Wirral Heritage Open Days
13th – 22nd September 2019

St Hilary of Poitiers Church, Claremont Road, Wallasey
Welcome

Welcome to this year’s Heritage Open Days programme, part of the national scheme, now in its 25th year and supported by the National Trust and the players of the People’s Postcode Lottery. It celebrates the country’s historic buildings and heritage, enabling public access, without charge, to properties not normally open to the public or for which a charge is usually payable. Full details of the national and regional programmes can be found at www.heritageopendays.org.uk

This brochure gives details of the Wirral programme, organised by the Wirral History and Heritage Association with the help of volunteers. It is Wirral’s biggest heritage event and we hope it will enable you to enjoy the rich and varied architecture, landscape and history of this very special area.

We would like to thank all those who have agreed to open their properties or organised walks or events and the scores of volunteers, without whom staging our programme would not be possible.

Every attempt has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in the brochure but we cannot take responsibility for any errors or last minute alterations. Inevitably, with such a large programme, there can be changes and you are advised to check our website for up to date information at www.wirralhistoryandheritage.org.uk

Downloadable copies of this brochure are available on www.visitwirral.com
BEBINGTON

An Armchair Tour of the History of Bebington Church & Village.
Exhibition Room, Bebington Central Library, Civic Way, Bebington, CH63 7PN
Thurs 19 Sept, 2pm. Talk lasts approx. 2 hrs.
The talk will trace the history of Bebington from the prehistoric period to the Middle Ages and the modern town, with its focus on St. Andrew's Church and the Lower Village.

Booking essential. Disabled access. Light refreshments

Contact: Mary Ward - 01829 733 266.
maryward13@btopenworld.com

St Andrew’s Church, Church Road, Bebington CH63 7PG

Fri 13 Sept - Church open 10am - 3.30pm,
tours 11am & 2pm,
Mon 16 Sept - Church open 9am - 12noon, no tours,
Wed 18 Sept - Church open 10am - 3.30pm,
tours 11am & 2pm,
Thurs 19 Sept - Talk ‘The Search for the Battle of Brunanburh,’ 7.30 pm, free, donations welcome.

A Grade I listed building, St Andrew’s Church, which occupies a prominent position in Bebington, has been at the heart of the community for over 900 years.

No booking required. Wheelchair access to church. Refreshments.

Contact: Mrs Karen Davies, 0151 645 6478.
Email: office@standrewsbebington.org.uk
www.standrewsbebington.org.uk

Church also open to visitors on the following Saturdays:
10 August; 12 Oct; 9 Nov; 14 Dec, 10am-12 noon.
Hot drinks available.

Victoria Hall, Victoria Hall Walk, (off Village Rd), Higher Bebington, CH63 8AB

Fri 20 Sept. Doors open 7pm.
Event starts 7.30pm and finishes 10pm.
The architectural gem that is Victoria Hall is an Arts and Crafts style building founded in Queen Victoria’s Diamond Jubilee year of 1897, on land donated by Catherine King, and where the Beatles played in 1962.

Join us for a talk ‘The History of Storeton Quarry and Tramway - Life in Higher Bebington’ by local history speaker, David Casement. Illustrated with maps and photographs, it gives details of the quarries and tramway and follows the route from the quarry to the Mersey, providing information on where there is still evidence of the tramway today.


Contact: 0151 608 1527.
Email: bookings@victoriahallhrbebington.co.uk
**BIDSTON**

**Bidston Community Archaeology, Tam O’Shanter Urban Farm, Boundary Rd, Bidston CH43 7PD**  
(Excavation site 50 metres from Tam O’Shanter Farm)  
Sun 15 Sept, 11.00am-4pm.

Excavation, adjacent to Tam O’Shanter Farm, aims to investigate the earliest date of occupancy. The oldest finds recovered so far are shards of 17th century pottery. There is also evidence of potential prehistoric use, indicated by pieces of worked flint.

We are happy to escort visitors round the site. The surface is uneven and at times slippery. Visitors must wear appropriate footwear.

No booking required. Refreshments available at Tam O’Shanter Farm Café.

Email: bidston-community-archaeology@hotmail.co.uk

For details of activities throughout the year see website: www.bidstoncommunityarchaeology.org.uk

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**Bidston Lighthouse and Telegraph Station, Wilding Way, Bidston CH43 7RA**  
Sun 15, Wed 18 & Sat 21 Sept. Tours start promptly at 2pm, 3pm and 4pm each day and last about 1 hr. Doors open at 1:45pm and close at 5pm.

Guided tours of Lighthouse and Telegraph Station, covering the history of the Bidston Flag Signals, the Liverpool-Holyhead Telegraph and the world’s most inland lighthouse. Fantastic views from the lamp room. Children must be 1.06 metres (42 inches) or taller to go up to the lamp room.

Built in 1866 to measure time, the Observatory initially serviced maritime chronometers, a task reflected in its architecture. Best known for remotely firing the one o’clock gun across the Mersey and inventing the tidal prediction machine that calculated the tide times for the D Day landings. To date it has housed various research-led organisations, mainly in the field of Natural Earth Sciences. Currently home to an Artistic Research Centre. A small team will lead bookable tours during Heritage Open Days for up to 25 people per tour.

Booking essential. Some uneven floor surfaces, many stairs. Disabled access to ground floor only.

Contact: Artistic Research Centre Team  
Booking: www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/bidston-observatory-artistic-research-centre-25121700497

For details of other events, please see website, www.bidstonobservatory.org
Bidston Windmill.
Near the footbridge over Vyner Rd North, Bidston. Nearest car park located by Tam O’Shanter Urban Farm, Boundary Rd, Bidston, CH43 7PD
Sat. 14 Sept, 10am - 12noon, last entry 11.45am.
A brick-built tower mill, which ground corn from 1800 to 1875. Erected to replace an earlier wooden peg mill, destroyed by fire during the gale of 1791. Restored by Wirral Council in 2006. For more information see www.bidstonhill.org.uk
The windmill is approached on foot over uneven ground, unsuitable for wheelchair use. Upper floors only accessible via steep ladders. Minimum height restriction (106 cm) for upper floors. Children under 11 must be accompanied by an adult at all times. Dog-minding service available.

No booking required, but first come, first served. Refreshments available at Tam O’Shanter Farm Café.
Email: info@bidstonhill.org.uk or www.bidstonhill.org.uk/contact
The windmill is normally open on the first Saturday morning of each month, April – Sept.

Following major conservation work funded by Wirral Council & Historic England, the interior can now be viewed. You will see details of the vision for the future of Flaybrick Memorial Gardens.

St Oswald’s Church, Bidston Village Road, Bidston, CH43 7QT
Mon 16 Sept, 11am - 3pm.
Church rebuilt 1856 though Tower dates from 1593. A stained glass window crafted by Morris to a Burne-Jones design. A funeral wreath within the church given by Queen Victoria. The Reredos is a copy of Leonardo da Vinci’s ‘Last Supper’ by the Italian artist, Salviati.
No booking required. Refreshments available. Disabled access to church.
Contact: Ron Iveson 0151 378 5835

St Oswald’s Church Tour & optional Cemetery Walk, Flaybrick Memorial Gardens, Tollemache Rd, Bidston, CH41 0DG
Sat 14, Sun 15, Wed 18, Sat 21 & Sun 22 Sept, 12noon - 3pm for Chapels visit. 1pm & 2pm for 30 minute walk in Cemetery (Walk on Wed 18 will be a ‘Poetry Walk’ inspired by some of the people buried in Flaybrick).
Flaybrick’s unusual linked Chapels (Anglican & Non-Conformist) designed by Liverpool architects, Lucy & Littler, have been disused and derelict for years.

