Wirral History & Heritage Open Days 2017

Welcome

Heritage Open Days celebrate the country’s outstanding architecture and culture by offering free access to properties, many of which are normally closed to the public or charge for admission.

Thousands of places open their doors and volunteers organise guided tours and activities to promote their community’s heritage. For information on Heritage Open Days regionally and nationally see www.heritageopendays.org.uk

Wirral’s Heritage Open Days programme is organised by the Wirral History & Heritage Association and is Wirral’s biggest heritage event.

It covers the period 2nd – 10th September, and gives visitors and residents alike the chance to enjoy a variety of architecture, landscape and history.

For more information visit the Wirral History & Heritage Association website: www.wirralhistoryandheritage.org.uk

Downloadable copies of this programme are available on www.visitWirral.com

Most events take place within the Borough of Wirral but we are happy to publicise activities across the peninsula.

For information about Heritage Open Days in West Cheshire contact Chester History & Heritage: email: chh@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Every attempt has been made to ensure the accuracy of the brochure. However Wirral History & Heritage Association cannot take responsibility for any discrepancies or last minute changes of programme.

For the latest information please check our website.

Photo: Ray McBride
Celebrating Wirral’s Heritage – 2017

Wirral has a rich history. Its built, industrial, maritime and social heritage is internationally significant and draws in visitors from a wide area, particularly during Heritage Open Days, when scores of places are open to the public, free of charge, and when numerous special events are staged.

For two historic sites, Birkenhead Park and Flaybrick Memorial Gardens, 2017 is a milestone year.

Birkenhead Park

2017 marks the 170th anniversary of the official opening of Birkenhead Park on 5 April 1847. Recognised as a ‘People’s Park’, it was the first municipally funded park in the world, inspiring not only Central Park, New York, landscaped by Frederick Law Olmsted, but countless other parks across the globe.

A Grade I listed landscape, it is a Conservation Area, with a wealth of Grade II* and Grade II listed buildings and structures, both within the park and around its perimeter.

Its 125 acres of open parkland owe their special character to Joseph Paxton. His inspired design, with its winding walks, sinuous drives and ornamental lakes, has remained virtually unaltered over the years.

The landscaping was the work of Edward Kemp (1817-91), superintendent of the park from 1843 until his death. He would go on to become a respected landscape designer and author, well known far beyond Birkenhead. To commemorate his bi-centenary in 2017 a Blue Plaque has been erected at the park’s Visitor Centre.

The Eisteddfod of the Black Chair

2017 marks the 100th anniversary of the Welsh National Eisteddfod held in Birkenhead Park in September 1917. The climax of the event would have been the Chairing of the Bard - the presentation of a specially carved chair to the winning poet. When no winner stepped forward, it was announced that the poet, Hedd Wyn, (Ellis Humphrey Evans) had been killed in Flanders, six weeks previously. The empty chair, draped in black, was taken back to the Evans family farmhouse in Snowdonia.

A monument commemorating the event can be seen in the Lower Park.

A Heritage Lottery Funded exhibition, featuring a newly created replica of the original Black Chair, will be on display in Birkenhead Park Visitor Centre during September.

World Urban Parks European Congress

In recognition of Birkenhead Park’s worldwide reputation, the 2017 World Urban Parks European Congress will be held at the Floral Pavilion, New Brighton, from the 16th to the 20th October, giving international delegates the opportunity to appreciate the park at first hand.

Flaybrick Memorial Gardens

Flaybrick opened in 1864, to the design of Edward Kemp and with buildings the work of architects Lucy and Littler. It became the final resting place of over 100,000 Wirral people, including Kemp himself.

Regarded as one of England’s most important garden cemeteries, it is a Grade II* listed landscape and a Conservation Area with seven listed structures within it.

When burials ceased in 1975, the Roman Catholic chapel was demolished and the magnificent Anglican and Non-conformist chapels fell into disrepair.

These have recently undergone a £350,000 restoration, co-funded by Wirral Council and Historic England and completed in 2017. Specialist stone masons have repaired the stonework and revealed carvings and architectural details hidden for over 30 years.

Now rendered safe and accessible, the Flaybrick chapels are just some of many places in Wirral which can be visited during Heritage Open Days.
# Events Calendar: Buildings Open to View

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Wirral has a wealth of historic buildings and sites, some of national significance. Within the Borough there are 9 Scheduled Monuments, one of which, Birkenhead Priory, is included in Heritage Open Days.

There are also over 1900 Listed Buildings, the most outstanding of which are Grade I or Grade II* listed. A selection of these will be open to view during Heritage Open Days.
BEBINGTON

St Andrew’s Church, Church Road, Bebington CH63 7PG
Sat 2nd Sept, 10am - 2pm & Tues 5th Sept, 10am - 3.30pm.

Grade I listed building, described by the architectural historian, Raymond Richards, as ‘the finest church in Wirral’. Norman arcading, 14th century tower. Misericords. Hatchments. An active Anglican parish church with historical records dating from 1093. Guided tours 10.30am, 12.30pm & 2.30pm. Tours last approx. 45 minutes.

No booking required. Disabled access to church but no wheelchair access to toilets. Refreshments.

Contact: Mrs Karen Davies, 0151 645 6478.
office@standrewsbebington.org.uk
www.standrewsbebington.org.uk
At other times - visits by arrangement. Phone for details.

BIDSTON

Bidston Lighthouse and Telegraph Station, Wilding Way, Bidston CH43 7RA
Sat 2nd, Sun 3rd, Tues 5th, Sat 9th, Sun 10th Sept, 1.45pm - 5pm. Guided tours: 2.00pm, 3.00pm & 4.00pm.

Listed Grade II. The world’s most inland lighthouse. Established at the Bidston signals station, 1771, starting a revolution in lighthouse optics. The site became a station in the Liverpool-Holyhead telegraph. Mersey Docks and Harbour Board rebuilt the Lighthouse, 1873, to the design of George Lyster. The new building combined the telegraph (now electric) and lighthouse functions.

Souvenirs and second-hand books for sale. Fantastic views from lamp room. Children must be 1.06 metres (42 inches) or taller to visit lamp room.

Light refreshments available for purchase. Disabled access to ground floor only. Limited parking. Car access only via Wilding Way.

Booking essential as places limited. Book online at www.bidstonlighthouse.org.uk/events/whod or contact Mandy: 0151 653 7816.

Lighthouse open every Saturday afternoon during warmer months. Free admission to ground floor & bookshop. Tours to signals & lamp rooms: £2.50 (adult), £1 (child).

Private tours by arrangement. For up-to-date information on Lighthouse, its history and opening times see: www.bidstonlighthouse.org.uk
Bidston Windmill. Access via footpath from Tam O’Shanter Farm Car Park, CH43 7PD.
Sat. 2nd & Sat 9th Sept, 10am - 12noon, last entry 11.45am.
Grade II* brick built tower mill, erected 1791, to replace wooden peg mill, destroyed by fire. Used to grind corn, until 1875. Restored by Wirral Council. For further information see: www.bidstonhill.org.uk

Minimum height restriction for upper floors: 1.06 metres (42 inches). Children under 11 years must be accompanied by an adult at all times. Dogs can be minded. No booking required. First come first served.

