

Watford Heritage Open Days

11-14 September



Events at

Little Cassiobury

Watford Museum

Watford Central Library

Watford Labour Church
(Scouts Hut)

St Michaels Church

BRE

Sugden House

Town Hall

St Mary's Church

Hertfordshire Fire Museum

Holy Rood Church

Henry Smith House

Beechen Grove Baptist
Church

Peace Hospice

Cassiobury Park

The Old Free School

A large, stylized graphic of the letter 'H' in a vibrant pink color. The right vertical bar of the 'H' contains the text 'heritage open days' written vertically in white. Below the 'H' is the word 'Open' in a large, bold, pink font.

Discover Watford's
rich heritage with special free events and
openings across the town



ENGLISH HERITAGE





Forward by the elected Mayor of Watford, Dorothy Thornhill

Watford has a wonderful and rich heritage which we should all be very proud of. The Open Day weekend gives us open access to many of the buildings and structures that have so much local historical significance, which becomes increasingly important to us as our town changes and grows.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dorothy Thornhill".

Dorothy Thornhill
Mayor of Watford

www.watford.gov.uk/electedmayor

2014 Events:

Watford Museum

194 Lower High Street, Watford, WD17 2DT

Local History museum telling the story of Watford, with an outstanding collection of art. The museum is housed in the former Benskins Mansion, a Grade II listed Georgian mansion house.

Exhibitions include 'The Great War: Watford 1914', a Heritage Lottery funded project which explores the initial outbreak of the war in Watford, including the launch of an online memorial. The contemporary gallery Space2 will also showcase the work of Ross Loveday and Alex McIntyre from Digswell Arts, who explore the theme of 'line and location' in multiple media.

Open: Thursday to Saturday, 10am – 5pm.
No booking necessary

For more information tel: 01923 232297
Email: info@watfordmuseum.org.uk
Visit: www.watfordmuseum.org.uk

A Talk on Frogmore House

Watford Museum, 194 Lower High Street, Watford, WD17 2DT

Join Suzannah Fleming from the Temple Trust and discover the beautiful Grade II listed Frogmore House. Suzannah will expand upon Frogmore House's days as a tannery and the connected history to the River Colne. This illustrated talk is a great chance to have a glimpse into this closed historic building.

Thursday 11 September, 4 – 5pm
Booking Essential.



Frogmore House

Papermouth Presents Rootsfest @ Watford Museum

194 Lower High Street, Watford, WD17 2DT

Join us for a night of folk music from around the world! Three rooms of music, roots, spoken word and folk art for everyone to explore. Not to mention a chance to explore Watford Museum after dark!

Saturday 13 September, 5 – 10pm
No booking necessary

Tour of Sugden House

Sugden House, 2 Farm field off Devereux Drive, Watford, WD17 3DF

Explore Watford's modernist gem – Sugden House, which reveals the visionary aesthetics of Peter and Alison Smithson's design in 1956. The house was commissioned by Derek and Jean Sugden, who are inviting people into their home to share this Grade II listed building.

Thursday 11 September
11.30am – 12.30pm
Booking is essential.

For more information tel: 01923 232297
Email: info@watfordmuseum.org.uk



Sugden House

Town Hall Chambers

Town Hall, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD17 3EX

Join us for a guided tour of the Council chamber. A fantastic opportunity to see inside this Grade II listed Town Hall and find out more about the history of the building and the council.

Thursday 11 September, 4pm with Chairman of Watford Borough Council, George Derbyshire
Friday 12 September, 11am with Mayor Dorothy Thornhill
Booking is essential

For more information tel: 01923 232297
Email: info@watfordmuseum.org.uk

Holy Rood Roman Catholic Church

Holy Rood RC Church, Exchange Road, Watford, WD18 0PJ

Holy Rood Roman Catholic Church



This Grade I listed Roman Catholic Church will be open to explore for Heritage Open Days. Keep an eye out for stunning stained glass windows, wall paintings and sculptures. The public are also welcome to attend mass 12pm weekdays, 11am Saturday.

