



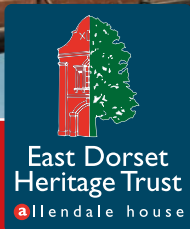
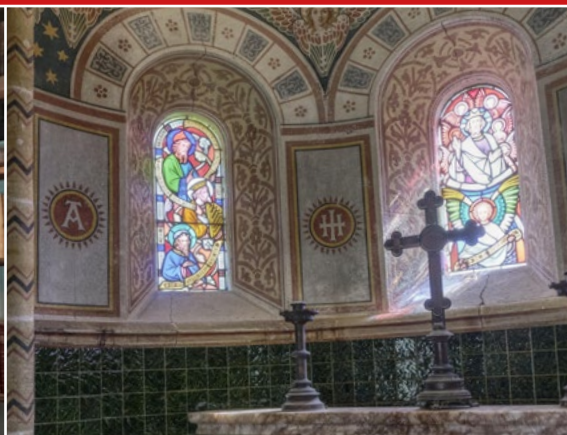
DORSET

ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE WEEK

A week of **free events** celebrating Dorset's rich historic environment



11th - 20th September 2026



An East Dorset Heritage Trust Event
www.edht.org.uk





Welcome to...

Dorset Architectural Heritage Week 2026

We are delighted to be back again this year with another full programme of events.

We are so pleased to have the 'old' regulars back but are also excited to have brand new events join us in this wonderful celebration of architecture in Dorset.

We are incredibly grateful for all the volunteer hosts who have come forward to participate in this much-loved event which we hope will once again be a great success, putting Dorset in its rightful place on the Heritage Open Days events map.

For those who don't know - Dorset Architectural Heritage Week is a week-long celebration of the architecture of Dorset, both historic and contemporary, which takes place every September and is organised by the staff at East Dorset Heritage Trust.

All the events within this programme are completely free of charge.

Some are specially arranged events, while others offer free entry to a property that normally charges.

Our beautiful county is home to some of the most stunning examples of architecture through the ages – from historic temples to family homes, cemetery chapels, theatres, churches, historic mills and much more.....

We hope you will find the week both interesting and enjoyable and that the events you choose to visit will inspire you to further seek out what Dorset has to offer.

Sarah Evans - Event Manager

Kim Hiett - Event Administrator

Kerry Halliwell - Event Assistant



Behind the scenes...

As you can imagine a lot of work goes into the organisation of Dorset Architectural Heritage Week, from compiling the programme to the design and production and distribution of the booklet, plus setting up the ticketing system and registration.

The DAHW ball starts rolling in March and gradually builds up momentum in April and May. June is a blur of activity, while the booklet is created, then in July it is printed and distributed. August is a frantic time of ticketing, until the week starts in September. Then it is all over!

All the events are completely free, but the extensive work that goes into organising this event incur significant costs, which East Dorset Heritage Trust have continued to meet with little outside support.

This year we have again received some small but significant private donations from enthusiastic supporters, which is just amazing, and for which we are incredibly grateful.

We sadly still don't have a main sponsor, but we continue to look for funding from new sources or new sponsors, so if you represent an organisation that would be interested in helping us to continue this wonderful annual event for the future, please do get in touch with us.

If you feel you would like to contribute, we have organised a JustGiving campaign where you can donate to help us continue this wonderful event.



SCAN TO DONATE

Rest assured we will do our utmost to ensure that Dorset Architectural Heritage Week has a future!



Event 5 - Blandford Fashion Museum - Open Day



Event 34 - Palace Court Theatre - Guided Tour

Data Protection & Privacy

Dorset Architectural Heritage Week, and its parent organisation East Dorset Heritage Trust, fully comply with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2018. Information collected by TicketSource will be passed to the event organiser for their general use and security purposes, please see www.ticketsource.co.uk for their terms and conditions.



Bookable Events

The events listed on this page are all strictly limited in number and entry is by **ticket only** which are available from **TicketSource**.

For all other events in this booklet, you are welcome to just turn up on the day.

Everyone involved in DAHW are volunteers that freely give their time and open their properties free of charge, so please remember to be respectful. Please make sure that you arrive in good time and take note of all the advice and instructions that you will have been given. Please be fair to others and do not try to enter a bookable event without a valid ticket.

Cancellation

To cancel your tickets contact us at **dahw@edht.org.uk** or call **01202 888992**.

Ticket sales change constantly so please keep checking for the latest information.



Event 36 - Pondering Jordan Hill

- | Event No. | |
|-----------|---|
| 3 | Allendale House Guided Tours |
| 4 | Belmont Open Days
- Book through Landmark Trust |
| 5 | Blandford Fashion Museum |
| 11 | Bournemouth Pavilion Theatre |
| 16 | Christchurch Priory Church Tour |
| 17 | Christchurch Priory Tower Tour |
| 18 | Clavell Tower Open Days
- Book through Landmark Trust |
| 19 | Coach & Horses - Uncovering a Pub's History |
| 20 | Discover Dorchester Heritage Open day
- Book events through various websites |
| 22 | Dorset In Miniature |
| 27 | Highcliffe Castle Guided Tours |
| 28 | Lodge Farm - 7000 years of History |
| 31 | Museum of East Dorset Garden Tour |
| 32 | Museum of East Dorset - Guided Tour |
| 34 | Palace Court Theatre |
| 35 | Poole Museum
- The Archaeology of Scaplens Court |
| 36 | Pondering Jordan Hill Romano-Celtic Temple |
| 38 | Portland Port - An Historical Tour |
| 40 | Russell-Cotes Conservatory Conservation Project |
| 41 | Sherborne Abbey |
| 50 | Studland Stories from WWII - A Village Walk |
| 51 | Sturminster Newton Former Police Station |
| 55 | The Boathouse |
| 56 | The History of the Tivoli Theatre Talk |
| 57 | The Hyde Tennis Club |
| 58 | Tour of the Regent Christchurch |
| 60 | Walford Mill - From Millers to Makers |
| 62 | Weymouth - A Chimney pot Spotters Guide |
| 63 | Wimborne Architectural Guided Walk |
| 64 | Wimborne Bricks and Mortar Guided Walk |
| 65 | Wimborne Minster Bell Tower |
| 66 | Wimborne Minster Chained Library |
| 67 | Wimborne Minster Chained Library Illustrated Talk |
| 68 | Wimborne Minster Guided Tours |

How to book your tickets

All events marked with a **B** must be booked in advance through TicketSource (unless an alternative web link is provided on the event description)

TicketSource is a free online booking service which is easy to use for everyone..

