



# HERITAGE OPEN DAYS THANET

8th - 17th September 2023



[@VISITTHANET](#) [@HERITAGEOPENDAY](#) [#HODSTHANET](#) [#HODS](#)  
[/VISITTHANET](#) [/HERITAGEOPENDAYS](#) [@VISITTHANET](#) [@HERITAGEOPENDAYS](#)



heritage open days

Welcome to

# Thanet Heritage Open Days 2023

Friday 8th – Sunday 17th September

The Ramsgate Society, with support from Thanet District Council, has curated this guide to Heritage Open Days in Margate, Broadstairs, Ramsgate and the surrounding villages, to showcase an exciting programme of free events, celebrating our fantastic local history, architecture and culture.

[visitthanet.co.uk/heritageopendays](http://visitthanet.co.uk/heritageopendays)

## Passionate about local history, heritage & community? We need you!

Thanet Heritage projects are a great place to volunteer. To find out about the exciting and varied opportunities scan here

[heritagevolunteers.co.uk](http://heritagevolunteers.co.uk)

with QR code attached or email

[volunteerproject@margatecaves.co.uk](mailto:volunteerproject@margatecaves.co.uk)



## CREATIVITY UNWRAPPED

The country-wide theme for 2023 is “Creativity Unwrapped”. From the painting of Pugin designs to the drawing of a church linked to Turner, to talks about circus showmen and tours of the house that inspired Charles Dickens, festival participants are invited to unwrap the history of some of Thanet’s creative persons and places.

**Heritage Open Days is the country’s largest heritage festival with around 5,000 events, over 40,000 volunteers and more than three million visitors taking part. Celebrating local history, architecture and culture, the ten-day event offers everyone the chance to see hidden places and experience something new, all of which are completely free to explore, though donations are very welcome.**

Heritage Open Days operates as part of the National Trust with funding from players of People’s Postcode Lottery. Established in 1994, it is England’s contribution to the European Heritage Days, which are held annually in September in 50 signatory states to the European Cultural Convention.

For more information and to find out about events across England: [www.heritageopendays.org.uk](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk)

 @HERITAGEOPENDAY #HODS  /HERITAGEOPENDAYS  @HERITAGEOPENDAYS

## Thank you to our Partners

We hope you enjoy exploring our unique coastal towns and villages during Heritage Open Days. We are very lucky to have a range of passionate and enthusiastic partners across Margate, Broadstairs, Ramsgate and our villages. A heartfelt thank you must go to all our local interest groups and societies, attractions involved and all the volunteers who make Heritage Open Days a massive success for Thanet.

# HERITAGE OPEN DAYS - AT A GLANCE

	SEPTEMBER	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
BIRCHINGTON HERITAGE CENTRE	x	x	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
CLIFTONVILLE CULTURAL SPACE, ARK	x	✓	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x	✓	✓
CRAB MUSEUM	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	✓	✓
DRAPERS WINDMILL	x	✓	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x	✓	✓
DREAMLAND HERITAGE TRUST	x	✓	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x	✓	✓
DICKENS HOUSE	x	✓	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x	✓	✓
ELLINGTON PARK	x	x	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
MARGATE CAVES	✓	✓	✓	x	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
MARGATE MUSEUM	x	✓	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x	✓	✓
MINSTER ABBEY	x	✓	x	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
MONKTON NATURE RESERVE	x	✓	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
MONTEFIORE SYNAGOGUE	x	x	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
PALACE CINEMA	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	✓	✓	✓	x
POWELL-COTTON MUSEUM AND GARDENS	x	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
RAMSGATE TUNNELS	x	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
SPENCER SQUARE – VAN GOGH	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	✓
ST AUGUSTINE'S & PUGIN SHRINE AND VISITOR CENTRE	✓	✓	x	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x
ST GEORGE THE MARTYR CHURCH	x	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	✓	x
ST LAURENCE-IN-TANET CHURCH	x	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	✓	x
ST JOHN'S CHURCH MARGATE	x	✓	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
THE GRANGE AND ST EDWARDS PRESBYTERY	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	✓	✓	✓	✓
THE ITALIANATE GLASSHOUSE	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	✓	✓
THE SPITFIRE & HURRICANE MEMORIAL MUSEUM	x	x	x	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
THIS MUSEUM IS NOT OBSOLETE	x	x	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
WEST OF THE BROOKS WALK WITH ROBIN COLYER	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	✓	x

## COVID-19

The events will run in line with local and national government guidelines and regulations at the time of the festival. For further details for each individual event please visit their website.



