

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS - AT A GLANCE

	SEPTEMBER	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
154 HIGH STREET		×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	✓	✓
ADULT EDUCATION CENTRE GUIDED TOUR		×	×	×		×	✓	✓	✓	×	×
BIRCHINGTON HERITAGE TRUST MUSEUM		×	✓	×	✓	✓	×	✓	✓	✓	×
BIRCHINGTON STATION ROAD TRAIL		×	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	×
CHRISTCHURCH AND GARDENS OPEN DAY		×	×	✓	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
DICKENS HOUSE MUSEUM		✓	✓	×	×	×	×	×	✓	✓	×
DICKENS GUIDED TOWN TRAIL		×	✓	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
DRAPERS WINDMILL		×	✓	✓	×	×	×	×	×	✓	✓
ELLINGTON PARK HISTORY AND HERITAGE DAY		×	×	✓	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
HOLY TRINITY CHURCH		×	×	✓	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
ISLE OF THANET: ARCHITECTURE THROUGH THE DECADES		✓	✓	✓	×	✓	✓	×	✓	✓	✓
MARGATE HIGH STREET AND ST JOHN'S GUIDED WALK		×	✓	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
MONTEFIORE SYNAGOGUE AND MAUSOLEUM		×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	✓
OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA		×	×	×	✓	✓	×	✓	✓	✓	×
PALACE CINEMA		×	×	×	×	×	×	×	✓	✓	×
PIERREMONT HALL		×	×	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	×	×
PARADISE LOST		×	✓	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
POWELL-COTTON MUSEUM, QUEX HOUSE AND GARDENS		×	×	✓	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
RAMSGATE SOCIETY TALK		×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
RAMSGATE TUNNELS		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
SHRINE OF ST AUGUSTINE AND THE PUGIN CENTRE		✓	✓	✓	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
SONIC TRAIL: ACOUSTIC ARCHITECTURE		✓	✓	✓	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
SPENCER SQUARE		×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	✓
ST GEORGE'S CHURCH		×	✓	×	×	×	×	×	×	✓	×
ST JOHN'S CHURCH		✓	✓	✓	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
THE GRANGE AND ST EDWARD'S PRESBYTERY		✓	✓	✓	✓	×	×	×	×	×	×
WALPOLE BAY HISTORICAL TALK AND TOUR		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Liability for Changes

Thanet District Council has coordinated publicity for this programme of events, however, it is not responsible for any subsequent changes. Please contact individual participants to confirm schedules and content. The most up to date information, including any further participants will be listed on visitthanet.co.uk/heritageopendays



Photo by Hedley Bosford

POWELL-COTTON MUSEUM, QUEX HOUSE AND GARDENS
Quex Park, Birchington-On-Sea, CT7 0BH
powell-cottonmuseum.org
Sun 14, 11am-4pm

Quex House was built in 1812, and many of the passions and interests of its builder John Powell-Powell can still be seen today, including a collection of Napoleonic memorabilia, a collection of naval cannons and the distinctive boat-shaped curve to two of the publicly accessible rooms.
The house has been extensively remodelled in its lifetime, with the current layout largely reflecting the life of Percy Powell-Cotton and his family who lived in the house in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Percy is perhaps best known as the founder of the Powell-Cotton Museum and an explorer, with his travels and enthusiasm for collecting reflected in the house. Many international influences can be found in the Drawing Room, for example, which features a beautiful papier mache ceiling decorated in a Persian-style pattern.
Quex Gardens span 7 acres, enjoy a woodland walk, a walled kitchen garden, a croquet lawn, beautiful borders, and an ornamental fountain.
New for 2025! View the refreshed gallery interpretation in galleries 1, 2 and 3 featuring new stories and facts about natural history and displays of objects and photos from Kenya, Uganda, South Sudan and Ethiopia.

STATION ROAD TRAIL
Various businesses along Station Road, Birchington-On-Sea, CT7 9RA
Sat 13 - Sat 20, during business hours

The information will also be available to consult in the Birchington Heritage Trust Museum.
history and any architecturally significant features.
codes, which will link to information about the property's history and any architecturally significant features.



