BUILDINGS OPEN TO VIEW

6-9 September 2018
13-16 September 2018

heritage open days

The Chester Civic Trust
Cheshire West and Chester
Welcome to Heritage Open Days 2018

Heritage Open days celebrates our architecture and culture by allowing FREE access to interesting properties, many of which are not normally open to the public, as well as free tours, events, and other activities. It is organised by a partnership of Chester Civic Trust and Cheshire West and Chester Council, in association with other local societies. It would not be possible without the help of many building owners and local volunteers. Maps are available from Chester Visitor Information Centre and Northwich Information Centre.

For the first time in the history of Heritage Open Days the event will take place nationally across two weekends in September the 6-9 and the 13-16. Our local Heritage Open Days team decided that to give everyone the opportunity to fully explore and discover the whole Cheshire West area Chester buildings would open on 6-9 September and Ellesmere Port & Mid Cheshire would open on 13-16 September. Some buildings/ events/tours were unable to do this and have opened their buildings on the other weekend so please check dates thoroughly to avoid disappointment.

Events – Tours, Talks & Activities

Booking is ESSENTIAL for the majority of HODs events as they have limited places. Please check booking procedures for each individual event you would like to attend.

Children MUST be accompanied by adults.

Join us

If you share our interest in the heritage and future development of Chester we invite you to join Chester Civic Trust. Membership is open to everyone, whatever your interests & regardless of where you live. For details please visit our website www.chestercivictrust.org.uk or write to the Membership Secretary, Chester Civic Trust Office, Bishop Lloyd’s Palace, 51-53 Watergate Row, Chester. CH1 2LE.

For Northwich, visit the Northwich & District Heritage Society at www.northwichheritage.org.uk and also the Northwich Townscape Heritage Project at www.northwich-th.co.uk.
Chester

Bishop Lloyd’s Palace 51/53 Watergate Row South

An early 17th century timber framed building which is listed Grade I and has fine carvings on the gable ends and at row level. The interior contains a magnificent plaster ceiling.

Take 27 will be showing images & video clips & discussing aspects of early Chester, including their work on the amphitheatre, in the east chamber from 12 noon on Saturday 8 & Sunday 9.

Partially accessible – first floor stairs.

Thur 6 Fri 7 Sat 8 Sun 9

Old Leche House Sofa Workshop, 21 Watergate Row

A four storey gabled town house built in 1600 for the Leches of Carden, retains its beautiful fireplace, Tudor overmantle and decorative plasterwork. In the 18th century was an inn, the Hand & Snake.

Can HODS visitors please note that the shop is open and customers will have priority from the staff. Some steep steps upstairs.

Thu 6 Fri 7 Sat 8 Sun 9

Booth Mansion 30 Watergate Street

Early Georgian mansion concealing two 13th century town houses. Elegant reception rooms and magnificent ballroom above row level. The building now hosts tearoom and deli, art gallery, artisan fairs and events.

A guided tour of the building led by Richard Jaques explaining key historical facts and features relating to the building and the history of the Booth family.

Partially accessible, upper level only accessible by stairs.

Booking for tours essential on 01244 972088.

Thu 6 Fri 7 Sat 8 Sun 9
**Watergate House** 85 Watergate Street

This fine Grade II* listed building was designed as a town house by Thomas Harrison for Thomas Potts, Clerk of the Peace, in 1820. In 1907 it became the headquarters for Western Command and has since been used as professional offices.

- **Saturday:** 10am - 4pm
- **Location:** CH1 2LF

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**Stanley Palace** Watergate Street

A timber-framed house, dating from 1591. The building features a long oak-beamed hall with a great oak stair leading to a gallery. Access to first floor by stairs only.

- **Saturday:** 10am - 2pm
- **Location:** CH1 2LF

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**St. Peter’s Church at the Cross** Watergate Street

Founded in 907, the church was largely rebuilt in the 14th century, with later alterations by Thomas Harrison and John Douglas. Interesting galleries and an ancient fresco.

Wheelchair access.

- **Thursday to Sunday:** 10am - 3.30pm
- **Location:** CH1 2LS
Chester Health Store 59 Bridge Street Row East

This façade encases an altered 17th century timber–framed building, galleried and open to a Georgian roof. The over-row chamber has remains of timber studwork in the south wall. Chester Civic Trust commendation 2015 building renovation. Access to row level only.

Mad Hatters Tearooms St. Michael’s Rectory, 49 Bridge Street Row East

Listed Grade II* building (circa 1650), originally the rectory of St. Michael’s Church, has visible 17th century features including a front wall, galleried great hall and moulded ceilings. Access to row level. Galleried hall only viewable via stairs.

Sally’s Secret Garden The Dutch Houses, 22 Bridge Street Row West

A Grade II listed building circa 1670 with timber framing. Ornate Carolean ceiling, open fireplaces and exposed beams. Walled courtyard to rear. Garden seating area weather permitting. Partial wheelchair access to ground floor only. Ramp access to rows.
The Falcon Lower Bridge Street

Built in the 13th century. Grade I listed. Sir Richard Grosvenor’s town house from 1602, and incorporating a row since 1643. An inn from 1778-1878, and later a temperance cocoa house. Steps at both entrances.

