

Be a tourist in your own Borough for free during...



in & around TUNBRIDGE WELLS  
Friday 11th - Sunday 20th September 2020  
[www.tunbridgewellsheritageopendays.org](http://www.tunbridgewellsheritageopendays.org)

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Heritage Open Days in Tunbridge Wells  
are sponsored by



## WHY NOT JOIN THE SOCIETY?

(this insert has been paid for by RTWCS, as a contribution to the HOD project fund.)

### The benefits of membership are many:

- Knowing, above all, that you are helping to protect the 'quality of life' of you and your family in Tunbridge Wells, by joining the collective voice of the inhabitants of our town;
- A forum for discussion and debate of local issues;
- A channel for the representation of your views and interests;
- With the opportunity for you to attend 12 meetings/events a year;
- Receive a quarterly 24pp. Full colour newsletter, updating you on the latest events;
- And receive a 25% discount on all of our many Local History publications.

Annual subscription: Individual £15, Family (2+people) £22.50

Information correct at time of going to press. E&OE



FREE photographic competition on hidden nature  
for students with £100 first prize



## Places of interest



### 1. A Nation of Shopkeepers (Southborough & Tunbridge Wells)

An art exhibition centred around the shops of Tunbridge Wells and Southborough. See [www.tunbridgewellsheritageopendays.org](http://www.tunbridgewellsheritageopendays.org) for details.



### 2. Georgian and Victorian Corn Milling in the Southborough Valley.

SHAAS Southborough Archaeology, Mill House Barn, Powder Mill Lane, Southborough, TN4 9EG  
An opportunity to investigate an archaeological site. Powder Mill dig site is rarely open to the public. Originally part of a Norman deer park, this quiet rural field has seen iron and gunpowder manufacturing as well as corn milling, all controlled by extensive water management. See [www.tunbridgewellsheritageopendays.org](http://www.tunbridgewellsheritageopendays.org) for details.



### 3. Barsley's Department Store

16 Commercial Road, Paddock Wood, TN2 6EJ

The roots of Barsley's go back to 1891 when Charles Barsley took over the running of a tailoring establishment in Brenchley. By 1900 he had expanded to open a shop in Paddock Wood, and in 1903, purchased Alma Cottages, the site of the present shop, providing ready to wear clothing. This shop was replaced by the current one in 1987.



### 4. The Forum

The Common, Tunbridge Wells, TN4 8YU

The Forum Arts and Music Centre is situated in a building built in 1939, on the ancient site of Fonthill, Tunbridge Wells Common, next to an old spring and cold bath. An online history will be available on the venue's website under NEWS <https://www.tforum.co.uk/news>



### 5. Kent High Weald Partnership

The Kent High Weald Countryside Partnership will be hoping to encourage and inspire enjoyment of some of our local green spaces for individuals or families. We'll provide suggestions for where you can visit and some interesting ideas for making the most of your time there, finding out about the hidden nature around us through nature trails, fun activities – these will all be available from and promoted through our website [www.khwp.org.uk](http://www.khwp.org.uk) and [www.facebook.com/KentHighWealdCountrysidePartnership](http://www.facebook.com/KentHighWealdCountrysidePartnership). We'll also be offering some guided walks, numbers will be limited and you'll need to pre-book.



### 6. Hawkenbury Allotments

1 Halls Hole Road, Tunbridge Wells, TN2 4UA

Visitors will be taken on a guided walk of about 30 mins along one corner of this very large site to see allotment plots, our new bird-friendly hedge and seasonal produce everywhere. All outdoors, social distancing. See [www.tunbridgewellsheritageopendays.org](http://www.tunbridgewellsheritageopendays.org) for details.



### 7. Romary's Biscuits

location of exhibition to be confirmed.

A rare insight into the Romary Biscuit business via an extensive collection of old tins and ephemera. Romary was a well known local business in the 1900s, whose biscuits were shipped around the world, and enjoyed by, amongst others, the royalty of the day. Included is an informal description/talk of the items (no photography permitted please). See [www.tunbridgewellsheritageopendays.org](http://www.tunbridgewellsheritageopendays.org) for details.



