heritage open days

HARROGATE Civic Society

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PEOPLE'S POSTCODE LOTTERY

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This guide includes only a brief summary of each Heritage Open Days free event in the Harrogate area. Full details, including booking requirements, can be found on the Heritage Open Days website. This guide will be updated regularly and stored at https://www.harrogatecivicsociety.org/heritage-open-days-hods, from where it can be downloaded, mailed, shared on social media, or printed.

Note: Events can be subject to last-minute changes or cancellations, so always Check the Heritage Open Days website before you set out.

heritage open days

FREE TO EXPLORE

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS IN HARROGATE 2026

September 2026	Fri 11	Sat 12	Sun 13	Mon 14	Tue 15	Wed 16	Thu 17	Fri 18	Sat 19	Sun 20
All Saints' Church, Spofforth Spofforth			✓							
AudaTours Harrogate Audio Tour	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
The Bilton Grange Estate Bilton Community Centre			✓							
CWGC Tours - Stonefall Cemetery Harrogate		✓				✓			✓	
Fewston Can't Bury Its Dead Washburn Heritage Centre			✓							✓
Harlow Hill Cemetery Walk Harrogate								✓		
Harrogate Baptist Church		✓								
The Harrogate Club									✓	
Harrogate Masonic Hall Open Day Harrogate										✓
Harrogate Theatre - Life on Stage	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Heritage Plaques of Harrogate Walk			✓							
Hiding in Plain Sight (Milestones) Harrogate Library				✓						
How Stean Gorge Lofthouse			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
New Park Heritage Walk Harrogate		✓								
New Park's Hidden Heritage Centre New Park Academy, Harrogate										✓
Nidderdale Museum Pateley Bridge		✓								
Odeon Cinema - 90th Anniversary Harrogate				✓	✓	✓	✓			
Old Magnesia Well Pump Room Valley Gardens, Harrogate		✓	✓						✓	✓
Our Lady Immaculate & St. Robert's Church, Harrogate	✓									
Pannal Heritage Walk Pannal		✓								
Pateley Bridge Playhouse Pateley Bridge	✓	✓								
St. Peter's in the Heart of Harrogate				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Ripley Village Historic Walkabout Ripley, Harrogate					✓		✓			
Schools & Schooldays in Harrogate West Park Centre, Harrogate	✓									
Sir Thomas Ingilby Talk All Saints, Ripley									✓	
Valley Gardens Guided Walk Harrogate			✓						✓	
Wesley Chapel Harrogate									✓	✓
St. Wilfrid's Church Flower Festival South Stainley		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
You've Got Mail Harrogate Library						✓				

Note: Please refer to the national website for up-to-date information and more details on each event.

HARROGATE Civic Society

Once again I am delighted that the Harrogate Civic Society is able to support and promote Heritage Open Days. The Civic Society is committed to celebrate our past, enhance our present and shape our future. Heritage Open Days helps us to do the first by creating a better understanding of our heritage enabling us to achieve the other two aims.

HODs 2026's programme includes an impressive list of opportunities to go behind the scenes and delve deeper into Harrogate's history…and it's all free!

These sort of events do not happen automatically and I would like to take this opportunity to thank, on behalf of the Civic Society, the team that has put this programme together as well as all the venues that have opened their doors and to that those who are leading visits.
Mike Newby, Chair of the Harrogate Civic Society

Harrogate Civic Society was established in 1971, part of the nationwide Civic Society movement, committed to celebrating the town's architectural and social history, to contributing to discussions about how the town is developed, and to ensuring that Harrogate both retains the best of its historic character and embraces the future.
www.harrogatecivicsociety.org

All Saints' Church, Spofforth
Church Lane, Spofforth, HG3 1AF

Explore this historic Grade II Listed church (11-15C). Visit the bell-ringing chamber, see the 200-year-old clock and the grave of Blind Jack of Knaresborough. Registers and liturgical vestments will be on display. Children's activities will be available.

