

Heritage Open Days in Sunderland 2024

6-15
September



Celebrating Sunderland's fantastic heritage and culture!
All events are free of charge.

City of
Sunderland **Heritage**

www.mysunderland.co.uk

Seventeen Nineteen - Open and Free Access

 **Friday 6, Saturday 7, Wednesday 11 and Thursday 12 September, 10am–4pm**

 **Holy Trinity Church, Church Street East, Sunderland, SR1 2BB**

Holy Trinity Church, built in 1719 to coincide with Sunderland's emergence as a parish in its own right, has many dazzling features. This 300 year old building has many stories to tell. Explore the story of orphan William Elliot's letter from the past, hidden symbolism in stained glass or the vestry table where decisions about Sunderland's future were made. Stay for coffee and ask a member of staff about other upcoming concerts, workshops and lectures.

Digitising Slides

 **Friday 6 September, 10am, 11.30am and 1.30pm**

 **Holy Trinity Church, Church Street East, Sunderland, SR1 2BB**

A chance for you to bring in your 35mm slides and have them digitised, then digitally corrected and enhanced with help from Andrea Errington of Culture House Sunderland. So get those old slides out of the cupboard and let us help you bring them back to life whilst learning a new skill. Pre-booking required online: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/digitising-slides-tickets-981654925307

The Toffee Factory Girls - Author talk

 **Friday 6 September, 10am–12pm**

 **The Old Rectory, The Broadway, Houghton Le Spring, DH4 4BB**

Glenda discusses her Ryhope historical sagas, Scarborough cosy crimes and new novel The Toffee Factory Girls, inspired by Horner's Toffee Factory and Dainty Dinah toffee, Chester-le-Street. Free toffees for all and Featherbed Books selling books which Glenda is happy to sign. Pre-booking required. Email Kylie.archer@theoldrectory.co.uk or online at:

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/toffee-factory-girls-a-talk-by-author-glenda-youngtickets-948026331277

St Mary Magdalene's Church Millfield

 **Friday 6, 4–6pm, Saturday 7, 10am–6pm and Sunday 8 September, 1–5pm**

 **21 Wilson Street, Sunderland, SR4 6HJ**

Come along and learn about our heritage. Various things will be on display from the church's past and a range of our beautiful church vestments. Our vestments are very special and play an integral role in the church's past. Information will be provided to tell you about each of our vestments and their past. We would love for you to come along and visit us.

Stockton Road United Reformed Church

 **Saturday 7 September, 2–4pm**

 **Belvedere Road, Sunderland, SR2 7BT**

Discover Stockton Road United Reformed Church, open to the public this Heritage Open Days festival. The red sandstone church of 1890, with its lantern tower, is a well-known local landmark. The features that can be seen inside include impressive stained glass windows, along with war memorials and furniture from several former Presbyterian and Congregational Churches.



Ryhope Engines Museum - Open Days

 **Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 September, 11am-4pm**

 **Ryhope Pumping Station, The Waterworks, Ryhope, Sunderland, SR2 0ND**

Ryhope Pumping Station is a distinctive example of the industrial architecture of mid Victorian times. The two giant 1868 Woolf Compound beam engines will be working with steam power provided by a hand-fired 1908 Lancashire boiler. Talk to our volunteers, on hand to help enhance your visit, ask our blacksmith to make you a memento and complete your tour with a visit to our popular Gatehouse tearooms for a cuppa and a selection of our cakes and snacks freshly made on-site.

Walking tour of Ryhope Village Green with bestselling author Glenda Young

 **Saturday 7 September, 11.30am**

 **Ryhope Engines Museum cafe, The Waterworks, Ryhope, Sunderland, SR2 0ND**

Join author Glenda Young on a walking tour of Ryhope, lasting approx. 1 hour showing locations from her bestselling novels, joined by tour guide and local historian Paul Lanagan. Walking on pavements with no rough ground underfoot. The tour will end at Ryhope Engines Museum where you can enjoy refreshments and look around this fascinating Victorian water pumping museum on one of their 'steaming days' (see above). Pre-booking required. Email glenda.sunderland@gmail.com

Celebrate 50 years of Heritage at NELSAM

 **Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 September, hourly 10.30am-2.30pm**

 **North East Land Sea and Air Museum, Washington Road, Sunderland, SR5 3HZ**

This is an important year for NELSAM, with two significant anniversaries: its foundation by a group of enthusiasts in 1974 and registration as a charity in 1984. This is an opportunity to see how the collection has grown over 50 years, from a few aeroplanes in a field, to the thriving regional transport collection with brand new exhibits for 2024. Housed on a 4-acre site near the Nissan factory NELSAM traces the regional aviation history from 1908 onwards.