The windmill is approached on foot over uneven ground not suitable for wheelchairs. Disabled access to ground floor only. Upper floors only accessible via steep ladders. Nearest car parking: Tam O’Shanter Farm, CH43 7PD. Refreshments available at Tam O’Shanter Farm Café.

Contact: info@bidstonhill.org.uk

Windmill open to public 10am - 12 noon on first Saturday of each month. April - Sept. Closed during colder months when bats resume winter residence. Admission free. Donations to Friends of Bidston Hill welcome. For more information, see: www.bidstonhill.org.uk

St Oswald’s Church, Bidston Village Road, Bidston, CH43 7QT
Thurs 7th Sept, 10.30am - 4.00pm.

Once the centre of a large medieval parish. Church rebuilt 1856. Tower of 1593. Stained glass window crafted by Morris to a Burne-Jones design. Reredos a copy of Leonardo da Vinci’s ‘Last Supper’ by Italian artist Salviati. Within the church a memorial wreath from Queen Victoria to her page, Percy Cust.

No booking required. Refreshments. Disabled access to church. Contact: Ron Iveson 0151 378 5835. Email: roniveson@hotmail.com Facebook: stoswaldschurchbidston

BIRKENHEAD

Birkenhead High School Academy WW2 Shelters. 46 Devonshire Place, CH43 1TX
(Enter via Sixth Form entrance - Alton Rd. end)
Sat 9th & Sun 10th Sept, 10am - 12.30pm.

Refurbished (Heritage Lottery Fund) WW2 Air Raid Shelters, built 1940. Cheshire Home Guard in period costume. Displays and memorabilia.

Self guided shelter tours: 10.00am - 10.30am, 11.15am - 12.30pm. Booking not required. Pre-booked guided tours: 10.30am & 12.30pm. Tour lasts approx 45 minutes. Entrance to shelters via steep steps. Disabled visitors can view above ground displays. Community car park NOT available for event. Visitors with mobility issues should contact organiser (see below) for parking details. Refreshments. Printed booklet for sale.

Visits during school holidays by arrangement for groups of c. 15. Charge payable.

Contact: Kathy Jones, Business Manager shelters@birkhs.gdst.net 0151 479 5615.

Flaybrick Chapels Tour. Flaybrick Memorial Gardens, Tollemache Rd, Bidston, CH41 0DG. Meet at main gates.

Flaybrick’s unusual linked chapels (Anglican & Non-Conformist) designed by Liverpool architects, Lucy & Littler, have been disused and derelict for years. Following major conservation work to the fabric, funded by Wirral Council & Historic England, the interior can now be viewed for the first time for thirty years. Pre-booking not required.

Contact: Eileen Willshaw, Wirral Heritage Officer, 0151 691 8612.
Birkenhead Priory and St Mary’s Tower, Priory Street, Birkenhead, CH41 5JH
Sat 2nd & Sun 3rd Sept, 10.00 am - 5.00 pm; Wed 6 to Fri 8th Sept, 1pm - 5pm; Sat 9th & Sun 10th Sept, 10am - 5pm.
Partial accessibility. No booking required. Refreshments available for purchase. Parking in Church St.
Contact: Enquiries - 0151 666 3537. www.thebirkenheadpriory.org

Birkenhead Central Library, Borough Road, Birkenhead, CH41 2XB
Mon 4th Sept, Talk & tour at 2.15 pm. Meet in Foyer.
Birkenhead’s library services began in 1856. The present building, opened by George V in 1934, replaced the 1909 Carnegie Library, demolished to make way for the Road Tunnel. Neo - Georgian in style. Inside Carrara marble and English oak details, Della Robbia panels and the Wilfred Owen memorial window. There will be a behind the scenes tour.
Pre - booking required, either in person at library or by phone. Limited disabled access. Tour unsuitable for those with mobility issues.
Contact: 0151 606 2665.
(ask for Birkenhead Lending Library) www.wirral.gov.uk/libraries-and-archives

Conway Chapel, Scriptorium, Birkenhead Priory, Priory Street, Birkenhead, CH41 5JH
Sat 2nd & Sun 3rd Sept, Wed 6th to Sun 10th Sept, 12noon - 5pm
Museum dedicated to memory of training ship, HMS Conway, anchored off Rock Ferry from 1859 to 1941, before being moved to the Menai Straits. Many Conway artefacts, painted and stained glass.
No booking required. Accessible via ‘walking chair’ up external staircase. Parking available in Priory car park.
Contact: John Southwood 0151 342 5978. Email: johnsouthwood@btinternet.com

Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception Church, Cavendish Street, Birkenhead, CH41 8AQ
Sat 2nd & Sat 9th Sept, 11am – 4pm.
Grade II listed church, designed by EW Pugin, 1857 and completed by Pugin & Pugin 1895. Sympathetically restored after bomb damage in 1941, with all original features remaining. Photographs of Holy Cross RC Church, designed by FX Velarde will also be on display.
No pre-booking required. Disabled access through side entrance to church. Refreshments.
Church open to public during Mass times daily and on Sundays. No charge
Contact: the Parish Priest, Church Office, 0151 652 1074. Email: ol.hc.sp@btinternet.com

www.wirralhistoryandheritage.org.uk
Outwood House, St Anselm’s College, Manor Hill, Birkenhead, CH43 1UQ
Sat 9th & Sun 10th Sept, 11.00am to 3.00pm.
Substantial mansion built 1862, for Liverpool merchant, Halsall Segar. Passed to Heap Family, owners of Heap’s Rice Mill, 1872. Sold to Christian Brothers as school, 1932. Stone faced, Italianate in style, both house and gateway listed Grade II. Hear update on students’ HLF supported historical and heritage research project. View video presentation.
Guided tours 11.15am, 12.30pm, 1.45.pm. Pre-booking helpful but not essential.
Ramp available for wheelchair users, given prior warning. Access limited. Refreshments.
Contact: Bill Iveson 07747 115 450.
Email: billiveson@ntlworld.com

St James’ Church, St James Road/Laird Street, Birkenhead, CH41 7AL
Sat 9th Sept, 11.00am - 3.00pm; Sun 10th Sept, 10.30am
Family Reunion Service
No booking required. Disabled access. Refreshments available.
Contact: Eve Barrett 0151 670 9974.
Email: eve.barrett@corganisers.org.uk or Rev. Sandra Langerhuizen 0151 652 3109
w.langerhuizen@btinternet.com

St Joseph’s Catholic Church, North Road / Willowbank Road, Birkenhead CH42 7JY
Sat 2nd, Thurs 7th Sept, 10am - 4pm, Sat 9th Sept, 2pm - 4pm.
Grade II listed church, designed by Edmund Kirby. Completed 1900. Constructed of red Ruabon pressed brick with moulded terracotta details. Roof of Westmoreland Green slate. Interior unusual in its bold, richly patterned & colourful decorative scheme.
Open choir rehearsal Sat 2nd Sept, 2pm - 3pm.
Booking not required. Disabled access. Church open at normal service times - see newsletter on website for details. www.stjosephsbirkenhead.co.uk
Contact: Lynn Ireland.
Email: lynn.ireland@talktalk.net

Wirral Transport Museum, 1 Taylor Street, Birkenhead, CH41 1BG
Sat 2nd, Sun 3rd, Sat 9th Sun 10th Sept, 1pm - 4.00pm.
One of the country’s most comprehensive ‘working’ transport museums. Collection includes trams, buses, motorbikes, mopeds, cycles, and commercial & military vehicles, many in working order. 1930s garage scene. Large model railway layout. A draw for visitors of all ages. Admission free.
Half hourly tram rides: £2.00 adults/£1.00 children & concessions.
Museum open weekends & Bank Holidays 1pm - 4.30pm throughout year. Closed Christmas & New Year.
Limited disabled access. No disabled toilets. Hot drinks at an agreed cost can be arranged for pre-booked groups. Refreshments and facilities available at nearby Woodside. No booking required.
Contact: Tony Cooper 0151 647 2128.
Email: tony-coop@hotmail.com
www.mtps.co.uk
**BROMBOROUGH**

St Barnabas Church, Church Square, Bromborough CH62 7AB

Wed 6th Sept, 11.30am - 3pm, Sun 10th Sept, 12 noon - 3.30pm.