## MARGATE

### CLIFTONVILLE CULTURAL SPACE, ARK

The Synagogue, Albion Road, Cliftonville, CT9 2HP  
07949 154628

[cliftonvilleculturalspace.com](http://cliftonvilleculturalspace.com)

**Sat 9, Sun 10, Sat 16 and Sun 17, 11am-4pm**

ARK, newly refurbished in the former Margate synagogue, was built in 1929 and retains a number of original features including decorative stained glass windows and the ladies' gallery.

Visit the 'CliftonvilleVoices' exhibition which commemorates the rich Jewish history of the area as well as celebrating its current diverse communities. The history of Cliftonville is explored through neighbourhood resident interviews, past and present, using film, displays and an immersive soundscape.

Joy C Martindale, a local artist, led refugee and migrant mothers, as part of the United Mothers Project, in Margate and Samphire, Dover, to create the art show 'Mother Trees Connect the Forest'. Come along to view this glorious and fascinating show.

*No accessibility. Street parking.*

### CRAB MUSEUM

9 Broad Street, CT9 1EW  
[info@crabmuseum.org](mailto:info@crabmuseum.org)  
[crabmuseum.org](http://crabmuseum.org)

**Sat 16 and Sun 17, 11am-4:30pm**

Visit Europe's only museum dedicated to the world of the decapod. Discover the secrets of these remarkable animals, from the story of the giant Margate crab to what the extinct Sooty Crayfish has in common with fidget spinners.

*Access from ground floor via stairs. On-street parking, nearby car parks (charged).*

### DRAPERS WINDMILL

St. Peter's Footpath, off College Road, CT9 2SP  
07985 147563

Pre-booked tours a must via  
[enquiries@draperswindmill.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@draperswindmill.org.uk)

[facebook.com/draperswindmill](https://www.facebook.com/draperswindmill)

**Sat 9, Sun 10, Sat 16 and Sun 7, 12pm-4pm**

This 170 year old smock mill is grinding once again following restoration. See it in operation, subject to wind conditions.

Easy steps lead into the ground floor where a film and CCTV give you sight of what is happening. Higher floors are accessible to more agile visitors.

*Light refreshments available. Toilet facilities. Street parking.*



### MARGATE CAVES

Northdown Road, CT9 1FG  
Pre-booking of tours a must! Tours 30 mins long.

01843 838048,  
[info@margatecaves.co.uk](mailto:info@margatecaves.co.uk)

[eventbrite.co.uk/e/heritage-open-days-tickets-638690740197](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/heritage-open-days-tickets-638690740197)

**Fri 8 to Sun 10, 10am-4:30pm**  
**Wed 13 to Sun 17, 10am-4:30pm**

Explore underground to discover over 200 years of history. Under the hill of Cliftonville lies the Margate caves. From chalk mines to a rich man's playground the caves have been used in a variety of ways over the years. Open to the public on and off since Victorian times venture down the tunnel, explore the caves and chat to our friendly team who can spin tales of years gone by.

*No accessibility as many steps and uneven floors. Parking nearby.*

**Sat 16, Tile making class, 11am-2pm**

Jayne Wright brings her 'Tiles of Joy' to the caves. Create a tile as part of a community art project (no entry to caves). Pre-booking a must!

Contact details as above

[www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/tiles-of-joy-tickets-639764923107](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/tiles-of-joy-tickets-639764923107)

## DREAMLAND HERITAGE TRUST

Hall by the Sea Road, CT9 1XJ

tamara@dreamlandheritagetrust.org.uk

Pre-booking a must! [dreamlandheritagetrust.org.uk](http://dreamlandheritagetrust.org.uk)

**Sat 9, Sun 10, Sat 16 and Sun 17, 11am-4pm**

Main concourse opposite the ballroom.