Phoenix Hall Masonic Temple Open Days

 **Saturday 7 and Sunday 15 September, 10am-4pm**

 **Queen Street East, Sunderland, SR1 2HT**

A unique Grade-1 listed building in the Palladian style. Recently restored thanks to a Historic England grant, and used by Phoenix Lodge who built it from 1785 to the present day. Original features include the sunburst ceiling, organ and medieval drains found in archaeological digs. Members will be on hand to explain the building's fascinating history.

Hylton Castle Open Days

 **Saturday 7, open 11am-12.30pm, Wednesday 11, tour 11am, open 1-3pm and Saturday 14 September, tour 11am**

 **Craigavon Rd, Sunderland SR5 3PA**

See the renovation works in this 14th century monument and learn about the families who lived here. View impressive landscapes from our gallery on the roof (only accessible by stone spiral staircase). Tours last approx. one hour and there is free on-site parking. At the other stated times, the castle is open to the public for self-guided visits.

Holy Trinity Birthday Service

 **Saturday 7 September, 2pm**

 **Church Street East, Sunderland, SR1 2BB**

A special church service to celebrate Holy Trinity's birthday. Father Andrew from nearby St. Ignatius will lead the congregation for one of the six church services a year still held at the church. Guests are welcome to attend as part of Heritage Open Days.



Fulwell Mill Open Days

 **Sunday 8, Tuesday 10 and Thursday 12 September, 10am-4pm**

 **Newcastle Road, Sunderland, SR5 1EX**

Come along for a free tour of this iconic Sunderland landmark. Fulwell Windmill appeared on the Sunderland skyline in 1806 and became the familiar landmark we know today when opened in 1808. Built for Joseph Swan out of magnesian limestone from the adjacent quarry, it retained its links with the Swan family for many years. 1839 saw the only recorded fatality at the mill when a journeyman miller, William Wren, was thrown from the sails during a violent storm.

Fulwell Millenium Tapestries Open Days

 **Sunday 8, Friday 13 and Sunday 15 September, 1-4pm**

 **Fulwell Community Centre, Chapman Street, Sunderland, SR6 8HS**

Come to Fulwell Community Centre for a unique opportunity to hear about and see the Fulwell Millennium Tapestries. 50 individual works showing scenes from 1000 years of Fulwell's history. Volunteers will be on site to answer any queries.

The Old Rectory Open House Event

 **Monday 9, Tuesday 10, Wednesday 11, Thursday 12 and Friday 13 September, 9am–5pm and Saturday 14 September, 11am–2pm**

 **The Old Rectory, The Broadway, Houghton Le Spring, Tyne & Wear, DH4 4BB**

Explore our esteemed heritage building, offering a rare glimpse into its storied past. Delve into the heart of a cherished landmark steeped in history and adorned with timeless elegance. Experience our council chamber, resonant with echoes of past decisions. Immerse yourself in displays, engaging worksheets and interactive activities showcasing the rich heritage and cultural significance of our beloved town, curated to enlighten and inspire visitors of all ages.