Thursday to Saturday: 11am - 11pm
Sunday: 12 noon - 10.30pm

Bear and Billet 94 Lower Bridge Street

The last major timber-framed house to be built in Chester, in 1664. It was a merchant house at head of the port. Now a popular public house serving food. Limited wheelchair access (with one step) to the ground floor.

Thursday & Friday: 11.30am - 12 midnight, Saturday: 11am - 12 midnight & Sunday 10am - 11pm

Cheshire Record Office Duke Street

Large historic warehouse building used in the 19th century as a furniture depot for Browns of Chester. Converted in the 1980’s for the safekeeping of Cheshire’s recorded history. Exhibition of iconic images of women at work in the Cheshire chemical industry during the First World War; behind the scenes tour and talk. Partially accessible, Exhibition and talk accessible, full behind the scenes tour inaccessible (alternative arrangements can be made). Booking for tours essential on 01244 972088.

Saturday: 10.30am - 3.30pm
Tour times: Saturday: 11am, 12 noon & 2pm
St. John The Baptist Church  Little St. John Street

Founded as a Saxon minster in AD689. Cathedral and Collegiate Church from 1075 - 1541. Largest collection of Saxon/ Viking crosses in UK. Large collection of Randle Holme heraldic paintings. The Chapter House, usually closed, will be open, staffed by archaeologists and volunteers. Volunteer guides will be giving tours of Church and Chapter House on a turn up basis. On Saturday 8 the Church is hosting the Chester Vikings and you can discover how Vikings lived, worked, and fought. There is also an animal trail in church. The Chapter House is only accessible by steps with hand rails and is quite a dark area.

Thursday & Saturday: 10am - 4pm, Friday: 10am - 12.30pm & 2.30pm - 4.30pm & Sunday: 12noon - 4pm Last tour at 3.30pm.

Off the Wall  Base of Roman Curtain Wall, 12 St. John’s Street

Built in 1908 for Post Office telephones, incorporating a section of base and plinth of the Roman fortress wall. The remains of the Roman SE Angle Tower can be seen over the fence. Wheelchair access suitable for most users.

Thursday & Sunday: 10am – 2am. Friday & Saturday: 10am – 3am.

Wesley Methodist Church  St. John Street

Built 1812, designed by Thomas Harrison. Major alterations 1906 and 1926 when stained glass windows and Binns organ installed. An opportunity to view recent interior modelling by Donald Insall Associates. A 30 minute introduction and guided tour by a member of staff, providing an overview on the development of the Wesleyan Chapel since its construction. Fully accessible. Places for tours limited so booking essential on 01244 972088.

Thursday & Friday: 9.30am-3.30pm, Saturday: 9.30am -3pm & Sunday: 11.45am-1pm Tours: Thursday: 1.30-2pm, Friday: 10-10.30am, Saturday: 12noon-12.30pm
Welsh Presbyterian Church 11 St. John Street

Built 1866, designed by W and G Audsley of Liverpool with elaborate stone front. Includes two stained glass windows from Welsh Anglican Church and “Tracker” organ (1902). In 1990 Gallery converted to vestry comprising small theatre/meeting room & kitchen. Side door and lift for wheelchair access.

Thursday & Friday: 11am - 2pm

St. Werburgh Roman Catholic Church Grosvenor Park Road


On Sunday 9: Mass at 9am, 10.45am & 6pm.

Thursday to Saturday: 10am - 4pm & Sunday 9: 8.30am - 7pm

Chester City Baths Union Street

Opened in 1901. Designed by renowned local architect John Douglas these public baths recently reopened after extensive Council funded renovation, enabling their continued use for many aquatic activities. Partially accessible. Front entry by steps & stair access to largest pool.

Saturday: 10am - 4pm
Grosvenor Museum 25-27 Grosvenor Street

A purpose built museum opened in 1886. Designed by Thomas M Lockwood to house the collection of Charles Kingsley and the Chester Society for Natural Science, Literature & Art.
Saturday 8 & Sunday 9 museum tours: Free drop in, no booking required. Meet in the entrance hall. Also a self-guided Family Heritage Trail available. Wheelchair access to ground floor only.

Thursday to Saturday: 10.30am - 5pm  Sunday: 1pm - 4pm
Tour Times: Saturday: 12 noon - 12.45pm & 2pm - 2.45pm
Sunday: 2pm - 4.45pm

Riverside Museum University Of Chester,
Riverside Campus, Castle Drive

Curiosities from world of medicine including original letter from Florence Nightingale. “Returning Home” exhibition on the First World War’s effects on health and social care. Self-guided tour. Museum volunteers will help with any queries. Ask at reception desk for directions. Disabled access can be arranged in advance. Please telephone Roger Whiteley: 01244 511619 or email r.whiteley@chester.ac.uk.

Thursday & Saturday: 10am - 4pm
Café open Thursday Only

The Queen’s School City Walls Road

Independent day school for girls established in 1878, built on the site of the old city jail. The exterior is richly detailed in the vernacular revival style, with mullioned windows, shaped chimneys & an ornate steepled belfry. Some pupils will be available to show visitors around. No booking required.