Discover 100 years of Dreamland's incredible history at the 'Dreamcatcher' exhibition. Record your own memories of Dreamland for the archive in the custom-built Dreamcatcher booth.

**Sat 16, 4pm-5:30pm** Ballroom

Join the 'Circus, Sanger and Showmen' history talk about Britain's greatest showman, Lord George Sanger, who in the 1870s brought his menagerie of animals and zoological gardens to Dreamland. Find out about this fascinating Victorian circus innovator, the performers he brought to Margate and how his influence shaped the town.

**Sun 17, 11am-3pm** Ballroom

Families are invited to a 'Cardboard Arcade' workshop where children can create their own arcade game inspired by the historic arcade games at Dreamland.

*Cafe. Accessible. Toilets. Parking in Dreamland car park (chargeable).*

## WEST OF THE BROOKS WALK WITH ROBIN COLYER

Walk starts at Margate Railway Station, Station Approach, Margate, CT9 5AD 07878 537448

**Sat 16, 2pm**

Robin Colyer will be leading a local history walk on behalf of Margate Civic Society - a special walk as part of the Heritage Open Days looking at the development of Westbrook and Hartsdown Park.

The walk starts at the railway station, Margate.

*There is a donation charge of at least £3 for the walk, which lasts approximately an hour and a half.*

## MARGATE MUSEUM

Market Place, CT9 1ER

info@margatemuseums.org

[margatemuseums.org](http://margatemuseums.org)

**Sat 9, Sun 10, Sat 16 and Sun 17, 11am-3pm**

Come and see 2,500 plus years of the history of "Meregate" (that is not a misspelling). Also included are specific displays covering the history of Dreamland, paddle steamers and the Holy Trinity Church in Cliftonville. Learn about the murder at the Hippodrome hotel and you don't want to miss our 'Police in Margate' display. Fancy being locked in a circa 1858 police cell?

*Limited access. Parking nearby.*

## ST JOHN'S CHURCH MARGATE

Victoria Road, CT9 1LN

01843 224957 (am only)

**Sat 9, 10am-4pm, Tour 2pm, organist 11am and 1pm, 1 hour performances**

**Sun 10, 12pm-4pm, organist 1:30pm, 1 hour performance**

St John's has been a place of worship since 1050. Points of interest include its Norman origins, a stone font dating from 1485, funeral hatchments bearing coats of arms, stained glass and a carved reredos. The young Turner painted St John's, and the gravestone of Mrs. Booth, his landlady, stands in the churchyard.

Local historian, Robin Colyer, will be giving a guided tour of the church. There will be home baking, handmade crafts and special performances by organist David Lammler. Visitors of all ages are invited to explore their creativity by sketching their own view of St John's and comparing it with Turner's. Materials provided.

*Pop up cafe. Disabled access. Parking available.*

## BROADSTAIRS

### PALACE CINEMA

Harbour Street, CT10 1ET

Pre-booked talks are a must! Corinna Downing 07791 772250

info@thepalacecinema.co.uk

[thepalacecinema.co.uk](http://thepalacecinema.co.uk)

**Fri 15, open 1pm-4pm, talk at 2pm (35 mins)**

**Sat 16, open 11am-2pm, talk at 12pm (35 mins)**

Explore the unique story of the Palace, then take your seat for a talk about Margate, Broadstairs and Ramsgate as film locations! From the 1940s to Empire of Light, hear about local film heritage on screen.

See inside Broadstairs' lovely old Grade II listed cinema and explore the foyer and auditorium. With displays and children's activity sheets.