It is a quick step-by-step process which can be done via your laptop, tablet or smartphone. **You will find all the bookable events on the TicketSource website:**

www.ticketsource.co.uk/dahw2026

Scan this QR code for direct access to the TicketSource booking page



Line up the camera on your device with the QR code.

Hold the device steady until the code can be read, then touch the box which appears on the screen.



**Ticket bookings go live from
11am on Friday 7th August**



Please note: to guarantee your tickets you need to 'check out' after each booking. Don't 'continue shopping' as you may lose all the tickets in your basket.

If you would like some help, we will be available here at Allendale House to assist you, so please call in!

Allendale House, Hanham Road, Wimborne Minster, Dorset, BH21 1AS

DAHW office hours are Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm

Telephone: 01202 888992

Email: dahw@edht.org.uk

All other events can be attended at the times and dates specified in this booklet without any prior booking.

The booklet is available to view or download on www.edht.org.uk/dahw

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

to all of the events taking place during
Dorset Architectural Heritage Week...

Friday 11th

All Saints Church Wyke Regis
Blandford Forum Cemetery Chapel
Bridport Town Hall

Coach & Horses, Wimborne **B**

Dorset in Miniature **B**

Regency Church St Mary's

Wimborne Minster Guided Tours **B**

St Peter's Church, Bournemouth

St Stephen's Church, Bournemouth

Swanage Town Hall

Tudor House Museum

Saturday 12th

All Saints Church Wyke Regis

Allendale House Open Day

Allendale House Guided Tours **B**

Belmont Open Days **B**

Blandford Forum Town Hall, Council

Chamber and Corn Exchange

Bridport Quaker Meeting House

Bridport Town Hall

Clavell Tower **B**

Dorchester Masonic Hall

Hardy's House, Max Gate

Hardy Monument

Lyme Regis Cemetery Chapel

Lyme Regis Guidhall

Poole Masonic Hall

Portland Port Historic Tour **B**

Regency Church St Mary's

Skinner Street URC

St Michael and All Angels Church

Museum of East Dorset **B**

St Peter's Church, Bournemouth

St Stephen's Church, Bournemouth

Swanage Town Hall

Wimborne Minster Guided Tours **B**

WWII Bombing Decoy Bunker

Sunday 13th

All Saints Church Wyke Regis

Belmont Open Days **B**

Blandford Forum Guided Heritage Walks

Clavell Tower **B**

Discover Dorchester Heritage Open Day **B**

Hardy's House, Max Gate

Lyme Regis Guildhall

Nothe Fort - Secret Spaces & Places

Poole Masonic Hall

Regency Church St Mary's

Sherborne Steam and Waterwheel Centre

Skinner Street URC

St Peter's Church, Bournemouth

St Stephen's Church, Bournemouth

Studland Life During WWII Exhibition

Studland Stories from WWII

- A Village Walk **B**

Swanage Town Hall

The Hyde Tennis Club **B**

Tudor House Museum

West Bay Discovery Centre

Monday 14th

All Saints Church Wyke Regis

Bournemouth Pavilion **B**

Christchurch Priory and Tower Tours **B**

Regency Church St Mary's

Sherborne Abbey **B**

St Peter's Church, Bournemouth

St Stephen's Church, Bournemouth

Swanage Town Hall

Wimborne Minster Bell Tower **B**

Tuesday 15th

All Saints Church Wyke Regis

Bournemouth Pavilion **B**

Bridport Town Hall

Dorset in Miniature **B**

Palace Court Theatre **B**

Regency Church St Mary's

Sherborne Abbey **B**

St Andrews Church, Kinson

St Peter's Church, Bournemouth

St Stephen's Church, Bournemouth
Swanage Town Hall

Wimborne Architectural Guided Walk **B**

Wimborne Minster Chained Library **B**

Wimborne Minster Guided Tours **B**

Wednesday 16th

All Saints Church Wyke Regis
Blandford Forum Guided Heritage Walks
Bournemouth Natural Science Society
Guildhall Poole