Grade II listed church, built 1862 -1864 to a design of Sir George Gilbert Scott, the third church on the site. Features very fine stained glass. In churchyard are 18th century sundial, remains of Anglo Norse sculptured stones and war memorials.


Contact: Ros Wood 0151 334 4155.
Email: ros.wood@outlook.com

www.stbarnabasbromborough.org.uk

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**BROMBOROUGH POOL**

The Buildings of Bromborough Pool, Giles Shirley Hall, York Street, Bromborough Pool, CH62 4TZ

Sat 9th Sept. Tours start 10am, 11am & 12noon. Meet outside Giles Shirley Hall.

See buildings constructed as part of the model village built for Price's Patent Candle Company. Bromborough Pool School, 1898; St Matthew's Church, 1889-90 & Giles Shirley Hall, 1858. All Grade II listed.

Booking not required. Disabled access. Refreshments available at Garden Centre. (for lunches, order in advance 0151 643 1359)

Contact: Anne Litherland 0758 755 0060.
Email: anne.litherland@autismtogether.co.uk

www.autishtogether.co.uk/bromborough-pool

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**EASTHAM**

St Mary’s Parish Church, Stanley Lane, Eastham, CH62 0AQ

Fri 8th, Sat 9th Sept 10 - 4pm, Sun 10th 12 - 4pm. (Recital 3pm).

Grade II listed church, built c.1150, but much altered. Medieval nave arcades. Memorials to Stanley Family. Stained glass by Kempe. Find out about its history, the role it now plays as the ‘Living Church’ in Eastham and how to get involved in the various community groups who will be there.

Guided tours, churchyard walks, children’s activities. Organ and instrumental recital Sun 10th Sept, 3.00 pm. No booking required. (For details of churchyard walks see separate entry for St Mary’s Churchyard Tour)

Tea & coffee in church daily. Sat 9th, 10 - 4pm. Light lunches & cakes provided by Scouts, opposite church. Disabled access to church but not to churchyard

Contact: Sue Abraham 0151 334 9216.
Email: s.r.abraham@btinternet.com

www.stmaryseastham.uk

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Contact:  Sue Abraham 0151 334 9216.
Email: s.r.abraham@btinternet.com

Church open Wed & Thurs afternoons, 2 - 4.00pm, mid May - mid September.

www.stmaryseastham.uk
HOYLAKE

Royal Liverpool Golf Club, 30 Meols Drive, Hoylake, CH47 4AL.
Meet at Reception in Clubhouse. Fri 8th Sept, 9.30am.

Victorian Clubhouse, built 1894-5; architects Woolfall & Eccles. Good architectural features and extensive displays of Club’s illustrious golfing history, players, trophies, paintings & memorabilia. Views over links to River Dee and Flintshire coast.

Conducted tour of Club rooms, facilities & historical artefacts. Tour lasts approx 2 hrs.

Booking required. Wheelchair access to most rooms

Contact: The Secretary, Royal Liverpool Golf Club, 0151 632 3101.
www.royal-liverpool-golf.com

LEASOWE

Leasowe Castle, Leasowe Road, Moreton, Wirral, CH46 3RF
Mon 4th, Tues 5th, Wed 6th, Thurs 7th Sept, 10.00am. Tour lasts 1 - 1 ½ hrs.

Grade II*. Built by Earls of Derby, c. 1598. Enlarged over time. Castle has been a sporting lodge, castellated mansion, hotel, nobleman’s residence, railwayman’s convalescent home and again a hotel. Find out about its history, explore its exterior, glimpse some of its historic rooms and see its recent refurbishment.

Pre-booking required. Limited disabled access. Refreshments available for purchase.

Contacts: 0151 606 9191. Cheryl Roberts.
Email: cherylroberts@leasowecastle.com
Lisa Almond. Email: lisaalmond@leasowecastle.com
www.leasowecastle.com

Leasowe Lighthouse, Lingham Lane, Moreton, CH46 4TA, (Nearest station Moreton)
Sun 3rd Sept, 1pm – 5pm.

Oldest brick lighthouse in Britain. Built 1763 by Liverpool Docks Committee. In use until 1873. One of four lights erected on Wirral’s north coast, two at Hoylake and one, a lower light, at Leasowe. Lower Light destroyed by the sea and replaced, 1771, by Bidston lighthouse, itself rebuilt, 1873. Managed by volunteers. Grade II listed.

Entry to ground floor display area and gift shop free. Charges apply for guided tours to upper floors - £2 adults, £1 children, who must be at least 1.06 metres to take the tour.

No pre-booking required. Disabled access to ground floor. Refreshments and souvenirs available for purchase.

Contact: Rose Campion 0151 353 0861.
(Leave message if no answer).
Email: info@leasowelighthouse.co.uk
Lighthouse open for guided tours, 1pm – 5pm, on the FIRST and THIRD Sunday of each month.
LISCARD

St Mary’s Church, Withens Lane, Liscard, Wallasey, H45 7LU
Sat 9th & Sun 10th Sept, 12noon - 4.00pm.
Recently listed Grade II church, built 1876 by E.W.Nobbs. A fine example of mid-Victorian architecture with perpendicular tracery & west tower. Broad interior, without aisles, good arts and crafts fittings & stained glass windows in Christopher Whall style. Ring of 8 bells in use.
Parish Registers from St Mary’s, St John’s & St Columba’s, Egremont, on loan from Cheshire Archives and available for inspection.
No booking required. Disabled access. Refreshments available.
Contact: David Harvey 0151 639 8093.
Email: davidharvey2@hotmail.com

NESTON

St Mary and St Helen Parish Church, High Street, Neston, CH64 9TZ
Thurs 7th, Fri 8th, Sat 9th Sept, 10.00am – 3.30pm; Sun 10th Sept, 12.00noon – 4.00 pm.
The church encompasses stained glass windows by Kempe, Hardman, Morris & Burne-Jones. Falklands Chapel furniture rescued from HMS Plymouth. Font used for the baptism of Lady Hamilton. Unique Viking grave markers dated c.930.
Art & Craft displays. Children’s Church Discovery activities. Guided tours of church & bell tower. (Limited access to tower). Maximum number per tour : 10
Disabled access. Refreshments available.
Contact: Terry Abel. 0151 336 4492, 077 548 33615.
Email: terryabel@talktalk.net