*Step-free access to auditorium (stalls) via slope at rear of building. Access to foyer and balcony via stairs at front of building.*

### DICKENS HOUSE MUSEUM

2 Victoria Parade, CT10 1QS

01843 861232

[dickensmuseumbroadstairs.com](http://dickensmuseumbroadstairs.com)

**Sat 9, Sun 10, Sat 16 and Sun 17, tours from 1pm-4:30pm**

Dickens House Museum celebrates Charles Dickens' long connection with Broadstairs (1837 -1851). It is housed in the cottage that was Dickens' inspiration for the home of Betsey Trotwood in David Copperfield.

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the museum opening, a new walking trail has been launched. Come and follow in the footsteps of this world famous author who spent almost two years in Broadstairs.

*Gift shop. Ground floor accessible only. Two accessible parking bays 50 metres away. Nearby toilets.*

# RAMSGATE

## ELLINGTON PARK

Park Road, CT11 9TL

07577 852797

[friendsofellingtonpark@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofellingtonpark@gmail.com)

**Sun 10, 11am-4pm**

Come along to celebrate the 130th anniversary of Ellington Park becoming a public park. A fun and informative day for the whole family with historic displays and talks, a variety of performers and children's crafting activities.

*Cafe. Fully accessible, including toilets. Baby changing facilities. Limited street parking, but Loop bus stops and rail station 10 minutes away. Canon Road car park free.*

## MONTEFIORE SYNAGOGUE

Honeysuckle Road, CT11 8AA

[montefioreendowment.org.uk](http://montefioreendowment.org.uk)

**Sun 10, 10am-3pm**

A chance to see inside the synagogue built by Sir Moses Montefiore in 1833. The nearby mausoleum contains the tombs of Sir Moses and Lady Judith Montefiore. The synagogue was designed by David Mocatta and was the first synagogue to be built in England by a Jewish architect.

*Limited access. No facilities. Street parking.*

## RAMSGATE TUNNELS

Marina Esplanade, CT11 8FH

01843 588123

[www.ramsgatetunnels.org](http://www.ramsgatetunnels.org)

Booking a must!

**Sat 9, talk 11am, repeated at 1pm. Tours (chargeable) of Tunnels will operate as normal**

Come along to a talk 'Make Do and Mend - Creativity in Wartime' by Isaac Naylor.

Beneath Ramsgate lies an abandoned labyrinth of tunnels which extends for more than 3 miles under the town. This unique underground city was constructed as part of the town's air raid precautions in 1939 and includes a former mainline railway tunnel dating back to 1863.

*Cafe. Talk accessible. Parking at Marina Esplanade.*

## SPENCER SQUARE - VAN GOGH

Spencer Square, CT11 9LA

[friendsofspencersquare.org.uk](http://friendsofspencersquare.org.uk)

**Sun 17, 12pm-4pm**

Spencer Square, a beautiful Georgian square, is the perfect place to take a break and relax with Van Gogh, a bust donated by artist Antony Padgett. Find Van Gogh's former home at No.11, where he lodged in 1876.

Spencer Square is run by a group of local volunteers. In honor of Vincent there will be an open air art exhibition by local artists. Come and enjoy a cuppa and a cake at Vincent's cafe and a free tennis taster in the adjacent tennis courts. Donations to FOSS will help the garden grow to be enjoyed by everyone.

*Good access. Street parking nearby.*



Montefiore Synagogue

## THE GRANGE AND ST. EDWARD'S PRESBYTERY

St. Augustines Road, CT11 9NY

The Landmark Trust 01628 825925

Pre-booked visits preferred via [eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-grange-st-edwards-presbytery-open-days-september-2023-tickets-560470822317](http://eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-grange-st-edwards-presbytery-open-days-september-2023-tickets-560470822317)

[landmarktrust.org.uk](http://landmarktrust.org.uk)

**Fri 15 to Sun 17, 10am-4pm**

The Grange was built by Augustus Pugin in 1845 and remained in the family until 1928. The building reflects Pugin's belief in the Gothic style as the only true Christian architecture and his ideal to live out his life in the Middle Ages. Pugin produced some of his finest work at The Grange, including designs for the House of Lords.

A rare chance to see inside St. Edward's Presbytery, built by Augustus Pugin in 1850 as part of this great architect's original conception for this exceptional Gothic revival site on Ramsgate's West Cliffs.