AudaTours Harrogate Audio Tour: Taking the Waters
Tewit Well, Harrogate, HG2 8JG

A self-guided audio tour of Harrogate, exploring the spa workers, hoteliers, pump-room attendants and gardeners of the Victorian resort. Download the app and follow the audio walk, pausing at 11 stops around the route.

Pre-booking required

The Bilton Grange Estate
Bilton Community Centre, Bilton Lane, HG1 3DU

Bilton Historical Society presents an exhibition on the history and development of Harrogate's often overlooked Bilton Grange Estate, a period of almost 250 years from the 1778 Enclosure Award to the present day.

CWGC Tours 2026 - Stonefall Cemetery
Forest Lane, Harrogate, HG3 1DE

Stonefall Cemetery is one of the largest Commonwealth War Graves sites in the North of England. Join guided tours to learn about CWGC and the extraordinary stories of some of those buried at Stonefall.

Pre-booking required

Fewston Can't Bury its Dead

Washburn Heritage Centre, Fewston, HG3 1SU

A tour of the 17c churchyard incorporating some quirky headstone inscriptions and local stories. Hear about its part-excavation to build the Washburn Heritage Centre with its tea-room and current exhibition. The peaceful 17c church will be open for observation and quiet reflection.

Pre-booking required

Harlow Hill Cemetery Walk

Otley Road, Harrogate, HG2 0DA

A guided walk around the cemetery, hosted by Dr. Paul Jennings. It is the last resting place of a fascinating range of people, including the actor Michael Rennie and Ladies' College founder George Savery.

Pre-booking required

Harrogate Baptist Church

Victoria Avenue, Harrogate, HG1 5RD

A fine Grade II listed building located on Harrogate's Victoria Avenue, dating back to 1883, with many wonderful original features to explore, including the organ, stained glass windows and unique baptistry.

Behind the Doors of The Harrogate Club

36 Victoria Avenue, Harrogate, HG1 5PR

Step inside the Club and explore the building through its everyday stories. This guided tour brings to life the people, rooms and history that have shaped the Club since 1886.

Pre-booking required

Harrogate Masonic Hall Open Day

Station Avenue, Harrogate HG1 5NE

A rare opportunity to learn about Freemasonry and explore Harrogate's historic and enigmatic Masonic Hall. Enjoy guided tours, meet local Freemasons and learn about a tradition rich in history and philanthropy.

Harrogate Theatre - Life on Stage

Oxford Street, Harrogate, HG1 1QF

A small exhibition showcasing posters and production images from plays across the last century, offering snapshots of everyday life as portrayed on stage.

Heritage Plaques of Harrogate

Crescent Gardens, Harrogate, HG1 2RT

The Brown Heritage Plaques of Harrogate form a fascinating collection reflecting people and places that have helped make the celebrated spa town. This is a tour of some selected examples.

Pre-booking required

Hiding in Plain Sight (Milestones)

Library, Victoria Avenue, Harrogate, HG1 1EG

Hilary Jones, vice-chair of The Milestone Society, will look at how we find our way around now and in the past. She will explore the development of Turnpike Roads, explain their importance to milestones and look at the variety of designs across the country.

Pre-booking required

How Stean Gorge

Lofthouse, Pateley Bridge, HG3 5SF

How Stean Gorge is a limestone ravine and natural wonder you can explore not just observe. As a Site of Special Scientific Interest, you can explore the caves and follow the winding paths around the gorge. Orienteering trail & activity pack available.

Pre-booking required

New Park Heritage Walk

Skipton Road, Harrogate, HG1 3HF

A walk around New Park, formed as an industrial and working-class suburb of Harrogate. It looks at the area today and with photographs to contrast with the past.

Pre-booking required

Explore New Park's Hidden Heritage Centre

Skipton Road, Harrogate, HG1 3HF

Rarely open to the public, explore the Heritage Centre at New Park School. Celebrating the history of New Park with photos, artefacts and a full-size replica of the railway engine in the tunnel.

Nidderdale Museum

King Street, Pateley Bridge, HG3 5LE

Immerse yourself in the rich heritage of the Dales; all brought to life through over 30,000 exhibits, 13 exhibition spaces and 15 full size re-creations, free digital tour and Children's digital trail. Extended opening hours.