No booking required. Limited disabled access. Refreshments & toilets at nearby Tam O’Shanter Farm.
Contact: Chris Morris 07592 332519.
BIRKENHEAD

Merseyside and the American Civil War, Birkenhead Priory, Priory St, Birkenhead, CH41 5JH

Meet at the main gates of the Priory.
Sun 22 Sept, 11.00am.

Tour traces the links between the Confederates and Lairds during the American Civil War. Beginning with a climb up St Mary’s Tower (100 steps) to view the Mersey and the shipyard, where the Alabama was built, the tour continues close to the river’s edge, along normal pavements, pointing out key features of interest.
Booking required. No disabled access to tower.
Contact: Jerry Williams.
Email: jerryrunsbeb@outlook.com

Birkenhead High School Academy WW2 Shelters, 46 Devonshire Place, CH43 1TX
(Enter via Sixth Form entrance - Alton Rd. end)
Sat 14 Sept, 10.30am - 12.45pm.
Lottery grant refurbished WW2 underground air raid shelters first opened 1940.
Open access to shelters (no guide) 10.30am - 11.10am, 12 - 12.30pm, No booking required.
Pre-booked guided tours 11.15am and 12.45pm, (Tour lasts approx. 45 minutes) Booking essential.
Shelters reached by a steep flight of stone steps. No disabled access, except to above ground displays.
Sports Centre car park is reserved for pool users.
Alternative parking in Alton Rd and Devonshire Place or in school car parks in Grosvenor Place and Sandyway (signposted). Visitors with mobility issues should contact the school for more parking details.
Only open to individuals to visit on Heritage Weekend. Group visits during school holidays by arrangement.
Charges payable.

Contact: Kathy Jones, 0151 479 5615.
Email: finance@birkhs.gsdt.net
www.birkenheadhigh.gsdt.net

North Lodge, Grand Entrance, Birkenhead Park, Park Road North, Birkenhead, CH41 4HD
Sat 14 & Sun 15 Sept, 12noon - 4pm, Wed 18 & Thurs 19 Sept, 10am - 12noon,
Sat 21 & Sun 22 Sept, 12noon - 4pm.
Grade II* listed building, dated 1847, designed by Lewis Hornblower and John Robertson for Sir Joseph Paxton.
View copies of the original working drawings. Find out about the characters associated with its design, the social climate at the time of the park’s creation and the lives and personal stories of former occupants. Guides available to answer questions.
No booking required. Entrance via several steps.
No wheelchair access.
Contact: Liz Mann, 0151 652 7815.
Email: lizmann@wirral.gov.uk
www.birkenheadpark1847.co.uk
Visits at other times by arrangement. For details please phone 0151 652 7815 or email: birkenheadparkworldheritageproject@wirral.gov.uk
South Lodge, Grand Entrance, Birkenhead Park, Park Road North, Birkenhead, CH41 4HD
Sat 14 & Sun 15 Sept, 12noon - 4pm, Wed 18 & Thurs 19 Sept, 10am - 12noon,
Sat 21 & Sun 22 Sept, 12noon - 4pm.
Victorian Sweetshop open and tour of Victorian Courtyard. Children's workshops taking place within the Sweetshop.
No booking required. No wheelchair access. Tea Room open for teas & coffees.
www.hype-merseyside.co.uk

Birkenhead Park Guided Heritage Walk, Visitor Centre, Park Drive, Birkenhead, CH41 4HY
Sat 14 & Sun 15 Sept, Sat 21 & Sun 22 Sept, 12.30pm start.
Meet at Visitor Centre.
Take in the sights and sounds of the World's First Publicly Funded Municipal Park. We will lead you on a special tour of Joseph Paxton's masterpiece of landscape design and stunning architecture, to take in iconic features such as the Grand Entrance, Roman Boathouse and the Swiss Bridge. Walk lasts around 2 hours. Between 2 & 3 miles long. Finish at Grand Entrance, North Lodge.
Booking essential. Disabled access. Refreshments available at Visitor Centre.
Contact: 0151 666 3537.
Email: birkenheadpark@wirral.gov.uk
www.birkenheadpark1847.com

Birkenhead Priory, Priory St, Birkenhead, CH41 5JH (Five mins walk from Hamilton Sq station)
Fri 13 Sept, 1pm - 5pm, Sat 14 & Sun 15 Sept, 10am - 5pm,
Wed 18 Sept, 1pm - 5pm, Thurs 19 & Fri 20 Sept, 1pm - 7pm,
Sat 21 & Sun 22 Sept, 10am - 5pm.
The oldest standing building on Merseyside, the Priory offers a unique insight into Birkenhead and its historical and spiritual importance in the development of Wirral. Surrounded by factory units and shipyards, the Priory is an oasis of calm in a busy world, affording unrivalled views of the river.
Volunteers and staff available, if you would like an accompanied site tour. Children's activities, including dressing up, in the Refectory.
On Thurs 19 & Fri 20 Sept we are extending our opening hours to allow people to experience 'Forest' by Yan Wang Preston in the twilight, a magical experience.
No booking required. No lift access to the Refectory or St Mary’s Tower. Refreshments available
Contact: 0151 666 3537.
For regular opening hours please see website: www.thebirkenheadpriory.org

Birkenhead Quaker Meeting House, 83 Park Rd South, Birkenhead, CH43 4UU
Fri 13 Sept, 1.30pm - 4.30pm, Sat 14 Sept 10.30am - 4.30pm.
An interesting example of a late 19th century Quaker Meeting House, designed by George Enoch Grayson in an Arts and Crafts style and built in 1892. It has recently been given Grade II listed status. The interior has many original features.
Disabled access. Refreshments available. No booking required
Contact: Quaker Meeting House 0151 652 2757.
Birkenhead Town Hall, Hamilton Square, Birkenhead, CH41 5BR (meet in the foyer)
Sat 14 Sept & Mon 16 Sept, 11.00 – 3.00 pm. Tours start at 11.00 am, 12 noon, 1.00 pm & 2.00 pm.
See inside this monumental Grade II* listed former Town Hall, designed by Christopher Ellison (1832 –1904) and officially opened 1887. Fitted out in style. Magnificent stained glass. Woodside model on display. Information leaflets available.

No booking required. Disabled access. Refreshments available locally.
Contact: Chris Morris 07592 332 519.

The Callister Garden, 34A Slatey Rd, CH43 4UG
Sat 21 Sept, 10am - 4pm.
The Callister Garden is nearly 100 years old. Set behind a high stone wall in Slatey Road it is a real secret garden. Left unused for fifteen years it is now in the process of being restored by local people for the benefit of the community.
Booking not required. Limited disabled access – as the garden is still in the early stages of restoration there are uneven pathways. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Refreshments available.
Contact: Cathy Warren.
Email: callistertrust@gmail.com
See Facebook @callistertrust for Volunteer days, visiting, events etc.