Saturday: 10.30am - 1.30pm
Views from Chester Castle, Chester Castle

William the Conqueror founded Chester Castle in 1070. A timber “motte-and-bailey” castle; rebuilt in stone in the twelfth century. From 1788-1822 Thomas Harrison completely rebuilt the outer bailey in the neoclassical style. In the inner bailey stands the twelfth century Agricola Tower. In partnership with English Heritage, Chester Castle will be open free of charge over the Heritage Open Days weekend to visit the Agricola Tower. Visit: www.westcheshiremuseums.co.uk/chestercastle.

Cheshire Military Museum, Chester Castle

The Cheshire Military Museum tells the story of Cheshire Soldiers from the 17th Century to the present day. On Thursday 6 & Friday 7: Normal admission charges apply.

St. Mary’s Creative Space, St. Mary’s Hill

A Grade I Listed, decommissioned church with a bossed medieval roof. It houses 72 monuments and cenotaphs from 16th century onwards including the Gamul tomb. Building staffed by The Arts Society Chester volunteers. There will also be a photographic display by Chester Photographic Society entitled “Chester Photographic Society Annual Print Exhibition”. Partially accessible uneven path and steps to altar area.
**Chester Cathedral** St. Werburgh Street

Chester Cathedral is many things to many people: A vibrant community of worship, an ancient Abbey, a cultural hub, and a unique blend of modern and medieval history. Featuring a display of original sketches of some of the cloister windows next to their respective completed window in the Cathedral cloister. Some areas of building are not accessible but cloisters are.

- Thursday to Saturday: 9am- 5pm
- Built in 1865 the Gothic Revival building was officially opened in 1869 by HRH The Prince of Wales, (Later King Edward VII). Designed by Lynn of Belfast, it was inspired by the medieval Cloth Hall at Ypres, Belgium.

**Chester Town Hall** 33 Northgate Street

- Thursday 6: 10am - 4pm
- Built in 1865 the Gothic Revival building was officially opened in 1869 by HRH The Prince of Wales, (Later King Edward VII). Designed by Lynn of Belfast, it was inspired by the medieval Cloth Hall at Ypres, Belgium.

**The Blue Bell** 65 Northgate Street

- Thursday: 12 noon - 10pm
- Friday to Sunday: 12 noon - 11pm
- Oldest “domestic structure” in Chester. The licence for this medieval inn was granted in 1494. Timber–framed with braced King Post. 1684 “Cabin” extension served as a barber’s shop and stagecoach ticket-office. Visitors welcome, please make staff aware that you have come to tour building. Ground floor accessible; stairs lead up to the King Post.
**Telford’s Warehouse**  
Tower Wharf

Substantial brick warehouse built 1790’s, and attributed to engineer Thomas Telford. Restored in the 1980’s the building now used as bar, restaurant and music/arts venue. Superb views across former canal port. Partially accessible. No accessible toilets.

Thursday to Sunday: From 12 noon all day.

**Christ Church, Newtown**  
Gloucester Street, Newtown

Church completed in 1900 by local architect John Douglas. Arts and Crafts style with “Oxford Movement” interior, Kempe windows, Brindley & Foster organ, and fascinating furniture and features. Ramp available for access.

Thursday & Friday: 10am - 4pm  
Sunday: 12.30pm - 6.30pm

**University of Chester Chapel**  
Parkgate Road

The chapel was built between 1844 and 1847. The decorative stonework, carved interior woodwork, and some of the stained glass were produced by the students. Newly added to chapel a cabinet for 77 Poppies Exhibition commemorating staff and alumni who died in the First World War. On Saturday volunteers will be on hand to explain the 77 Poppies project. There will be maps for a self-guided tour of the campus outside the chapel.

Thursday to Sunday: 11am - 4pm

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**Location Codes:**  
- CH1 4EZ
- CH1 3HR
- CH1 4BJ
**Greek Orthodox Church of St. Barbara the Great Martyr**
Overleigh Cemetery, Overleigh Road, Handbridge

The Christian Eastern Orthodox Church serving Cheshire and North Wales. Grade II listed. A fully featured Orthodox Church belonging to the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain. Visitors are welcome to attend the Divine Services (Matins & Divine Liturgy) on Sunday morning from 10am. *Please note that Communion cannot be offered to the non-Orthodox visitor.*

- Thursday & Saturday: 11am - 4pm
- Friday: 11am - 7pm. Sunday: 2pm - 4pm

**St. Paul’s Church Boughton**


- Saturday: 10am - 4pm.

**Walk Mill**
Walk Mill Lane, Waverton

Working flour mill, mentioned in Domesday book. Demolished 1965, recently rebuilt. Also a café with homemade goods, using flour from locally grown wheat. Tours of the mill available on request. Ground floor fully accessible, Upstairs not suitable for wheelchairs.

- Thursday to Sunday: 10am - 5pm.
St. Oswald’s Church  
Church Lane, Backford

13th century church with 16th century tower. Built of Cheshire sandstone. Reredos by John Douglas. Large churchyard. Travelling from Chester turn right off A41 for Backford, church is on the left.

