12th century tunnel vaulted undercroft is thought to be the best example in Europe of a rich merchant’s warehouse. Known locally as the “Monk’s Retreat”, it was a lively and popular bar when the Fleece was last open.



Gloucester Antiques Centre

◆ C6 B (tours)

Friday 11th and Saturday 12th September 10.00-17.00

Sunday 14th September 11.00-16.00

Tours: Saturday and Sunday 11.00, 13.00 & 15.00

26, Westgate St GL1 2NG (meet outside on Westgate St)

Duration: approx. 1hr **B** Booking required for tours

Believed to be Britain’s finest example of a timber framed town house. Built in 1560, it was once the hall of the Grocers’ Guild, the mansion house of a Mayor of Gloucester and, in the 19th Century, a lodging for assize judges. The building has created much interest since renovation work both inside and out was revealed recently. Come and be amazed!



NEW for 2026: Gloucester Brewery

◆ F3



B

Friday 11th September: tours at 11.00 & 14.00

Fox's Kiln West Quay GL1 2LG Duration: 60 mins

B Advance booking required. Max. 15 per tour

Enjoy the award-winning beer whilst being guided around Gloucester brewery by Head Brewer Pietro Lovato. Learning about the history of different beer styles as well as their production and brewing process, guests can sample a range of beers in the taproom. **Over 18s only.**

GLOUCESTER Heritage Open Days



Entry is free but donations are welcome!

Gloucester Cathedral opening

📍 Gloucester Cathedral GL1 2LX

◆ B5/6 ♿

📅 Saturday 12th September 10.00-16.00 (drop-in)

A warm welcome and 1000 years of history awaits you at Gloucester Cathedral, one of the most spectacular medieval buildings in the country. The Cathedral is world famous for its extraordinary fan-vaulted cloister which appears as Hogwarts in the Harry Potter movies. A stained-glass window the size of a tennis court, the tomb of the murdered King Edward II and the mysterious Whispering Gallery are just a few of the treasures that visitors will discover whilst here. The Monk's Kitchen eatery is a great place to relax and enjoy a delicious snack, lunch or cream tea, and the Cathedral shop is brimming with souvenirs and unique gifts.



NEW for 2026: Gloucester Cathedral Learning and Participation Hub

◆ B5/6



📅 Saturday 12th September 11.00 to 15.00 (drop-in)

📍 St Mary's Gate, St Mary's Square GL1 2QT

Originally the entrance to St Peter's Abbey and the place from which alms were distributed, this building dates from the 1200s. Now the Cathedral's Learning and Participation hub, this is a rare opportunity to explore fascinating historical features such as the original alms hole and the upper room from which, in 1555, the Dean and Chapter are said to have watched as Bishop Hooper was burnt at the stake outside.



The Stonemasons' Workshop at Gloucester Cathedral

◆ B5/6



📅 Saturday 12th September. 10.00-15.00 (drop in)

📍 Workshop of St Peter, Pitt Street, GL1 2BH

Gloucester is one of only a few Cathedrals that still has its own onsite Stonemasons' Workshop. Enjoy carving demonstrations and find out more about the work that this team do to conserve and restore an extraordinary building.

HERITAGE VENUES

NEW for 2026: Gloucester City Football Club



Friday 11th September: tours at 11.00 and 14:00

Sunday 13th September: tour at 11.00

♿ (partial) B



The KMM Energy Stadium, Sudmeadow Road GL2 5HD



Duration: approx. 1hr B Advance booking required

Discover the heart of Gloucester City AFC with an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour. Explore the stadium, step inside the dressing rooms, walk the players' tunnel and hear stories that shaped the club. Perfect for fans, families and football lovers wanting a closer connection to the Tigers' home.



See
gloucestercityafc.com for match
tickets & club info

Gloucester Furniture Exhibition Centre: Roman Wall



Friday 11th September & Saturday 12th September 9.30-16.30



71-73 Southgate St, Gloucester GL1 1TX

◆ F5 ♿

A historic Roman wall inside the store is on public view. The lower level of the wall is part of a Roman Colonia dating back to 97AD. At street level, it is a medieval building.