Clifton Road Masonic Hall, 27 Clifton Road, Birkenhead CH41 2SF
Sun 15 Sept, 10am – 4pm.
Grade II listed building, within the Clifton Park Conservation Area. Originally a substantial villa, designed c. 1845, by Birkenhead architect, Walter Scott. An open day at the Masonic Hall, including local community groups and displays plus an opportunity for the public to explore the Masonic Hall.
No booking required. Refreshments available. No wheelchair access.
Contact: John Miller.
Email: area2chairman@cheshiremasons.co.uk

Conway Chapel, Birkenhead Priory (Scriptorium), Priory St, Birkenhead, CH41 5JH
Fri 13 - 1pm - 5pm, Sat 14 & Sun 15 Sept, 10am - 5pm, Wed 18, Thurs 19 & Fri 20 Sept, 1pm - 5pm, Sat 21 & Sun 22 Sept - 10am - 5pm.
The former training ship HMS Conway was moored in the Sloyne, off Rock Ferry from 1859 to 1941 before being towed to the Menai Straits for safety reasons, finally closing down in July 1974. The Friends of HMS Conway have developed the Scriptorium as the Conway Chapel & Museum. A remarkable and very moving place, it is full of important artefacts. No booking required. No disabled access.
Contact: John Southwood
Email: johnsouthwood@btinternet.com
www.friendsofhmsconway.org
Conway related services are held in the Chapel during the year, which can also be hired for private services of remembrance.

St Joseph's Catholic Church, North Rd/Willowbank Rd, Birkenhead CH42 7JY
Sat 14 Sept & Sun 21 Sept, 10am - 4pm.
Grade II listed church, designed by Edmund Kirby and completed in 1900. Constructed of Ruabon red pressed brick with moulded terracotta details and a roof of Westmoreland Green slate. The interior is unusual in its bold, richly patterned and colourful decorative scheme.
No Booking required. Level access but assistance with opening doors required.
Contact: Lynn Ireland.
Email: lynn.ireland@talktalk.net
www.stjosephsbirkenhead.co.uk
Church is always open at normal service times - see church newsletter on website for details.
Behind the Scenes at Wirral Archives. Meet in Wirral Archives Service, Lower Ground Floor Conference Room, Cheshire Lines Building, Canning St, Birkenhead CH41 1ND

Thurs 19 Sept 2pm & 3pm. Event lasts approx. one hour.

A talk about Wirral Archives Service, including an opportunity to see behind the scenes, including the Strong Room where the historical records of Wirral are protected and preserved.

Booking essential. Disabled access. We also have a lift to take visitors down from Canning St. to Wirral Archives, if they do not wish to use the metal steps.

Contact: William Meredith.
www.archives@wirral.gov.uk

At other times Wirral Archives is open by appointment, Mon to Fri, 9.30am - 4.30pm. For details of our service and our holdings see website: www.wirral.gov.uk/libraries-and-archives/wirral-archives-service

Transport Museum, 1 Taylor Street, Birkenhead CH41 1BG

Sat 14 & Sun 15 Sept, 1.00pm - 4.30pm

Come and visit our new exhibits, a tram model made in Birkenhead, 1880 and model ships that used to use the Birkenhead Docks.

Also see the latest progress of tramcar and bus restoration. Finally try our café and a tram ride.

Following the recent refurbishment by Wirral Borough Council a lift enables access between floors of our converted lemonade factory.

No booking required. Disabled access. Refreshments available.

Contact : 0151 647 2128.
www.mtps.co.uk

We always welcome groups - Scouts, Guides, Boys Brigade, Probus, School parties etc.

Visits by arrangement via rsjtrams@aol.com

Williamson Art Gallery & Museum, Slatey Road, Birkenhead, CH43 4UE

Fri 13, Sat 14, Sun 15, Wed 18, Thurs 19, Fri 20, Sat 21, Sun 22, 10am – 5pm.

This purpose built museum and gallery, opened in 1928, houses Birkenhead’s important collection of artistic and historic works, including its unique assemblage of Della Robbia ware. While being the town’s first purpose-built museum and art gallery, it followed in the footsteps of an adapted library that had served the same function since 1912.

Sat 21 Sept, 11am - Talk by Jerry Williams, Wirral Heritage Champion - ‘England and the American Civil War’.

Sat 21 Sept, 1:30 – 3:00 pm - Made of Iron: Blood in the veins: Poetry and prose event for the last Saturday of the Six Vessels exhibition within the Borough of Culture’s ‘Made of Iron Project’. The short free event will look at the lives behind those who built and worked the vessels.

No booking required. Gallery fully accessible. Café open for refreshments.

Contact: Gallery Reception 0151 666 3537.
williamsonartgallery.org
Wilfred Owen Trail. Meet at Birkenhead Central Reference Library, Borough Road, Birkenhead, CH41 2XB
Fri 20 Sept, 10.30am.

The trail takes you around the area where Wilfred Owen grew up and attended the Birkenhead Institute. We stop outside the homes he lived in. At the Birkenhead Central Library we are able to see some of the material relating to the Wilfred Owen Library at the former Birkenhead Institute.

Guided tour with a free pamphlet explaining the route of the walk. Walk approx. 2 miles
Booking required. Limited disabled access. Suitable outdoor clothing recommended.

Contact: Rob Wood, 07708 853 741.
Email: rewoodassociates@btinternet.com

BROMBOROUGH

St Barnabas Church, Church Square, Bromborough CH62 7AB
Wed 18 Sept, 12 noon - 3 pm
Thurs 19 Sept, 11.30 am - 3 pm
Sun 22 Sept 12.30 am - 3.30 pm

Grade II* listed building, built 1864. Tower, spire and bells added 1880. Constructed of local sandstone, to a design by Sir George Gilbert Scott. Fragments of a preaching cross from pre-Norman times form part of the cross by the South door. There is an ancient sundial in the Churchyard. There are memorial plaques and windows dedicated to several local notable families in the Church.

Guided tours of the Church and Churchyard (weather permitting).

Children’s trail each day and children’s activities on the Sunday.

No booking required. Disabled access. Refreshments available.

Contact: Revd. Jenny Gillies
Parish Office, 0151 334 4155
www.stbarnabasbromborough.org.uk

BRIMSTAGE

Brimstage Hall Traditional Orchard, Brimstage Rd, Brimstage, CH63 6JA.
Meet by gate adjacent to Brimstage Hall restaurant
Sat 14 Sept, 10:30am – 4 pm.

Brimstage orchard was restored as a Traditional Orchard, maintained in an organic way, with fruit trees selected to be both of traditional and local varieties which are not grown commercially.

The event is an “Apple Day” to celebrate the traditions of English and Welsh apples. The orchard is in the grounds of one of the oldest buildings in Wirral. Demonstrations of orchard and related skills.

No booking required. Limited disabled access - Orchard has no paths, grass is long in places and ground is naturally uneven, but we will try to assist.

Refreshments available locally.

Contact: Dave Ellwand.
Email: pdellwand@hotmail.com
www.pdellwand.wixsite.com/wirraltrees

Contact: Dave Ellwand.
Email: pdellwand@hotmail.com
www.pdellwand.wixsite.com/wirraltrees
**BROMBOROUGH POOL**

The Buildings of Bromborough Pool, Giles Shirley Hall, York Street, Bromborough Pool, CH62 4TZ

Meet at Giles Shirley Hall to go on to St Matthew’s Church and School

*Sat 14 Sept. Tours start at 10am, 11am & 12noon.*

All three Grade II listed buildings were part of the planned village, laid out by Price’s Patent Candle Company, one of the earliest examples of a model village and now used by Autism Together. Giles Shirley Hall, a yellow brick building, originally a school, opened in 1858. Later it became the village hall. St Matthew’s Church, built 1889-1890 at the request of Price’s workforce. Originally non-denominational, it was designed by Leach. Bromborough Pool School, built 1898 of local sandstone closed as a school in 2007.

No Booking required. Disabled access. Refreshments available at Garden Centre (for lunches, order in advance on 0151 643 1359).

