CHELTENHAM HERITAGE OPEN DAYS
7–10 September 2017
WELCOME TO CHELTENHAM HERITAGE OPEN DAYS 2017

Stories of Cheltenham, the buildings and the people who lived and worked in them, is our main theme for this year. We also have a few surprises thrown in, with some extra special “hidden places” for you to explore. So look through this brochure where you will find details of a superb variety of iconic Cheltenham heritage buildings on “open access”, plus details of those secret places open only for this year. On top of this, there is a fantastic range of informative walks, talks and events for you to enjoy, put together by experts on the history and heritage of this wonderful town.

Maxine Melling
Chair, Cheltenham Civic Society

Key for the entries on the following pages

R Refreshments  D Disabled access  P Free parking  T Toilets

Tickets must be pre-booked for some events as numbers are limited. See page 10 for information.
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For further information please visit heritageopendays.org.uk

LOCATIONS

1. Cheltenham Ladies’ College
   Bayshill Road GL50 3EP
   Dating from 1873, main buildings designed in ecclesiastical style. Interior shows influence of the Arts and Crafts Movement. Four-hour tour also includes History of College display room.
   Friday: Tour at 2.30pm
   Saturday: Tours at 1pm & 2pm

2. Cheltenham Masonic Hall
   2 Portland Street GL52 2PB
   One of the oldest purpose-built Masonic Halls built in 1823 by architect George Underwood. Many interesting architectural features, dining room decorated in Knights Templar encampment style, late 1700s pipe organ, elegantly wrought iron balustrade on the cantilevered spiral staircase and a balcony railing.
   Displays and presentations on Cheltenham Freemasonry.

3. Cheltenham Playhouse
   47-53 Bath Road GL53 7HG
   Informal guided tours detailing the building’s many uses since 1806 – salts manufactory, steam mill and bakery, slipper baths, medicinal spa and (since 1945) a theatre. See areas normally out of public sight including swimming pool underneath the auditorium.
   Saturday 10am-4pm
   R/D (ground floor only) T
   Sunday 12noon-4pm
   R/D (partial) T

4. Cheltenham Synagogue
   Synagogue Lane
   St James Square GL50 3PU
   Listed Grade II* Regency Synagogue consecrated in 1839. Home to a small, traditional, Orthodox community. Contains oldest Ashkenazi furniture (1761) in the UK. Has two unique 18th century prayer plaques. Members on hand to talk with guests.
   Sunday 11am-4pm
   D (stairs) / partial T

5. Church of St Michael and All Angels, Bishop’s Cleeve
   Church Approach GL52 8NG
   Visit our Norman Church, with many architectural features. The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings awarded our unique medieval oak staircase the 2016 John Betjeman Award for restoration. We shall be on hand to show you round and serve refreshments.
   Saturday 10am-4pm
   R/D T
   Sunday 11am-4pm
   R/D T

6. Dean Close School
   Shelburne Road GL51 6HE
   Dean Close School is an example of a late Victorian evangelical school. The New Club opened on 31 October 1874 as a private gentlemen’s club and was originally located on the site of the Quadrangle on the Promenade.
   Saturday 2-5pm: Tours every 30 minutes, starting 2.30pm, last tour 4.30pm
   Sunday 10am-4pm: Tours every 30 mins, starting 10.30am, last tour 3.30pm
   R/D (ground floor only) P (limited) T

7. The New Club
   2 Montpellier Parade GL50 1UD
   The New Club opened on 31 October 1874 as a private gentlemen’s club and was originally located on the site of the Quadrangle on the Promenade.
   Saturday 2-5pm: Tours every 30 minutes, starting 2.30pm, last tour 4.30pm
   Sunday 10am-4pm: Tours every 30 mins, starting 10.30am, last tour 3.30pm
   R/D (ground floor only) P (limited) T

8. Normandy House
   305-309 High Street GL50 3FB
   Cheltenham’s first General Hospital and Dispensary, dating from 1813 with wards added in 1839. By 1849 it had become the college for lady teachers. Recently restored, it now houses offices and a studio. There are three floors but no lift.
   Saturday Tours 10am & 11am
   Pre-book and collect ticket from the TIC. Maximum 15 places per tour.