Thursday 11 September 9am -5pm
Friday 12 September 9am – 5pm
Saturday 13 September 9am – 5pm
No booking necessary
www.holyroodrc.com

Free School

The Old Free School, George Street, Watford, WD18 0BX

Explore one of Watford's oldest buildings, the Free School, dating back to 1704. View original architectural features and learn more about the early education in Watford.

Friday 12 September 10am – 12pm

Booking essential.

For more information tel: 01923 232297
Email: info@watfordmuseum.org.uk

Fashion and Textile Design Fair

The Old Free School, George Street, Watford, WD18 0BX

Explore the exciting world of fashion in the historic Free School. A great chance to join the celebration of British design talent and take home something unique for your wardrobe. A pop up café is also available for a cup of tea!

Saturday 13 September 11am – 4pm
No booking necessary
[Facebook.com/amanatris-studios](https://www.facebook.com/amanatris-studios)

A Talk on Mary Bromet

Watford Central Library, Hempstead Road, Watford, WD17 3EU

Join Annette Kendall, a Friend of Watford Museum, on an exploration of the life and works of local artist Mary Bromet. Discover Watford Museum's recently acquired Bromet work and visit the Bromet Peace Memorial sculpture.

Friday 12 September, 6 – 7pm
Booking essential.

For more information tel: 0300 1234 049
Email: hertsdirect@hertscc.gov.uk

St Michael and All Angels Church

Mildred Avenue, Watford, WD18 7DY

St Michael and All Angels



St Michael and All Angels Church is a very beautiful and little known church in West Watford. Visitors will be able to join guided tours of the building, and there will also be a coffee morning taking

place. St Michael's is particularly rich in memorials to the fallen of the First World War, and there will also be some special displays related to wartime local history and people. There is also a children's area with toys, puzzles and colouring material.

Saturday 13 September 9am – 5pm
No booking necessary

For more information tel: 01923 247090
www.stmichaels-watford.org.uk



heritage **open days**



Peace Hospice Heritage Tea Room

Peace Hospice Care, Peace Drive, Watford, WD17 3PH

Peace Memorial Hospital



Step back in time and celebrate Watford Heritage week! The Peace Hospice building was originally the Peace Memorial hospital, built by public subscription to mark the First World War and opened by Princess Mary in 1925. It became a Peace Hospice in 1992 after a South West Herts Hospice appeal and enthusiastic backing from the Watford Observer. Have the chance to browse lovely stalls and tour this historic Hospice building.

Saturday 13 September 10am – 12.30pm
No booking required.

Henry Smith House

3 to 5 Escourt Road, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD17 2PT

A chance to explore the original architectural features and stories of Henry Smith House, the first purpose built police station in mid/late Victorian Watford. Information on the history of the house and Guideposts current and vital mental health support work will also be on display.

Saturday 13 September, 2 – 4.30pm
No booking required.

For more information tel: 01923 223554
www.guidepoststrust.org.uk

Henry Smith House



Little Cassiobury Art Sale

Little Cassiobury, Hempstead Road, Watford, Hertfordshire

Join the Friends of Little Cassiobury for this car park art sale. Take home an original piece of art, with proceeds going towards this beautiful Grade II* listed building. Little Cassiobury was built late in the 17th century as the dower house of the Earls of Essex's Cassiobury House Estate.



Little Cassiobury

Saturday 13 September, 11am – 3pm
No booking necessary.
www.friendsoflittlecassiobury.org.uk

Building Research Establishment – The Mohne Dam



BRE, Bucknalls Lane, Watford, WD25 9XX

Discover the role played by the Building Research Establishment in the early development of the bouncing bomb and visit the once top-secret model built in 1940, still at the centre of BRE's site near Watford.

