

Heritage Open Days return

11-20 September 2026



Every September thousands of volunteers across England organise events to celebrate our fantastic history and culture. It's your chance to see hidden places, try out new experiences and find out stories of fascinating people who shaped our past – all of which are FREE to explore. This year's theme is:

**Everyday Histories and the
impact ordinary people had
on their local communities**

ALL visits/events are FREE.



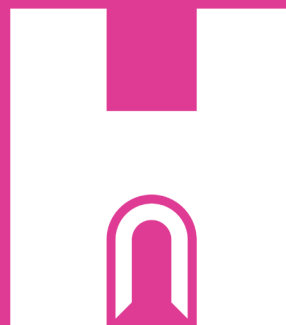
**Welcome to England's largest
heritage festival, taking place
11-20 September, at thousands
of places across the country.**

Join 46,400 volunteers in celebrating local places and stories and explore the multitude of familiar and hidden places on your doorstep, completely free of charge.

Check out our easy-to-use online directory to find out what's happening near you
www.heritageopendays.org.uk/directory

**Heritage Open Days is England's largest
festival of history and culture**, bringing together over 2,000 organisations, 5,000 events and 40,000 volunteers. Every year in September, places across the country throw open their doors to celebrate their heritage, community and history. It's your chance to see hidden places and try out new experiences – and it's all FREE.

To find out more go to:
www.heritageopendays.org.uk



Heritage Open Days around Richmond have been coordinated and promoted by:



**Richmond and District
Civic Society**

To find out more about the monthly programme of talks organised by the Civic Society, visit the website at

www.richmondcivicsociety.org

Illustrated talk on
**Richmond Racecourse
Grandstand past
and present**



**Wednesday October 21st
Richmond School Upper Hall
7.00 for 7.30 pm**

The Old Grandstand on Richmond Racecourse is 250 years old this year and is the oldest stone-built grandstand on a rural racecourse in the world. Holly Spilsbury, Senior Architect with Donald Insall Associates, will talk on the present and future plans for the Richmond Old Grandstand buildings.

No booking required

Civic Society Members free: Visitors £10

DIARY OF EVENTS

FRIDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER

1 Richmondshire Museum Tales of the Swale 1.00 pm – 3.00 pm



Tales of the Swale is centred around a Polish gentleman who found a home and solace in Richmond. Original typewriters are used to capture memories of the Swale included in the exhibition, with craft activities along this theme.

No booking required

SATURDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER

2 Holy Trinity Chapel . DL10 4JQ 10.00 am – 12.00 noon

A chance to visit the Chapel of Holy Trinity Church, founded c. 1154. Learn about its fascinating history and uses.

Location: to the rear of the Green Howards Museum in the Market Place.

No booking required

3 St Mary's Bell Tower DL10 4LB 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm

A chance to see St Mary's heritage bells and new bells. Half-hour guided tours.

Book a timed visit:

2.00 pm / 2.30 pm / 3.00 pm / 3.30 pm. Maximum of 6 people per session. Must be able to climb irregular steps and ladders.

Advance booking required.

Contact richmondcivicsociety@gmail.com

4 Georgian Theatre Royal DL10 4DW Family Guided Tours 10am/11am/12 noon



A costumed guide will greet visitors and provide a family trail booklet for older children, with a spot the object for younger visitors.

Numbers limited to 20 (adults /children) for each session

Advance booking required.

Reserve a place by emailing admin@georgiantheatreroyal.co.uk

5 Croft with Chris Lloyd

10.30 am – 12 noon

A walk along the roads and riverbanks of Croft-on-Tees looking at spa hotels and the grave of a vicar who could not be saved by the spa water, and looking at the homes of the children's author Lewis Carroll and of the first £1,000 footballer Alf Common, and wondering whether Blondin ever crossed the Tees on a tightrope.

Starting at 10.30am on Saturday, September 12, at Croft church, where the walk will also finish. The church is itself going to be open from 10am to 2pm on the day with light

refreshments being served.

Numbers limited to 30.

Reserve a place via richmond.civicsociety@gmail.org

SUNDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER

6 Pond – dipping at Foxglove Covert 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm

The sessions will be structured into 30-minute slots for up to 6 children in each session. Additionally, educational games and colouring activities will be available in the classroom, and parking will be free during event hours.

Reserve a place through

Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/foxglove-covert-lnr-106326464471>

Access via Waithwith Road, Catterick Garrison DL9 3PX



7 For God and the Commons: Easby Abbey and the people of Richmondshire 1.30 pm – 4.00 pm

This tour around the precinct of Easby Abbey will focus on its impact for local people. The abbey was an employer, an alms-giver, a trade-partner, a keeper of local landscapes, as well as a provider of spiritual care to the ordinary people of Richmondshire. This tour will be interactive and take about an hour. Questions and conversation are welcome!

Meet at the gate to the English Heritage Abbey site at Easby

Maximum number 15

Reserve a place by emailing kastreatfield@gmail.com

Image provided by
Kate Streatfield

MONDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER

8 Green Howards Museum Richmond's own: two stories of courage 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm

Come and discover the lives of John Weller and Robert Henry Murray, two local men whose extraordinary deeds and sacrifice deserve to be remembered.