THE RAMSGATE SOCIETY

Broadstairs & St Peter's Town Council

Margate Civic Society

thanet district council

heritage open days

@VisitThanet #HODsThanet

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

THANET

12 - 21 September 2025

Welcome to
Thanet Heritage Open Days 2025
Friday 12 – Sunday 21 September

Thanet District Council, along with partners Margate Civic Society, Broadstairs and St Peter's Town Council and the Ramsgate Society, 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.
Within this theme, there are so many stories to tell, celebrating the makers, the menders, the materials and more!

THEME FOR 2025
The country-wide theme for 2025 is "Architecture," exploring how we've designed and built the world around us.
Within this theme, there are so many stories to tell, celebrating the makers, the menders, the materials and more!

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 the Isle. A heartfelt thank you must go to all our local interest groups and societies, attractions and volunteers who make Heritage Open Days a massive success for Thanet.





Photo credit: Kate Thanet

THANET HERITAGE OPEN DAYS 2025

12 - 21 SEPTEMBER

MARGATE

DRAPERS WINDMILL

Drapers Windmill, St. Peters Footpath, CT9 2SP
draperswindmill.org.uk
Sat 13, Sun 14, Sat 20, Sun 21, 12pm-4pm
Drapers Windmill was built in 1845 by Holmans of Canterbury. Rescued from dereliction in 1965, the Drapers Windmill Trust had restored the mill by 1975.
Subject to weather conditions, volunteers will be running the sweeps and the 104yr old Crossley auxiliary gas engine. Visitors will be guided throughout the mill.
A short film about the mill, created by local students, and CCTV, enable less active visitors to see higher up the mill. There is also a small museum containing mill artifacts and archaeological finds from the site
Light refreshments available, toilet facilities, street parking.

GUIDED TOUR OF THE GRADE II LISTED ADULT EDUCATION CENTRE

1-3 Hawley Square, CT9 1PF
Pre-booking required, Please book by email to margateaec@kent.gov.uk
Wed 17 - Fri 19, 2pm

The building at 1-3 Hawley Square, Margate, was built in 1931 in Art Deco style and opened as Thanet School of Art. Since 1974, it has been used as Kent County Council's Adult Education Centre. The building retains many original features including wooden panelling, Art Deco radiators and the staircase. This is a rare opportunity to be shown around this building. Tours last approximately 1 hour.
On-street parking (chargeable) close to the site. Disabled access presently awaiting repair, please check status when booking.

GUIDED WALK OF MARGATE HIGH STREET AND ST JOHN'S CHURCH

Droit House, The Pier, CT9 1JD
Pre-booking preferred by phoning Robin Colyer on 07878 537448.
Sat 13, 2pm
A walk, lasting approximately 2 hours, of Margate High Street and St John's Church, with historical information pointed out along the way. The walk is led by local historian Robin Colyer. Meet outside the Visitor Information Centre at Droit House.

HISTORICAL TALK AND TOUR OF THE WALPOLE BAY HOTEL, MUSEUM AND NAPERY GALLERY

Fifth Avenue, Cliftonville, CT9 2JJ
Pre-booking required by phone 01843 221703 or email info@walpolebayhotel.co.uk
Tours Fri 12 - Sun 21, 11am
Tea rooms, veranda and lounge bar open from 11am until 8pm for the public throughout festival
The Walpole Bay Hotel, a family-run establishment since 1995, features a Living Museum with exhibits on all floors. The

original marble steps from 1914 and trellis-gated Otis lift from 1927 are available for visitors to explore. Explore at your own pace after a talk of around an hour by owner, Jane Bishop. A new addition is a telescope used by the Walpole Bay Ship Spotters Club, which is being restored.
Street parking or Indoor Bowls Club car park may be used with a free voucher from Reception. Ramp access for wheelchairs but only the standard British Wheel base chair will fit into the 1927 lift which takes you to the accessible toilet on 3rd floor. Not suitable for mobility scooters but walker/wheelchair available for guests' use.