NEW BRIGHTON

St Andrew’s United Church, Rowson Street, New Brighton, CH45 5AR
Sun 10th Sept, 2pm - 5pm.
The interior of the church is a revelation after the rather drab exterior. Fittings from 5 other Wallasey churches. Several war memorials and some unusual glass memorial plaques. The roof is in the form of a Greek cross.
No booking required. Disabled access. Guided tours on request. Refreshments.
Contact: Peter Purland
Email: petepurland@btopenworld.com
www.standrewsunitedchurch.co.uk

St James Church, Albion Street, New Brighton, CH45 9LF
Sat 2nd Sept & Sat 9th Sept, 10am to 4pm.
Booking not required. Disabled access. Light refreshments.
Opportunity for organists to play magnificent 1833 Bewsher & Fleetwood organ, Sat 9th Sept. To book a half hour slot, 10am – 4pm, contact Julia Codling.
Church usually open Tues – Sat, 11am – 1pm & Sunday during church services, 11am - 1pm. Home to New Brighton Heritage Centre.
Contact: Julia Codling 07990 535 312.
Email: juliacodling@yahoo.com
www.stjameswithemmanuel.uk
New Brighton Heritage Centre, Albion Street, New Brighton, CH45 9LF
Sat 2nd; Sun 3rd Sept, 11am - 1pm; Mon 4th Sept, 2-4pm; Tues 5th, Wed 6th, Thurs 7th, Fri 8th, Sat 9th, Sun 10th Sept, 11am - 1pm.

The Heritage Centre is located within St James Church. Access via Victoria Rd. or Albion St. See displays on New Brighton’s past. Find out about current attractions and events.

No booking required. Disabled access. Refreshments.
Contact Shirley Ashton 0151 639 1674.
Email: shirley.angela07@btinternet.com
To arrange visits outside stated times phone 0151 639 1674.

Ss Peter, Paul & Philomena Church/ICKSP, 7 Atherton Street, New Brighton, CH45 9LT
Sat 2nd Sept, Sat 9th Sept, 12 noon - 4pm.

‘Dome of Home’ - monumental, well-loved landmark, built 1932-5, still being restored. Step into WWII. 1940s hats and snacks. Audio Tour on Smartphones tells the story of how the Church sustained morale during very difficult times.

www.domeofhome.org/church_blog/audiotour

Church open daily to visitors - 8am - 8pm. Guide Book available in church or online. Guided tours by arrangement. Pre booking required, outside scheduled tour times. Disabled access.
Contact: contactus@domeofhome.org
07743 235045.

OXTON

Christ Church, Christchurch Road, Oxton, CH43 5RW
Sat 9th Sept, 10am - 3pm.
Grade II listed church, built 1844 -9 but only consecrated 1854 due to financial problems. Houses famous ‘Willis’ organ which draws in visitors locally & from abroad. Wilfred Owen & his family, & other notable people worshipped here. Two WW1 war memorials, one an elaborately carved pulpit.

Free organ recital at 12noon. History displays. No booking required. Disabled access. Refreshments.
Contact: Rev Karen Freeman – 0151 652 5647.
To arrange visit and for opening times during the year please phone or see website.
www.christchurchbirkenhead.net

PARKGATE

St Thomas’ Church, Mostyn Square, Parkgate, CH64 6SL
Sat 9th & Sun 10th Sept, 2pm – 5pm.

Early Victorian church, built as a chapel, but closed for 16 years. Re-opened 2010, after refurbishment. Local community projects, in support of ‘The Bishop’s Trust’, raised the funds for renovation and the ‘Fisherman’s Church’, as it is known locally, is a testament to their sterling efforts. Financial assistance also given by English Heritage.

Exhibition of historical photographs and documents relating to Parkgate. Work of local artist on display & for sale. Church members available to welcome visitors and talk about the building.

No booking required. Disabled access. Refreshments available at nearby cafés.
Contact: stthomasparkgate@hotmail.com
www.stthomasparkgate.wordpress.com
PORT SUNLIGHT

Port Sunlight Museum, 23 King George’s Drive, Port Sunlight, CH62 5DX
Sat 9th Sept, 10am - 5pm.

The museum explores the story of this unique garden village, created by industrialist William Lever to house workers at his soap factory. The story is told through historic artefacts, archive photographs and film shows. New for 2017 – ‘What’s behind the U?’ – the story of Unilever and its many brands.

Free entry on this day only. Booking not required. The Museum has its own Tea Room serving hot and cold drinks, hand-baked cakes and light lunches.

Contact: Port Sunlight Museum 0151 644 6466.
Email: info@portsunlightvillage.com
www.portsunlightvillage.com
(Port Sunlight Museum open daily throughout year, see website for admission charges).

ROCK FERRY

St Anne’s R C Church, Rock Ferry, Highfield Road, Rock Ferry, CH42 2BY
Sat 9th Sept, 1.00pm - 3.30pm.


Main entrance at front. Car park at rear (access, via ramp, from Ruskin Avenue).

100 yards from Rock Ferry Station. Booking not required. Tea/coffee, biscuits & cakes available.

Contact: Parish Secretary 0151 645 3996.
Email: st.annes@hotmail.co.uk
www.christchurchportsunlight.wordpress.com
(Mornings only)
THORNTON HOUGH

St George's United Reformed Church,
St George's Way, Thornton Hough,
CH63 1JJ
Sat 2nd & Sun 3rd Sept, Sat 9th & Sun 10th Sept,
10am - 4pm.


No booking required. Disabled access. At other times church can be opened to groups by prior arrangement.

Contact: stgeorgesurcth@gmail.com
www.st-georges-urc.com

WALLASEY

Holy Apostles’ and Martyrs’ Parish Church,
St George’s Road, Wallasey, CH45 6TU
Sat 9th Sept & Sun 10th Sept 2pm - 4pm.

Grade II* church, designed by Liverpool architect F. X. Velarde and described as the best example of his work. Round the exterior are sculptures of the English Martyrs. Brown and silver interior. Opened 1953.

No booking required. Disabled access and facilities. Refreshments.

Contact: Tony Mossman
Email: tonymossman@hotmail.com

The Chapel, Rake Lane Cemetery,
Rake Lane, Wallasey CH45 5DE
Sun 3rd Sept, 2.00 to 4.00pm.

The Chapel first opened 1882 but in recent years fell into disrepair. In 2009 it became the church of St Elisabeth the New Martyr. It has been beautifully renovated and is now a Russian Orthodox Church. It is available for interdenominational burials and also licensed for weddings.

No booking required. Disabled access. Guided walks round cemetery - see Walks Section.

Contact: John & Diane Robinson, 0151 639 4231.
Email: Jonandi1@btinternet.com

St Hilary of Poitiers Church,
Claremont Road, Wallasey CH45 3NH
Sat 9th Sept, 10am to 4pm, Sun 10th Sept, 1.00 pm to 4pm.

There has been Christian worship on the site of St Hilary’s for over 1000 years. Present church, built 1859, replaced a church burned down in 1857. Willis organ and several impressive stained glass windows. Old Tower, dating from 1537, contains a Norman font. Extensive views from the top of the bell tower.

Supervised visits up the bell tower every hour : Sat 9th Sept, from 11am to 3pm, Sun 10th Sept, 2.00pm & 3.00pm.

Bacon butties served in Old Tower: 12 noon - 2.00 pm Sat, Sept. 9th & 1.00 pm - 2.00 pm Sun, Sept 10th. Organ recital in church, 2.00 pm both days.