St. John’s Church Hall  
Church Lane, Guilden Sutton, Chester

St. John’s Church Hall opened in 1914, is a building of the type commonly called ‘Tin Tabernacles.’ Although subject to some adaptation and modernisation, this has allowed this much-loved centenarian to remain in active use by the local community.
Chester Events

**Storyhouse 1 Hunter Street**

An opportunity to tour behind-the-scenes of this successful conversion of the 1936 Grade II Art Deco Odeon cinema, which closed in 2007, into a theatre, cinema, library, and restaurant complex. Opened in May 2017 Storyhouse was hailed as “well-made classical modernism”, winning many architectural prizes including Best Refurbishment at the National Building Awards 2017. Booking essential please telephone 01244 972088.

- Thursday & Friday at 10am

**Chester Blue Coat CE Primary School Walpole Road**

Modern timber framed two storey primary school designed by Tweed, Nutall and Warburton, local architects and urban designers. Small group tours by staff while school in session. Fully accessible.

Places are limited so booking essential on 01244 981098.

- Thursday: 9.30am - 10.30am

**Gloverstone Area Meet at St. Mary’s Creative Space, Castle Street**

The tour is a historical exploration of the former landscape of the old castle outer bailey, Gloverstone community and Castle Street. Explaining how Thomas Harrison redesigned the area as seen today. Partially accessible – some awkward kerbs and cobbled areas. Booking essential please telephone 01244 972088.

- Thursday 6: 10.30am  Friday 7: 10.30am & 6pm  Saturday 8 & Sunday 9: 2.30pm
Grosvenor Park and other Green Spaces of Chester Guided Walk

Join Yvonne Kirk of the Guild of Chester Tour Guides for a 90 minute walk to hear about the history of Grosvenor Park, the Roman Gardens, the Cathedral Gardens and Abbey Square. You will see some interesting plants and trees along the route. Walk not fully accessible due to steps. [www.chestertours.org.uk](http://www.chestertours.org.uk).

Booking is essential please telephone 01244 972088. Meet outside St. John's Church, Little St. John Street

### Thursday: 11am

**Location:** CH1 1SN

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Chester Racecourse Walking Tour

Meet at Holiday Inn Express, New Crane Street

The oldest racecourse in the UK is also the site of the Roman port. This tour tells the story of nearly 2000 years of local history, and nearly 500 years of racing as it meanders from City Walls to Grandstands, Parade Ring and stables. Parking available at the hotel. Toilets available on the tour. The tour has steep steps so not suitable for wheelchairs. Booking is essential for this tour. Please telephone 01244 972088.

### Thursday: 11am - 12.30pm

**Location:** CH1 6LY

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Victorian Architecture on Parkgate Road

Meeting at University of Chester Chapel, Parkgate Road

From the University of Chester’s historic chapel to the John Douglas designed vicarage, this is an opportunity to explore some of the architectural highlights of Parkgate Road on this talk & tour. Visitors will be provided with a short guide to relevant architectural features. The first floor of the Vicarage building is not accessible.

Please book this tour online for free at [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/heritage-open-day-victorian-architecture-on-parkgate-road-university-of-chester-tickets-46063074897](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/heritage-open-day-victorian-architecture-on-parkgate-road-university-of-chester-tickets-46063074897)

### Thursday tour & talk: 2.30pm

**Location:** CH2 4BJ
**Bridgegate House** 5 Bridge Place, Lower Bridge Street

A mid-18th century town house of similar vintage to Abbey Square, with a particularly fine staircase, and the offices of a historic building’s architect. An architect for Donald Insall Associates will show the group around the first/second floor rooms. There is a view of the garden, built into a Roman quarry and a small exhibition of the Practice’s work. Partially accessible, stair access to first and second floor. Booking essential please telephone 01244 350063.

**Western Command (Churchill Building)** Chester Business School, University of Chester, Queen’s Park Road

An exploration of the original historic 1937/1938 Western Command building & its surroundings. A talk and tour exploring the history and architecture of this fascinating site, from its construction and role as Western Command during World War II, to present day, as the University’s Business School. The underground bunkers are not safe to be visited by the public at this time. Booking is free but essential on www.eventbrite.com/e/heritage-open-day-western-command-chester-tickets-46062906393.

**The Chester Tour** Tour starts at Town Hall Visitor Information Centre, Northgate Street

Tour Guides Peggy Grimshaw (10.30am) and Martin Nield (2pm) of the Guild of Chester Tour Guides will lead you on a captivating journey through 2000 years of history, taking in all the main sites along the way including the walls, the Rows, the Cathedral (exterior), the Eastgate Clock and the River Dee. Tour will be approximately one and a half hours. Website: www.chestertours.org.uk. Places are limited so booking is essential on 01244 972088.
8 White Friars Tour

Grade II listed house with Georgian facade and medieval interior. Owned by Richard Harrison in the 17th century who was a brewer, sheriff and mayor of Chester. His portrait still hangs in the Mayor’s Parlour at the Town Hall. There are two steps to the ground floor toilet. Numbers are very limited on this tour so booking is essential on 01244 972088.