Contact: Anne Litherland 0758 755 0060. Email: river.park@autismtogether.co.uk

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**BURTON**

RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands, Puddington Lane, Burton, CH64 5SF (Look out for brown sign on A540)

*Thurs 19 Sept, 9.30am - 5pm.*

Explore this historic landscape including the Mere, once part of Burton Manor estate, home of Henry Neville Gladstone, son of William Gladstone, Prime Minister. Visit the remains of the Iron Age hillfort on Burton Point and discover the estuary’s past and the spread of the marshes, following the canalisation of the Dee in 1737.

Guided walks of 3 miles at 10am and 2pm (takes 2 hours).

Booking required for guided walks only. Mere and wetlands fully accessible. Route to Burton Point unsuitable for those with limited mobility. Hot and cold drinks, sandwiches and snacks available for purchase. Donations appreciated.

Contact: RSPB Burton Mere Visitor Centre. 0151 353 2720. Email: deeestuary@rspb.org.uk

www.rspb.org.uk/burtonmerewetlands

At other times the site is open every day except Christmas Day, 9am until dusk (up to 9pm in summer). Visitor Centre open 9.30am - 5pm February to October, and 9.30am - 4.30pm November to January.
**EASTHAM**

**Eastham Pleasure Gardens Walk**
Fri 13 Sept, Tues 17 Sept, Sat 21 Sept - Assemble 1.45pm for 2.00pm start at the pier at Eastham Ferry, opposite The Tap pub, CH62 0AU. Walk takes approx. 1¾ hours.  
Walk led by our research team. Discover the story of some of the attractions of the former Victorian Pleasure Gardens, including a lake, four fountains, a bear pit, a water-chute and a loop-the-loop! We will try to explain our research and restoration project.  
Booking essential. No disabled access. Refreshments available at local cafés.  
Contact: Robert Corlett  
Email: robert.corlett13@btinternet.com

St Mary’s Parish Church, Stanley Lane,  
Eastham, CH62 0AQ  
Fri 13 Sept & Sat 14 Sept, 10am - 4pm,  
Sun 15 Sept, 12 noon - 4.15pm (Concert 3.15pm).  
The Parish Church of St Mary, originally built in the 12C, with additions in the 14C and modifications by the Victorians, has 18 Charles Kempe windows, an "ancient yew" in the churchyard, a Saxon font, two 17C tombs of the Stanley family, with a collection of other interesting memorial plaques.  
Concert – 3.15 pm, Sunday 15 Sept – on our newly refurbished organ, with John Hosking, ex-organist at St Asaph Cathedral.  
No booking required. Disabled access to all parts of the church. Scouts’ refreshments, opposite church, Sat 14, 10am - 4pm, light lunches, cakes.  
Contact: Sue Abraham 0151 334 9216.  
Email: s.r.abraham@btinternet.com  
www.stmaryseastham.uk

**ELLESMERE PORT**

**National Waterways Museum, South Pier Road, Ellesmere Port, CH65 4FW**  
Sat 14 Sept, Sun 15 Sept, Sat 21 & Sun 22 Sept, 10am - 5pm.  
The museum showcases the history of the canals and the lives and times of the people who worked on them. The museum is dog friendly and there are hands-on exhibits and family friendly interactives across the 7 acre site – both indoors and outside.  
No booking required. Disabled access. Refreshments available at Waterside Café.  
Contact: 0151 355 5017.  
www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/nwm

At other times the museum opens every day, April - Oct, 10am - 5pm. From Nov 2019 to March 2020, Tues to Sun, 10am - 4pm. Closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day & New Years Day.

**GREASY**

**Coach and Horses Hotel, Greasby Road, Greasby CH49 3NG**  
Open each day of Wirral Heritage Open Days from 12noon.  
Probably dating from the mid-18th century, this pub is named on Bryant’s map of Cheshire, 1831. A real home away from home. A leaflet giving a short history of the pub will be available.  
No booking required. Limited disabled access. Light refreshments available.  
Contact: Craig Turner 0151 677 4509.  
Email: craig735@hotmail.com  
At other times open daily from 12 noon. 

**Greasby Community Local History Fair, Greasby Library, Greasby Rd, Greasby CH49 3AT**  
Sat 21 Sept, 10am to 4pm.  
Note: This event will be repeated on Thurs 3 Oct 2019 during the lead up to National Libraries Week.  
Email: spcave16@gmail.com
HESWALL

Heswall Guided Walk, Meet at Car Park behind Heswall Hall. Heswall, CH60 4RH (entry from Mount Ave)
Sat 14 Sept, at 2pm.

The walk links the Victorian Heswall Top Village to the much older Lower Village. It passes through both formal and wild green spaces, with opportunities to admire magnificent views across the Dee Estuary. We will hear about the history of old buildings, many now long vanished, and the people who lived in them.

The walk is about 2½ miles in length and will last about 1½ hours. It includes steep hills, and some uneven ground/slopes across the Beacons which could be muddy and slippery in wet weather.

Booking essential. No disabled access.

Email: eventssecretary@heswallsociety.org.uk

Quaker Meeting House, North Drive, Heswall, CH60 0BD
Wed 18 Sept, 10am - 3pm, Sat 21 Sept, 10am - 3pm.

A not-to-be-missed opportunity to visit the Heswall Quaker Meeting House. Designed by Dewi-Prys Thomas and opened in 1963 it has an ingenious and highly sophisticated design and is favourably mentioned in Nikolaus Pevsner’s Guide to the Buildings of Cheshire. Guides available to show visitors around.

No Booking required. Wheelchair access to ground floor only. A stair lift provides first floor access. Refreshments available

Contact: Dori Miller.
Email: dori_leadsham@hotmail.com

HOOTON

Hooton Park Hangars, Airfield Way, Hooton, Ellesmere Port, CH65 1BQ
Access via Junction 6 on M53, second exit off roundabout.
Sat 14 Sept & Sun 15 Sept, 10am - 4pm each day.

One of the most important WWI aircraft hangar complexes left in Great Britain. Site consists of three Grade II* hangars, five Grade II ancillary buildings and three air raid shelters. Because of the on-going renovation programme not all areas are open.

The hangar site open 10am - 4pm each day. Guided tours at 11.00 and 2.00 pm. Included in this tour is the ‘Air Raid Experience’ (height and ability restrictions apply).

Visit the Aeroplane Collection and the Griffin Trust and see our latest feature the ‘Small Boat Marina’ operated by the Ellesmere Port Model Boat Club.

Free car parking on the old runway; direction signs prominently displayed. Free Historic Bus shuttle service between both sites. (Last return bus to car park 4.10pm)

No booking required. Due to the age and nature of the site, disabled access is limited.

Contact: Robert Frost, 0151 327 3565.
Email: rfrost@hootonparktrust.co.uk
www.hootonparktrust.co.uk

Guided tour on the last Sunday of each month at 1pm, except December. Tour lasts approx. 2½ hrs.
HOYLAKE

Royal Liverpool Golf Club, 30 Meols Drive, Hoylake, CH47 4AL
Mon 16 Sept, 10am. Meet at Reception.

Victorian Clubhouse, built 1895, with good architectural features and extensive displays of the Club’s illustrious golfing history, players, trophies, paintings and memorabilia with views over the links to the River Dee and the Flintshire coast. This year sees the Club celebrate its 150th anniversary and host the Walker Cup on 7/8 September.

Conducted tour of Club rooms, facilities and historical artefacts. Tour lasts approx. 2 hrs.

Booking essential. Disabled access. Tea/coffee available from 9.30am.
Contact: The Secretary’s Office, 0151 632 3101.

www.royal-liverpool-golf.com

LITTLE NESTON

Neston Collieries and Burton Marsh WW2 Decoy Walk. Meet and finish at Harp Inn, 19 Quayside, Little Neston, CH64 0TB (Parking outside the Harp reserved for customers. Car parking available at the bottom of Marshlands Rd and just past the Harp)
Thurs 19 Sept, 10am start. Walk typically lasts 2.5 hours.

