



## heritage open days

**Welcome to  
Heritage Open Days in and  
around Tunbridge Wells**

**Thursday 11 September to  
Sunday 14 September 2014**

**Over fifty free events and  
venues**

### **EVENTS AND VENUES WITH LINKS TO FIRST WORLD WAR**

#### **IN THE SHADOW OF WAR AND PEACE**

*St Barnabas' School Hall, Quarry Road,  
Tunbridge Wells, TN1 2EY*

Claque Theatre's interactive theatre-art  
exhibition "The Empty Gallery"

Saturday and Sunday 1030-1800

#### **CREATE'S FIRST WORLD WAR CHOIR**

*St Barnabas' School Hall, Quarry Road,  
Tunbridge Wells, TN1 2EY*

Words and music from the era

Saturday 1930

(Interested in joining the community  
choir? All singers welcome to an Open  
Rehearsal at Church of Christ, Commercial  
Road Thursday 1930)

### **ST BARNABAS' PRIMARY SCHOOL**

*Quarry Road, Tunbridge Wells, TN1 2EY*

Three storey building opened 1897.

Archives, current work of pupils, 100 years  
of games, film of 2009 community play  
"Vanishing Elephant", singing by CREATE  
choir.

Friday 1330 – 1430 guided tours of school  
(while school running)

Saturday and Sunday 1000 - 1500

activities, exhibitions, guided tours

Booking required (for Fri tours only) on  
0796 619 0428

### **ST BARNABAS' CHURCH**

*Stanley Road,*

*Tunbridge Wells, TN1 2RH*

Imposing 19<sup>th</sup> century church; tours of  
church and mortuary chapel; extensive  
exhibitions on history of church, parish and  
school - including First World War and the  
Sassoon connection

Friday and Saturday 1000-1800

Sunday 1300-1700

### **CRANBROOK MUSEUM**

*Carriers Road, TN17 3JX*

16<sup>th</sup> century building; exhibition on town's  
VAD hospitals; local history collections

Sunday 1400-1630

### **SOUTHBOROUGH AND HIGH BROOMS DURING FIRST WORLD WAR**

*Royal Victoria Hall, 137 London Rd,  
Southborough, TN4 0ND*

Exhibition about town on home front and  
abroad. Royal Victoria Hall itself was used  
as VAD hospital

Saturday 1100-1600

***Is there disabled access? Are there  
refreshments? For more information  
about each venue and event log on  
to [www.heritageopendays.org.uk](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk)***

## **ST JAMES'S CHURCH**

*St James's Road,  
Tunbridge Wells, TN2 3RL*

Display featuring on-going research project about those on parish war memorial; also display on history of church

Thursday, Friday, Saturday 1000-1600

Sunday 1200-1600

## **HOLDEN CORNER AND MODEST CORNER IN TIME OF WAR**

*Meet by Holden Pond, Holden Road,  
Southborough, TN4 0LR*

Southborough Society guided walk

Sunday 1430

## **SALOMONS, SOUTHBOROUGH**

*Broomhill Road, TN3 0TG*

Grade II 19<sup>th</sup> century mansion with science theatre; Grade II\* stables. Museum

includes archives of Captain Salomons who went down with his ship's company in

1915. Guided tours

Sunday 1000-1600

*Follow us on Twitter  
@Twellsheritage*

## **ST THOMAS'S CHURCH, SOUTHBOROUGH**

*Pennington Road, TN4 0SH*

Grade II 19<sup>th</sup> century church; display about a former curate's connection with

executed nurse Edith Cavell

Saturday 1000-1800

## **RUSTHALL IN THE GREAT WAR**

*St Paul's Church, Langton Road, Rusthall,  
TN4 8XD*

Exhibition by local history group and Rusthall Community and Youth Project

Thursday and Friday 1400-1600

Saturday 1000-1400

Sunday 1400-1700

## **PADDOCK WOOD REMEMBERS**

*Wesley Centre,  
Commercial Road, TN12 6DS*

Community exhibition about those who served and died; the local regiments and town during the First World War

Saturday and Sunday 1000-1600

## **HOPPERS, FIVE OAK GREEN**

*Five Oak Green Road, TN12 6RL*

Hoppers: originally a 17<sup>th</sup> century farmhouse, then a public house, later a hop pickers' hospital; now a Christian residential centre with First World War memorial in courtyard. Archive displays and hourly guided tours