Heritage Hub (Archives)

◆ A8



Friday 11th September 10.00 - 16.00



Alvin Street, Gloucester GL1 3DW

The Heritage Hub is dedicated to gathering, keeping and sharing documentary evidence relating to Gloucestershire from the 1100s up to the present day. Come and see records and other interesting items along the route of the strongrooms. *Free refreshments served until 14.30*



Gloucestershire Family History Society



Friday 11th September 10.00 - 16.00

◆ A8



Heritage Hub (Archives), Alvin Street, Gloucester GL1 3DW

The Family History Centre will be open to assist with all your family history needs with Volunteers available to help you as a beginner or a seasoned researcher. A suite of computers will be available, giving free access to key commercial genealogy websites and other significant local Gloucestershire genealogy resources. There is a well-stocked reference library and publications for purchase in the book shop.



Donations welcome.
see www.gfhs.org.uk
for information &
membership.

GLOUCESTER Heritage Open Days



jetagemuseum.org

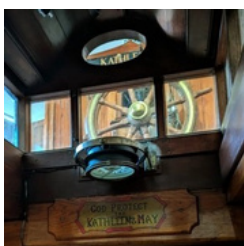
Jet Age Museum



 **Saturday 12th September & Sunday 13th September**
10.00-16.00

 **Meteor Business Park, Cheltenham Road East,
Staverton, Glos GL2 9QL (FREE PARKING)**

In addition to its usual attractions such as the Vulcan and Trident, the Jet Age Museum will also be displaying some of the hidden gems from its extensive archive. Entry is free with donations welcome.



Dogs welcome

Donations welcome

Kathleen & May, West Country Coastal Schooner

 **Saturday 12th September & Sunday 13th
September 11:00 - 16:30 (drop-in)**

 **F2/3**

 **Gloucester Docks GL1 2EH**

Max. 50 people on board at any given time. Entry monitored

Explore areas rarely seen by the public, including the Captain's Cabin, crew quarters and cargo spaces. Meet the volunteer team preserving the vessel, hear first-hand accounts of her rescue and conservation, and see traditional maritime skills helping to safeguard an irreplaceable part of Britain's heritage. *Unsuitable for wheelchair users / restricted mobility*



*See entry under
Walks for details of
guided tours*

Llanthony Secunda Priory

 **B4** 

 **Friday 11th September, Saturday 12th September
and Sunday 13th September 10.00 – 15.00 (drop in)**

 **Priory Junction (next to Gloucester College), Gloucester
GL2 5FA**

Founded in 1136, this Grade 1 listed former Augustinian Priory covers 5 acres. Marvel at the magnificent medieval timber roof and late 15th-early 16th Century brickwork. By the end of the 15th Century, Llanthony was the richest Augustinian house in England, entertaining the court of Henry VII in 1500 and 1501.

History Huddle Kayleigh Ackerman

 **Thursday 10th September 17.00-19.30**

Join us for one of Llanthony Priory's popular free talks. September's topic is St. Oswald: The Place and Person. Donations welcome.

HERITAGE VENUES



Mercer's Hall

◆ D5 ♿

📅 Saturday 12th September 11:00 – 16:00

📍 Cross Keys Lane, Gloucester GL1 2HQ

Probably built in the second half of the 18th century, this building has been occupied by a perfumier, a cider maker and a brewer and has been used as a bonded warehouse and dance hall. It is presently occupied by the Gloucester Freemasons as their Masonic Lodge.



Museum of Gloucester (FREE ENTRY)

◆ E6 ♿

📅 Friday 11th & Saturday 12th September 10.00-17.00

📍 Wheatstone Hall, Brunswick Road, GL1 1HP

All events at the Museum of Gloucester are free during Heritage Open Days weekend. See:

<https://www.museumofgloucester.co.uk/events?tag=HODs> for details

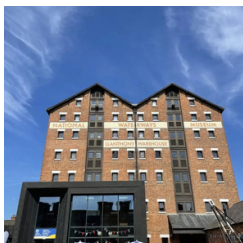
Brick Builders Club: Dragons & Castles

📅 Saturday 12th September 11.00-12.00

B Booking required via

<https://www.museumofgloucester.co.uk/events?tag=HODs>

Step into a world of knights, dragons and magical castles in this relaxed, self-directed LEGO session for families. Build at your own pace, follow fun themed prompts, or let your imagination run wild! All materials provided. Suitable for families with children aged 5+. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.