Saturday 13 September 10am – 1pm
Sunday 14 September 10am – 1pm

Entry by timed tickets, owing to limited space around the model.

Apply for free tickets online via www.bre.co.uk/dambusters

West Watford WW1 Exhibition

The Scouts Hut, Durban Road, Watford,
WD18 0RN

This exhibition put together by members of the West Watford local history group, explores how Lady Hyde's Scout Group did their bit for the war in the former Labour church building. It also explores cases of conscientious objectors from Watford and offers a chance for locals to query our database of West Watford combatants. Tea and cake will also be on sale!



Saturday 13 September 2-5pm
Sunday 14 September 2-5pm
No booking necessary
www.westwatfordhistorygroup.org

St Mary's Church & Tower

Church Street, Watford, WD18 0EG



St Mary's Church

Watford's oldest building, this Grade I listed town centre church and tower will be open to the public to enjoy. The public are welcome to attend service at 10.30am on Sunday 14 September.

Sunday 14 September 12 – 2pm
No booking necessary,
limited numbers to visit tower.
www.stmaryswatford.org

Tour of St Mary's Church Tombs

Church Street, Watford, WD18 0EG

Join John Way on an exploration of the recently renovated Heritage Lottery Funded church tombs. There is also an opportunity to hear about the almshouses built in the 1580s.

Saturday 13 September, tours hourly from
10.30am – 4.30pm
Tours start at west door of the church.
Booking is essential.
For more information tel: 01923 232297
Email: info@watfordmuseum.org.uk

Beechen Grove Baptist Church

Clarendon Road, Watford, WD17 1JJ

Visit this grade II Romanesque church dating back to 1877 as it opens its doors to the public for Heritage Open Days. The public are also welcome to attend service on Sunday at 10.30am.

Sunday 14 September, 10am – 1pm
Service 10.30am
No booking necessary.

Events taking place on other weekends

Hertfordshire Fire Museum

Lower High Street, Watford, WD17 2AG



Based at the Watford Fire Station, the Hertfordshire Fire Museum is the only one in the county and displays the

history of fire-fighting from the very early days.

Open Day: 6th September, 1 – 4pm
Booking not required.
www.watfordmuseum.org.uk

Watford Museum

194 Lower High Street, Watford, WD17 2DT

The Great War: Watford 1914

Heritage Lottery
Funded Project

7 August – 27 September

The exhibition focuses on the impact of War as it was told at the time, concentrating on the effect of those who stayed at home. It features photographs and postcards from the Watford Museum Collection, which will accompany newspaper articles from the 1914 Watford Observer and photographs and articles from the Watford Illustrated.



grey carriage horses. A ranger will uncover the history and secrets of the park, the landscape and the people who lived there.

Friday 12 and Saturday 13
September

4 rides per day starting at 9am,
11am, 1pm and 3pm

Adult £10, child under 12 £6

Booking essential, contact
Debbie Brady, Community
Ranger

For more information tel:
01923 278972

Deborah.brady@watford.gov.uk



Activities

WWI Watford Folk Club Sing-a-long

Come and sing along to WW1 classics and enjoy a good cup of tea and cake at the Little Gallery Tearoom!

Saturday 27 September, 1pm

All ages welcome, free entry

Princess Christmas Box Workshop

Decorate your very own Christmas tin and find out the story of Princess Mary's special WW1 gift!

Saturday 15 November, 1-2pm

Ages 7-12, free but booking is essential

Related Heritage Events

Cassiobury Park and Whippendell Woods Horse n' Carriage Heritage Tour

Meet at the sheltered seating area adjacent to
Cha Cha Cha café, Cassiobury Park

Explore the history and heritage of Cassiobury in
an open carriage drawn by two beautiful dapple

Heritage in Watford – not just for one weekend!