Thursday, Friday, Saturday 1000-1600;

Sunday 1100-1500

## **GUIDED WALKS**

### **BUILDINGS OF TUNBRIDGE WELLS**

*Meet on Tunbridge Wells Common, outside  
68 London Road, TN1 1DT*

Discover the history of various buildings with Civic Society conservation awards

Thursday 1100

### **DRINKING AROUND ST JOHN'S**

*Meet on the green by St John's Church,  
St John's Rd, Tunbridge Wells, TN4 9LG*

Learn about historic public houses, the vanished brewery and local drinks industries

Friday 1100

### **VICTORIAN CHAPELS OF ST JOHN'S**

*Meet outside United Reformed Church,  
1 Mt Ephraim, Tunbridge Wells TN4 8AE*

Walk led by local author Sue Brown.

Includes a number of former chapels plus other points of historical interest

Booking recommended 01892 522488

s.brown48@btinternet.com

Friday 1400

### **HISTORIC SHOPS OF TUNBRIDGE WELLS**

*Meet on Tunbridge Wells Common, outside  
68 London Road, TN1 1DT*

Learn about shops, shop keepers and  
customers - including Queen Victoria

Sunday 1100

Booking recommended on  
twellsheritage@gmail.com

### **THE STORY OF TUNBRIDGE WARE**

*Meet outside Tunbridge Wells Library,  
Mount Pleasant Road, TN1 1JN*

Walk led by David Wakefield of the Friends  
of the Museum

Saturday and Sunday 1400

### **WOODBURY PARK CEMETERY**

*Woodbury Park Road,  
Tunbridge Wells, TN4 9NH*

Learn about the Victorian cemetery; meet  
at cemetery gate (in cul-de-sac)

Thursday and Saturday 1030

### **THE PANTILES**

*Meet at Tourist Information Centre,  
Unit 2 Corn Exchange, The Pantiles,  
Tunbridge Wells, TN2 5TE*

Join the blue badge guides as they step  
back into the spa town's heyday

Booking required 01892 515675

touristinformationcentre@tunbridgewells.  
gov.uk

Friday 1100 Saturday 1430

### **TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMON**

*Meet at Fir Tree Road Car Park,  
TN4 8AH*

Walk with Commons' Warden round  
ancient heathland

Saturday 1030

### **HISTORIC CRANBROOK**

*Meet at Museum*

*Carriers Road, TN17 3JX*

Local History Society's guided walk round  
Wealden wool town

Booking required, from 1 Sept, on

julia.collard@btinternet.com or

01580 714349

Sunday 1400

### **IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MEDIAEVAL KNIGHTS**

*Meet outside Hoppers,*

*Five Oak Green Road,*

*Five Oak Green, TN12 6RL*

Walk of 3 miles on a section of the

Tonbridge Circular Walk, led by author &  
archaeologist Deborah Cole

Sunday 1430

### **TEXTILES, ART AND CRAFTS**

#### **ST THOMAS A BECKET, CAPEL**

*Church Lane, Capel, TN12 6SX*

Inside a Grade I church, medieval wall  
paintings; art & craft; music interludes;

family history churchyard records

Saturday and Sunday 1000-1630

#### **TUNBRIDGE WELLS MUSEUM**

*Mount Pleasant Road, TN1 1JN*

Advice session on textile conservation  
(bring photos of any cherished items)

Friday and Saturday 1100

Book on 01892 554171 or

museum@tunbridgewells.gov.uk

Talk on Camden family portraits

Friday and Saturday 1400

Book on 01892 554171 or

museum@tunbridgewells.gov.uk

## **MICHAEL HART BLACKSMITH**

*The Forge, Noakes Storage,  
Goudhurst Rd, Horsmonden, TN12 8AY*  
Award winning traditional blacksmith  
making handforged bespoke ironwork  
Saturday 0900-1500  
Book on [twellsheritage@gmail.com](mailto:twellsheritage@gmail.com)  
or 01892 544429

## **BUILDINGS AND LANDSCAPES**

### **TUNBRIDGE WELLS CEMETERY**

*Benhall Mill Road, TN2 5JJ*  
Exhibition on history of cemetery inside  
one of cemetery chapels; guided walks  
around monuments in cemetery garden  
Saturday and Sunday 1400-1630