9. Normandy House
   13 Lypiatt Terrace GL50 2SX
   HQ of Cheltenham Civic Society. Par Moor House was designed by Samuel Daukes, with construction from 1847. Historic postcard exhibition and screenings; exhibition on chimney sweeps; scrapbooks of newspaper clippings about Cheltenham’s architecture and development since 1965; Cheltenham Civic Society information.
   Saturday 11am-4pm
   Sunday 11am-4pm
   T

10. Pittville Pump Room
    East Approach Drive GL52 3JE
    Designed by architect John Forbes and built between 1825 and 1830, Grade II-listed Pittville Pump Room is Cheltenham’s only remaining working spa. Take the waters from the original marble and scagliola pump and explore the spectacular interior.
    Saturday 2-5pm
    No tours but members of Friends of Pittville will be on hand to answer questions
    D / P T

Tickets must be pre-booked for some events as numbers are limited. See page 10 for information.
Sandford Parks Lido
Keysnash Road GL53 7PU
Built in 1935, the lido is a great day out in the heart of Cheltenham. Nationally recognised as the most complete example of a 1930s lido, it retains most of its features including the impressive fountain and the original operational plant room engineering. You will be able to explore the facility and see some areas not normally accessible by the public. Please note that normal entrance prices apply for using the facility for swimming.
Saturday 11am-5.30pm
R/D/P/T

St Andrew’s United Reformed Church
Montpellier Street GL50 1SP
An 1885 listed church building, with many original features. Recent refurbishment of Dormer Windows and Willis Organ. There will be a small exhibition marking the 500th Anniversary of Martin Luther’s ‘95 Theses’ being posted on Wittenberg Church door; thus kick-starting the Reformation. Refreshments will be available.
Saturday 10am-1pm
R/D/P/T

St Stephen’s Church, Warden Hill
Lincoln Avenue GL51 3DD
A 1960s building with ten splendid Lincoln Avenue GL51 3DD. A 1960s building with ten splendid stained glass windows based on the parables. A Comper window and two newly-etched Nicholas Myneer windows. The lightest ring of bells in a church in the world. Brief talks on the hour and ringing demonstrations on the half hour.
Sunday 2-5pm
Tickets at 2pm, 3pm & 4pm
R/D/P/T

St Mary’s Church, Prestbury
Mill Street GL52 3BQ
This is a John Middleton designed church, built in the 1870s. The Lady Chapel is in the meeting room and has a First World War connection with a cross bought back from the Somme and names of the fallen from our parish carved on the walls. There will be vestments and flower arrangements in the main body of the church also tea and coffee and cake. In the meeting room there will be an art and photographic exhibition and possibly embroidery/patchwork.
Saturday 10am-4pm
R/D/P/T

St Luke’s Church
St Luke’s Road GL53 7HP
Victorian church designed by F.W. Ordish, consecrated in 1894. Impressive stained glass windows, mosaics and wood carvings. A side chapel contains relics of St John’s church. Guided tours of the galleries and clock tower are offered. Visitors must book through the Tourist Information Centre. The west gallery is an artist’s studio. Art exhibition of the work of various artists.
Thursday 12noon-4pm;
Friday 12noon-4pm;
Saturday 10am-3pm;
Sunday 12noon-4pm
Tours: Friday 2pm & 3pm and Sunday 2pm & 3pm. Visitors must be 16 yrs and over and fit enough to manage three flights of steep stairs to galleries and the spiral staircase to the clock tower. Pre-book and collect ticket from the TIC. Limited to 6 places per group
R/D/P/T

University of Gloucestershire
Francis Close Hall
Swindon Road GL50 4AZ
Come along for a behind-the-scenes tour of this Cheltenham landmark and discover what life was like as a student over the past 170 years.
Sunday 10am & 11pm
Pre-book and collect ticket from the TIC. Tours start from the Chapel. Limited to 12 places per tour
D/P/T

Play: The Parrot, the Poet and the Philanderer
Chapel Arts, Knapp Road
Authors: Lou Beckett & David Elder
Three world-famous English writers all spent time in Cheltenham during the 19th century; their true stories include scandal, competition for an important literary prize and a fight for women’s higher education. Can a young woman change not only their lives but the story of Cheltenham as well?
Thursday 4pm, Friday 4pm & 7.30pm
Pre-book ticket from Chapel Arts. Tel 01242 580077. Limited to 50 places each performance.

University of Gloucestershire
The Park Campus
The Park GL50 2RH
The Park Campus remains a remarkable example of the early development of Cheltenham’s green spaces. Come along for a tour of the grounds and find out how it’s inhabitants changed from elephants to nuns to trainee-teachers over the years.
Sunday 1pm & 2pm
Pre-book and collect ticket from the TIC. Tours start from Elwes Reception. Limited to 12 places per tour
D/P/T

The Wilson Art Gallery and Museum
Clarence Street GL50 3J
The Wilson houses an internationally-significant museum collection of exceptional quality and variety, including changing displays of the Designated Arts and Crafts Movement collection, fine art collections, and The Paper Store, which includes displays of archives relating to Antarctic explorer Edward A. Wilson, Cheltenham’s history and the Emery-Walker Library.
Thursday 9.30am-7.45pm
Friday & Saturday 9.30am-5.15pm
Sunday 11am-4pm
R/D/T

For further information please visit heritageopendays.org.uk
Tickets must be pre-booked for some events as numbers are limited. See page 10 for information.