Roker Pier Tunnel and Lighthouse Presentation

 **Monday 9 September, 6pm**

 **Adventure Sunderland, Marine Walk, Roker, Sunderland, SR6 0PL**

An insightful presentation into the building of Roker Pier and Lighthouse by River Wear Commissioners, including details about chief engineer Henry Hay Wake, who planned, designed and oversaw the construction. Tours for 2024 are postponed due to storm damage to Roker Pier, but the presentation will reveal details of its construction including a look at the lighthouse refurbishment. Further details regarding tours can be found on the Roker Pier website. www.rokerpier.co.uk

The Old Rectory Heritage Walk

 **Tuesday 10 September, 9.30am**

 **The Broadway, Houghton Le Spring, DH4 4BB**

Explore the rich tapestry of Houghton Le Spring's history, starting and culminating at the esteemed Old Rectory. Led by our experienced guide, traverse the countryside on the historic 'Saints Trail' discovering the town's hidden past. Immerse yourself in the picturesque landscapes as you tread in the footsteps of history, experiencing the charm of our beloved town. Return to the Old Rectory for a well-deserved spread of tea, coffee, and refreshments. Dogs welcome.

Volunteer History Tours Routes Through Time

 **Tuesday 10 and Thursday 12 September, 11am and 1pm**

 **Sunderland Museum & Winter Gardens, Burdon Road, Sunderland, SR1 1PP**

Join our volunteer tour guides on a journey through time exploring the lives of notable people from Sunderland and their stories, ideas and inventions. Gallery-based tours include object handling from the Museum collection. Pre-booking recommended through the Museum shop or online.

sunderlandculture.org.uk/events/heritage-open-days-guided-tours

Bowes Railway Open Days

 **Tuesday 10 and Thursday 12 September, 10am and 1pm**

 **Bowes Railway Co, Springwell Road, Springwell Village, NE9 7QJ**

Historic Bowes Railway yard is offering free guided tours to the public. There will also be a forge demonstration in the tub shop. Bowes Railway was originally a colliery railway built to carry coal mainly from pits in north west Durham to the Tyne at Jarrow. The earliest section was designed by George Stephenson and opened on 17 January 1826, making it one of the world's first modern railways.

Sunderland Minster Open Days

🕒 **Wednesday 11, Thursday 12, Friday 13
and Saturday 14 September, 10am-1pm**

📍 **High Street West, Sunderland, SR1 3ET**

A church dedicated to St. Michael stood here since Anglo Saxon times. It now features stained glass windows by William Morris, Marion Grant and Thomas Denny, a weeping chancel, a pulpit turned into an altar and significant war memorials. Past rectors of Bishopwearmouth Church include a pope, the theologian William Paley and the brother of the Duke of Wellington. It was created a Minster by the Bishop of Durham in 1998.

Holy Trinity Guided Building Tour

🕒 **Thursday 12, 10am and Friday 13
September, 2pm**

📍 **Church Street East, Sunderland, SR12BB**

A Tour lasting approx. 1 hour, showcasing the dazzling features of this 300 year-old building. Hear of orphan boy William Elliot's letter from the past, symbolism in the stained glass and the vestry table where important decisions about Sunderland's future were made. Refreshments available from the café. Pre-booking recommended.

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/guided-building-tour-heritage-open-days-tickets-978286269567

Washington Old Hall Open Days

🕒 **Thursday 12 and Saturday 14 September,
10am-5pm, last admission 4pm**

📍 **The Avenue, Washington, NE38 7LE**

Visit the Old Hall free of charge. At the heart of historic Washington village this picturesque stone manor house and its gardens provide a tranquil oasis, reflecting gentry life following the turbulence of the English Civil War.

The Church Mile: Walking tour of Sunderland

🕒 **Friday 13 September, 10.30am**

📍 **'SUN' sculpture, Minster Park, High
Street West, Sunderland, SR1 3ET**



See historic sites including the Empire Theatre and Eagle Building, and new developments Keel Square and City Hall. Finishing at Holy Trinity, with refreshments available from the cafe. Includes gentle gradients and crosses a dual carriageway. Choose suitable shoes and dress for all weathers. Pre-booking required. www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-church-mile-a-walking-tour-of-sunderland-tickets-981801443547

St Michael and All Angels Church Open Days

🕒 **Thursday 12, 11am-2pm, Friday 13 and
Saturday 14 September, 10am-2pm**

📍 **Church St, Houghton Le Spring, DH4 4DN**

There has been a centre for worship on this site for thousands of years, Christian worship was first established with a stone building in the 9th Century. Guides and leaflets are available and we are part of the Northern Saints Heritage trail. Discover our dragons. Who was Black Douglas and what did he do? View our Norman foundations. Admire the Fenwick Lawson sculpture of the Risen Christ. Discover Bernard Gilpin, the apostle of the North.