National Waterways Museum Gloucester

◆ G3 ♿

📅 Saturday 12th September 10.00-16.00

📍 Llanthony Warehouse, Gloucester Docks GL1 2EH

FREE ENTRY on this day

Visit the National Waterways Museum, part of the Canal & River Trust, in the historic Llanthony Warehouse at the heart of Gloucester Docks. The museum explores over 200 years of history along the Gloucester & Sharpness Canal and the River Severn, and tells the stories of the people who lived and worked on the local waterways.



THE FOLK
OF GLOUCESTER
Heritage. Community. Arts

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ABOUT US

Planning a birthday party, workshop or corporate away day? Putting on a gig, theatre show or community event? Consider booking with The Folk of Gloucester! Whether you want the character of our historic Tudor building, or a modern meeting room in our Ed Shed, we can cater for a wide range of requirements. Just get in touch!

WE CAN OFFER:

- Cafe
- Popup Bar
- Buffet & catering
- Private tours
- Performance space
- Wifi
- Smart board
- Projector
- Disabled parking
- Tea & coffee facilities



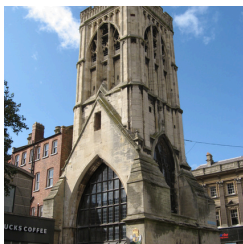
From
£25
per hour

Contact us:



info@thefolkofgloucester.co.uk

HERITAGE VENUES



St Michael's Tower

◆ D6  

 **Friday 11th - Sunday 13th September 10.30 - 16.00**

 **The Cross, Gloucester GL1 1PD Refreshments & toilets**

Dating back to 1465, St Michael's Tower is the surviving tower of what was once the Church of St Michael the Archangel. The interior contains interesting displays on the history of the church that once stood on the site, alongside two heritage bells made in Gloucester in 1710 by Abraham Rudhall. Meet our volunteers, find out more about the Tower's history, and enjoy light refreshments in the seating area.



The Folk of Gloucester

◆ D5  (partial) **B** (tours) 

 **Friday 11th - Sunday 13th September 10.00 -16.00**

 **99 - 103 Westgate Street, Gloucester GL1 2PG**

Drop in to these exquisite Tudor buildings which are the hub of Gloucester Civic Trust. Find out about the people who owned, worked or lived in them during the last 500 years. Hear the stories of the witch's bottle, the last baby born here, Bishop Hooper's last night before being burnt at the stake, and much more. The cafe and bar will be serving delicious freshly-prepared food and drinks. There is a beautiful garden and outdoor seating area. Please note that only the ground floor, cafe and garden are wheelchair accessible.

Tours of The Folk

 **Friday 11th & Saturday 12th September at 10.00, 12.00 and 14.00**

 **Duration: 45 mins** **B** **Booking required. Max. 10**

A short tour delivered by our enthusiastic volunteers with donations welcomed. Please note that the route involves multiple staircases and uneven floors, and only the ground floor is wheelchair accessible.

Wotton House



 **Saturday 12th September 10.00-13.00**

 **International School, Horton Road, Gloucester, GL1 3PR**
No booking required. Tea and cake available

Wotton House has been part of the Wotton landscape since 1707, is home to some fascinating characters and, for almost 100 years, has been educating many students. *For details on talk see entry under Talks.*



GLOUCESTER Heritage Open Days



Friends Meeting House

◆ E5



♿ (partial access)



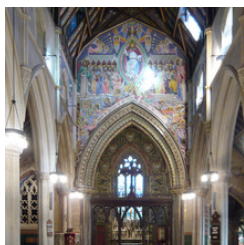
Saturday 12th September 10:00 - 16:00

Sunday 13th September 12:00 - 16:00



Greyfriars, Gloucester GL1 1UA

Built in 1834, this Grade II listed Quakers Meeting House has a large unique wooden screen between the two main rooms which can be wound up and down to make one large space. A large portico with a schoolroom above were added in 1878.



Holy Innocents Church



Sunday 13th September 14.00 – 16.00



Newent Road, Highnam GL2 8DG

This Grade I listed church was built in the Victorian Gothic style and is highly decorated with frescoes by Thomas Gambier Parry of Highnam Court: father to composer Sir Hubert Parry. Gambier Parry was a generous Christian benefactor, developing health care, science and art in Gloucester.



Holy Trinity Church



Friday 11th & Saturday 12th September 10.00 – 16.00

Sunday 13th September 12.00 – 16.00



Church Road, Longlevens, Gloucester GL2 0AJ

This church is an interesting Grade II listed 1930s structure designed by Harold Stratton-Davis in a 15th century style. It contains medieval stained-glass windows that came from the now demolished church of St Luke the Less.