A historical walk around the little known Neston Collieries & Coalfield, which were active until around 1927.

Then a short walk along the cycleway to the location of the Burton Marsh WW2 Luftwaffe bombing decoy & bunker for Garston Docks. Walk finishes at Nets Café, Denhall Lane, Little Neston, CH64 0TG. Have lunch then walk back at your leisure.

No booking required. Accessible route over level or tarmac surfaces, wheelchair suitable, not more than 1½ miles. Refreshments available at Harp Inn and Nets Cafe.
Contact: Phil Pritchard - 0151 336 5973.
Email: g10694@gmail.com

NESS

Ness Gardens, Neston Road, Ness, Cheshire CH64 4AY
Tue 17 Sept, 10am - 5pm.

Ness Botanic Gardens was born of Liverpool cotton merchant Arthur Kilpin Bulley’s passionate interest in plants and his desire to share his interest with others. He began work on the garden in 1898, creating one of the major botanic gardens in the country.

Bulley died in 1942 and in 1948 his daughter, Lois Bulley (1901 – 1995), the political activist and philanthropist, presented the gardens to the University of Liverpool, endowing it with £75,000, then one of the largest endowments the University had ever received. Today Ness displays plants from all over the world.

No booking required. Disabled access. Refreshments available. Free entry on this day only.
Email: nessgdns@liverpool.ac.uk

www.liverpool.ac.uk/ness-gardens

For details of other opening hours please see website.
NESTON

Neston Town Trail, Meet outside gates of Neston Parish Church, High Street, Neston, CH64 9TZ

Sun 15 Sept, 2pm.

A 1½ mile guided circular walk around the Neston Conservation Area, using the town trail leaflet.

Walk takes 1½ hours.

Booking required. Wheelchair accessible. Refreshments available in local cafés.

Contact: Janet Griffiths, 0151 336 5478.

St Mary and St Helen Parish Church, High Street, Neston, CH64 9TZ

Thurs 19, Fri 20 & Sat 21 Sept 10am - 3.30pm, Sun 22 Sept, 2pm - 4pm.

1874 Gothic Revival style Parish Church, renowned for its stained-glass windows. On view are Viking grave markers, dating from 930AD and a medieval font, dated 1450 and used for the baptism of Emma Lady Hamilton, in 1765. Art & Craft displays and children's church discovery activity. Guided tours of church and bell tower. (Bell tower has limited access. Maximum 10 persons per tour).

Limited disabled access. Refreshments available.

Contact: Terry Abel H: 01513364492  M: 07754 833615.
Email: terryabel@talktalk.net

NEW BRIGHTON

St Andrew’s United Church, Rowson Street, New Brighton, CH45 5AR

Sun 22 Sept, 2pm – 4.30pm.

St Andrew’s United Church is a Victorian building with some more recent alterations. It was originally known as Rowson Street Methodist Church. Although the exterior is unimposing, there are some interesting features on the inside, including some unusual stained glass panels and several war memorials from both World Wars. Information sheets provided, and guided tours available.

No booking required. Disabled access. Light refreshments available.

Contact: Peter Purland.
Email: petepurland@btopenworld.com

www.standrewsunitedchurch.co.uk

New Brighton Heritage Centre, inside St James’ Church, Albion Street, New Brighton, CH45 9LF

Fri 13 & Sat 14 Sept, 11am - 1pm, Tues 17 to Sat 21, 11am - 1pm.

New Brighton Heritage & Information Centre is located within St James’ Church. The Centre is full of material about New Brighton’s past history and the days when the area was known as Black Rock.

Booking not required. Disabled access. Refreshments available.

Contact: Shirley Ashton 0151 639 1674.

Magazine Brow Conservation Area, Meet outside Vale Cafe in Vale Park, Magazine Lane, New Brighton, CH45 9LW

Sat 21 Sept. Start 2pm, Walk takes approx 75 minutes.

A circular heritage walk around Magazine Brow Conservation Area. Myths, legends and fascinating facts about this historic area on the banks of the Mersey.

An optional prize quiz Booking essential. Walk route fully accessible, being on paved areas with only some inclines. Refreshments can be purchased at Vale Café.

Contact: Therese Irving, 0151 638 0069.
Email: t.irving36@btinternet.com

www.wirralhistoryandheritage.org.uk
St James Church, Albion Street, New Brighton, CH45 9LF
Sat 14 Sept & Sat 21 Sept, 10am - 4pm.
Tue 17 –Fri 20, 11am - 1pm.

A Grade II listed building in the Victorian Gothic Revival Style, designed by Sir George Gilbert Scott and completed in 1856. Eminent Victorian artist, A.O. Hemmings, designed the reredos, murals & roof paintings in the Sanctuary and three stained glass windows.

View the magnificent 1833 Bewsher & Fleetwood organ in the North Transept.

No booking required for church visit. Disabled access to church and accessible toilet.

Contact: Julia Codling 07990 535 312.
Email: juliacodling@yahoo.com
www.stjameswithemmanuel.uk

‘ORGANFEST’ Sat 14 Sept. A chance to hear our magnificent Bewsher & Fleetwood organ being played by different organists, throughout the day. Church members on hand to answer questions and guide visitors round the church. Tea, coffee and cakes will be available.

‘COME AND PLAY’ Sat 14 Sept. An opportunity for enthusiastic and capable organists to play our Bewsher & Fleetwood organ, To book a 30 minute slot between 10am & 4pm please contact Julia Codling on 07990 535312 or e-mail juliacodling@yahoo.com. Please bring your own music.

Outside Heritage Open Days St James’s is normally open to visitors, Tues. to Sat - 11am to 1pm.

The ‘Dome of Home’ - Ss Peter, Paul & Philomena’s Church, 7 Atherton St, New Brighton, CH45 9LT
Sat 21 Sept, 12 noon - 4pm.

Monumental, well-loved local landmark, completed 1935. Guided Tours and/or self-guided award-winning Audio Tour (Marsh Award 2018) telling the story of how this church sustained morale and helped the local community during the WW2 Blitz. Audio tour can be accessed outside service times on smart phones by scanning QR codes.

No booking required. Disabled Access. Refreshments.

Contact: Anne Archer 0774 323 5046.
Email: contactus@domeofhome.org
www.domeofhome.org,

A working shrine, the church has traditional, daily Latin services, often accompanied by Gregorian Chant. Open every day, 8am - 8pm for visitors. Group tours by arrangement.

A History of New Brighton – Talk and Walk. Meet outside the Pilot House, 28 Atherton St. New Brighton, CH45 2NY
Sat 14 Sept, 10.30am.

A guided walk round the Conservation Area, preceded by a talk on the establishment of New Brighton by James Atherton and William Rowson in 1832.

The talk will include the history of the Mersey Approaches, the significance of the River Dee and of various landmarks. Duration of talk & walk approximately 2½ hours

Booking essential. Accessible route. Refreshments..

Contact: Joy Hockey, 0151 639 2412.
Email: pilothouse28@gmail.com
NEW FERRY

New Ferry Butterfly Park, Howell Rd, New Ferry (approach road to Bebington Station Car Park). Park signed from Bebington Rd. Access between Aldi (CH62 5BG) and the railway bridge. Meet at Butterfly Park entrance Sun 15 Sept, 2pm.

Tour will explore the industrial history of this former railway goods yard (brick-making and railway operations), and explain how this has contributed to the wildlife diversity of the park. This demonstrates the environmental value of brownfield sites. (Tour takes approximately 1½ hours).