*Picnics in the grounds welcome. Access ground floor only. Toilets. Street parking nearby.*

## THE ITALIANATE GLASSHOUSE

King George VI Memorial Park, Montefiore Avenue,

CT11 8BD

07868 722060

[italianateglasshouse.com](http://italianateglasshouse.com)

**Sat 16 and Sun 17, 12pm-2:30pm**

The Italianate Glasshouse, a Grade II\* listed historic monument, was erected in the grounds of East Cliff Lodge, Sir Moses Montefiore's 22 acre estate in 1832. The greenhouse was originally sited at Bretton Hall, Yorkshire. This delightful glasshouse was renovated in 2005 and is home to a tea garden, the proceeds of which contribute towards the upkeep of the greenhouse.

*Tea garden open on fine weather days only. Limited access. No toilet facilities.*

## ST. AUGUSTINE & PUGIN: SHRINE AND VISITOR CENTRE

St. Augustine's Road, CT11 9PA

Pre-booking a must! [augustineshrine@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:augustineshrine@rcaos.org.uk)  
[augustine-pugin.org.uk](http://augustine-pugin.org.uk)

**Open every day except Tue and Sun,  
12:30pm-3:30pm**

**Fri 15, art classes 11am-4pm**

Draw and paint Pugin's amazing Gothic Revival buildings and designs by joining an art session led by local artist Sian Catherine Morgan. The work of Augustus Pugin, the designer of Big Ben and a famous resident of Ramsgate, inspired designs all over the world.

*Gift shop. Good accessibility. Toilets and street parking nearby.*



St Augustine & Pugin: Shrine and Visitor Centre

## ST LAURENCE-IN-THANET CHURCH

High Street, St Lawrence, CT11 0QT

**Sat 9 and Sat 16, Church open 10am-3pm, church tour at 10am, churchyard tour at 2pm**

St Lawrence is a Grade I listed church, the oldest building in Ramsgate, tracing its history back to 1062. The monuments, windows and hatchments within the church have interesting stories to tell. The astounding invention of full circle bell ringing was cutting edge in its day as was the clock!

*Limited street parking.*

## ST GEORGE THE MARTYR CHURCH

Church Hill, Off High Street, CT11 8RA

[regenerationofficer@stgeorgechurchramsgate.uk](mailto:regenerationofficer@stgeorgechurchramsgate.uk)

[stgeorgechurchramsgate.uk](http://stgeorgechurchramsgate.uk)

**Sat 9, Church open 10am-3pm, tower tours at 11:30am and 2pm, crypt tour at 12pm and 2:30pm Yard Sale Market, 11am-3pm.**

**Sat 16, Church open 10am-3pm, tower tour at 11am and 1:30pm, crypt tour at 11:30am and 2pm. Talk 3pm.**

'Unsinkable People' historian Margaret Bolton's illustrated talk on survivors of the Titanic who had links to Ramsgate and East Kent. Book via website £5 charge, 3pm (16th).

Tower and crypt tours (weather permitting; not suitable for under 8s, and children 8 years and older to be accompanied by an adult).

View our astounding invention, the church organ, a Grade II listed organ made by William Hill, installed in 1896. View the Lantern Tower; Dunkirk Memorial Window and Henry Weigall Mural in this Grade I listed church.

*Limited access. Limited street parking.*

## THIS MUSEUM IS NOT OBSOLETE

5-7, Church Hill, CT11 8RA

[This-Museum-Is-Not-Obsolete@gmail.com](mailto:This-Museum-Is-Not-Obsolete@gmail.com)

**Sun 10, 1pm-4pm**

An interactive museum full of astounding inventions, revealing some of the history of science and technology. Fun and educational for all ages. Come and play with retro music machines, science equipment and games. Enjoy trying the Furby organ and the Owl organ. Be amazed by the telephone exchange and 1000 oscillator mega drone.