Guided Stephenson Trail: Elemore to Hetton Lyons

 **Friday 13 September, 10am**

 **Elemore Park, Elemore Lane, Easington Lane, Sunderland, DH5 0QS**

A 2.5 mile ramble taking in local history and nature. From wildlife haven Elmore Park, formerly a colliery and golf course, on to Easington Lane Community Access Point and their outstanding local history collection before following in the footsteps of George Stephenson to Hetton Lyons Country Park, where the world's first railway for steam haulage was built. Transport provided back to Elemore Park. Pre-booking required. Telephone **07443 202115** or book online at <https://forms.office.com/e/gFXqaP9av5>



Washington F-Pit Museum - Meet the Architect

 **Saturday 14 September, 12-3pm**

 **Washington F-Pit Museum, Albany Way, Washington, NE37 1BN**

Washington F Pit Museum is an iconic landmark showcasing Sunderland's industrial heritage and the history of the mining industry. The surrounding Albany Park is land reclaimed from the former colliery. Mosedale Gillatt Architects are preparing designs for F Pit's refurbishment, including a Heritage Visitor Centre and cafe, and outdoor exhibition space. Work on the first phase of improvements to the surrounding Albany Park has already begun. Come and learn about the plans for this unique heritage site. Pre-booking not required.

Coal Face: Washington

 **Until Monday 30 September 2024, 9am-3pm**

 **Washington F-Pit Museum, Albany Way, Washington, NE37 1BN**

The Coal Face Washington exhibition showcases local mining heritage with portraiture by photographer Andy Martin and poetry by Dr Louise Powell, exploring what it means to have a connection to Washington's mines beyond work. What was it like to be married to a man who earned his living in a dangerous environment? What did it mean to be the child of a miner? and how does it feel to have mining heritage now the collieries have closed.

Bishopwearmouth Walking Tour

 **Saturday 14 September, 11am-12.30pm**

 **High Street West, Sunderland, SR1 3ET**

A walking tour exploring the historic architecture, people and places of Bishopwearmouth through the 19th and 20th centuries based on local research and surviving historic buildings. Sunderland City Council's Bishopwearmouth Townscape Heritage Scheme was awarded £1.9m of National Lottery Heritage Funds in 2018. It gives assistance to owners and tenants of historic buildings and spaces and hosts activities promoting area's history. Pre-booking required.
www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/bishopwearmouth-townscape-heritage-scheme-61645749603

National Glass Centre: Guided tours and free craft activities to celebrate People's Art

 **Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 September, tours at 11am and 2.30pm, craft activities at 10am and 1pm**

 **Liberty Way, Sunderland, SR6 0GL**

Discover the history of glass making in Sunderland, take in exhibitions including 'People's Art' featuring popular art and contemporary craft and Ian Macdonald's photographs in 'Fixing Time' in the Northern Gallery for Contemporary Art, and a display of glass by British artists in our Collection Gallery. There is also a short quiz with a chance to win a prize at the end of the tour. Following the theme 'People's Art' we are also offering puppet making and rag rug making activities on a drop-in basis on both days. Suitable for age 4 plus. Pre-booking not required.

Songs from this City

 **Saturday 14 September, 1-3.30pm**

 **Sunderland Museum & Winter Gardens, Burdon Road, Sunderland, SR11PP**

Join harmonica player Jim Bullock and singer songwriters Andy Fraser, John Wilkins and guests for an afternoon of contemporary music inspired by the changing cultural fabric of Sunderland, including previously unheard songs. At the heart of Andy and John's songs are powerful, original lyrics. Follow them on a musical journey travelling from Wearside to the USA and back again, exploring Sunderland's past, present and future. Supported by the Friends of Sunderland Museums (FOSUMS). Pre-booking required from the Museum shop or online at:
www.sunderlandculture.org.uk/events/songs-from-this-city

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