Short walk of some 600m. Pond-dipping and other children’s activities. Scything demonstration. New art trail leaflet available.

No booking required. Limited disabled access. Complimentary tea and cake at end of walk. Admission free but donations welcome. Some parking on site

Contact: Paul Loughnane 0151 645 8937. Email: jpl@liv.ac.uk

www.cheshirewildlifetrust.org.uk

At other times the park can be opened for groups by arrangement.

PASSING THE SITE OF THE MASSIVE EXPLOSION OF 2017, the walk will meander through New Ferry Park to the shoreline where Brunel’s SS Great Eastern met its end, finishing at the stunning Port Sunlight River Park.

Suitable for all ages. The full length of the walk is 3 miles which will take up to 3 hours. (This does not include distance/time needed to walk back to Bebington Station.)

No booking required. Limited access. Most of the route is suitable for wheelchairs and buggies but the final leg from Shorefields to the River Park has two flights of steep steps.

Refreshments not available. Why not bring a picnic to enjoy at the end of the walk at the River Park?

Contact: Mark Anthony Craig 0774 607 3914. Email: markanthonycraig@ntlworld.com

OXTON

Christ Church, Bessborough Rd, Oxton, CH43 5RW

Sat 21 Sept, 1pm - 4pm.

One of the largest churches in Wirral, recently dubbed the ‘Wilfred Owen Church’ as members of the poet’s family and other notable people worshipped here. Houses a fine ‘Father Willis Organ’ which is Grade I listed. There are two WW1 memorials, (one an elaborately carved pulpit) and other interesting features.

Free Organ Recital, 2.00pm - 2.45pm. Historical displays. Guides available.

No booking required. Disabled access. Refreshments.

Contact: Jackie Harness – 0151 652 3990 Email: christchurchbirkenhead@gmail.com

Visits at other times by arrangement. For details and opening times please phone or see website: www.christchurchbirkenhead.net
Oxton Guided History Walks

1. The Arno Walk - Sat 14 Sept,
2. The West Walk - Wed 18 Sept,
3. The East Walk - Sat 21 Sept,

Each walk starts at 11am

Four guided tours of the Oxton area, each exploring aspects of the history of Oxton village, tracing its development from its agricultural beginnings to the community it is today, with stories of the people and events that helped to shape it.

1. The Arno Walk starts at the notice board adjacent to Sainsbury’s petrol station in Prenton, CH42 8PQ. Includes Duck Pond Lane, Arno Hill, Birch Road and Fairview Road.

2. The West Walk starts at the centre of Oxton village by the post-box next to Home Cafe, junction of Rose Mount and Village Rd, CH43 5SF. Includes Village Rd, St Saviours and Wellington Rd.

3. The East Walk starts at the centre of Oxton village by the post-box next to Home Cafe, junction of Rose Mount and Village Rd, CH43 5SF. Includes Fairview Rd, South Bank and Arno Rd.

4. The Williamson Walk starts at the Williamson Art Gallery, Slatey Rd, Birkenhead, CH43 4UE. Includes Caroline Place, Devonshire Place and Alton Rd.

Each walk is circular and finishes at the starting point
Walks last 1½ - 2 hrs.

Booking required. Limited disabled access. The East Walk goes along unmade roads. (Please ring in advance and we will do our best to cater for anyone with a disability).

Refreshments available in village.

Contact: 0151 652 0202. (Oxton Books)
Email: paul.smith437@btinternet.com

Similar walks are held throughout the summer, see Oxton Society website: www.theoxtonsociety.co.uk

PARKGATE

St Thomas Church, Mostyn Square, Parkgate, CH64 6SL
Sat 21 & Sun 22 Sept, 1pm - 5pm.

Closed for 16 years, this tiny sandstone church was refurbished and reopened in 2010. Local community projects in support of ‘The Bishop’s Trust’ raised the money for the renovation. The ‘Fisherman’s Church’, as it is known locally, is a testament to their sterling efforts. Financial assistance was also given by English Heritage.

Booking not required. Disabled access. Refreshments available at local cafés.

Contact: Valerie Johnson
Email: stthomasparkagte@hotmail.com
www.stthomasparkgate.wordpress.com

PORT SUNLIGHT

Past, Present and Future of Port Sunlight River Park. River Park, Dock Road North, Bromborough CH62 4TQ
Meet at River Park Car Park.
Fri 20 Sept, 10.30am. The 2 mile walk takes approximately 1½ hours.

The park was a former landfill site and the location of Bromborough Dock. Learn about the Heritage Lottery funded centre, staff and archaeological digs, linking this green space with its amazing views and Bromborough Pool. The gentle walk will be jointly led by Biffa and Autism Together staff.

Booking not required. Disabled access. Refreshments available.

Contact: Anne Litherland 075 875 500 60.
Email: river.park@autismtogether.co.uk
www.portsunlightriverpark.com
Port Sunlight Talk - ‘The Clubs & Societies of Port Sunlight’, Bridge Cottage, 23 Park Rd, Port Sunlight, CH62 4US

Thurs 19 Sept. Talk 6.30 - 8.00pm

Discover the fascinating history of the Clubs and Societies of Port Sunlight Village at a special evening presentation in Bridge Cottage Community Hub. Talk presented by Port Sunlight Village Trust research volunteer, James Hayes, who has been volunteering for the Trust since 2012.

Booking essential. Disabled access.

Contact: Visitor Services Team 0151 644 6466. Email: info@portsunlightvillage.com

www.portsunlightvillage.com

Port Sunlight Reminiscences Workshop, Bridge Cottage, 23 Park Rd, Port Sunlight, CH62 4US

Fri 20 Sept, 11am - 1pm.

Come to our drop-in reminiscences workshop and take a nostalgic look back at home life in Port Sunlight. We'll provide photographs and handling objects that you can touch, smell and talk about together to inspire recollections. Come along, meet people, share memories and enjoy a chat over tea or coffee. Afterwards, why not join us for a short walking tour of the village to explore some of its landmarks.

Reminiscences workshop - 11am - 12.30pm.
Walking tour - 12.30pm – 1pm

No Booking required. Disabled access. Refreshments available locally.

Contact: Visitor Services Team 0151 644 6466. Email: info@portsunlightvillage.com

‘Open Village Trail’. Start at Port Sunlight Museum, 23 King Georges Drive, Port Sunlight Village, CH62 5DX

Sun 22 Sept, 11am to 3pm.

Self-guided tour. Pick up trail leaflet at Museum. Follow the trail to explore Port Sunlight in a truly unique way! Take a peek inside the homes of village residents and discover what life is like today. Stop off at Bridge Cottage, once home to William Lever. Here discover stories and tales of the village told by staff and volunteers in period costume. Why not lend a helping hand and join in with the popular Victorian pastime of rag rug making!

No booking required. Disabled access to every open village home and building is not guaranteed. Refreshments available in Port Sunlight Tea Room.

Contact: Visitor Services Team 0151 644 6466. Email: info@portsunlightvillage.com

Village Walking Tour. Meet at Port Sunlight Museum, 23 King Georges Drive, Port Sunlight Village, CH62 5DX

Sat 21 Sept Two tours. Starting at 11.30am & 2.00pm. Duration 90 mins.

Take a guided walking tour around Port Sunlight Village and discover the fascinating story of William Lever, the village’s unique architecture and life in the village, past and present. This is an all-weather event and will take place, rain or shine.

Booking essential. Disabled access. Refreshments available in Port Sunlight Tea Room.