Mariners Church

◆ F3



Friday 11th & Saturday 12th September 10.00- 17.00

Sunday 13th September 13.00-16.00



The Docks, Gloucester GL1 2EN

The Church opened in 1849 to 'care for the souls' of sailors from many nations and boatmen and families from the canal barges. Alongside meeting their spiritual needs, the church provided basic education for their families and established the dock's first coffee shop. There will be a talk about the church on Saturday 12th at 11.00am (*See entry under Talks*)

PLACES OF WORSHIP



Southgate Evangelical Church



Saturday 12th September 10.00-15.00

Sunday 13th September 11.00-12.15: family service & creche



146 Southgate Street GL1 2EX

This city church was established by Dr Walter Hadwen in 1906. On Saturday 12th September from 11-1pm, the musical wind quintet “Westerly Winds” will be performing a free concert. Refreshments provided.



St Catharine's Church



Saturday 12th September 10.00-15.00



London Road, Gloucester GL2 0RR

The church will be open for visitors to have a look around and enjoy some light refreshments. The parish of St Catharine's is probably unique in that during its 465 years it has had three churches, and a period of over 200 years when it was without a church building yet continued to survive and flourish. Today, the third and remaining St Catharine's church includes a number of references to Saint Catherine, with the famous wheel featured in a number of places around the building.



NEW for 2026: St George's Church, Brockworth



Friday 11th, Saturday 12th & Sunday 13th Sept. 10.00-16.00



Roman Way (off Court Road), Brockworth GL3 4QU



Built by the first resident Norman Lord of the Manor, Roger de Chandos, in 1142, it is one of the earliest Anglican parish churches in England to be dedicated to St George. The church site may date back to Saxon times and has witnessed centuries of village life, from medieval farming to the famous cheese rolling on nearby Cooper's Hill. Much of the building was restored during the Victorian era, while later improvements preserved the church for future generations. It was Grade I listed in 1955.



St Mary de Crypt Church & Old Crypt School Rooms



Friday 11th and Saturday 12th September 11.00 - 16:00

Sunday 13th September 11:00 - 15:00



Southgate Street, Gloucester GL1 1TP



Explore one of the most ancient churches in Gloucester and its Tudor schoolrooms. *For facilities, see entry under Heritage Open Days Hubs. For events, see entries under Walks, Talks and Music.*

GLoucester Heritage Open Days



St Mary de Lode Church



Saturday 12th September 10.00-16.00
Sunday 13th September 11:00-15:00

Archdeacon Street, Gloucester GL1 2TB

The city's oldest parish church is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1085. Built over a Saxon church and a Roman building, a Roman mosaic tiled floor can still be seen in the church. It was used as a prison for Royalist soldiers during the Civil War in 1643.



St Mary Magdalene Chapel



Sunday 13th September 14.00-16.00 for general viewing

Hillfield Gardens, London Road, Gloucester GL1 3HN
(parking by Denmark Road entrance)

Located inside the Victorian gardens of Church House - previously called Hillfield House - the Chapel is the remains of a 12th century chancel for the church which was built to serve the leper hospital. It was restored the 19th century and contains a stone recumbent figure of a young girl.
See entry under Walks for guided tours on Friday 11th September



St Mary's Congregational Church



Saturday 12th September 10.00-17.00
Sunday 13th September: services at 10.30, 12.30 & 16.30

St Mary's Street, Gloucester GL1 2QS

Originally in St Mary's Square, the church was relocated to St Mary's Street following the redevelopment of the city. The building was bought by Selina, Countess of Huntingdon, in 1788 for the Gloucester followers of George Whitefield, the famous 18th Century preacher. Originally called St Mary's Hall, it then moved to St Mary's Congregational Hall in 1958. The Family Haven is the chosen charity this year. Come and discover the services they provide to help disadvantaged and vulnerable families in Gloucestershire.



PLACES OF WORSHIP



St Nicholas's Church



 **Friday 11th 10.45-16.00, Saturday 12th September 11.00-16.00 & Sunday 13th September 11.00-15.00**

 **Westgate Street, Gloucester GL1 2PG**

A beautiful medieval church with many interesting features and sympathetic Victorian restoration including the Walton tomb, leaning tower, sanctuary knocker, squints, and coat of arms. The art installation 'We Are Gathered Here', created by students at Gloucestershire College, will once again fill the church. Depicting a congregation in silhouette, it pays homage to the people who have contributed to Westgate Street and Gloucester's fascinating heritage over time.