*Disabled access. Street parking limited. Ramsgate town and beach close by.*

# WIDER THANET

## BIRCHINGTON HERITAGE CENTRE

Church House, Kent Gardens, Birchington, CT7 9RS  
[facebook.com/birchingtonheritage](https://www.facebook.com/birchingtonheritage)

**Sun 10, 2pm–5pm**

Come along to view the Birchington map exhibition. Featuring a display of old maps dating back to 1877, information on former surveying methods, lost buildings and sites of interest and an 1840 Tithe map. Of particular interest to people living in or having connections with the local area.

*Light refreshments available with donation. Good accessibility. Street parking.*

---

## MINSTER ABBEY

Church Street, Minster, CT12 4HF  
01843 821254

[www.minsterabbeynuns.org](http://www.minsterabbeynuns.org)

**Sat 9 and Sat 16, 11am–12pm, tour**

**Tue 12 to Sat 16, 10am–4pm, open grounds**

Outside tour by a sister of the only surviving pre-Reformation Abbey in the country still in current use as a religious house. Chapel open for quiet individual prayer. At 12:15pm pray with the sisters. Visit the Parkminster grounds to see the medieval fishponds and the beautiful flower gardens. View an exhibition with DVD in the Old Barn about the life of the monastery from 670 AD to the present day.

*Tearooms. Good accessibility; toilets and accessible parking is on the abbey's driveway, near the entrance.*

---

## MONKTON NATURE RESERVE

Canterbury Road, Monkton, CT12 4LH  
01843 822666

[contact@monkton-reserve.org](mailto:contact@monkton-reserve.org)  
[monkton-reserve.org](http://monkton-reserve.org)

Guided tours with up to 15 people bookable on arrival.

**Sat 9 and Sun 10, 10am–4pm**

Monkton Nature Reserve occupies a former chalk quarry that has been reclaimed by nature. The reserve contains 16 acres of diverse wildlife habitats with two ponds and many plant and animal species.

The reserve has new adventure fun trails for families to enjoy. Search the reserve for beautiful sculptures of our native wildlife or go on the hunt for brass rubbings, fairy houses and fossils! With brand new educational signage around the site, you can learn about British wildlife whilst you enjoy its serenity. There will be local history sessions in the museum and stalls selling antique books, crafts and games.

*Ground uneven and section of site only accessible by 10 steps. Accessible path to Education Garden. Toilets and accessible parking on site.*



*Monkton Nature Reserve*

---

## POWELL-COTTON MUSEUM AND GARDENS

Quex Park, Park Lane, Birchington CT7 0BH  
Rebecca Castle 01843 842168  
[enquiries@powell-cottonmuseum.org](mailto:enquiries@powell-cottonmuseum.org)

[powell-cottonmuseum.org](http://powell-cottonmuseum.org)

**Sat 9, 11am–3pm, tours throughout the day, approx 45-90 minutes**

Free entry to the museum, Quex House and gardens. Join a 'Highlights' tour of the museum or of Quex House and discover the many stories of the people and places that made the museum. See the new 'Namibian Narratives' exhibition, the first in 50 years, which features pieces created by artisan women living and working in Namibia. The exhibition was commissioned by the museum, working with partners in both the UK and Namibia.

*Cafe and picnic area. Accessible apart from first floor of Quex house. Toilet and parking facilities.*

---

## THE SPITFIRE AND HURRICANE MEMORIAL MUSEUM

Manston Road, Ramsgate, Kent CT12 5DF  
01843 821940  
[enquiries@spitfiremuseum.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@spitfiremuseum.org.uk),

[spitfiremuseum.org.uk](http://spitfiremuseum.org.uk)

**Tue 12 to Sun 17, 10am–4pm**

The Museum commemorates those who served in World War II through exhibiting the aircraft and objects they used as well as telling their stories. Central to the display are the iconic Spitfire Mk XVI and Hurricane Mk II.

For £10 (a reduction on normal price), you can 'fly' the famous Spitfire. Take control of the iconic aircraft with a 10-minute simulated flight from London City Airport to Heathrow, with the opportunity to try some aerobatics en route! Flights will be sold on a first-come-first-served walk-in basis during this event.

*Cafe. Good accessibility. Toilets. Parking.*