### 8. The Skinner's School

St. John's Road, Tunbridge Wells, TN4 9PG

Skinner's is Tunbridge Wells' Grammar School for boys. It was established in 1887 after a 17 – year tussle between Tunbridge Wells and Tonbridge as to who was to get this new school. View the Grand Hall and Byng Hall, the WW1 Memorial and other school buildings. See [www.tunbridgewellsheritageopendays.org](http://www.tunbridgewellsheritageopendays.org) for details.



### 9. Trinity Theatre and Arts Centre

Church Road, Tunbridge Wells, TN1 1JP

See [www.tunbridgewellsheritageopendays.org](http://www.tunbridgewellsheritageopendays.org) for details.

## Churches and Places of Worship



### 10. All Saints Church

Tudeley, Tonbridge, TN11 0NZ

A medieval English village church, and the only one in the world to have its twelve stained-glass windows designed by the great Russian artist, Marc Chagall. See [www.tunbridgewellsheritageopendays.org](http://www.tunbridgewellsheritageopendays.org) for details.



### 11. St Andrew's Churchyard

Church Road, Paddock Wood, TN12 6HT

Now a disused cemetery, this quiet refuge boasts some interesting tombstones in a natural setting that is fascinating to explore. Here you can find the gravestone of the victims of the Crittenden Murders, of Dorothy Dickens, Charles Dickens' grand-daughter, and of 8 Commonwealth War Graves from WW1 and WW2. See [www.tunbridgewellsheritageopendays.org](http://www.tunbridgewellsheritageopendays.org) for details.



### 12. Hawkenbury United Reformed Church

23 Forest Road, Tunbridge Wells

The history of this church dates back to 1839, when Bethel Chapel was opened as a church and Sunday School. It moved to its present site in 1889, and expanding over the following years, has become the centre of a thriving community. See [www.tunbridgewellsheritageopendays.org](http://www.tunbridgewellsheritageopendays.org) for details.



### 13. King Charles the Martyr

3 Warwick Park, Tunbridge Wells, TN2 5TA

Originally known as the Tunbridge Wells Chapel, this little gem dates from 1678, and was funded by subscriptions from visitors to the town, including Queen Anne, Samuel Pepys and John Evelyn. The chapel's crowning glory is the plaster ceiling, about 2/3 of which is the work of Henry Doogood, one of Christopher Wren's outstanding craftsmen, maintained and no need to book. One of Tunbridge Wells' secret treasures. See [www.tunbridgewellsheritageopendays.org](http://www.tunbridgewellsheritageopendays.org) for details



### 14. St Mark's Church,

Broadwater Down – Exhibition on display at King Charles the Martyr

St Mark's is a rare example of a French Gothic listed church with important stained glass windows. The small exhibition which will be on display at King Charles the Martyr Church will focus on the history of the parish, host to the world's first car show, Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show, General Montgomery's Officer's Mess, and many other fascinating social and religious events. See [www.tunbridgewellsheritageopendays.org](http://www.tunbridgewellsheritageopendays.org) for details.



### 15. St Peter's Old Church

Old Church Road, Pembury, TN2 4AT

Originally dating from at least 1147, most of the church was built in 1337. The roof is one of the best tie beam and king post type in the country. See [www.tunbridgewellsheritageopendays.org](http://www.tunbridgewellsheritageopendays.org) for details.



### 16. St Peter's Upper Church

4 Hastings Road, Pembury, TN2 4PD

A chapel of ease to the old church, consecrated in 1847 by the Archbishop of Canterbury. See [www.tunbridgewellsheritageopendays.org](http://www.tunbridgewellsheritageopendays.org) for details

## Talks and Walks



### 17. Assembly Hall Theatre

Crescent Rd, Tunbridge Wells, TN1 2LU

An interesting virtual tour of the 1930s building, accessible on line. See [www.tunbridgewellsheritageopendays.org](http://www.tunbridgewellsheritageopendays.org) for details.



### 18. Decimus Burton – a national and local treasure – on-line talk

One of England's leading architects of the 1800s, Decimus Burton was responsible for designing the Calverley New Town development in Tunbridge Wells, along with several other local houses, such as Burrowswood, Blackhurst Park, and additions to Mabledon etc. He is perhaps better known for his designs of other nationally, and internationally important buildings, such as The Palm House and Temperate House, Kew, The Wellington Arch, several Regent's Park villas and terraces, The Athenaeum Club. This on-line talk will focus on the importance of Burton as a local and national treasure. See [www.tunbridgewellsheritageopendays.org](http://www.tunbridgewellsheritageopendays.org) for details.