Highcliffe Castle Open Day and Tours **B**

Lodge Farm **B**

Museum of East Dorset Guided Tour **B**

Regency Church St Mary's

St Michael and All Angels Church

St Peter's Church, Bournemouth

St Stephen's Church, Bournemouth

Swanage Town Hall

Tour of the Regent Christchurch

Walford Mill - From Millers to Makers **B**

Wimborne Minster Chained Library Talk **B**

Thursday 17th

All Saints Church Wyke Regis

Bournemouth Pavilion **B**

Lodge Farm **B**

Regency Church St Mary's

St Peter's Church, Bournemouth

St Stephen's Church, Bournemouth

Sturminster Newton Old Police Station **B**

Swanage Town Hall

The Boathouse **B**

The History of the Tivoli Theatre **B**

Walford Mill - From Millers to Makers **B**

Wimborne Bricks and Mortar Guided Walk **B**

Wimborne Minster Guided Tours **B**

Wimborne Minster Chained Library **B**

Friday 18th

All Saints Church Wyke Regis

Museum of East Dorset Guided Tour **B**

Palace Court Theatre **B**

Poole Museum - Scaplen's Court **B**

Regency Church St Mary's

Russell-Cotes Museum **B**

St Peter's Church, Bournemouth

St Stephen's Church, Bournemouth

Sturminster Newton Heritage Mill

Sturminster Newton Museum

Swanage Town Hall

The Boathouse **B**

Tudor House Museum

Wimborne Minster Chained Library Talk **B**

Saturday 19th

All Saints Church Wyke Regis

Blandford Fashion Museum **B**

Branksome Masonic Hall

Bridport Town Hall

Coach & Horses, Wimborne **B**

Museum of East Dorset Garden Tour **B**

Poole Masonic Hall

Regency Church St Mary's

St Andrews Church, Kinson

St James' Church, Poole

St Peter's Church, Bournemouth

St Stephen's Church, Bournemouth

Swanage Town Hall

Wimborne Minster Guided Tours **B**

Wimborne Minster Chained Library **B**

Sunday 20th

All Saints Church Wyke Regis

Blandford Forum Geology Walk

Blandford Forum Guided Heritage Walks

Briantspuddle Village Hall and Village

Pondering Jordan Hill Temple **B**

Poole Masonic Hall

Regency Church St Mary's

St Peter's Church, Bournemouth

St Stephen's Church, Bournemouth

Swanage Town Hall

Tudor House Museum

Weymouth - A Chimney Pot Spotters Guide

WWII Bombing Decoy Bunker

While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained within this booklet, details may be liable to change (sometimes at short notice) which are beyond our control. Responsibility cannot be accepted for subsequent alterations, error, or omissions

A

1. All Saints Church Wyke Regis, Weymouth

OPEN DAYS

Friday 11th to Sunday 20th, 10am to 4pm Daily

All saints Church, Portland Road, Wyke Regis, Weymouth, DT4 9ES

Saturday 12th - Welcoming Ride and Striders and Cream Teas

Sunday 20th - Tower tours at 2.30pm and 3.30pm are bookable in advance via the church website. Talk on the Church's history is at 3pm. Refreshments served throughout the afternoon

www.parishofwykeregis.org.uk

This church is an important example of the Perpendicular style of architecture and is still essentially the building as completed in 1455! Sculptured heads of Henry VI, king when the church was built, and his queen, Margaret of Anjou, face each other across the nave. The west tower, looking out over Lyme Bay, continues to be a notable landmark. Donations towards the upkeep of this special church are very welcome. No car park on site. Parking in Portland Road and All Saints Road - DT4 9ES

Full wheelchair access
Accessible toilets onsite
Assistance dogs welcome
Disabled parking onsite
Cameras welcome
Dogs welcome
Accompanied children welcome
Normally open to the public



All events marked with this symbol must be pre-booked.

See page 5 or SCAN HERE



2. Allendale House, Wimborne

OPEN DAY

Saturday 12th, 10am to 4pm

East Dorset Heritage Trust, Allendale House, Hanham Road, Wimborne Minster, BH21 1AS

Come join us at the home of Dorset Architectural Heritage Week!

Allendale House, our wonderful Grade II listed building, is open for the day. Find out about East Dorset Heritage Trust, our history and what we do. There will be information boards, exhibitions, a tearoom plus tours of our iconic Wimborne building.

Full wheelchair access
Assistance dogs only
Disabled only parking
Accompanied children welcome
Accessible toilet on-site

3. Allendale House Wimborne B

GUIDED TOURS

Saturday 12th, 9.30am, 11.00am and 1.30pm

Location details will be shown on ticket

Join us on a guided tour of this landmark Wimborne building. Learn about the family that built it with their local connections and what we know has happened in the 203 years since.

Partial wheelchair access
Assistance dogs only
Disabled only parking
Accompanied children welcome
Accessible toilet onsite



B



4. Belmont: The Belle of Lyme Regis **B**

OPEN DAYS

**Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th,
10am to 4pm**

Pre-booking is preferred via the Landmark Trust: landmarktrust.org.uk/opendays

This fine 18th-century maritime villa in Lyme Regis is listed Grade II* and once belonged to the remarkable businesswoman, Mrs Eleanor Coade, who devised a formula to mass produce architectural embellishments, and the house has been restored to that time. More recently Belmont was home to world-famous author, John Fowles and you are welcome to sit in his former writing room with its wide views of sea and sky. In the garden there is a Victorian observatory tower, with hatch and revolving roof. Most of the garden is left wild and it tumbles down to the esplanade, with a pebble and the Cobb beyond.

No disabled access
Assistance dogs only
No parking
Cameras welcome

5. Blandford Fashion Museum **B**

OPEN DAY

Saturday 19th, 10am to 4pm

www.blandfordfashionmuseum.co.uk

Location details will be shown on ticket

Blandford Fashion Museum is based in a Georgian house designed and built by the

Bastard Brothers after the Great Fire of Blandford in 1731 to house their sisters. Lime Tree House now holds the Fashion Museum's eclectic collection, ranging from Georgian costumes to the 1970s. The current main exhibitions include a 1960's Youthquake display and a stunning wedding dress collection as well as a number of other fabulous displays of costumes, textiles and accessories. Due to the limitations of the Georgian building, accessibility to some of the exhibition rooms is limited. The Museum has a pretty, award winning, traditional tearoom, which is dog friendly.

No parking
Partial wheelchair access
Accessible toilets onsite
Assistance dogs welcome
Cameras welcome
Accompanied children welcome
Normally open to the public

6. Blandford Forum Cemetery Chapel

OPEN DAY

Friday 11th, 10am to 2pm

Blandford Forum Cemetery Chapel, Salisbury Road, Blandford, DT11 7UX

<https://blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk/services/the-cemetery>

Blandford Forum's cemetery chapel was built in 1855 and is an important surviving example of both an unaltered early cemetery chapel and of Anglican church design in mid-nineteenth century Dorset. It was vandalised by an arson attack in September 2013 and has since been fully restored by the Town Council. You can park at the top of the cemetery, in a small car park, or park in a residential side street and walk over. The postcode is DT11 7UX.