Saturday & Sunday tours: 11am & 2pm

Northgate House 1 Upper Northgate Street

Northgate House was built in three separate time periods. The original building was erected in the 1730’s and the Toll House was built in 1810. These buildings were linked by a third building in the late 19th century. Informal tour of the house and garden. Places are limited on this tour so booking is essential. Please telephone 01244 972088.

Saturday tours: 11am & 2pm

Chester Rail Station City Road

Tour begins on the station concourse. Listen and learn about the history of Chester Station which is celebrating its 170th year in 2018, after being officially opened on 1 August 1848 to great public rejoicing... Thomas Brassey was the builder & contractor. Booking essential please telephone 01244 972088.

Saturday: 2pm - 3.30pm
Albion Inn 2-4 Albion Street

Built in the late 19th century, The Albion Inn is Chester’s last unspoilt Victorian public house dedicated to the Great War. Many items of memorabilia are housed in the bar including a 1928 Pianola Steck which can be played on request. Tours conducted by Mike Mercer, the oldest serving licensee in Chester. Fully accessible. Places are limited so booking is essential on 01244 972088.

University of Chester Parkgate Campus Walking Tour Meet at Senate House, by Chapel, Corner of Cheyney Road and Parkgate Road

Starting with the Victorian buildings and ending with the newest developments, this historical walking tour will explain how the University’s Parkgate Road Campus developed over time. Looking at the changing styles of educational architecture, dates when the College acquired different portions of land and the levelling of what originally was a badly sloping site. Bookings to be made through https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/an-historical-tour-of-the-parkgate-road-campus-tickets-46712417097?aff=es2.

Dodleston Village Heritage Walk Dodleston Church, Dodleston

Meeting at St. Mary’s Church car park, Dodleston this one hour guided tour of the village of Dodleston will be led by a member of Dodleston Local History Group, and takes in all aspects of the development of an ancient settlement with an unexpected history, that has progressed to meet the demands of modern life. Partially accessible. Places on tour are limited so booking is essential. Please phone 01244 972088.
Upton By Chester Heritage Walking Tour
Meeting at Upton Village Hall, Heath Road, Upton

Guided tour by Upton Local History Group, starting and finishing at Upton Village Hall. Tour will last approximately two hours, and include visiting historical sites and buildings of interest. Families are welcome. Village Hall is fully accessible, the walk may include areas that are difficult for wheelchairs. Places are limited and booking is essential on 01244 972088.

Village Hall open Sunday: 2pm - 5pm
Tour: Sunday 2.30 – 4.30pm

Poulton Research Project

Multi-period site has produced 10,000 years of finds, notably a large Iron Age settlement, Roman period landscape and medieval chapel foundations. Drive into Poulton Village. You will pass on your right a red phone box, and a white semi-detached house, go through some open gates. Turn right and drive down the concrete road. Meet at the Milking Parlour for a powerpoint presentation followed by a tour of the site. Please note it is a three-quarter of a mile walk to the site around an agricultural field. Limited mobility can be accommodated in the Milking Parlour but there are two flights of steps.

Booking essential please telephone 01244 972088.

Sat 8 Sun 9 CH4 9EE

Notes
Ellesmere Port & Neston

**Former Queen’s Cinema, Glowquest Bathrooms** 18 Whitby Road

Glimpse of a good example of an early cinema. Queen’s Cinema was built 1912-13 for Ellesmere Port Picture Palace Company. Neo-baroque façade with a hipped roof. Double height auditorium- the balcony display reflects past history. Cinema closed in 1968. Used as a Bingo Hall until 2004, it is now a bathrooms-showroom. Ground floor fully accessible, stairs to second level of showroom.

Thursday to Saturday: 8.30am -5pm

**National Waterways Museum** South Pier Road, Ellesmere Port

Originally the largest inland dock system in the UK, transferring raw materials to Birmingham and Manchester; and finished products around the world. Tours will be available. Please enquire at the Museum when you visit. Uneven surfaces and narrow entrances in the cottages.

Thursday to Sunday: 10am - 5pm

**Ellesmere Port Station** Europa Way, Ellesmere Port

Distinctive sandstone building which opened in 1863. Constructed in red sandstone with slate roofs, coped Dutch gables, casement windows in cream stone surrounds and glazed porch on a sandstone plinth. Guided tours (approximately 20 minutes long) around part of the station. Colouring in table on ground floor. Fully accessible ground floor but not first floor.

Friday tours: 10am - 12 noon
Whitby Hall-Action Transport Theatre
Whitby Hall, Whitby Park, Stanney Lane, Ellesmere Port

A Victorian mansion in the Elizabethan style. Home of Lord Grace from 1846 to 1930’s. It has been home to Action Transport Theatre – a professional Young People’s Theatre Company since the 1980’s. Partially accessible, some parts accessed via stairs.

Saturday tours: 12noon - 4pm

Parkgate Heritage Trail Guided Walk
Meet at the Ropewalk (free) car park, Station Road, Parkgate

This walk of approximately four kilometres follows a route with a number of interesting features recalling Parkgate’s past as a port for travellers to Ireland, a sea-side resort and a fishing village. Please wear appropriate clothing and footwear. Booking essential please telephone 01244 972088.