LOCATIONS
PLAY
CHELTENHAM HERITAGE OPEN DAYS 7–10 September 2017
CHELTENHAM HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

1. All Saints' Church
2. Cambray Baptist Church
3. Chapel Arts
4. Cheltenham College Chapel and Main Building
5. Cheltenham College Thirlestaine Long Gallery
6. Cheltenham Ladies' College
7. Cheltenham Masonic Hall
8. Cheltenham Playhouse
9. Cheltenham Minster, St Mary's
10. Cheltenham Synagogue
11. Church of St Michael and All Angels, Bishop's Cleeve
12. Dean Close School
13. The New Club
14. Normandy House
15. Parmoor House
16. Pittville Pump Room
17. Sandford Parks Lido
18. St Andrew's United Reformed Church
19. St Christopher's Church, Warden Hill
20. St Gregory's Church
21. St Mary's Church, Prestbury
22. St Stephen's Church
23. St Luke's Church
24. University of Gloucestershire Francis Close Hall
25. University of Gloucestershire The Park Campus
26. The Wilson Art Gallery and Museum
27. Talk: Cheltenham from on High
28. Talk: The Jewish Diaspora in the UK
29. Talk: The 500th Anniversary of the Reformation
30. Talk: Leckhampton Worshies
31. Talk: The Life and Times of Henry Skillicorne
32. Talk: History of Cheltenham Minster
33. Talk: Tales of the Red Triangle
34. Walk: Hidden Histories of the Lower High Street
35. Walk: Cheltenham General Hospital before the NHS
36. Walk: The Prestbury You Didn't Know
37. Walk: Booze, Balloons and Back-to-backs
38. Walk: Gustav Holst's Cheltenham
39. Walk: Stories from Pittville's Squares
40. Walk: Cheltenham's Bath Road & The Suffolks
41. Walk: Tivoli in 90 minutes
42. Walk: Rowe's Guide of 1845: Then & Now
43. Walk: Regency Cheltenham
44. Walk: Women of Cheltenham in the Great War
45. Walk: The Quaries and Tramroads of Leckhampton Hill
46. Walk: Cheltenham Backwaters – Exploring the River Chelt
47. Walk: Exploring Pittville's Squares
48. Hidden Heritage: Below Stairs
49. Hidden Heritage: Constantino's Cellars
50. Hidden Heritage: Pittville Gates Underground Chamber
51. Walk: Free Self-Guided Walks

Tickets must be pre-booked for some events as numbers are limited. See page 10 for information.
GUIDED WALKS AND TALKS – HOW TO BOOK

It is essential to book for all guided walks and some talks (see individual entries for details). Entry to all walks is by ticket only. Bookings can be made from Thursday 20 July until one day before the walk or talk itself. Most bookings are to be made through:

Cheltenham Tourist Information Centre (TIC)
The Wilson Art Gallery & Museum, Clarence Street
GL50 3JT
Telephone 01242 237 431
Email info@cheltenhamtrust.org.uk
Open Mon-Wed, Fri-Sat 9.30am-5.15pm; Thu 9.30am-7.45pm; Sun 11am-4pm
*TIC opens at 10.30am if walks start at 11am or earlier

TIC-issued tickets must be collected from the TIC in person. If you cannot attend all after all, please inform the TIC as soon as you know so that your ticket can be reallocated. Note that the TIC will not keep a waiting list.

Numbers are limited on guided walks because experience has shown that if groups are too large, many cannot hear and see, and for leaders it is difficult to manage a large group in a public place without compromising safety. This limit will no doubt disappoint some but we must emphasise the voluntary nature of Heritage Open Days. Walk leaders and speakers are giving their own knowledge, time and enthusiasm and without them Heritage Open Days would be much poorer.

Please carefully check the entry in this brochure for the event you are interested in and ensure that you book correctly.

Cheltenham Civic Society

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**Talk: Cheltenham from on High**
Honeybourne Gate, 2 Gloucester Road
Speaker: Neela Mann
A 360 degree look at Cheltenham from the 5th floor roof garden of Honeybourne Gate. From here the development of Cheltenham can be seen especially by the building of the eight churches. 20 minute visits. Stay for a coffee, tea or cake afterwards.
Thursdays 10.30am, 11.30am & 12.30pm; Friday 2pm, 3pm & 4pm
Pre-book and collect ticket from the TIC. Limited to 7 places per group. Park at Tesco’s.