Full wheelchair access
Disabled parking onsite
Cameras welcome
Dogs welcome
Accompanied children welcome
Not normally open to the public

7. Blandford Forum Geology Walk

Sunday 20th, 2pm

www.blandfordtownmuseum.org.uk

A guided walk lasting around two hours examining the history and origins of the stones making up the buildings of Blandford, some dating back millions of years.

Meet in the Greyhound Passage off the Market Place, accessed from the Marsh & Ham car park, Blandford (behind Morrisons supermarket, DT11 7AW).

Full wheelchair access

Disabled parking onsite

Please use public car parks

Cameras welcome

Dogs welcome

Children welcome

8. Blandford Forum Guided Heritage Walks

Sunday 13th 11am, Wednesday 16th, 6pm and Sunday 20th at 11am

www.blandfordtownmuseum.org.uk

A guided walk taking approximately two hours of the town centre, totally rebuilt after the Great Fire of 1731, examining the history and detail of its Georgian and other architecture, including the Grade I listed parish church, Town Hall and Corn Exchange (recently fully restored) and other fine buildings designed by architects John and William Bastard. See also other places of note, amongst them the birthplace of sculptor Alfred Stevens who designed the Wellington Monument in St Paul's Cathedral.

Meet in the car park at the Marsh & Ham car park, Blandford (behind Morrisons supermarket, DT11 7AW).

Full wheelchair access

Assistance dogs welcome

Please use public car parks

Cameras welcome

Children welcome

Well-behaved dogs welcome on leads



9. Blandford Forum Town Hall, Council Chamber and Corn Exchange

OPEN DAY

Saturday 12th, 10am to 1pm

The Town Hall is in the centre of the Market Place - DT11 7AF

<https://blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk/corn-exchange>

The Grade I Listed Town Hall was built in 1734. Visit this stunning room, which adjoins the more modern Council Chamber and the Corn Exchange (1858). Original features were reinstated in 2025 as part of the refurbishment project and the venue is now completely accessible for the first time in its almost 300-year history! There will be a Community Expo taking place in the Corn Exchange, where local groups and organisations will be showcasing what they have to offer and a cafe in the kitchen area. Everyone is welcome.

Local car parks can be found at: <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/parking/find-a-carpark/find-a-car-park>

Full wheelchair access

Accessible toilets onsite

Assistance dogs only

Cameras welcome

Accompanied children welcome

Not normally open to the public

10. Bournemouth Natural Science Society

GUIDED TOURS

Wednesday 16th, 11am and 2pm

Bournemouth Natural Science Society, 39 Christchurch Road, Bournemouth, BH1 3NS

<https://bnss.org.uk/>

Guided tour of a Grade II listed Victorian villa (1880). The villa was constructed in the Italianate style for wealthy merchant John Cassels. This tour looks at the detailed architectural features externally and internally as well as the history of the building. After the tour there is a chance to view the Victorian natural history and antiquarian collections in the building. Donations welcome. On main bus routes. Approx ½ mile from Bournemouth station.

Partial wheelchair access

Accessible toilets onsite

Disabled parking onsite

Cameras welcome for non-commercial use

No dogs

Accompanied children welcome

Normally open to the public



B All events marked with this symbol must be pre-booked.
See page 5 or [SCAN HERE](#)



11. Bournemouth Pavilion Theatre **B**

GUIDED TOUR

Monday 14th, 10am, 10.30am, 11am, 1pm, 1.30pm & 2pm

Tuesday 15th, 10am, 10.30am, 11am, 1pm, 1.30pm & 2pm

Thursday 17th, 10am, 2.30pm & 3pm

www.bournemouthpavilion.co.uk

Location details will be shown on ticket

Join us for our popular Behind the Scenes Tour of Bournemouth's Magnificent original 1929 Grade 2 Listed Pavilion Theatre. Gain an insight into the history, architecture and technical backstage world. The tour includes all front of house areas and the Ballroom, in the company of well-informed, enthusiastic guides.

Please note: All tours vary according to what is available on the day and a visit to the theatre stage is not always guaranteed; it is never possible to attend stage rehearsals. Remember that you are visiting a working theatre and plans may change at short notice. Photography is not always permitted on backstage tours – your guide will confirm this on the day. Tours are subject to cancellation due to operational issues. The tours include access to technical areas via many steep stairs. The Pavilion Theatre is surrounded by a BCP Council Car Park - Charges Apply

Partial wheelchair access

Accessible toilets onsite

Assistance dogs only

Disabled parking onsite

Public parking onsite

Accompanied children welcome

Normally open to the public

12. Branksome Masonic Hall **NEW!**

OPEN DAY

Saturday 19th, 10am to 1pm

57 Ashley Road, Parkstone, Poole, BH14 9BT

The Ashley Road Masonic Hall is a locally listed "Special Heritage Ecclesiastical Asset" featuring a Gothic Revival façade, which appears to be rather modest. Consecrated in 1926 by the Earl of Shaftesbury and used as a community soup kitchen during WWII, this unusual building is now celebrating its 100th anniversary. While the ground floor has been modernized, the first floor "Temple" completely retains its dramatic original roof structure, formal carved oak pews, and a detailed focal screen.

Partial wheelchair access

Assistance dogs welcome

Disabled parking onsite

Accompanied children welcome

Cameras welcome

13. Briantspuddle Village Hall and Village Buildings

Sunday 20th, 1pm to 5pm

Main Street, Briantspuddle, Dorchester, DT2 7HT

www.briantspuddle.info/village-hall/

The thatched village hall at Briantspuddle is one of two such buildings in Dorset and was converted from a barn in the 1920's. Internally, although it has many modern facilities, a glance at the roof of the main hall reveals its former use as a barn. The village also has quaint workers cottages built in the Arts and Crafts style designed by Halsey Ricardo and Macdonald Gill, and the magnificent war memorial by Eric Gill. All part of the Bladen Estate; a model farm created by Sir Ernest Debenham. There will be a small exhibition on the architecture and history of the Bladen Estate in the village hall, where refreshments will also be available.