Tour/Event Saturday & Sunday: 3pm – 4.30pm

Notes
Mid Cheshire

**St. Edith’s Church** Church Lane, Shocklach, Malpas

Small Norman church built circa 1150 in a lovely setting. Many interesting features including a Norman door and archway, and a Viking carving of a horse and rider. Churchyard is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) No postcode for site. From centre of Shocklach village (SY14 7BL) follow road north to Farndon and Chester for half a mile. Visitors welcome to picnic in the grounds.

Saturday: 10am - 5pm

**Stretton Watermill** Mill Lane, Stretton (Nr. Farndon)

The history of this fascinating building is fully visible from its early 14th century timber–framed origins to later weather-boarding and slate–roofing. The evolution of the engineering is explained, and the milling process demonstrated with the two waterwheels, sluices, hoist and sifter. Saturday 8 and Sun 9: Free tours, Drop-in, no need to book. Wheelchair access to mill ground and first floor, stable block shop ground floor.

Saturday & Sunday: 1pm - 5pm
Tours times: 1pm - 4.30pm

**St. Peter’s Church** Church Lane, Hargrave

Rare example of a 17th century church; built 1627. Original doors, carved hammer beams, 17th century font and a John Douglas window. Fine reredos. Information sheets available in the church.

Thursday to Sunday: 9.30am - 5pm
St. Peter’s Church  Plemstall, Plemstall Lane, Mickle Trafford

St. Peter’s Church stands at the end of a country lane. It is an active Anglican parish church, dating mostly from the 15th century. The internal woodwork is a particular feature.

Saturday: 10am - 3pm

St. Andrew’s Parish Church  Church Street, Tarvin

Grade I listed 14th century church with original oak rood and barrel roof. Civil War features, stained glass by Kempe and history exhibition with Saxon cross remains. Also Grade II listed Parish Room with local art exhibition.

On street parking. Partial wheelchair access.

Saturday: 10am - 4pm

Helsby Railway Station  Station Avenue, Helsby

Helsby Station opened in 1870 and closed to passengers in 1964. The North Cheshire Rail Users Group successfully campaigned to re-open the station and have worked on its improvement since 1997, winning many awards. Helsby is a good example of new use for old railway buildings – the former waiting room now houses Beer Heroes, a craft beer Tap room.

Thursday: 5pm - 9pm, Friday: 2pm - 9pm, Saturday: 1pm - 9pm & Sunday: 2pm - 8pm
Castle Park Arts Centre  Off Fountain Lane, Castle Park, Frodsham

Refurbished Victorian coach–house and stables of the former estate. Free entrance to exhibitions in three rooms. Adjacent to public park designed by Edward Kemp in 1855. Lift for first floor gallery.

Thursday to Sunday: 10am - 4pm  WA6 6SE

Old Hall Hotel and Tidestones  81 Main Street, Frodsham

Two oak-framed cottages became “Ty Gwyn” (White House) in 19th century. Developed as a hotel in 20th century. Garden extends to the Mersey Marshes and two tidestones mark high–water positions. Tidestones accessed via steps and grass.

Thursday to Sunday: 9am – late evening  WA6 7AB

Queen’s Head Hotel  92 Main Street, Frodsham

Frodsham’s oldest inn was given a new facade in the early 19th century. Moulded oak beams visible inside. Rear yard contains stable, coach-house and room that became Quaker Meeting House in 1813. Disabled access to rear.

Thursday & Sunday: 10.30am - 11pm  Friday & Saturday: 10.30am - 12 midnight  WA6 7AR
**Bear’s Paw Hotel** 127 Main Street, Frodsham


**St. Laurence’s Parish Church** Church Road, Frodsham


**Ring O’ Bells** 2 Bellemonte Road, Frodsham

Grade II listed building, probably 17th century, original timber framing/ wattle and daub in bar. It retains small rooms, low ceilings and altered inglenook fireplace typical of a true 'public house'. There are stairs from back door into building.
St. Michael and All Angels, Church Road, Little Leigh, Northwich

Grade II listed. Superb terracotta craftsmanship outside and inside. Outstanding terracotta reredos altarpiece with large plaque of ‘The Last Supper’ by Jabez Thompson; beautiful terracotta base to the font; fine Minton tiles to altar area. Narrow stained glass windows—one by Trena Cox.
Regular guided tours and information sheets available.

Saturday: 10am - 4pm

Anderton Boat Lift, Lift Lane, Anderton, Northwich

An excellent example of Victorian engineering. Free Top of the World Tour is a unique opportunity to be guided around the Anderton Boat Lift and see it as lift operators have since Victorian times. Learn about the history of the Boat Lift from its opening in 1875 until the present day. Walking tour involves heights. Suitable for age 15 and over. Booking essential. Please telephone the Anderton Boat Lift on 01606 723887.