Booking link: www.greenhowards.org.uk/events
or tel. 01748 826561

Maximum number: 30.



TUESDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER

9 **Richmond Castle: Conscientious Objectors in WW1** 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm

The event begins with a talk in the Mayor's Parlour, Richmond Town Hall; then proceeds to the Castle for staged tours of the cell block in groups of 5. Maximum number overall 15. To book contact richmond.civicsociety@gmail.com



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Meet at the gate to the English Heritage Abbey site at Easby

Maximum number 15.

Reserve a place by emailing kastreatfield@gmail.com

WED 16TH SEPTEMBER

10 **Guided tour of Aske Hall DL10 5HJ**

Led by Robin, Marquess of Zetland

10.00 am / 11.00 am
/ 12.00 noon

Advance booking required.

Contact: kathryn@aske.co.uk to reserve a place.

Maximum 15 per visit.

11 **For God and the Commons:**

**Easby Abbey and the people
of Richmondshire**

1.30 pm – 4.00 pm

This tour around the precinct of Easby Abbey will focus on its impact for local people.

THURSDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER

12 **Guided tour of Aske Hall DL10 5HJ**

Led by Robin, Marquess of Zetland

10.00 am / 11.00am
/ 12.00 noon

Advance booking required.

Contact: kathryn@aske.co.uk to reserve a place.

Maximum 15 per visit

13 **Helen Guy: Memoirs of a Swaledale Woman**

**Townshend Suite:
The Station**
2.00 pm – 3.30 pm

Taken from a 1984 interview and told in her own words, Maggie-Jo Chapman describes what life was like growing up on a remote hill farm in Swaledale in the early 1900's.

Maximum number 30.

Book via richmond.civicsociety@gmail.com

FRIDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER

14 **Workers at Richmond Station: John Young**

10.00 am – 12.00 noon
Screen 2 Richmond Station

The talk will focus on the people who worked at the station, their roles and the services they offered. It will

cover the facilities available and their work involved in the various types of traffic handled. Following the talk, there will be the opportunity to take a tour of building and the overall station site, where much evidence of its life as a working station still exists.

Talk - *no booking required*

Tour - maximum 20.

Advance booking via richmond.civicsociety@gmail.com

15 **A Victorian Policeman:**

Ian Woods
2.00 – 3.00 pm



Ian Woods, in his role as the Victorian policeman, Charles Manley, will talk about Richmond's Town Hall and lead a walk around the town.

Location: meet outside the Town Hall entrance.

Advance booking required.

Numbers limited to 10.

Contact richmond.civicsociety@gmail.com



16 **A walk to look at some of the Designed Landscape of Aske Hall**

with Val Hepworth.
2.00 pm – 4.00 pm

With a visit to the Temple, the setting of the Walled Garden and the Pleasure Grounds. Meet at the carpark south of Mocha teasshop, where toilets and drinks are available. Sturdy shoes/boots are needed. There are some slopes and uneven ground. You must be able to complete a two - mile walk.

Advanced booking required.

Maximum number is 30.

Contact richmond.civicsociety@gmail.com



17 **Kiplin Hall: Domestic service at Kiplin**

6.00 pm – 7.30 pm



Enjoy a fascinating talk with Curator, Alice Rose, and learn about the staff who contributed to the smooth running of the Hall.

Café open from 5.30pm - drinks and cake will be available to purchase. Talk begins at 6pm and will last an hour and will conclude with questions as well as an opportunity to have a look round the Annie Marchant Kitchen and Dairy collection. Maximum number is 40.

Advance booking is essential.

Email admin@kiplinhall.co.uk to make a booking.



SATURDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER

18 Old Schools of Richmond:

Jos Huddleston – What we learned

11.00 am – 12.30 pm

What we needed, what we learned, what was changed and did it matter! A short walk

round places of education in Richmond in Victorian and earlier times. Led by retired head teacher Jos Huddleston. Meet outside the old Grammar School on Station Road. Maximum number 15. Reserve a place by emailing richmondcivicsociety@gmail.com

19 Ghost Walk: Rhoda Fraser 2.00 pm



Find out about Richmond's ghostly heritage in this entertaining walk with Rhoda Fraser. Approx. 1 hour and 15 minutes. Meet at the entrance

to Friary Gardens opposite the Theatre. DL10 4UJ

Advanced booking required
tel. 07775 6184 72

SUNDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER

20 People of Richmond:



10.00 am – 11.30 am

Local historian, Graham Berry, will lead a guided walk around Richmond to tell the stories of some of the people who were born, lived or worked in the town.

Meet by Trinity Chapel (back of the Green Howards Museum) in the Market Place.

Numbers limited to 15.

Reserve a place by emailing richmondcivicsociety@gmail.com

21 Richmond Racecourse:

Colin Grant

2.00 pm



A guided walk around Richmond's historic racecourse to learn something of its history,

its historic buildings (including the oldest surviving stone-built grandstand on its original site in the world) and the plans of the Burgage Pastures Committee.

Location: meet in the carpark at the top of Hurgill Road/the western end of the racecourse.

No booking required