ISLE OF THANET: ARCHITECTURE THROUGH THE DECADES

Thanet Visitor Information Centre, Droit House, The Pier, CT9 1JD 01843 577577
visithanet.co.uk
Fri 12 - Sun 14 10am-5pm, Tues 16 - Wed 17, Fri 19 - Sun 21 10am-5pm
The Isle of Thanet- a historic landing place rich in heritage, enhanced with remarkable architecture and home to 27 conservation areas which continues to be an inspiration for authors, architects and artists. Fine Georgian, Regency and Victorian buildings can be found across the Isle, a legacy of the 18th Century seaside holiday boom.
This small exhibition will feature a series of archival photographs from the Sunbeam Collection. Sunbeam, was the dominant commercial photographic company which 'worked' the Isle of Thanet's coast. This collection was archived by the UK's South East Archive of Seaside Photography (SEAS Photography) project.
The exhibition will feature some of the Isle's most iconic architecture including those still standing and those that have been lost.
Accessible entrance, one level, parking nearby.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH

St John's Church, Victoria Road, CT9 1LG 07718 354886
Fri 12, Sat 13 10am-5pm, Sun 14 12-2:30pm
On Friday 12, see the model of the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior and the displays of knitted and crochet poppies. Make a "Peace Dove" activity for children that will include a prayer for peace. All materials provided. Refreshments available.
On Saturday 13, same as above plus music from David Lammle, the church's gifted organist. There will be a special welcome for those taking part in the Kent Sponsored Ride and Stride.
On Sunday the 14, the church is open to Heritage Open Days visitors from 12 noon to 2.30pm, between the 10.30am Morning Service and the 3pm Special Service commemorating the Reverend David Railton MC, who, while vicar of St John's 100 years ago, submitted proposals for the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior in Westminster Abbey. Visitors are welcome to join these services but will not be able to look around the church whilst they are in progress.
Anyone walking through the churchyard and the church should note the floor can be a little uneven in places, due to being a historical site. Parking nearby, close to the bus stop.

PALACE CINEMA

Harbour Street, CT10 1ET
thepalacecinema.co.uk
Fri 19, Sat 20 Cinema open 12noon-3pm, Local Cinema Architecture talk at 2pm
A cinema since the mid-1960s, before which it was a hall for hire, briefly a store for a collection of armour, and originally a boatstore. A cosy 111 velvet seats over balcony and stalls, showing the latest films from around the world, plus special events. Visitors can explore the auditorium and foyer independently, with illustrated history panels.
Local Cinema Architecture talks (40mins) exploring Broadstairs, Margate and Ramsgate daily at 2pm - drop in, no booking required. Free worksheets for children - an opportunity to design their own cinema!
2 steps to the front door and a further 2 steps up to the balcony or 13 steps down to stalls. Step-free access to stalls via the left-hand side of the building, a slope leads to the cinema's rear door.

PIERREMONT HALL

Pierremont Avenue, CT10 1JX
pierremonthall.co.uk
Mon 15 - Thurs 18 9am-5pm
Built in 1785 as a private residence, Pierremont Hall has been home to many and is now open to the community for public and private events.
Discover some of the secrets of this newly renovated Grade II listed building. The Hall was built in 1785 for Thomas Forsyth and designed by Samuel Pepys Cockerell. The Duchess of Kent and a young Princess Victoria holidayed at Pierremont from 1826 to 1836. It had various owners until its sale in 1896 to Leonard Posnett, who used it as a school. Most of the original 30 acres of land were developed as housing, and the building and remaining park were sold to the Urban District Council in 1927.
This will not be a guided tour - visitors will be allowed access to the ground floor only - a leaflet of the history of Pierremont will be available.
Full wheelchair access, parking

RAMSGATE

154 HIGH STREET

154 High Street, CT11 9TT
Sat 20, Sun 21, 11am-4pm
An important Georgian town house with an Edwardian extension and large garden. Restored main house with a beautiful staircase, panelling and recently uncovered fireplaces. Discover the secret staircase behind a wardrobe, which has traces of 1820s Regency wallpaper. The huge basement contains evidence of reinforcement as it was used as an air raid shelter during WWII. 14 brick-built dog kennels in the garden are left from when the building was home to a vets.