Saturday & Sunday tours: 10.30am, 12 noon & 2.15pm

Lion Salt Works, Ollershaw Lane, Marston, Northwich

Lion Salt Works has undergone an astonishing restoration, funded by HLF. It tells the stories of brine salt production, the people who worked in the area and the impact of salt on Northwich.
Free admission and “taster tours” at regular intervals on Saturday 15, please drop in and book on day.

Saturday: 10.30am - 5pm
Taster tours Saturday: 11am onwards
Northwich Railway Station Manchester Road, Northwich

Distinctive yellow brick station building on the Mid Cheshire Line. The line opened on 1 January 1863 but the station building dates from 1897. Drop in short informal historic tours. No booking required.

Thursday tours: 10am - 12 noon

St. Helen’s Church Church Road, Northwich

Grade I listed, from 1350. “Oldest and most beautiful building in Northwich”: Pevsner. Magnificent oak panelled roof with carved and gilded bosses; stained glass windows by Kempe, Wailes and Gibbs; 1516 Tudor carving. Short informal tours take place regularly. Just drop in. Volunteers available for historic information. Weather permitting, tours up the tower will be arranged. Many steps. Disabled parking only in church grounds. Toilets may not be wheelchair accessible.

Friday: 2pm - 6pm, Saturday: 10am - 4pm
Sunday: 9.30am Sunday Service

The Plaza Cinema Plaza Buildings, 151 Witton Street, Northwich

Grade II listed neoclassical style 1928 cinema. Cinema closed in the 1960’s; became a bingo hall until finally closing in 2011. Visitors restricted to foyer, bar area and auditorium. There will be an exhibition of the Mid Cheshire Line’s ‘Marvellous Days Out’ railway posters. The Cheshire Guild of Woodturners will have a sales table. There will also be original artwork for sale. Partially accessible. There are steps to the front entrance - assistance can be provided for wheelchairs.

Saturday & Sunday: 11am - 4pm
Northwich Library Witton Street, Northwich

The iconic library building is Grade II listed. It was donated to the town by Sir John Brunner, former MP for Northwich. It opened 23 September 1909. Visitors are invited to attend a tour (audio version available) and learn about the history of the building. Tours will last approximately half an hour. Booking essential for tours on 01606 275646. Access ramps available of low gradient at entrance and inside. On Saturday 15 there will be children's activities.

Bratt & Evans Ltd 2-6 Witton Street, Northwich

Founded in 1860 by Henry Bratt on approximately the present site and called H. Bratt & Son. Later Henry took into partnership his Fabric Buyer, Jack Evans, and it was renamed Bratt & Evans. John Arthur Gray purchased the business in 1928 and it is still owned by the Gray family. There will be a visual exhibition of Bratts through the years. Fully accessible; ramp and lift.

Parrs Bank Building CRS Consultants Dane Street, Northwich

Black and white timber framed building next to the River Dane. It was completely refurbished and lifted several feet, by the present owners in the 1980’s. A film and commentary on “The Raising of the Parrs Bank Building”. Booking essential, please telephone 01606 288815. Partially accessible, there is a small step.
Weaver Hall Museum  London Road, Northwich

The building is the old Northwich Union Workhouse, Grade II listed, built 1837-39. Displays, explore workhouse life, local history and archaeology. The Board of Guardians meeting room is open to view. Free admission on Saturday only.

Saturday: 2pm - 5pm

Over United Reformed Church  Swanlow Lane, Winsford

Grade II listed church, opened in 1868, designed by renowned Cheshire architect John Douglas. A fine example of Victorian architecture built in red and white brickwork with a steeply pitched roof.Externally there is a War Memorial and graveyard.

Friday: 2pm - 4pm, Saturday: 10am - 4pm & Sunday: 12 noon - 4pm

Murgatroyd’s Brine Pumps  Brook’s Lane, Middlewich

A special opening and guided tour of the last intact brine pumps in the UK. Visitors can see the brine pumps restoration project and some of the Murgatroyd’s archival collection. Volunteers from the Middlewich Heritage Trust will be available to guide you around the site & tell you more about the project and future plans. Parking is on Middlewich Community Church car park, Brook’s Lane. Follow the signs to the site.

Saturday & Sunday: 1pm - 4pm
St. Michael and All Angels stands at the junction of the A54 and A533, main entrance is off Hightown. The Church Heritage Trail, 24 stations of local historical interest from 1150 to 1934, charting the lives of Middlewich’s great families. Eight stunning stained glass windows. Elizabethan, Jacobean and Flemish furniture. Online trail website; available via http://heritage.middlewichparishchurch.org.uk

Parking is on Civic Way car park, off Lewin Street, CW10 9AS.

Saturday: 10am - 3pm

Notes
Mid Cheshire Events

Celebrate Two Extraordinary Frodsham Women at St. Laurence’s Church, Frodsham

Join us to celebrate the lives of two extraordinary local women.
2pm: Talk on Anchoress of Frodsham by Heather Powling. This talk followed by refreshments.
3pm: Talk on Suffragette Centenary and local Suffragist Harriet Shaw Weaver by Prof Emma Rees.
Free tickets are available from Frodshamevents@gmail.com
Ramp is unsuitable for electric or motorised wheelchairs.