For events, see entry under Music



St Philip and St James Church



 **Sunday 13th September 13.00-16.00**

 **Larkhay Road, Hucclecote, Gloucester GL3 3NS**

The church opened in 1851 as a daughter church of the ancient church of St Bartholomew's, Churchdown to cater for Hucclecote's growing population. It was built in medieval gothic style by the local architect's firm of John Jacques & Son, who were also responsible for the Mariners Chapel in the docks, and features some outstanding examples of 19th and 20th century stained glass.



St Swithun's Church



 **Friday 11th September 09.00-16.00
Saturday 12th & Sunday 13th September 12.00-16.00**

 **St Swithun's Road, Hempsted, Gloucester GL2 5LH**

A Church has existed in Hempsted from 826, and the 12th Century Norman font is from the original church. In the well-kept Churchyard is "The Cavaliers Tomb" of Captain John Freeman, who was slain at the siege of Gloucester in 1643. Displays feature information on the church and village war memorial, details of the 1885 restoration work, information on plaques and stained-glass windows in the church, and people from between the 1st and 2nd World Wars.

See swithunandmary.org.uk



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Help keep history alive with Gloucester Civic Trust

Meet people and have new experiences in a wide range of flexible roles



We urgently need new volunteers to help with the running of our public engagement programmes and historic buildings. Whatever your skills or availability, we want to hear from you! Here are just a few of our opportunities:

- Become an accredited City tour guide through our free training programme
- Volunteer in The Folk of Gloucester's cafe or award-winning garden
- Steward our events (and see them for free!)
- Welcome visitors at The Folk of Gloucester or St Michael's Tower

...or let us know what you can offer!

GET IN TOUCH



 gloucestercivictrust.org/volunteer

 volunteer@gloucestercivictrust.org



OTHER SITES & USEFUL LINKS

Other sites which are open all year round

Information on Historic Inns, Beatrix Potter Museum, Gloucester Furniture Exhibition, Tommi Nielson's Dry Dock, Upstairs Downstairs Antiques is on our website gloucestercivictrust.org/heritage-open-days or use the QR code:



Other events on during Heritage Open Days:



Gloucester History Festival

📍 Blackfriars Priory, Gloucester GL1 2HN

📅 5th - 20th September

Join us for a mouth-watering programme of over 200 events including more than 100 of Britain's top speakers. Visit www.gloucesterhistoryfestival.co.uk for more information.

Pride March

📍 Gloucester Cathedral to Gloucester Park

📅 Saturday 12th September 10.30-12.00

A fun filled day out for everyone with events at the Park until 20.00. Visit www.prideinglos.org.uk/gloucester for more information



Displays about the history of Gloucester



Find out about Gloucester's past by taking a stroll around the city. For more information on the following go to our website gloucestercivictrust.org/heritage-open-days or use the QR code above.

Sainsbury's mural, Hare Lane; Boots mural, Brunswick Road; "We Are Gathered Here" art installation at St Nicholas's Church; photos in Public Houses; Tailor of Gloucester roundels in Westgate Street and mouse trail (sheet on the website); Westgate Street seats, mosaics and plaques in pavement; mosaics on the gate streets; blue plaques; information boards; ghost signs... and much more!

Useful links

National HODs: heritageopendays.org.uk

Gloucester Civic Trust: gloucestercivictrust.org

Gloucester HODs: gloucestercivictrust.org/heritage-open-days

Ticket booking: <https://buytickets.at/gloucestercivictrustlimited>

Gloucester Civic Trust social media

Facebook: www.facebook.com/GloucesterCivicTrust

Instagram: www.instagram.com/gloscivictrust

You can also review us on Google via the QR code!







Supported by:



heritage **open** days



Thank you for being part of Gloucester Heritage Open Days!

If you enjoy our events, you may wish to consider becoming a member of Gloucester Civic Trust or giving a one-time donation.

Gloucester Civic Trust is a registered charity working to preserve and promote Gloucester's architectural heritage all year round through our historic buildings, guided tours and community education. Your support will help us to keep putting on events like these in the years to come.

Donate or sign up at:

gloucestercivictrust.org



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