Partial wheelchair access

Accessible toilets onsite

Cameras welcome

Disabled parking onsite

Dogs welcome

Accompanied children welcome

Not normally open to the public



14. Bridport Quaker Meeting House

OPEN DAY

Saturday 12th, 10am to 4pm

95 South Street, Bridport, DT6 3NZ

bridportquakers.org

Bridport Quaker Meeting House has been used by Quakers since 1697 and has a well recorded history of its architecture and use to the present day, which is represented in an exhibition of the building's development. We offer observational activities for accompanied children inside the building and in the adjacent Quaker Peace Garden, which is open to the public every day. Refreshments are available and members of the Quaker Meeting will be on hand to answer any questions you might have about Quakerism today.

There is a public car park on the east side of South Street, a short walking distance from the Meeting House. Proceed south down South Street and look for the Quaker sign on the left, opposite St Mary's Church and enter courtyard. Entrance door in on the right. Bicycles can be left in the bike rack in the courtyard.

Full wheelchair access

Accessible toilets onsite

Cameras welcome

Dogs welcome

Accompanied children welcome

Not normally open to the public

15. Bridport Town Hall**Friday 11th, Saturday 12th, Tuesday 15th and Saturday 19th, 10am to 3pm***Bridport Town Hall, Bucky Doo Square, South Street, Bridport DT6 3LF***www.bridportandwestbay.co.uk**

A former courthouse, this listed Georgian Town Hall holds a significant collection of paintings by Fra Newbery (former Director of Glasgow School of Art). The paintings depict aspects of the town's history, particularly the rope and net industry. Memorabilia from HMS Bridport (both ships) is also displayed. Audio Guides and Children's activities will be available. Greta Berlin statue.

Bridport Town Hall is in the middle of town, easily spotted by the clock tower. DT6 3LF

Full wheelchair access**Accessible toilets onsite****Please use pay and display car parks****Dogs welcome****Not normally open to the public****Accompanied children welcome****C****16. Christchurch Priory ^B****GUIDED TOUR****Monday 14th, 2pm and 3pm***Location details will be shown on ticket***www.christchurchpriory.org**

The Priory Church in Christchurch is over 900 years old and is the longest parish church in England, larger than 21 Anglican cathedrals throughout the country. Come and enjoy a tour around the church which includes the Great Quire with ancient Misericords, and two crypts if mobile (a dozen steps), four Chuntries, the Miraculous Beam and Cloister Way with stained glass story of the church and other parts not normally open to the public.

Partial wheelchair access**Accessible toilet on site****Please use public car parks****Cameras welcome****Assistance dogs only in church****Accompanied children welcome over 8 years****Normally open to the public****17. Christchurch Priory Tower ^B****GUIDED TOUR****Monday 14th, 2pm and 3pm***Location details will be shown on ticket***www.christchurchpriory.org**

The Priory Church in Christchurch has an impressive tower so come climb the 176 steps and enjoy the spectacular views of the surrounding countryside as far reaching as Salisbury and the Isle of Wight. Walking shoes are advised because of the uneven steps.

No disabled access**Accessible toilet on site****Please use public car parks****Cameras welcome****No dogs****Accompanied children welcome over 8 years****Normally open to the public**



18. Clavell Tower, Kimmeridge
- Back from the Brink B

OPEN DAYS

Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th,
10am to 4pm

Pre-booking is preferred via the Landmark Trust: landmarktrust.org.uk/OpenDays

<https://www.landmarktrust.org.uk/news-and-events/opendays/clavell-open-days-26/>

Clavell Tower is a four storey, circular tower standing high on the cliff above Kimmeridge Bay overlooking one of the most striking bays on the Dorset coast. The tower, built in 1830, is a well-known landmark and its location enables you to witness the changing light, weather and sea and has captivated many, including writers like Hardy and PD James. Information on the building's history and children's activity sheets will be available.

The Smedmore Estate on whose land Clavell Tower stands has a parking area which costs £6.00 for the day (card payments only) and this gives access to the coastline and to the property. Once parked, Clavell Tower can only be reached on foot up a steep coastal path. There is no parking in the village of Kimmeridge.

No disabled access

Cameras welcome

Dogs welcome

Accompanied children welcome

Not normally open to the public

19. Coach & Horses, Wimborne -
'Uncovering a pub's history' or 'How to become a local buildings detective' B

Friday 11th, 3pm and Saturday 19th,
3pm

<https://wimbournecivicsoc.org.uk/>

Location details will be shown on ticket

An illustrated talk that reveals how by delving into the readily accessible online and public resources the fascinating history of this C17 building and characterful pub was uncovered. As we dig back through the centuries there are glimpses into the social life unfolding in the wider surrounding area. You will leave with an understanding of how you too could undertake a similar search. At the end of the talk there will be the chance for a tour around the premises comparing the modern-day pub layout with how it would have looked and functioned in its 1915 form (which back then included stables!). The talk will be given in the pre-1925 skittle alley, itself a building of note.

Full wheelchair access

Accessible toilet on site

Assistance dogs only

Disabled parking onsite

Small pub car park – Please park on neighbouring roads

Cameras welcome

Accompanied children welcome



D
20. Discover Dorchester ^B
HERITAGE OPEN DAY OF THE TOWN
Sunday 13th, 11am to 4pm
www.discoverdorchester.co.uk

Dorchester will be celebrating its heritage with a range of guided walks, talks, venue tours and access to historic buildings not normally open to the public.