No booking required. Disabled access, except to Bell Tower.

Contact: 0151 638 5241.
www.sthilarywallasey.org.uk
Wallasey Town Hall, Brighton Street, Seacombe, CH44 8ED
Thurs 7th Sept 2pm - 4pm.

Monumental Grade II listed building, designed for Borough of Wallasey by Briggs, Wolstenholme & Thornley. Foundation stone laid 1914, by George V. Served as Military Hospital in WWI. Officially opened as Wallasey Town Hall, 1920. Now main centre for Wirral Council. Introductory talk followed by tea with the Mayor in her Parlour and tour of Council Chamber, Reception Room & Civic Hall.

Pre-booking essential as numbers limited. Meet 1.55pm and wait in Town Hall Reception Area.

Contact: Chris Morris on 07592 332519.

The Wallaseyans’ Club, 140/142 Grove Road, Wallasey, CH45 0JF
Sun 10th Sept, 2pm to 5pm.

A private dwelling, later a school and now clubhouse to the the Wallaseyans’ Club, a community organisation that has grown from its inception as a meeting place for former pupils of Wallasey Grammar School. Guided tours, access to archives and material of historical interest.

Disabled access (ramp at side of building). Parking at rear of building. Refreshments available.

Contact: Manager, The Wallaseyans’ Club, 0151 639 2832.
Email: wallaseyansmail@gmail.com

West Kirby Museum, St Bridget’s Centre, St Bridget’s Lane, West Kirby, CH48 3JT
Sat 2nd & Sat 9th Sept, 10.00am to 4.00pm.

Founded 1892 and totally refurbished, the Museum tells the story of St Bridget’s Church & West Kirby village and schools. To celebrate its 125th birthday, the Museum is hosting a one day Local History Fair in St Bridget’s Church Centre on Sat 2nd Sept. New displays and presentations. Books, postcards & memorabilia for sale. Museum also open all day, Sat 9th Sept. No booking required. Disabled access. Refreshments. Admission free.

Museum open Saturdays, 10 am - 1pm, throughout the year or by appointment.

Contact: For details see: www.westkirbymuseum.co.uk
www.facebook.com/WKMuseum/
St Bridget’s Church, St Bridget’s Lane,
West Kirby, CH48 3JT
Sat 2nd & Sat 9th Sept, 10am – 4pm.

An Anglican church with a history of worship dating back 1000 years. Substantially rebuilt 1869-70 but some medieval masonry survives, particularly in chancel. Home to a rare Norse Hogback stone. Stained glass windows, painting over the chancel arch and iron chancel screen all by C.E.Kempe.

No pre-booking required. Disabled access. Refreshments in Church Centre. 10 minutes' walk from West Kirby station.

Contact: Parish Office: Mon - Fri, 09:00 - 12:00, (Mon-Thurs 9.30am - 12 noon) 0151 625 2739.
Email: office@stbridgetschurch.org.uk

WoODCHURCH

Holy Cross Church, Church Lane,
Woodchurch, CH49 7LS
Sat 2nd Sept - 12noon to 3pm, Fri 8th Sept - 11am to 3pm, Sat. 9th Sept - 10am to 4pm, Sun 10th Sept - 3pm to 5pm (ending with Songs of Praise).

Grade II* listed building, C12th nave; C14th south aisle, chancel & tower, all much altered; C16th porch, C20th north aisle. Decorative wood carvings, 1741 charity board, Kempe window, part of pre-Norman wheel cross.

Self guided leaflets & church tours. Numerous activities. See website. www.holycrosswoodchurch.uk

Sat 10th Sept: ‘Have a go’ at bell-ringing - Booking required. Climb tower for views - Booking required. Bring your Teddy and watch it parachute from the tower. Register on day. Children’s activities. Light a candle for a loved one.

Tower Visits/Bell Ringing: No children under 8. All children under 16 to be accompanied by an adult. Tower reached via over 100 steep steps.

Unsuitable for those with mobility problems, pregnant or with health issue. No dogs in tower. Booking essential

Disabled access except to tower. Refreshments.

Church normally open Wednesdays – 11am to 12 noon and first Sat. of month – 9.30am to 11am.

Contact: Sue Treanor, Parish Administrator (Mon-Thurs 9.30am - 12 noon) 0151 677 5352.
Email: parishoffice@holycrosswoodchurch.uk
The Wirral embraces a wealth of historic landscapes. Within the Borough of Wirral alone there are 26 Conservation Areas, including Port Sunlight and Hamilton Square, both deemed of national significance. In addition, the borough has several places listed on the National Register of Historic Parks & Gardens. These include Birkenhead Park, Flaybrick Memorial Gardens and Port Sunlight, all of which feature in our Heritage Open Days programme.
BEBINGTON

St Andrew’s Church, Church Road, Bebington CH63 7PG
Thurs 7th Sept at 7.30 pm.

An illustrated talk on the heritage of Bebington and of St Andrew’s church.
(Talk takes approx. 1 hr) No booking required. Tea and coffee available.
Contact: Mrs Karen Davies. 0151 645 6478. Email: office@standrewsbebington.org.uk
www.standrewsbebington.org.uk

Bidston Hill Walk. Meet at Tam O’Shanter Farm, Boundary Road, Bidston, CH43 7PD
Tues 5th Sept, 11am – 1pm.

Walk explores King George’s Way, Thermopylae Pass, the original site of Bidston Court (later moved to Royden Park), Bidston Windmill, Observatory & Lighthouse, taking in some of the Rock Carvings before returning to the Farm.

No booking required. Not suitable for people with limited mobility. Refreshments and toilets available at Tam O’Shanter Farm.
Contact: 07803166221 Email: bsinton01@hotmail.com

BIDSTON

Bidston Community Archaeology.
Tam O’Shanter Urban Farm, Boundary Rd, Bidston CH43 7PD
(Excavation site 50 metres from Tam O’Shanter Farm)
Sun 3rd Sept, 12 noon - 4pm.

Excavation of Pig Field Site, Tam O’Shanter Urban Farm, aims to investigate the dates of occupancy. The earliest dating evidence recovered so far is in the form of 17th century pottery. Prehistoric use is also indicated by pieces of worked flint.

We are happy to escort visitors round the site. Surface uneven & at times slippery. Wear appropriate footwear.
Booking not required. Uneven ground, unsuitable for wheelchairs.
Refreshments available at Tam O’Shanter Farm Cafe.
Contact: bidston-community-archaeology@hotmail.co.uk
www.bidstoncommunityarchaeology.org.uk

Flaybrick Memorial Gardens Walk.
Flaybrick Memorial Gardens, Tollemache Road, Bidston.
Meet at Tam O’Shanter Urban Farm, Boundary Road, Bidston, CH43 7PD.
Sat 9th Sept, 11.00am.

A guided walk round the Gardens, taking approximately 2 hours, led by the Friends of the Memorial Gardens.

Disabled access, but note paths are uneven in parts. Stout footwear recommended.
Booking not required. Refreshments and toilets available at Tam O’Shanter Farm.
Contact: 0151 653 4599.
BIRKENHEAD

Birkenhead Park Ranger’s Walk,
Birkenhead Park Visitor Centre,
Park Drive, Birkenhead, CH41 4HY

Sat 2nd, Sun 3rd, Mon 4th & Tues 5th Sept at 12 noon.