CHRISTCHURCH AND GARDENS OPEN DAY

Vale Square, CT11 9DE 01843 853732
Sun 14, 10am-5pm
The church is only rarely open, and it is of great historical interest having been designed by the famous architect, Sir George Gilbert Scott, in 1846-1847. The building is of ragstone with slate roof and tower with magnificent shingled spire. The Church and its gardens will be open with stalls in the grounds including plants and crafts. Refreshments will be available.
On street parking

ELLINGTON PARK HISTORY AND HERITAGE DAY

Park Road, CT11 9TL
ellingtonpark.org.uk
Sun 14, 11am-3pm
Ellington Park was laid out in 1893 on land once part of the estate surrounding Ellington House. The park was designed by the Victorian landscape company Joseph Cheal and Son, known for their work at Hever Castle and Kirkstall Abbey.
The day will feature information boards and talks about the park with special focus on the beautifully restored Bandstand which will host a local choir. There will be performances by the Elli Park Players who have created a costumed walk.
The miniature steam train will be running, courtesy of The Ramsgate and District Model Engineering Club.
Limited nearby street parking, Ramsgate train station 5 mins walk as well as two Loop bus-stops (Ashburnham Road and Wilfred Road). The park is fully accessible via four entrances and free to all to enter. Accessible toilet at cafe.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

Bellevue Road, CT11 8ET
holyltrinitychurchramsgate.com
Sun 14, 1-4pm
Enjoy a look around Holy Trinity Church Ramsgate, taking in the beautiful stained glass windows and Victorian architecture. An exhibition will showcase items relating to the history of the church. Refreshments will be available.
Full wheelchair access. Parking on streets nearby.

MONTEFIORE SYNAGOGUE AND MAUSOLEUM

Honeysuckle Rd, CT11 8AA
Sun 21, 10am-4pm
Visit Ramsgate's Synagogue, designed by architect David Mocatta, student of Sir John Soane and the first Anglo-Jewish architect, which was opened with a grand public ceremony in 1833. Both the Synagogue and Mausoleum are now Listed Grade II* and the Synagogue has been designated by Jewish Heritage UK as one of the Top Ten in Britain.
Toilets available. No disabled access. On road parking in nearby streets.

PARADISE LOST

3, 7 and, 9 Paradise, CT11 9TX
Sat 13, 12noon-6pm, music and performance starting at 4pm
Ramsgate's Historic Quarter features a street called 'Paradise', once home to retired sea captains in the 18th century. Visitors can explore some of the houses, which showcase Dutch gabled rows and grand sea captains' mansions.
There are a number of surviving architectural features, like ship masts for beams and a kitchen sink made of sandstone.
In the evening, traditional folk music with sea biscuits and ale will be served.
Participants will be able to view ground floor and gardens only, Cannon Street car park nearby is free of charge on Saturdays.

PUGIN'S RAMSGATE: THE GRANGE AND ST EDWARD'S PRESBYTERY OPEN DAYS

The Grange, St. Augustines Road, CT11 9NY
Pre-booking is preferred, walk-in's welcome on the day.
landmarktrust.org.uk
Fri 12 - Sun 14, 10am-4pm, Mon 15 10am-1pm
Explore the extraordinary Neo-Gothic family home of Augustus Pugin overlooking the sea in Ramsgate. Leaflets on the building's history and children's activity sheets will be available on site.
The Grange was built by Augustus Pugin in 1845 and reflects his belief in the Gothic style as the only true Christian architecture. Pugin produced some of his finest work at The Grange including designs for the House of Lords.
St Edward's Presbytery, built by Augustus Pugin in 1850, is part of this great architect's original conception for this important Gothic revival site on the West Cliff.
Whilst booking is not essential, visitors are asked to register for the event via Eventbrite so that updates can be provided regarding the event. Search 'Pugin's Grange' on eventbrite.