Partial wheelchair access
Cameras welcome
Dogs welcome
Accompanied children welcome
Parking: Please use various pay and display car parks across Dorchester

21. Dorchester Masonic Hall ^{NEW!}
OPEN DAY
Saturday 12th, 10am to 4pm!
1 Alington Street, Dorchester, DT1 1TR
www.dorset-freemasonry.org.uk

Dorchester Masonic Hall, a Grade 2 listed building, will be open to the public, including the Masonic Temple, with members on hand to show you around and answer questions. The last open day was held in 1998, so to have this building open to the public is a very special event.

Partial wheelchair access
Assistance dogs only
Cameras welcome
Accompanied children welcome
22. Dorset In Miniature – The Miniature British Building Archive ^B ^{NEW!}
Friday 11th and Tuesday 15th, 11am
Wimborne - full details will be shown on ticket

An introduction to the Miniature British Building Archive via a small (in both senses of the word) Dedicated Dorset display including extra items from some Dorset Museum's reserve collections not regularly on view.

No disabled access
No dogs
No children
Parking in street
Not normally open to the public
G
23. Guildhall, Poole
OPEN MORNING
Wednesday 16th, 9am to 1pm
The Guildhall, Market Street, Poole, BH15 1NF
www.societyforpoole.org

Poole Guildhall, a two-storey building designed in "Palladian taste" style, was built in 1761 to house the administration prescribed by Queen Elizabeth I who made Poole a county separate from Dorset.

The building has been considerably adapted but externally the alterations have been sympathetic and the elegant front elevation has been retained. The Hall of Justice with its judicial bench remains intact and is now a wedding hall.

There will be short presentations in the Hall at 10.30am and 11.15am. There will also be displays of pictures of old Poole and a chance to buy the Poole Flag.

Please use public car parks - NO on-site parking
No disabled access
Cameras welcome
Dogs welcome
Accompanied children welcome
Not normally open to the public

H

24. Hardy's House, Max Gate

OPEN DAY

**Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th
10.30am to 4.30pm**

Max Gate, Alington Avenue, Dorchester, DT1 2FN

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/dorset/hardys-house-max-gate

Max Gate, a town house just a short walk from the town centre of Dorchester, was the home of Dorset's most famous author and poet Thomas Hardy. Hardy, who designed the house in 1885, named the place after a nearby tollgate keeper called Henry Mack. The tollgate was known locally as 'Mack's Gate', which Hardy then used with a different spelling when he named his house, 'Max Gate'.

Many of Hardy's possessions were dispersed before the National Trust acquired the house, but you can enjoy the spaces he created to write and live in. He wrote some of his most famous novels here, including *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* and *Jude the Obscure*, as well as much of his poetry.

Partial wheelchair access

Accessible toilets onsite

Assistance dogs welcome

Please use on street parking

Accompanied children welcome

Cameras welcome

No dogs in the house, gardens only



All events marked
with this symbol
must be pre-booked.

See page 5 or **SCAN HERE**



25. Hardy Monument

OPEN DAY

Saturday 12th 10.30am to 2pm

Black Down, Portesham, Dorset, DT2 9HY

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/dorset/hardy-monument>

The Hardy Monument was built in 1844 in memory of Vice-Admiral Sir Thomas Masterman Hardy, Flag Captain of HMS Victory at the Battle of Trafalgar. The National Trust became owners of the site in 1938 and have maintained it ever since. In a prominent position high on Black Down this impressive monument commands far reaching panoramic views across Dorset. Come and discover this Dorset landmark, for free, and climb the 120 steps to the viewing platform.

No disabled access

Cameras welcome

Dogs are not allowed in the monument

Accompanied children welcome

Free car park next to the monument





26. Highcliffe Castle

OPEN DAY

**Wednesday 16th, 10am to 4pm
(last entry 3pm)**

www.highcliffecastle.co.uk

*High Cliff Castle, Rothesay Drive, Highcliffe,
BH23 4LE*

Visit Highcliffe Castle for free during this one-day special event. The Castle is an important building of the romantic and picturesque style of architecture, which flourished at the end of the 18th and early 19th century. This is a stunning building of significance with highlights including the 'Castle Collection' featuring a Stained-Glass display.

Please note, the car park is pay and display and can get very busy during peak times. Please allow time to seek alternative parking nearby (Steamer Point Car Park BH23 4TA and Cliff Top Car Park BH23 5DF) and use public transport whenever possible.

Partial wheelchair access

Accessible toilets onsite

Assistance dogs only

Pushchair pram friendly

Disabled parking

Please use public car parks

27. Highcliffe Castle **B**

GUIDED TOURS

**Wednesday 16th, 11am, 12pm,
1pm and 2pm**

Location details will be shown on ticket

www.highcliffecastle.co.uk

Visit Highcliffe Castle during this one-day special event and sign up to our complimentary 'behind the scenes' guided tours to discover areas not usually on the visitor route.

Guided tours are suitable for children aged 8 and above and the route does include some uneven floors. There is a platform lift available to travel between floors. If you have any questions about accessibility, please email enquiries@highcliffecastle.co.uk or call us on 01202 093 377, and we will be happy to assist.

Partial wheelchair access

Accessible toilets onsite

Assistance dogs only

Pushchair pram friendly

Disabled parking

No dogs

Please use public car parks

L

**28. Lodge Farm, Kingston Lacy
- 7,000 years of History **B****

Near Wimborne

GUIDED TOURS

Wednesday 16th and Thursday 17th, 2pm

Location details will be on the ticket

Lodge Farm has been described as “one of the most important buildings discovered since WWII” and is a late C14th First Floor Hall House. Once the hunting lodge of the huge royal manor of Kingston Lacy it stands on a site that dates back to the stone age and is full of archaeological features. The garden which is rich in wildlife and nature is currently being gently conserved. The talk is outdoors only with no parking on site and will tell the story of this fascinating small historic gem with a display of archaeological finds from the site. The ground is uneven, so care needs to be taken.