### **KENT ADULT EDUCATION CENTRE**

*Monson Road, Tunbridge Wells TN1 1LS*  
Grade II listed building by Henry Hare, with  
notable stained glass by Dudley Forsyth;  
chance to enrol on courses  
Thursday 1000-1600

### **OPERA HOUSE (WETHERSPOONS)**

*Meet in the foyer of Wetherspoons  
88 Mount Pleasant Road,  
Tunbridge Wells, TN1 1RT*  
Behind the scenes tours of Grade II  
Edwardian theatre, now a public house.  
Please bring your own torch  
Friday 1500 and 1630

### **TRINITY THEATRE**

#### **TUNBRIDGE WELLS**

*Church Road, TN1 1JP*  
Grade II\* listed Decimus Burton church,  
now a theatre and arts centre.  
Talk and guided tour by local author Philip  
Whitbourn OBE  
Sunday 1500

## **WILLICOMBE HOUSE, TUNBRIDGE WELLS**

*Willicombe Park, TN2 3UU*  
Elegant former home of Victorian  
developer, William Willicombe, in  
delightfully recreated garden. For much of  
20<sup>th</sup> century, a Barnardo's home training  
nursery nurses  
Thursday to Saturday 1100-1600

### **ASSEMBLY HALL THEATRE**

*Crescent Road, Tunbridge Wells,  
TN1 2LU*  
Behind the scenes tour  
Thursday 1130  
Booking required 01892 554127  
[Cheri.Strudwick@tunbridgewells.gov.uk](mailto:Cheri.Strudwick@tunbridgewells.gov.uk)

### **POUND, TUNBRIDGE WELLS**

*Grove Hill Road, TN1 1SD*  
Grade II listed former manorial pound for  
stray animals  
Saturday 1100-1500

### **THE WALLED NURSERY, HAWKHURST**

*Water Lane, Hawkhurst, TN18 5DH*  
Learn more about the conservation project  
at this Victorian glass house complex  
within a walled garden  
Thursday, Friday and Saturday  
Talk at 1100  
Nursery open 0900-1730

### **CRANBROOK UNION MILL**

*The Hill, TN17 3AH*  
Tours of Grade I smock mill, built exactly  
200 years ago, the tallest surviving in  
England – and still fully working (wind  
power only!)  
Saturday and Sunday 1430-1700

### **ERIDGE PARK ARCHIVE ROOM**

*Eridge Green, TN3 9JT*

Enjoy tour of Abergavenny archive then stroll in garden or deer park

Thursday and Friday 1000-1600

Saturday 1000-1200

Booking required on 01892 544429 or [twellsheritage@gmail.com](mailto:twellsheritage@gmail.com)

***Top tip: Several different events are booked via the email address: [twellsheritage@gmail.com](mailto:twellsheritage@gmail.com) Do state which event you want to attend!***

### **SOMERHILL**

*Tudeley Road, Tonbridge, TN11 0NJ*

Grade I listed 400 year old Jacobean mansion, now school campus. Historic parkland setting painted by Turner  
Sunday 1400-1600

### **GOLDSMID HALL**

*Tudeley Road, Tonbridge, TN11 0NW*

Arts and Crafts Hall built for Somerhill estate workers, now village hall. Local history display, Victorian rural life mural, modern stained glass  
Sunday 1000-1600

### **ST MATTHEW'S SCHOOL AIR RAID SHELTER, HIGH BROOMS**

*Powder Mill Lane, TN4 9DY*

WWII air-raid shelter under playground  
Thursday and Friday 1600-1800

### **C J GALLARD'S ALMSHOUSES**

*London Rd, Southborough TN4 0NB*

Exhibition on first hundred years  
Saturday 1400-1700

### **PENSHURST ROYAL OBSERVER CORPS MONITORING POST (NUCLEAR BUNKER)**

*Junction of Coppings Rd, Camp Hill & Compasses Rd, Penshurst TN11 8LP*

Below ground - opportunity to see inside Cold War monitoring station.