RAMSGATE SOCIETY: IF WALLS COULD TALK... RAMSGATE'S ARCHITECTURAL SECRETS

Royal Temple Yacht Club, 6 Westcliff Mansions, CT11 9HY
Pre-booking required at bit.ly/CliveAsletTalk
Mon 15, 7-8pm
A talk by Clive Aslet, President of The Ramsgate Society and a writer on British architecture and life, a Visiting Professor of Architecture at the University of Cambridge and publisher of Triglyph Books. For 13 years he was the Editor of Country Life magazine. He has regularly broadcast on radio and television current affairs programmes including Newsnight. He is also Chairman of The Lutyens Society.

RAMSGATE TUNNELS: BARCELONA AIR-RAID SHELTERS FROM THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR TO THE BLITZ

Marina Esplanade, CT11 8FH 01843 588123
ramsgatetunnels.org
Fri 12 - Sun 21, 10am-4pm
Photo exhibition on loan from Imperial College, curated by Ana Sánchez and Xavier Domènech showcasing the architecture and the network of 1,322 underground air-raid shelters in Barcelona, intensively bombed during the Spanish Civil War by the Italian and the German air forces, allied with Franco's command.
Car park and toilets nearby.

SHRINE OF ST AUGUSTINE AND THE NATIONAL PUGIN CENTRE

St Augustine's Road, CT11 9NY
augustine-pugin.org.uk
Sat 13, virtual tour, time TBC*
Roman Catholic Church in Ramsgate. It was the personal church of Augustus Pugin, a 19th century architect, designer, and reformer.
"Pugin After Dark," morning, time TBC*
A virtual tour of Alton Towers to explore AWN Pugin's work and influence on the building. Also an opportunity to take part in the Pugin tile collaborative art project.
Midday Latin Mass for Pugin's Anniversary.
4pm - 5.30pm "Pugin in Ramsgate: Sources and Personal Symbolism" talk by Jacqui Ansell (Senior Lecturer at Christie's Education)
The Church will be open 10am - 4pm, Friday 12 - Sunday 14 excluding an hour each day for midday Mass, to coincide with the opening of The Grange next door.
There will be a display in the cloisters about the recent Pugin renovations at Alton Towers.
Access to St Augustine's can be challenging due to steps. Still possible to access many areas with a wheelchair. Disabled toilets are at ground level.
** TBC - times, when known, will be added to www.visithanet.co.uk/heritageopendays*

SONIC TRAIL: ACOUSTIC ARCHITECTURE (RAMSGATE FESTIVAL OF SOUND)

Various locations, Ramsgate
Pre-booking may be required for some spaces.
For a full list of venues and booking requirements visit **ramsgatefestival.org**
Fri 12 - Sun 14, 12-4pm
The Sonic Trail comprises sound installations specially commissioned by the Ramsgate Festival of Sound and will shine a light on the incredible architecture of Ramsgate using the medium of sound.

SPENCER SQUARE

Spencer Square, CT11 9LA
Sun 21, 11am-6pm
Enjoy beautiful gardens and explore notable art and history, including two blue plaques that commemorate Vincent van Gogh's time in Ramsgate. View the "After Dunkirk" art show, free tennis taster session at 1pm, and watch a Championship level match at 3pm. Refreshments available at the licensed Vincent's café.
On street parking nearby.

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH

Church Hill, CT11 8QY
Pre-booking for tours preferred, book at **stgeorgechurchramsgate.uk**
Sat 13, Sat 20, 10am-3pm
A glorious Grade I Listed late Georgian church built in 1827, an outstanding feature being its octagonal stone lantern which served as a navigational aid for shipping in the Channel.
Explore the church at your leisure – highlights include the Dunkirk window and Grade II Listed organ, built by famous organ maker, William Hill. Guided tours up the lantern tower and into the crypt. Climb the tower (141 steps to the top) to see all over Ramsgate and on a clear day, France. The climb is unsuitable for under 8's, children under 12 must be escorted by an adult due to steep stairs. In the crypt, you will see where the first Mayor of Ramsgate is buried and where church services were held during the Second World War.
Tours are free on Heritage Open Days but donations towards the restoration of the church are gratefully received.
There is no parking available on site. Disabled toilets are available in the Church Hall adjacent to the Church.