No disabled access

No parking

Assistance dogs only

No cameras

No toilets

Not normally open to the public - Private Property

Please do not enter any of the exterior buildings which are unsafe.



**29. Lyme Regis Cemetery Chapel
OPEN DAY**

Saturday 12th, 10am to 4pm

*Lyme Regis Cemetery, Charmouth Road,
Lyme Regis, DT7 3DW/DT7 3DR*

[https://www.](https://www.lymeregismuseumresearchteam.co.uk)

[lymeregismuseumresearchteam.co.uk](https://www.lymeregismuseumresearchteam.co.uk)

This small Church of England Chapel is a hidden, little seen gem, built in the 1850's in the Council Cemetery. The Chapel was decorated in 1892, paid for by Rev. Charles Myers. The beautiful, stencilled paintings on the ceiling and the walls were restored in 2019 by a local conservation artist, Adrian Everitt.

Public carpark nearby. Two spaces at the entrance to the Cemetery, 100 yards from the Chapel. Disabled people can be dropped off approximately 30 yards from the chapel, but they will need to be able to walk 30 yards up a slope. Accessible to electric buggy or wheelchair.

Partial wheelchair access

Assistance dogs only

Cameras welcome

Accompanied children welcome

Not normally open to the public

30. Lyme Regis Guildhall**Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th,
10am to 4pm***The Guildhall, Bridge Street, Lyme Regis,
DT7 3QA***[https://www.lymeregistowncouncil.gov.uk/
guildhall](https://www.lymeregistowncouncil.gov.uk/guildhall)**

The Guildhall is in the very centre of the town, where the Council holds its meetings and can be dated back to the sixteenth century. However, the main chamber, with its curved ceiling and extensive panelling, was refurbished in 1887, by the same architect who built the adjacent Philpot museum. Leading off the main chamber is the Mayor's Parlour.

There is no parking on site, but there are long and short stay car parks nearby. Blue badge parking on sea front Marine Parade.

Accessibility: The main chamber and Mayor's Parlour are on the first floor with access by stairs or lift. An accompanying person will need to go to the main chamber and ask the attendant to arrange lift access.

Partial wheelchair access**Assistance dogs only****Cameras welcome****Accompanied children welcome****Not normally open to the public****M****31. Museum of East Dorset,
Wimborne** **B****GARDEN TOUR****Saturday 19th, 2pm****<https://museumofeastdorset.co.uk/>**

As part of Dorset Architectural Heritage Week, join a special guided tour exploring the Museum of East Dorset's garden and its historic landscape. Discover how this peaceful green space has evolved alongside the building itself, from its origins and design influences to its role as a living extension of the museum. Our guides will highlight key features, hidden details, and the garden's place in the story of the site. An opportunity to experience the heritage, history, and character of the museum from the beauty of its outdoor setting.

Full wheelchair access**Cameras welcome****Accompanied children welcome****No dogs****32. Museum of East Dorset,
Wimborne** **B****GUIDED TOUR****Wednesday 16th and Friday 18th, 2pm****<https://museumofeastdorset.co.uk/>**

Join us for a special guided tour of the Museum of East Dorset, focusing on the story behind the building itself. Explore the evolution of this historic structure, from its architectural origins to its transformation into the museum you see today. Our expert guides will reveal hidden details, design features, and the building's changing role at the heart of the community. A unique opportunity to discover the heritage not just inside the museum—but within its very walls.

Full wheelchair access**Cameras welcome****Accompanied children welcome****No dogs**

N

33. Nothe Fort Cold War Bunker OPEN DAY WITH TALKS & TOURS

Sunday 13th, 10am to 4pm

*Nothe Fort, Barrack Road, Weymouth,
DT4 8UF*

What3Words ///dogs.claim.nest

Step inside Nothe Fort's Cold War Nuclear Bunker for a special Heritage Open Days event and uncover hidden secrets. Explore normally closed underground areas and discover how the fort was to operate during one of the tensest periods of the 20th century. Enjoy short talks by Matt Barrett, an expert on Nothe Fort's nuclear bunker and UK Cold War defences, and Bev Harrison, former RAF and Royal Observer Corps, sharing first hand insight and knowledge.

Talks will be in the Engine Room at 11:30am, 12:30pm, and 2:00pm but are not suitable for young children, and items from our Cold War Collection will be on display. Book your talk ticket on arrival at the Shop desk, but numbers are limited.

**For any queries, please contact
info@nothefort.org.uk**

Nothe Fort is situated in the beautiful Nothe Gardens, overlooking Weymouth & Portland Harbour and the Jurassic Coast. The Fort View Café will be open.

Disabled access with lift to all floors

Accessible toilets onsite

Cameras welcome

Dogs welcome on short leads

Accompanied children welcome

Normally open to the public

Seating available

Please use public car parks



**All events marked
with this symbol
must be pre-booked.**

See page 5 or SCAN HERE



P

34. Palace Court Theatre **B** GUIDED TOURS

**Tuesday 15th, 10am and Friday 18th,
10am and 2pm**

<https://aub.ac.uk/campus/palace-court-theatre>

Location details will be on the ticket

The Palace Court Theatre in central Bournemouth, owned by AUB since 2021, is being taken through an ambitious transformation process, to create a fully functioning theatrical performance space for the use of students and the community. Whilst essential repairs and substantial refurbishment to the theatre have already been undertaken there is still much to do to create a vibrant, positive resource in the centre of town.

Join us for a tour of this intriguing 1930's art deco theatre built by local architects Seal and Hardy. The tour will include an insight into the building's history and a description of the future vision for the space. Within what the space currently allows, we want to be as welcoming and accessible as possible. Please wrap up warm, bring an open mind, and let us know if you may need assistance by emailing palacecourtheatre@aub.ac.uk. Please be aware the building does contain a number of stairs and is based over 3 floors with no lift.