Watford Borough Council Planning Policy

The council's Planning Policy Department work on protecting Watford's heritage through both the planning process and more proactive restoration projects. They provide a range of guidance on development that affects heritage assets, such as conservation areas, and produce documents that detail the key characteristics of historic buildings and structures. On the council's website (www.watford.gov.uk) are a wide range of free documents that provide information on the town's architecturally significant buildings and structures. In addition, the department are currently working with conservation specialists on a range of projects that will enhance the condition and setting of heritage assets.

The Big Draw: Celebrating Watford's Animal Farm

The Parade, Watford Town Centre

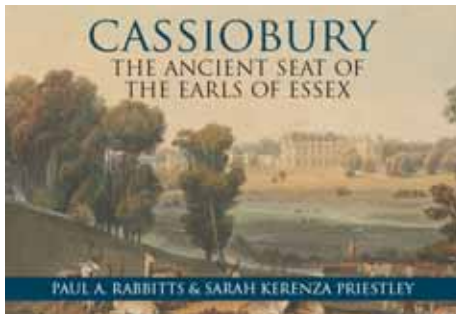
As part of the Big Events calendar, Watford will be celebrating the National event the Big Draw! Join us and celebrate the work of Watford born animator Joy Batchelor, the talented artist behind the animated classic Animal Farm. Delve into the world of drawing and have a go at lino printing with Culture Cart, stop motion animation with Quirky Pictures, flipbooks with Roger Kattenhorn and not to mention an array of harvest stalls, I-Spy animals, drawing exchange and chalk paving drawing! There will be something for everyone!

Saturday 4 October 11am – 4pm

Free, all ages welcome!

Cassiobury: The Ancient Seat of the Earls of Essex

By Paul Rabbitts and Sarah Kerenza Priestley



This new book explores the history of Cassiobury, a fascinating story that has never been told in book-form before! Using original research and Watford Museum's world renowned art and photographic collections, respected parks historian Paul Rabbitts, and museum curator Sarah Priestley share the story of Cassiobury from monastic lands, to the seat of the Earls of Essex, to the much-loved public park we know today.

£20 - on sale at Watford Museum from late October 2014.

For more information visit www.paulrabbitts.co.uk

Watford Central Library

Discover more about local and family history in Watford Central Library. Visit: www.hertsdirect.org

West Watford Local History Group

A group dedicated to the advancement of the research, collection, preservation and promotion of evidence of the history of West Watford. Visit:

www.westwatfordhistorygroup.org

North Watford History Group

North Watford History Group is a non-commercial organisation, run by local residents. Members of the Group have an interest in the history of the local area. A range of local history research activities is being pursued by the group. www.north-watford-history.org.uk

South West Herts Archaeological & Historical Society

The Society was founded in 1954 and formerly carried out a variety of archaeological investigations in South West Herts. Some of its finds may be seen in museums in Watford and elsewhere in the area. Currently the Society provides a varied programme of lectures by experts in local, national and international topics. Monthly meetings are held, for more details please see information below.

The society will be holding a 'Then and Now – 60th Anniversary Conference' on Saturday 11 October, at the Watford Ex-Services & Social Club. For more information on speakers, fee and booking please contact Watford Museum 01923 232297, www.watfordmuseum.org.uk www.watfordevents.info/arch

Watford Museum

There are always events, exhibitions and projects going on at Watford Museum. To join our emailing list for regular updates email: info@watfordmuseum.org.uk

www.watfordmuseum.org.uk
info@watfordmuseum.org.uk
Watford Museum, 194 Lower High Street, Watford, WD17 2DT
Tel: 01923 232297

Open every Thursday to Saturday 10am – 5pm

Watford's Big Events

Watford's Big Events are the largest ever outdoor entertainment programme to happen in the town, and will illuminate the regenerated Parade and other public spaces. Events will encompass dance, film, animation and music and host Watford's flagship events, Imagine Watford and Watford Live! There's an event for everyone, from nature walks in the park to charity fun runs. www.watfordbigevents.co.uk