A walk round the world’s first publicly funded municipal park, designed by Sir Joseph Paxton and laid out by the landscape gardener, Edward Kemp (1817 - 1891). Explore the features of this internationally significant Grade I listed landscape, which has supported the people of Birkenhead for 170 years. Walk of 3km takes about 2 hours. Start and finish at the Visitor Centre.

No booking required. Disabled access on tarmaced pathways. (Swiss Bridge and Roman Boathouse have steep steps so not wheelchair accessible). Refreshments available for purchase in Café.

Contact: Birkenhead Park Visitor Service Team.
0151 652 5197. Email: birkenheadpark@wirral.gov.uk
www.birkenheadpark1847.com

Wilfred Owen Trail.
Birkenhead Central Library, Borough Rd,
Birkenhead, CH41 2XB
Fri 8th Sept, 10am.

Meet at Birkenhead Central Library for introductory talk and to view a display of Wilfred Owen related items. The walk round the area in which Owen lived during his school years at the Birkenhead Institute is on public footpaths & takes approx. 2½ hours. Booking required. Appropriate outdoor wear recommended.

Contact: Rob Wood, 0151 608 0026 or 07708 853 741. Email: rewoodassociates@btinternet.com
Trail leaflet available, free of charge, from Birkenhead Central Library.

Williamson Art Gallery & Museum,
Slatey Road, Birkenhead, CH43 4UE
Wed 6th & Fri 8th Sept at 11am. Tours last approximately 1 hour.

Gallery tour - A look at the building, history and collections of the Williamson and hear how and why the collections are formed. See the latest exhibitions and glimpse behind the scenes at the work of an active museum and gallery.

Pre-booking required. Disabled access and facilities. Refreshments available in the Gallery Café.

Contact: Gallery Reception 0151 666 3537.

The Williamson is open to the public throughout the year: Wed to Sun, 10am to 5pm. Café, Free Wi Fi, Art Supply Shop, Gallery Shop, Independent Book Shop, Parking. Closed on Bank Holidays
www.williamsonartgallery.org

The Wilfred Owen Story,
34 Argyle Street, Birkenhead, CH41 6AE

Tues to Sat, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th & 9th Sept,
11.00 am - 2.00 pm.

The Wilfred Owen Story is the first permanent exhibition to commemorate Wilfred Owen, his formative years in Birkenhead and his poetry. Displays include information about other WWI literary figures. Poetry readings.

Pre-booking for groups of over 8 people. Disabled access but no disabled toilets. Refreshments.

Contact: 0790 333 7995.
Email: info@wilfredowenstory.com

Normal opening times - Tues - Fridays 11.00 - 2.00 pm.
Winter times – (end November - 18th March)
12.00 - 2.00 pm.

www.wirralhistoryandheritage.org.uk
Wirral Archives.
Meet in the Wirral Archives Service, Lower Ground Floor Conference Room, Cheshire Lines Building, Canning St, Birkenhead, CH41 1ND.
Thurs 7th Sept, 2pm & 3pm.

Two talks about Wirral Archives Service, with an opportunity to see behind the scenes, including the Strong Room, where the historical records of Wirral are protected & preserved.

Disabled access. Booking essential.
Contact: William Meredith, Archivist, Wirral Archives Service. 0151 606 2929. Email: archives@wirral.gov.uk

www.wirral.gov.uk/libraries-and-archives/wirral-archives-service
Wirral Archives is open for family history, local history and Cammell Laird research, Mon - Fri, 9.30 to 4.30.
We do not close for lunch. Please contact us in advance to make an appointment.

Woodside Walk. Woodside Ferry Terminal, Woodside, Birkenhead, CH41 6DU
Sun 10th Sept - 11am.

Walk the industrial history of Birkenhead. See James Gillespie Graham’s Grade I listed Hamilton Square and the town’s gridiron street plan; the former Town Hall, the old market site; the Wilfred Owen museum; the Della Robbia pottery site and the starting point for the first horse drawn tramway in Europe. Walk takes approximately 1½ hours.

Booking not required. Limited disabled access. Refreshments available locally.

Contact: Helen Penny. 0791 4685 099. Email: wirraltours@gmail.com
Groups can arrange alternative dates on request.

BRIMSTAGE
Brimstage Orchard, Brimstage Hall, Brimstage, CH63 6JA
Sat 2nd Sept 10.30 - 3.30pm.

Meet at Brimstage Hall Courtyard, for short guided tour round traditional orchard being restored by volunteers. To celebrate Apple Day, see & taste apples, plums & damsons straight from the tree - old varieties of fruit with local links. Try using our scratters & cider presses. (Bring your own surplus apples & clean bottles and take away fruit juice with instructions for making cider).

Booking not required. Limited disabled access as orchard is tussocky grass.

Contacts:
Alan: alansmail@wirral.co.uk 0797 419 1183.
Dave: pdellwand@hotmail.com 0798 579 7287.
facebook: wirralpomona

BROMBOROUGH
Brotherton Park & Dibbinsdale Local Nature Reserve. Spital Rd, Bromborough, CH62 2BJ
Sun 3rd Sept, 10.30am - 3.30pm.

Meet by Ranger’s Office, in Walled Garden, once part of the grounds of Woodslee, a large Victorian mansion, built 1869. Cider making. Craft demonstrations. Live music. See old varieties of fruit trees. Optional 2 mile walk round woods. Limited disabled access - contact us for details

Contacts:
Alan: alansmail@wirral.co.uk 0797 419 1183.
Dave: pdellwand@hotmail.com 0798 579 7287.
facebook: wirralpomona
BROMBOROUGH POOL

Bromborough Pool Village Walk.
Meet at Bromborough Pool Garden Centre,
The Green, CH62 4TT
Sat 9th Sept - 2pm. The walk of 2 miles takes 2 hours.

From Price’s Candle Works to the present day, the walk will look at features of interest including the Old Court House site. The role of Autism Together and the Land Trust will also feature. Walkers are encouraged to visit Bromborough Pool Garden Centre, where parking is available.

Booking not required. Walk is on pavements except for the Old Courthouse section, which may be muddy & uneven and is unsuitable for wheelchairs.

Contact: Anne Litherland 0758 755 0060.
Email: anne.litherland@autismtogether.co.uk
www.portsunlightriverpark.com

Bromborough Archaeological Excavations
Giles Shirley Hall, Bromborough Pool,
CH62 4TZ
Sat 9th Sept, 10.30 am.

Talk by Big Heritage on their past & future excavations in Bromborough, with a display of finds, particularly those from the Bromborough Courthouse site.

Booking essential for talk. Phone 0151 643 1359

Information and items from Big Heritage excavations on display in Bromborough Pool Garden Centre, CH62 4TT, 10.30 - 4pm. Refreshments available for purchase.

Booking not required for information stall.

Contact: Lex Freeman 0151 643 1359.

BURTON

RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands,
Puddington Lane, Burton, CH64 5SF
(Look out for brown sign on A540)
Sun 3rd Sept - 9.30 – 5 pm.

Explore the historic landscape of the RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands. See the Mere, once part of the Burton Manor estate, home of Henry Neville Gladstone, son of William Gladstone. Visit the remains of the Iron Age promontory fort on Burton Point. Hear about the Dee’s past and the spread of the marshes, which followed its canalisation in 1737.