The Grange Farm Tour Warrington Road, Mickle Trafford

Farm & buildings dating from c.1790, with rare breed Red Poll cattle, historic fields & water features on the River Gowy. Farm shop open. A guided tour around the farm lasting about two hours, encompassing local & agricultural history, geology, politics, land uses & cows. A small display of historical documents & artefacts will be on show in our meeting room. Tour is not accessible for wheelchairs as fields are uneven & can be wet & muddy. Booking for tours is essential on 07950963526 or 01244 300655.

The Edith Dempster Story at Winsford Library

High Street, Winsford

Professional, performance storyteller Elizabeth Morris, will bring to life the fascinating story of Edith Dempster, who lived at Vale Royal Manor House from 1907 and in later life was responsible for discovering the Sutton Hoo treasures. Part of the HODs theme of “Extraordinary Women”. Booking is essential on 01606 275065.
**Woodland Heritage Walk**  
Anderton Nature Park, Lift Lane, Northwich  
A six mile figure of eight walk around the Northwich woodlands linking the Anderton Boat Lift and the Lion Salt Works. Looking at the impact of the salt industry on this beautiful 1,000 acre park. Good paths and tracks on mostly level ground. Booking is essential on 01606 288815. Please note the walk is free but there is a charge for parking at Anderton Nature Park. Meet by ticket machine please.

**Inspirational Women**  
Winsford Library, High Street, Winsford  
Panel of five 'Inspirational Women' talking about their lives, careers and influences. Kate Blakemore, CEO Motherwell charity for women; Ailsa Gaskill-Jones, Winsford Town Councillor; Anna Jackson, wheelchair basketball Paralympian; Susi Osborne, local author; Sophie Osborne, local actress. Question and answer session. Part of the HODs theme of “Extraordinary Women”. Booking is essential on 01606 275065.

**Film Night at Weaver Hall Regalette Cinema**  
Weaver Hall Museum, London Road, Northwich  
The Townscape Heritage Project for Northwich is hosting the award-winning 2015 film “Suffragette” for HODs theme of “Extraordinary Women”. In early 20th century Britain, the growing suffragette movement changes forever the life of working wife & mother Maud Watts. Free admission but booking essential on 01606 271640.
Tour of Tarvin Village  St. Andrew’s Church, Church Street, Tarvin

The Tarvin Trail is a tour of the conservation area of Tarvin Village. A member of the Local History group will accompany the tour and provide additional information. Booking not necessary. Most of the tour is accessible. Meet at St. Andrew’s Church.

Saturday: 1.30pm – 3.30 approximately

Northwich Rail Walk  Northwich Railway Station, Manchester Road, Northwich

Take a guided circular rail walk from Northwich Station, approximately 2.5 miles. From the station, through the park, by the river (see the metal sculptures), pass the viaduct, by the church and back to the station. Passing many historical buildings. Booking is essential. Please telephone 07736 523 863 or email railofficer@midcheshirerail.org.uk. Meet at ticket office.

Saturday tour: 2pm - 4pm

Northwich Woodlands Walk  Anderton Nature Park Lift Lane, Anderton, Northwich

A six kilometre (3.5 mile) walk in Northwich woodlands following part of the Saltscape Trail, highlighting the impact of the salt industry on the landscape. Good paths and tracks on mostly level ground. Booking is essential on 01606 288815. Please note the walk is free but there is a charge for parking at Anderton Nature Park. Meet by ticket machine.

Saturday & Sunday: 11am-1pm
**Northwich Heritage Tour** The Bull Ring, Northwich

A guided walking tour of the unique timber-framed buildings of Northwich, including their history and stories about the town. Walk starting from raised plinth by Swetenhams Estate Agents. Walk is on town pavements. Booking essential; please telephone 01606 288815.

**Sunday Guided tours:** 11am & 2pm

**Mickle Trafford Mill** Warrington Road, Mickle Trafford

Mickle Trafford Mill is an 18th Century Water Mill on earlier foundations, with 19th Century additions. The mill still contains some rare historic milling equipment including three sets of French Burr Stones. The mill is accessed via a track opposite the Shrewsbury Arms. Please be advised there is no parking on the mill site. As well as the 40 minute guided tours there will be an historic building investigation session for children. Booking is essential; please book via kathrynspen@gmail.com or telephone 07947384935.

**Sunday Guided tours:** 10am, 11am, 1pm & 2pm
Children’s activity 5-10 year olds; 10am-12 noon. 11-15 year olds; 1pm-3pm

**Salt Making in Middlewich Guided Tour** Victoria Building, Town Hall, Lewin Street, Middlewich

A special guided tour of Middlewich telling the story of salt making from Iron Age to present day. Walking from the town centre to the Trent and Mersey Canal and the Murgatroyd’s Brine Pump site. Learn about the settlement, its salt-working history and the transport network still operating. Parking for the guided walk is on Civic Way car park, off Lewin Street. Booking essential 01606 833434 Option 3. Meet at front of Victoria Building.

**Sunday Guided Walk:** 12 noon - 2pm
Key

The colour coded map represents the areas in which the properties are situated.