**Talk: The Jewish Diaspora in the UK**
Cheltenham Synagogue
Speaker: Leonard Bazar
The talk will answer questions such as: ‘Who is the Chief Rabbi and who does he represent?’ and ‘What is the difference between Ashkenazi and Sephardi Jews and does it matter?’
Duration about an hour.
40 places available.
Thursday 7pm. Pre-book please after 21 August through info@cheltenhamsynagogue.org.uk or call 01242 242724

**Talk: Tales of the Red Triangle**
Cambray Baptist Church
Speaker: Peter Worsley
Peter Worsley, assistant editor of This England and local YMCA director, draws on anecdotes from his book to highlight various buildings and people associated with Cheltenham’s YMCA over the years.
Duration approximately 30 minutes.
Sunday 3pm. Booking not required
R/D/T

**Talk: The 500th Anniversary of the Reformation and its Effects on Early Cheltenham**
Cambray Baptist Church
Speaker: Alan Pilbeam
To mark this significant milestone, Alan Pilbeam, local writer and historian, will consider some of the visible signs of the Reformation in the Cheltenham area.
Duration approximately 30 minutes.
Friday 11am. Booking not required
R/D/T

**Talk: Tales of the Hidden Histories of the Lower High Street**
Start & Finish: Honeybourne Gate, 2 Gloucester Road
Leader: Julia Manning
Why is the pelican on this building and where is it? A circular tour of some hidden gems and stories of places around the Lower High Street that you didn’t know existed. Pop in for home-made cake and coffee before or after the walk.
Thursday 11am & Friday 2.30pm
Pre-book and collect ticket from the TIC. Limited to 15 places. Park at Tesco’s.

**Talk: History of Cheltenham Minster**
The Minster; Well Walk
Speaker: Peter Ormerod
Much of the history of the town can be found in this building. The tour and talk will last about an hour with refreshments There will be an opportunity to go up to the school room in the old Baptistery which was in use from 1729-1847.
Saturday 2pm
Places available on a first come first served basis

**Walk: Cheltenham General Hospital before the NHS**
Start & Finish: Cheltenham General Hospital, Sandford Road (meet on main entrance steps)
Leader: Heather Atkinson
The tour covers features of the original building and an explanation of the Voluntary Hospital system. A talk then gives more detail of the innovative ways money was raised to provide the expansion of services between the wars, including early cancer therapy.
Thursday & Sunday 2.30pm
Pre-book and collect ticket from the TIC. Limited to 15 places.

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Walk: The Prestbury You Didn’t Know  
Start & Finish: Prestbury Library
Leader: Roger Beacham & Tony Noel
See the grave of General Whinbate of the Rocket Brigade; the home of artist Dora Carrington, linked to the Bloomsbury group and the site of an exotic grotto where George III and Queen Charlotte drank tea.

Thursday 2.30-3.30pm. Pre-book and collect ticket from the TIC. Limited to 15 places.

Walk: Booze, Balloons and Back-to-backs  
Start & Finish: Honeybourne Gate, 2 Gloucester Road
Leader: Neela Mann
Stories of the development of the Lower High Street area, with special reference to the Dobell family. This walk takes in the gas works, a short way up the Gloucester Road, Churchil Gardens, the Honeybourne Line and some of the streets surrounding Honeybourne Gate.

Thursday 2.30pm & Friday 11am. Pre-book and collect ticket from the TIC. Limited to 15 places.

Walk: Gustav Holst’s Cheltenham  
Start: The Rotunda Tavern
Finish: Holst Birthplace Museum
Leader: Alan Parker
Explore the life of Cheltenham’s most famous son, Gustav Holst, through some of Cheltenham’s most notable buildings. Discover the Holst family’s connections to places such as The Rotunda, Montpellier and All Saints’ Church as well as buildings which are now lost to the town.

Friday 10-11.30am. Pre-book and collect ticket from the TIC. Limited to 15 places.

Walk: Rowe’s Guide of 1845: Then & Now  
Start: The Wilson
Finish: Pittville Gates
Leader: Dr Steven Blake
George Rowe’s illustrated Cheltenham Guide of 1845 comprises four walks around the town, illustrated by around 200 drawings. Armed with copies of some of Rowe’s drawings, we will compare the buildings ‘then and now’, focusing on the High Street, Clarence Street and north to Pittville Gates.