Hot and cold drinks and snacks available for purchase. No booking required. Admission free for Heritage Open Days.

Mere and wetlands fully accessible. Route to Burton Point unsuitable for those with limited mobility. No dogs allowed, except registered assistance dogs.

Contact: RSPB Burton Mere Visitor Centre.
0151 353 8478.
www.rspb.org.uk/burtonmerewetlands

Open every day except Christmas Day, 9 am - dusk (up to 9 pm in summer). Visitor reception open 9.30 am-5 pm, February - October, 9.30 am-4.30 pm, November - January. Free entry to RSPB members. Non-members: adults £4, concessions £3, children over 5yrs. No charge for first child and those under 5.

www.wirralhistoryandheritage.org.uk
EASTHAM

St Mary’s Churchyard Tour. St Mary’s Church, Eastham Village, CH62 0AQ
Wed 6th to Sat 9th Sept at 2pm, Sun 10th Sept at 2.30pm.

St Mary’s churchyard is the final resting place of generations of Eastham parishioners. This guided tour of the churchyard explores its many fascinating graves and the stories their headstones have to tell, some sad, some humorous, some tragic.

(For details of church opening times see separate entry for St Mary’s Church).

Walk starts & finishes at church porch. Walk takes approx. 1 hr. Booking not required. Limited disabled access.

Contact: David Mottram dr.mottram@btinternet.com or David Allan 0151 327 3576.

For details of church-based activities see entry for St Mary’s Parish Church.

GREASBY

Greasby Village Walk.
Meet outside Greasby Library, Greasby Rd, Greasby, CH49 3AT
Sun 10th Sept - 2 pm.

A tour of Greasby, looking at some of the history of the village through its buildings. (Walk takes about 1½ hrs.)

Pre-booking required. Walk is on public roads & level car parks except for one section, which involves some steps but can be by-passed.

Contact: Susan O’Neil 074 1933 7064.

HOOTON

610 (County of Chester) Squadron Association. Hooton Park Airfield, West Rd, Hooton, Ellesmere Port, CH65 1BR
Sat 9th & Sun 10th Sept, 11am.

A slide-illustrated talk covering the history of 610 (County of Chester) Squadron and of Hooton Park airfield. 610 was formed in 1936 and disbanded in 1957. In WWII it was one of the RAF’s most effective fighter units. Talk lasts approximately 1½ hours.

Pre-booking required. Disabled access.

Contact Michael Lewis 01244 373551.
Email: michael-lewis@zen.co.uk
www.610squadron.com
Hooton Park Hangars.
The Hangars, Airfield Way, Hooton, Ellesmere Port, CH65 1BQ.
Access via Junction 6, M53, second exit off roundabout.
Thurs 7th, Fri 8th, Sat 9th, Sun 10th Sept. Tours at 11am & 2pm each day.
Centenary Year of unique, Grade II* listed aircraft hangars. Built 1917, for Royal Flying Corps. In use by RAF until 1957. Sold to Vauxhall Motors. Freehold bought in 2000 by Hooton Park Trust.
Tours commence in Building 27, a Grade II listed ancillary building, housing display of site’s history & exhibits relating to aircraft & the Vauxhall Viva, built at Hooton, 1966. Tours last about 1 hour.
Wheelchair access to most areas. No booking required. The Aeroplane Collection & The Griffin Trust open to visitors after tours.
Contact: Robert Frost. 0151 327 3565. Email: rfrost@hootonparktrust.co.uk

LITTLE NESTON

Neston Collieries and Burton Marsh WW2 Decoy Walk. Meet at Harp Inn, Little Neston, CH64 0TB (off Marshlands Road). Walk ends at Nets Cafe.
Thurs 7th Sept, 10am start.
Walk takes 2½ hours, plus 20 minutes to return to start point.
A walk round the former Neston Coalfield & linked locations, followed by walk to WW2 Burton Marsh bombing decoy bunker, with an explanation of what it was and how it fitted into Merseyside’s wartime defences. A follow up to the BBC NW’s programme ‘75 Years of the Liverpool Blitz’, on which Phil Pritchard advised.
Pre-booking required. Disabled access. Refreshments available at Nets Cafe
Contact: Phil Pritchard 0151 336 5973.
Email: g10694@gmail.com
You are advised to carry sun protection, hats & cream and an adequate supply of bottled water.

NESTON

Neston Town Trail.
Meet outside Neston Parish Church, High Street, Neston, CH64 9TZ
Sat 2nd & Sat 9th Sept - 2 pm.
A walk of approximately 1½ miles round Neston town centre, exploring the town’s historic buildings and some of its history.
Disabled Access. Pre booking required. Refreshments available in local Cafés.
Town trail guided walks available for booking at other times by groups/societies
Contact: Janet Griffiths, 0151 336 5478.
Email janetgriffiths.ncs@gmail.com
NESS

Ness Botanic Gardens. Neston Road, Ness, Cheshire CH64 4AY
Thurs 7th Sept, 10am to 5pm.
Ness Botanic Gardens was born of the Liverpool cotton merchant, Arthur Kilpin Bulley’s passionate interest in plants and his desire to share that interest with others. He began the creation of the garden in 1898, laying the foundations of one of the major botanic gardens in the country. Bulley died in 1942 and in 1948 his daughter, Lois, presented the gardens to the University of Liverpool. Today Ness displays plants from all over the world.

Free entry on this day only. No booking required. Disabled access. Refreshments available.
Contact: nessgdns@liverpool.ac.uk  0151 795 6300. www.nessgardens.org.uk

NEW BRIGHTON

The Magazines Conservation Area.
Vale House Cafe, Vale Park, Magazine Lane, New Brighton CH45 1LZ
Sat 9th Sept, 12 noon.
A circular history and heritage walk round the Magazine Brow Conservation Area, taking in the site of the Gunpowder Magazines, the Battery, Dr Poggi’s Shelter, Vale Park and more. Myths, legends and fascinating facts about this historic area on the banks of the Mersey.

An optional prize quiz (free).
Booking essential. Refreshments can be purchased at Vale House Tea Rooms.
Contact: Therese Irving, 0151 638 0069. (leave name & contact number).
Email: t.irving36@btinternet.com

Wellington Road Conservation Area
Meet outside the Pilot House, 28 Atherton St.
New Brighton, CH45 2NY
Sat 2nd Sept 10.30am.
A guided walk, with a talk beforehand, exploring the historic villas and surroundings of old New Brighton. Duration approximately 2 hours.
Pre-booking required. Accessible route. Refreshments.
Contact: Joy Hockey on 0151 639 2412.
NEW FERRY

New Ferry Butterfly Park - Industrial legacy to butterfly haven

Howell Rd, New Ferry (approach road to Bebington Station Car Park). Park signed from Bebington Rd. Access between Aldi (CH62 5BG) & railway bridge.
Sun 10th Sept, 2pm. Tour takes approx 1½ hrs.
Walk explores the industrial history of this former railway goods yard (brick-making & railway operation) and explains how this has contributed to the wildlife diversity of the park. Short walk of c.600 metres, but much to see. Pond-dipping & other children’s activities. Scything demonstration as part of park’s ongoing management. Meet at Butterfly Park entrance.
Regrettably no disabled access. Some parking on site.
Admission free but donations welcome. The Butterfly Park is a Cheshire Wildlife Trust Reserve.
Tea, coffee & homemade cake provided after walk, donations welcome. Booking necessary.
Contact: Paul Loughnane. 0151 645 8937.
Email: jpl@liv.ac.uk
www.cheshirewildlifetrust.org.uk
www.wirralwildlife.org.uk

OXTON

Oxton Guided History Walk
Meet at centre of Oxton village, by post box next to Home Cafe, at junction of Rose Mount & Village Rd, CH43 5SF
Sat 2nd (West walk) & Sat 9th (East walk) Sept, 11am start, Walk lasts approx. 1½ hours.
Guided tour, exploring Oxton’s development from its early agricultural origins to the place it is today and the characters and events which have helped to shape it. West walk covers Village Rd, St. Saviours & Wellington Rd. East walk covers Fairview Rd, South Bank & Arno Rd. (The east walk goes along unmade roads. Please ring in advance and we will do all we can to cater for anyone with a disability.)

continued over.
Pre-booking required. Refreshments available in village.