### 19. Public and Commercial Buildings in Tunbridge Wells (Tunbridge Wells)

If you walked through this elegant and wealthy town just before the Great War, you would be impressed by its many handsome buildings. The walk, led by local historian Helen Mitcham, will attempt to re-imagine the town at that time. Book at [helenmitcham9@gmail.com](mailto:helenmitcham9@gmail.com) or 07801 648837.



### 20. Grosvenor and Hilbert Park

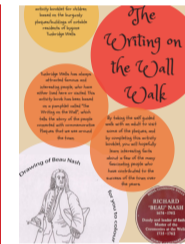
Auckland Road, Tunbridge Wells TN1 2LN

Explore Grosvenor & Hilbert Park on a self-guided walk, using the Heritage Trail map and leaflet. Learn about the history, flora and fauna and spot the Waymark posts. Some steep slopes, and steps in the woods at the end of the boardwalk. See [www.fogh.org.uk](http://www.fogh.org.uk) to download the map and leaflet.



### 21. Shops and Shopkeeping in Tunbridge Wells (Tunbridge Wells)

Join local historian Anne Carwardine on Zoom for a virtual tour of Tunbridge Wells, taking in the history of retail in the town. Along the way you will learn about the development of the town's shops, from the Pantiles to the Royal Victoria Place, and encounter shopkeepers such as fishmonger Thomas Tolson and department store owner Elizabeth Waymark. The tour/talk will last approximately an hour, including time for questions. Saturday 19th September at 10am. To register, please email [annecarwardine@hotmail.com](mailto:annecarwardine@hotmail.com)



### 22. The Writing on the Wall

Tunbridge Wells Town Centre

A self-guided tour of the burgundy plaques and buildings of notable residents of Tunbridge Wells for children, with downloadable activity booklet. See [www.tunbridgewellsheritageopendays.org](http://www.tunbridgewellsheritageopendays.org) for details.



### 23. The Caring Professions, nurses, VADs and radiographers, exhibition and guided tour

K&S Cemetery Victorian Chapel, Benhall Mill

Road, Tunbridge Wells, TN2 5JJ  
Guided tour outside around the cemetery to visit the graves  
Saturday 19 September: 1400-1600 Tour 1430  
Sunday 20 September: 1400-1600 Tour 1430



### 24. Two Churches, Four Chapels and a Burial Ground Tunbridge Wells

Join David Wakefield and learn about the quality and number of spiritual buildings that adorn the town, as well as the divisions between the established churches and non-conformist chapels. See [www.tunbridgewellsheritageopendays.org](http://www.tunbridgewellsheritageopendays.org) for details.



### 25. Woodbury Park Cemetery

Woodbury Park Road, Tunbridge Wells, TN4 9NH

Listed by English Heritage as an early example of a garden cemetery with an informal and imaginative layout of paths. Discover the monuments and natural habitat surroundings. See [www.tunbridgewellsheritageopendays.org](http://www.tunbridgewellsheritageopendays.org) for details.

Heritage Open Days would not be possible without the tremendous support of our sponsors, volunteers and event organisers. Our thanks go to all who help make HODS possible.

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## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

I wish to apply for  Individual  
 Family membership (tick as appropriate)

Name(s) Please print \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to pay my subscription, due annually on 1st September; by (choose one):

Cheque, made payable to the Royal Tunbridge Wells Civic Society

Online at [www.thecivicsociety.org](http://www.thecivicsociety.org)

By direct debit/standing order to our bank:

CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ

Sort Code: 40-52-40 / Account No: 00017200

Account Name: Royal Tunbridge Wells Civic Society

And please tick  I consent to my data being held on the Society's computer for administrative purposes

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please send this form in an envelope (and your payment, if by cheque to):

Mrs Trina Lewis, RTWCS Membership Secretary,

Claremont Lodge, 49 Claremont Road, Tunbridge Wells TN1 1SY

Thank you and welcome to your personal opportunity to be involved in your community.



Tunbridge Wells Heritage Open Days are inviting students aged 11-18 living in the Borough to enter a **FREE** photographic competition on the subject of Hidden Nature, with prizes of £100 and £50.

Please see

[www.tunbridgewellsheritageopendays.org](http://www.tunbridgewellsheritageopendays.org)