Odeon Cinema Harrogate - 90th Anniversary

East Parade, Harrogate, HG1 5LB

Come and help celebrate the 90th anniversary of this magnificent Art Deco cinema. Visit the display illustrating the 90 years of the Odeon's history; talk with its collector and curator of 39 years. Join one of the behind-the-scenes tours including the projection rooms.

Old Magnesia Well Pump Room

Valley Gardens, Harrogate, HG1 2SZ

Built to serve magnesia water to Harrogate Spa visitors, this listed 1858 building was restored by the Friends of Valley Gardens. View the recreation of the pump and an exhibition of the history of Valley Gardens.

Our Lady Immaculate and St Robert's Church

Robert Street, Harrogate, HG1 1HP

Our Lady Immaculate and St Robert's church has a proud heritage serving the area for over 150 years. Built in the Gothic Revival style with stained glass windows and unique stations of the cross.

Pannal Heritage Walk

Main Street, Pannal, HG3 1JZ

A heritage walk with a difference around the ancient village of Pannal. The walk will uncover stories of former residents and describe the heritage of the ancient buildings

Pre-booking required

Pateley Bridge Playhouse

Church Street, Pateley Bridge, HG3 5LB

This small theatre in Nidderdale, formerly a Primitive Methodist Chapel, has recently been refurbished as the Playhouse. Take a tour backstage and learn more about its history.

St Peter's in the heart of Harrogate

Cambridge Road, Harrogate, HG1 1PB

St Peter's Church is a striking example of Victorian architecture, a local landmark and home to a church community with a fascinating history and tales to tell. Talks on the history of the church and of the windows, with local expert guides on hand.

Ripley Village Historic Walkabout

Village Square, Ripley, HG3 3AY

Ripley is a historic Yorkshire estate village designed, built and managed for centuries by the Ingilby family. How was it planned and what connection does it have to French villages and the wild boar statue? All will be explained during this walk.

Pre-booking required

Schools and Schooldays in Harrogate

West Park UR Church, Victoria Avenue, HG1 1BL

An exhibition and talk, curated and hosted by historian Dr. Paul Jennings, showing the development of schools in Harrogate in the nineteenth century and through to the present day.

Sir Thomas Ingilby Talk - Rear Admiral Sir Robert Barrie

All Saints Church, Ripley, HG3 3AY

Hear the incredible story of Sir Thomas' relative Rear Admiral Sir Robert Barrie, a swashbuckling naval officer who enlisted at 10, fought in the Napoleonic wars and the war of 1812, captured numerous enemy ships, and is buried in All Saints Ripley.

Valley Gardens Guided Walk: Wells, History and Horticulture

Valley Drive, Harrogate, HG2 0JH

A walk through this Grade II listed park; home to 36 medicinal wells, specialist gardens and magnificent trees. Explore the park's development and how the horticulture and floral designs have changed over the years.

Pre-booking required

Wesley Chapel Harrogate

Oxford Street, Harrogate, HG1 1PP

Built in 1862 and a Grade II listed building, Wesley Chapel is a dominant landmark in Harrogate and has played a major role in town centre life. Music interludes will take place during the open days.

St Wilfrid's Church Flower Festival

South Stainley, Harrogate, HG3 3NE

The beautiful village church of St Wilfrid's will hold a week-long flower festival to showcase the history of the church. The flower displays will be arranged by village volunteers and will use themes from local history.

You've Got Mail

Library, Victoria Avenue, Harrogate, HG1 1EG

In this talk Terry Williams will follow the history of sending messages up to the present day as we will soon see the cypher of King Charles III appearing on new post boxes. This talk will have an accompanying exhibition.

Pre-booking required

Full event details at heritageopendays.org.uk – in 'location' search 'Harrogate' or click the title link for each event in this guide.

All Harrogate Area events are also listed on the Civic Society website: https://www.harrogatecivicsociety.org/heritage-open-days-hods