Contact: Visitor Services Team 0151 644 6466. Email: info@portsunlightvillage.com

www.wirralhistoryandheritage.org.uk
Behind the Scenes at Unilever Archives, Lever House, Wood St, Port Sunlight, CH62 4XN
Fri 13 Sept. Tours start at 9.30am, 11.00am, 1.45pm, 3.00pm. Tour takes one hour.

Unilever Archives are offering a rare opportunity for a limited number of visitors to get a peek behind the scenes of one of the most important business collections in the world. Guided tours will provide an introduction to the Archives and a chance to hear about the history of Unilever in Port Sunlight and to see some of the items held in our unique collection. The tour is unsuitable for children due to Lever House being a factory site.

Booking essential. No disabled access. Refreshments available.
Email: archives@unilever.com

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Byrne Avenue Baths are currently being restored so that the building can re-open as a Sports and Community Centre. Guided tours, lasting approx. 1 hour, tell you the history of the 1930s Baths as well as outlining the plans for the future.

Booking essential. Guided tours, with some stairs. A shortened route can be arranged for those unable to manage the stairs.
Contact: Byrne Avenue Trust, 0151 926 0026. Email: hello@byrneavenuebaths.org, www.byrneavenuebaths.org

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WALLASEY
Holy Apostles and Martyrs’ Parish Church, St George’s Road, Wallasey, CH45 6TU
Fri 20 & Sat 21 Sept, 2pm - 5pm.

Our church building, dedicated to English Martyrs, has been described as "hovering above the houses of Wallasey Village" and is listed by Historic England at Grade II*. Designed by Liverpool architect, F X Velarde, the church opened in August 1953; its unusual and attractive interior is Romanesque in style, Velarde’s favourite.

No booking required. Disabled access. Refreshments available.
Contact: Tony Mossman
Email: ham.parishadmn@gmail.com

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ROCK FERRY
Byrne Avenue Baths, Byrne Avenue, Rock Ferry, CH42 4PQD
Fri 20 Sept, 10am, 12noon & 2pm, Sat 21 Sept, 10am, 12noon & 2pm.
The Chapel, Rake Lane Cemetery, Rake Lane, Wallasey CH45 5DE

Sun 15 Sept, 2pm - 4pm.

In 2009 the near-derelict chapel became a Russian Orthodox church, which is now a beautiful place of worship with many fine icons. The cemetery has memorials of special interest, including numerous Commonwealth War Graves and those with associations with the Titanic, Lusitania and the Empress of Ireland.

No booking required. Disabled access. Short guided walks in the cemetery are also available.

Contact: John & Diane Robinson, 0151 639 4231.
www.wallaseycemetery.co.uk

St Hilary of Poitiers Church, Claremont Road, Wallasey CH45 3NH

Sat 14 Sept, 10am - 4pm, Sun 15 Sept, 1.00 pm - 4pm.

St. Hilary’s Church, dedicated in 1859, occupies a fine setting, high above Wallasey, with views over to Wales. It has some beautiful windows and a Willis organ. The Old Tower, dating from 1530, will also be open to view and has the original Norman Font.

Guided visits to the Bell Tower will take place every hour from 11am - 3pm on Sat and at 1pm, 2pm and 3pm on Sun. Childrens activities and prayer stations.

Bacon baps will be on sale from 12 noon - 2pm on Sat and from 1pm- 2pm on Sun.

St Mary’s Church, Withins Lane, Liscard, Wallasey CH45 7LU

Sat 21 & Sun 22 Sept, 12noon - 4pm.

Recently listed Grade II Church, built 1876 by E.W. Nobbs. A fine example of mid-Victorian architecture with perpendicular tracery & west tower. Broad interior, without aisles, good arts & crafts and stained glass windows in Christopher Whall style. Ring of 8 bells in use. Parish registers from St. Mary’s, St. John’s & St. Columba’s, Egremont on loan from Cheshire Archives and available for inspection.

No booking required. Disabled access. Refreshments available.

Contact: David Harvey.
Email: davidharvey2@hotmail.com

Email: admin@sthilarywallasey.org.uk
www.sthilarywallasey.org.uk
Wallasey Masonic Hall, Manor Road, Wallasey, CH45 7LU

Fri 13 Sept, 10am - 4pm, Sat 14 Sept, 10am - 3pm. Guided tours both days. Coffee morning Saturday.  
Opened in 1911 as a purpose built Masonic Hall, designed by J.W.B. Harding FSA, Architect. The interiors of the large lodge room and function suite are original to 1911. The second dining room and lodge room date from 1937 and were designed by William P Horsburgh, Architect, FRIBA. Visit the Grand Temple and Staircase to experience what few non-Masons ever see!

No booking required. Disabled access.

Contact: Mr Ireland
Email: secretary@wallaseymasonichall.co.uk

‘People Power – Rediscovering Wirral’s Great Viking Past’, Wallasey Central Library, Earlston Rd, Wallasey, CH45 5DX.

Fri 20 Sept, 2pm. Talk lasts approx. one hour.

Wallasey born Professor Stephen Harding, author of several Viking related works, including Ingimund’s Saga: Viking Wirral; Wirral and Its Viking Heritage (with Paul Cavill) and Viking Mersey: Scandinavian Wirral, West Lancashire and Chester, will talk about ‘People Power’ in Wirral.

Booking essential. Disabled access.

Email: elainewilson@Wirral.gov.uk
www.wirral.gov.uk/libraries-and-archives

Wallasey Town Hall Tour, Brighton St, Seacombe, CH44 8ED. Meet 1.55pm. Meet in Town Hall Reception Area.

Fri 13 Sept, 2pm.

Monumental Grade II listed building, designed for Borough of Wallasey by Briggs, Wolstenholme & Thornley. Foundation stone laid 1914, by George V. Served as Military Hospital in WWI. Officially opened as Wallasey Town Hall, 1920.

Now main centre for Wirral Council. Talk on the building by Mrs Joy Hockey OBE of Wallasey Historical Society. Tour of Council Chamber, Reception Room & recently refurbished Civic Hall. Tea in Mayor’s parlour. Talk and Tour lasts approx. two hours.

Booking essential as numbers limited. Disabled access.

Contact: C. Morris : 07592 332 519.
**The Wallaseyans’ Club, 140/142 Grove Road, Wallasey, CH45 0JF**

*Sun 22 Sept - 2 pm - 5.30pm.*

The archive of Wallasey Grammar School is stored here. It contains tens of thousands of documents, including admission details for all boys who attended from 1876 onwards, every school magazine since 1905, speech day programmes, form lists, whole school photographs, sporting achievements, prospectuses, staff lists and many other items.

No booking required. Disabled access. Refreshments available.

Contact: Colin Bruce.
Email: cbrucewarren@tiscali.co.uk
Visits at other times by arrangement.

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**WEST KIRBY**

**Ashton Park Walk, Meet at St Bridget’s Centre, St Bridget’s Lane, West Kirby, CH48 3JT**

*Sat 14 Sept, 10am & 12noon. Each tour lasts 75 minutes.*

Start outside St Bridget’s Centre. Finish in the Upper Park at St Bridget’s entrance.

West Kirby Park “opened” in 1901 without ceremony: its development characterised by delay and overspend. The original park was only half the size intended and the Upper Park developed more slowly. Later to become known as “Ashton Park”, the park changed significantly over the years. Learn about the park’s history and development and about the Ashton Family who gave their name to the park.

Booking required. The route can be made fully accessible for wheelchairs on request.