Contact: 0151 652 0202.  
Email: paul.smith437@btinternet.com  
Similar walks are held throughout the summer, see Oxton Society website: www.oxtonsociety.org.uk

PORT SUNLIGHT

Port Sunlight Open Village  
Start at Port Sunlight Museum, 23 King George’s Drive, Port Sunlight, CH62 5DX.  
Sun 10th Sept, 12 noon - 4pm.

Now in its fourth year, the popular ‘Open Village’ event provides a rare and special opportunity for people to see inside some of the houses and principal buildings in the beautiful model village of Port Sunlight and to meet village residents. Pick up a free leaflet from Museum.

Walk lasts between 1 & 2 hrs. Disabled access. Refreshments available in Port Sunlight Tea Room.

Contact: Port Sunlight Museum . 0151 644 6466.  
Email: info@portsunlightvillage.com  
www.portsunlightvillage.com

Port Sunlight - Conserving our Heritage  
Old Schoolroom, The Lyceum, Park Road, Port Sunlight, CH62 4UJ  
Thurs 7th Sept, 7.30pm. Talk lasts approximately one hour.

Conserving our Heritage - a presentation by Port Sunlight Village Trust, exploring the stories and challenges of protecting over 900 listed buildings and many monuments in this historic village for residents and visitors in the 21st century.

Disabled access. Booking required

Contact: Port Sunlight Museum. 0151 644 6466.  
Email: info@portsunlightvillage.com

Port Sunlight River Park  
Meet at River Park Car Park, Dock Rd North, Bromborough, CH62 4TQ  
Thurs 7th Sept, 10.30am.

This vibrant new park and former landfill site has stunning views and overlooks the River Dibbin, the former Price’s Candle Works and Bromborough Dock. The guided walk led by Biffa and Autism Together staff, includes the history of the site, its links with Unilever, Biffa & the Land Trust; and its present day management.

The 2½ mile walk takes approximately 1½ hours

Booking not required. Disabled parking. Footpaths suitable for wheelchairs but some slopes. Please call to check suitability.

Contact: Anne Litherland. 075 875 500 60.  
Email: anne.litherland@autismtogether.co.uk  
www.portsunlightriverpark.com

The River Park is open from dawn to dusk all year. The car park on Dock Road North is open from 9am - 6pm April to Sept and 9 am - 4pm Oct to March. Free entry.

ROCK FERRY

Rock Park Walk  
Meet at New Ferry Pier Terminal at junction of the Dell & New Ferry Rd, New Ferry, CH62 1DA  
Thurs 7th Sept - 10.30am & 1.30pm.

A walk round Rock Park (laid out 1836/7) highlighting its social history and significance. The Park is a Conservation Area, 36 houses are Grade II listed, the New Ferry – Rock Ferry coast is an SSSI (Site of Specific Scientific Interest).
See also the old Rock Ferry Pier and stone slipway.
Walks last between 1½ and 2 hours and finish at The Refreshment Rooms, Bedford Rd East, Rock Ferry, CH42 1LS
Booking required. Accessible route. Refreshments can be purchased at end of walk
Contact: Su Thomson. 0151 645 1088.

WALLASEY

Rake Lane Cemetery Walks, Rake Lane Cemetery, Rake Lane, Wallasey, CH45 5DE
Wed 6th Sept - 2.00pm & 4.00pm.
Short half-hour walks round cemetery, which dates from 1880. Topics will include graves that commemorate victims and survivors of the three major sea disasters; Titanic, Empress of Ireland & Lusitania, which all took place within three years.
Meet at cemetery chapel. No booking required. Disabled access. See also the separate entry for Rake Lane Chapel.
Contact: John & Diane Robinson. 0151 639 4231. Email: Jonandi1@btinternet.com

Later known as ‘Ashton Park’, the park changed significantly over time. Guided walk round park. Learn about its history and development & about the Ashton Family who gave it its name.
Booking required. Chosen route allows for disabled access. Refreshments available in nearby St Bridget’s Centre.
Contact: Martin Harrison. 0151 625 8535. Email: martinand sueharrison@gmail.com www.ashtonpark.btck.co.uk

Kirby Park Café.
60 Sandy Lane, West Kirby, CH48 3JR
Wed 6th to Sun 10th Sept, 10am – 5pm.
Originally a Victorian house. Converted to a shop in the 1930s, serving passengers using Kirby Park Station, when the original station kiosk closed. Continuing as a newsagent and sweet shop after the closure of the West Kirby – Hooton line in 1962. Now a Café with a railway theme. Find out about the history of the railway. Pick up a free information leaflet.

WEST KIRBY

Ashton Park Walk
Meet outside St Bridget’s Centre, St Bridget’s Lane, West Kirby, CH48 3JT
Sat 2nd Sept, 10.00am & 12noon. Each tour lasts 75 minutes.
West Kirby Park ‘opened’ in 1901, without ceremony: its development characterised by delay and overspend. The original park was only half the size intended and the Upper Park developed more slowly.
Wirral History and Heritage Open Days

Acknowledgements

Wirral History and Heritage Days are once again organised by the Wirral History & Heritage Association, in partnership with numerous local voluntary groups and individuals.

The Association is grateful to all its supporters, in particular: The Friends of Ashton Park, Friends of Bidston Hill, Friends of Flaybrick Memorial Gardens, Friends of HMS Conway, Friends of Leasowe Lighthouse, Friends of Rake Lane Cemetery, Friends of Vale Park & the Friends of West Kirby Museum.

St Andrew’s Church, Bebington; St Andrew’s United Church, Wallasey; St Anne’s R.C. Church, Rock Ferry; St Barnabas Church, Bromborough; St Bridget’s, West Kirby; Christ Church, Oxton; Christ Church URC; Port Sunlight; St George’s URC, Thornton Hough; St Hilary’s, Wallasey; Holy Apostles & Martyrs Church, Wallasey; Holy Cross Church, Woodchurch; St Mary’s Church, Eastham; St Mary’s Church, Liscard; St Mary and St Helen’s, Neston; Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception R.C. Church, Birkenhead; Prenton URC; St James’ Parish Church, Birkenhead; St James’ Parish Church, New Brighton; St Peter, Paul & Philomena Church, New Brighton; St Thomas’ Church, Parkgate;


In particular the Association would like to thank the many individual speakers and walk leaders who have volunteered to contribute to the programme.

www.wirralhistoryandheritage.org.uk