*Strictly for those able to climb down 15 feet fixed ladder. Suitable clothes & strong shoes essential.* At ground level, display of artefacts

Saturday 1000-1800

Sunday 1000-1500

Booking required, by 7 September, with John Smiles [smileysquad@gmail.com](mailto:smileysquad@gmail.com)

### **BURRSWOOD, GROOMBRIDGE**

*Groombridge, TN3 9PY*

1830s Decimus Burton country house and gardens; now Christian hospital Thursday to Sunday 0900 to dusk;

Talk on history of hospital

Thursday 1500 and Friday 1130

Talk on architect Decimus Burton

Saturday 1130

Booking recommended for talks  
01892 865978

[susie.pinder@burrswood.org.uk](mailto:susie.pinder@burrswood.org.uk)

### **PADDOCK WOOD**

#### **OLD CLOSED CHURCHYARD**

*Church Road, TN12 6HB*

Remains of 19<sup>th</sup> century church; memorials from 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, including several war graves; wildlife habitat

Thursday to Sunday 1000 - 1600

#### **MASONIC HALL, PADDOCK WOOD**

*57 Maidstone Road, TN12 6DJ*

Masonic Lodge with commemorative artefacts, displays and tours

Saturday 1000-1600

### **BARSLEYS OF PADDOCK WOOD**

*16-22 Commercial Road, TN12 6EJ*

Family owned and run department store;  
display of artefacts and pictures  
Thursday to Saturday 1000 - 1600

### **PEMBURY WORKHOUSE CHAPEL**

*Use (paying) car park D,  
Tunbridge Wells Hospital,*

*Tonbridge Rd, Pembury, TN2 4QJ*

Tour of building and talk about former  
workhouse and hospital

Thursday 1830

Booking required 01892 544429 or  
twellsheritage@gmail.com

## **CHURCHES**

### **VALE ROYAL METHODIST CHURCH**

*London Rd, Tunbridge Wells, TN1 1BX*

Place of worship with a history of over 200  
years; interesting stained glass; family  
open weekend including historical displays

Saturday 1100-1730

Sunday 1030-1230

### **ST JOHN'S CHURCH, TUNBRIDGE WELLS**

*Amherst Road TN4 9LG*

Exhibition of history of church and  
surrounding area

Thursday and Friday 1000-1600

### **ST PHILIP'S CHURCH, SHERWOOD**

*Birken Road, Tunbridge Wells, TN2 3TE*

Tenth anniversary open day

Saturday 1100-1500

### **ST MARTIN'S CHURCH, ASHURST**

*Ashurst Road, TN3 9TE*

Originally a 10<sup>th</sup> century monk's house, the  
church was restored in the 13<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>  
centuries

Saturday 1000-1600

### **ST PETER'S CHURCH, SOUTHBOROUGH**

*Church Road, TN4 0RU*

Grade II listed 19<sup>th</sup> century church  
designed by Decimus Burton  
Saturday 1000-1800

### **ST MARY'S CHURCH, SPELDHURST**

*Speldhurst Hill, TN3 0PA*

19<sup>th</sup> century church with outstanding  
windows by William Morris & Edward  
Burne Jones; archive displays; guided tours  
on the hour

Saturday 1100-1700

Sunday 1200-1700

### **PEMBURY UPPER CHURCH**

*Hastings Road, TN2 4PD*

Grade II\* Victorian village church; stained  
glass by Leonard Walker

Thursday to Saturday 1000-1800

Sunday 1100-1800

### **PEMBURY OLD CHURCH**

*Old Church Road, TN2 4AT*

Grade I medieval church with fine  
timbered roof and monuments

Saturday and Sunday 1400-1700

***With thanks for support by:***



The Heritage Open Days National Partnership



The  
Heritage  
Alliance



## PRIZE DRAW

Enter our lucky dip draw for a chance to win a copy of *“An Historical Atlas of Tunbridge Wells.”*

**Step 1:** Visit at least 6 venues and get your programme signed at each.

Venue/event visited and signature of your host or walk leader

**Step 2:** Give your contact details.

Name:

Postal address:

**Step 3:** Send this form to:

**Heritage Open Days**  
c/o 49 Hopwood Gardens  
Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 9PT

**(Closing Date 24<sup>th</sup> September 2014)**

### FEEDBACK

*We would welcome your comments about Heritage Open Days.*

*What did you enjoy?*

*What could have been improved?*

### YOU CAN TELL US BY

- **Email:** [twellsheritage@gmail.com](mailto:twellsheritage@gmail.com)
- **Twitter:** @Twellsheritage
- **Post:** c/o 49 Hopwood Gardens, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 9PT
- **Via the national website** (there will be a link from the entry for each individual venue)