Contact: Secretary, Martin Harrison
0151 625 8535.
Email: martinandsueharrison@gmail.com
www.ashtonpark.btck.co.uk

Ashton Park is a public park and is accessible 24 hours a day. Eight interpretation boards are placed around the park to illustrate its history and development. A Heritage Walk leaflet can be sent on request via our website. Donations welcome.
West Kirby Old Village Walk
Meet at Lych-gate, St Bridget’s Church Church Rd, West Kirby, CH48 3JT

Sun 15 Sept, 10am. Walk lasts 1 hour.

The Old Village of West Kirby is now a Conservation Area. It was once the bustling centre of West Kirby, before the arrival of the railway in 1878. Learn about the history of the area and admire the old buildings, some dating back to the 17th century.

Booking essential. No disabled access, narrow pavements make the walk unsuitable for people with mobility problems and for wheelchairs and prams. Refreshments available in local cafés.

Contact: Heather Chapman, 0151 625 7013.

West Kirby Methodist Church, 29a Westbourne Rd, West Kirby, CH48 4DQ

Fri 20 & Sat 21 Sept, 10am - 4pm.

Opened in 1904, the church’s windows and fittings are closely linked to well-known families of the town. It is unusual for the quality of its stained glass windows and for its Willis organ. The traditional pine interior is offset by the high-quality Art Deco style refurbishment of the chancel.

Guide to the church available. Children’s activities. Organ music

No booking required. Disabled access. Refreshments available.

Contact: Graham Gladden, 07802 462 682.
Email: gladdengp1@gmail.com
www.westkirbymethodist.btck.co.uk

West Kirby Museum & History Fair,
St Bridget’s Centre, St Bridget’s Lane, West Kirby, CH48 1JT

Sat 14 Sept, 11am - 5pm.

‘West Kirby Revealed – Grand Exhibition Day’. Explore the rich history of West Kirby. West Kirby Museum will be open all day and the Museum Research Group will be exhibiting all their research projects to date. A green goddess fire engine will be on display. Local history book sale.

No booking required. Disabled access. Refreshments available.

Contact: Heather Chapman, 0151 625 7013.
www.westkirbymuseum.co.uk
Museum open every Saturday 10am - 1pm. Free entry.
The Wilfred Owen Story, West Kirby Arts Centre, 29 Brookfield Gardens, West Kirby, CH48 4EL

Fri 13 Sept to Sun 22 Sept, 12noon to 2pm.

The Wilfred Owen Story is the UK’s first and only permanent exhibition dedicated to the iconic WW1 poet. The museum, established in 2011, celebrates Wilfred Owen’s formative years spent in Wirral. The museum is now based in the West Kirby Arts Centre, close to Owen’s relatives’ former home in Meols. The Arts Centre was built in 1928 as a Unitarian Church, paid for by local fundraising.

Booking not required for groups of fewer than ten people. No disabled access. Parking very limited - if driving please park at West Kirby Concourse, 2 minutes’ walk away. Refreshments available.

Contact: Dean Johnson on 07539 371925. Email: wilfredowenstory@gmail.com

At other times open Tues to Fri, 11am to 2pm.

WOODCHURCH

Holy Cross Church, Church Lane, Woodchurch, CH49 7LS

Fri 13 Sept, 11am - 3pm, Sat 14 Sept, 11am - 4.30pm, Sun 15 Sept, 2pm - 4pm.

Grade II* listed medieval church, dating from 12th century, enlarged, altered and enhanced, serving the people of the 21st century. See the 15th century bench-ends, Tudor porch, 17th century bread-shelves, charity board/hatchments and 1930s rood screen. The 14th century tower holds one of the lightest peals of eight bells in the world. Self-guided leaflets & Church Tours available during Friday & Saturday.

Sat 14 Sept, 12 noon - 3pm – Opportunity to ‘have a go’ at ringing the bells. Climb the 100+ steps up the tower for views of Woodchurch and beyond. (see ‘Restrictions’ below).

2pm – A journey around paintings inspired by the ‘Words of Jesus’.

4pm-4.30pm – All Things Bright and Beautiful Pet Service (Service of Thanksgiving for Animals and Blessing of pets).

Sun 15 Sept, 2pm-4pm – Church open to look around.

4pm – Choral Evensong with the combined choirs of Holy Cross and St Saviour’s, Oxton.

Restrictions for Tower Visits/Bell Ringing - No children under eight years. All children under 16 to be accompanied by an adult. Tower accessed by 100+ steps up narrow spiral staircase. Access impossible for wheelchairs, prams etc. Not suitable for anyone with mobility difficulties or anyone who is pregnant or has a health issue which would make it unsafe to climb steep steps. NO dogs allowed in tower.

No booking required. Disabled access to church, but not to tower or bells. Refreshments available.

Contact: Sue Treanor, Parish Administrator, 0151 677 5352. Email: parishoffice@holycrosswoodchurch.uk

Church normally open every Wed, 11am - 12 noon and first Saturday of every month – 9.30am - 11am. Visits at other times by arrangement.

Contact Parish Office on 0151 677 5352 (Sue) www.holycrosswoodchurch.uk
St Michael & All Angels RC Church, New Hey Rd, Woodchurch CH49 5LE

Sat 14 Sept & Sat 21 Sept, 10am - 4pm.

The parish of St Michael and All Angels was founded to serve the Catholic community of Woodchurch and Prenton in 1952. The church, designed by Richard O’Mahony of the F.X. Velarde Partnership, was commissioned in 1962 and opened in September 1965. The building was awarded a RIBA Bronze Medal in 1967. Guides on hand to explain the features and history of the Church building.

No booking required. Limited disabled access. Light refreshments available

Email: saintmichaelandallangels@hotmail.com
www.stmaaa.co.uk

For visits at other times please see website.
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**NOTES**
Wirral History and Heritage Association

Wirral Heritage Open Days, 2019, is organised by the Wirral History and Heritage Association. WHHA is a voluntary organisation open to anyone interested in the history and heritage of Wirral. Its purpose is to provide an umbrella service both for individuals and for the peninsula’s numerous local history groups and societies.

This year we are very pleased that our programme contributes to the wider series of events celebrating Wirral as this year’s Borough of Culture.

In addition to organising the local Heritage Open Days, the Association runs Wirral’s Annual History Fair each March and through its website – [www.wirralhistoryandheritage.org.uk](http://www.wirralhistoryandheritage.org.uk) - provides details of Member Organisations, Local History Speakers, Local History Classes and Local History events, talks and tours.

This Heritage Open Days programme is put together entirely by volunteers. We would be happy to hear from anyone who would like to help us. If you are interested please contact us through our website.

[www.wirralhistoryandheritage.org.uk](http://www.wirralhistoryandheritage.org.uk)

**Acknowledgements**

The paintings of St Hilary’s Church by Harold Hopps on the front cover and of CSS Alabama by Samuel Walters on page 6 are reproduced by courtesy of Williamson Art Gallery and Museum.

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**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: 2019 - 2020**

- **Saturday 26 October 2019: 9.30am**
  - CHESHIRE HISTORY DAY
  - Winsford Lifestyle Centre, The Drumber, Winsford, CW7 1AD
  - ‘Cheshire Gardens’
  - Speakers to be confirmed.
  - Details on: [www.cheshirehistory.org.uk](http://www.cheshirehistory.org.uk)

- **Saturday 14 March 2020: 10.00am - 4pm**
  - WIRRAL HISTORY AND HERITAGE FAIR
  - Birkenhead Town Hall
  - Hamilton Square, Birkenhead, CH41 5BR
  - Explore Wirral’s fascinating past!
  - History & Heritage Stalls, Family History, Local Historical societies, Memorabilia, Books and postcards.
  - Free admission, All welcome.
  - Details on: [www.wirralhistoryandheritage.org.uk](http://www.wirralhistoryandheritage.org.uk)