Saturday 11am-12.30pm. Pre-book and collect ticket from the TIC. Limited to 15 places.

Walk: Regency Cheltenham  
Start: The Wilson
Finish: The Promenade
Leader: Mary Moxham
Explore the development of this Regency Spa town; discover architectural highlights and significant personalities in Cheltenham’s history. Walk lasts 90 minutes.

Saturday 11am. Pre-book and collect ticket from the TIC. Limited to 15 places.

Walk: Women of Cheltenham in the Great War  
Start: The Wilson
Finish: Parson’s House
Leader: Neela Mann
A walk with stories of Cheltenham women in WW1, including hospitals for wounded soldiers, the depot for Cheltenham POWs’ parcels and soldiers’ welcomes.

Saturday & Sunday 12.30pm. Pre-book and collect ticket from the TIC. Limited to 15 places.

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For further information please visit heritagopendays.org.uk
Below Stairs
48 Clarence Square GL50 4JR
Kitchen and housekeeper’s room in Grade 2 listed private residence, built 1835-36. Features include original stone flagged floor, bread oven, pantry with stone worktop and a ‘The Regal’ cooking range supplied by John Fisher of 34 Winchcombe Street, Cheltenham.

Sunday 10am-12noon. Pre-book by phoning 01242 227720 and providing name, address, e-mail and phone number for each visitor; must bring photo ID on the day. Steps up to front door and stairs to basement require care; uneven floors.

Costantinou’s Cellars
Costantinou’s Hairdressing, 111 Winchcombe Street GL52 2NW
Grade 2 listed building. Extensive wine cellars with early Victorian brick vaulting. Listed as the ‘Chemical Emporium of Mr Wadley’ in Rowe’s illustrated Cheltenham Guide of 1845. Current owners received a Civic Award in 1993 for restoration of the shop front’s illustrated tiling and decorative lettering – ‘Morr’s Fishmonger & Poulterer’. Visitors are advised to wear flat shoes and trousers.

Sunday 10am-12noon. Very steep and narrow ladder to enter and leave the cellar. Backpacks, handbags etc. must be left upstairs (will be supervised). Visitors are advised to wear flat shoes and trousers. The underground chamber is small and only lit with natural light.

Pittville Gates Underground Chamber
Pittville Gates, corner Clarence Road and Prestbury Road, adjacent to 1 Pittville Lawn GL52 2BE
An underground chamber, probably from the late 19th century, purpose unknown at time of writing. Theories include an electricity booster station for the trams or for the town supply; a transformer for the gas lamps; even a place to store hay for the horses which drew the public carriages.

Sunday 10am-12noon. Very steep and narrow ladder to enter and leave the underground chamber. Backpacks, handbags etc. preferably left at the top (they will be supervised); visitors are advised to wear flat shoes and trousers. Very steep and narrow ladder to enter and leave the chamber.

Walk: Free Self-Guided Walks
Collect from Cheltenham Tourist Information Centre (TIC)
There are eleven walks, written by members of Cheltenham Local History Society and Friends of Pittville, which you can do at your leisure. Each walk is two sides of an A4 sheet and can be picked up from the Tourist Information Centre, The Wilson, Clarence Street.

Acknowledgements Heritage Open Days is organised by Cheltenham Civic Society, with support and sponsorship from Cheltenham Borough Council. Thank you to walk leaders, speakers, and event organisers from buildings which are opening their doors to the public for its enlightenment and enjoyment.

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Do you care about Cheltenham?  
Come and join us!

Cheltenham Civic Society works to conserve the architectural and historical features of the town, and to promote high standards of design in new developments – all in the cause of keeping Cheltenham a great place to live and visit.

We have an active programme of public engagement – talks and visits, civic events, commenting on planning applications and the local plan, managing Cheltenham’s Civic Awards scheme, and commemorating local achievements through our blue and green plaques.

The society’s home is 13 Lypiatt Terrace, a handsome Victorian terraced house (rooms for hire at very competitive rates).

To find out more, visit www.cheltenhamcivicsociety.org.uk or email us at parmoor-house@cheltenhamcivicsociety.org.uk

We are delighted that this year’s Heritage Open Days coincides with Cheltenham Festival of Cycling where a number of exciting events are planned with the highlight being the finish on Saturday 9 September of the penultimate stage of The 2017 OVO Energy Tour of Britain right on Cheltenham’s historic Promenade. Undoubtedly this fantastic and colourful event will attract a big crowd of people so if planning to come on that Saturday, please check nearer the time for transport and parking updates at cheltenhamcyclingfestival.org.uk

#OVOToB