No disabled access

Cameras welcome

No dogs

Accompanied children welcome

Normally open to the public





35. Poole Museum **- The Archaeology of Scaplen's Court B**

GUIDED TOUR

Friday 18th, 10am, 12.30pm and 3pm

Scaplen's Court, Sarum Street, Poole, BH15 1JW

What3words - sings.vibes.clubs

Join us for a fascinating guided tour of Scaplen's Court and Garden. Discover the layers of history uncovered as part of the archaeological investigations during the Poole Museum redevelopment.

Partial wheelchair access - steps in garden

Accessible toilet

Assistance dogs only

Please use public car parks

Cameras welcome

Normally open to the public



36. Pondering Jordan Hill **Romano-Celtic Temple B NEW!**

Sunday 20th 6pm

Weymouth, location details will be on the ticket

Spend an hour or so, for a hopeful Equinox Sunset exploring and pondering the Romano-Celtic Temple remains at Jordan Hill. There is a lot more to think about here than just low ruins of an ancient sacred site. The tour will take in the ruins, a walk across the fields to consider the site of the nearby Roman Villa, the temple's history, context, archaeology, and to ask and explore the question "Why is the Temple situated here?" Which hopefully will be finished with a visible sunset soon after 7pm. Bring cameras, dress appropriately for the weather at an exposed coast and hilltop location.

This event is not an English Heritage event but is on a site managed by English Heritage.

Access to the site of the temple is through a narrow kissing gate, and the field is entered over a stile - therefore it is not accessible for wheelchairs.

There is a slope from the roadside up to the temple site, and the fields are flat with undulations.

No disabled access

Dogs welcome

Cameras welcome

Accompanied children welcome

37. Poole Masonic Hall **NEW!**

OPEN DAYS

**Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th,
Saturday 19th Sunday, 20th
10am to 4pm**

4 Market Close, Poole, BH15 1NQ.

Located in Poole's historic Old Town, historically part of Market Street, is a Grade II listed building originally serving as a private house and now operating as a Masonic lodge. The building of two storeys and a four-window range, features a late 18th-century front with classic header-bond brickwork, stucco dressings, and a steep tiled roof. The interior is historically notable for ornate carved mahogany panelling both in the dining room and lodge room (reportedly donated by Lord Wimborne) and a decorated terracotta chimneypiece bearing Masonic symbols. The building is situated in the Poole Town Centre Heritage Conservation Area, an area rooted in the maritime and merchant prosperity of 16th and 18th-century Newfoundland trade.

**Partial disabled access
(to 1st floor by stairlift).**

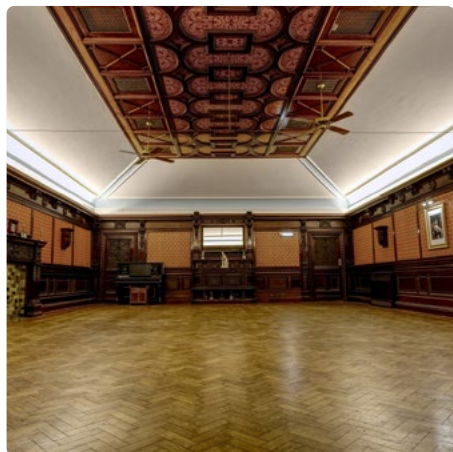
Dogs welcome

Cameras welcome

Accompanied children welcome

Please use public car parks

Refreshments available



38. Portland Port **B**

GUIDED TOUR

**Saturday 12th, 9.30am, 12pm
and 2.30pm**

Location details will be on the ticket

A rare opportunity to have a private tour of parts of the Port at Portland, by kind permission of Portland Port Group in partnership with Excelsior Coaches. Focussing on the history of the breakwaters, the harbour, the naval defences and the maritime history of the area. A chance to walk in the footsteps of promenading Victorian tourists along 'Prince Consorts Walk' and hear about the wider history of the Port and Harbour.

Please Note: Government issued photo ID and car registrations are required to be granted entry into the Port. Visitors should be aware that they are visiting a secure operational commercial port therefore strict health, safety and security procedures will apply and they should remain with their guide at all times. Unfortunately, due to the terrain wheelchair access is not possible. Visitors should come prepared for walking on rough terrain and will be outdoors, so please dress appropriately for weather conditions of that day.

Approximate tour length is 2 hours.

No disabled access

Parking on site

Cameras welcome

No dogs

No children

R**39. Regency Church St Mary's Weymouth****OPEN DAYS****Friday 11th to Sunday 20th,
10.30am to 3pm***St Mary Street, Weymouth, DT4 8PU***<https://stmarysweymouth.church/>**

Opened in 1817, this Grade I Regency church is known for its historical and architectural features. It's home to a 300-year-old altarpiece representing the Last Supper, painted by Sir James Thornhill. The church also has connections with Sir Christopher Wren and Sir Samuel Mico, and with Princess Charlotte, granddaughter of King George III.

Full wheelchair access**Please use public car parks****Cameras welcome****No dogs****Accompanied children welcome****Normally open to the public****40. Russell-Cotes Conservatory Conservation Project ^B****TALK****Friday 18th, 2.30pm****russellcotes.com***Location details available on the ticket*

Join the team who worked on the restoration of the Russell-Cotes Art Gallery and Museum's conservatory to find out about its history and refurbishment. Built originally in 1901 this beautiful structure, with its breathtaking views and exposed location had become increasingly dilapidated and has been in need of restoration for many years. Thanks to funding from Arts Council England MEND fund, local fundraising efforts and support from BCP Council, the conservatory has been conserved. Join museum staff and the historic building conservation consultants, Philip Hughes Associates to discover the story. The talk will be held in the conservatory itself. The space is not heated so be prepared for hot or cold depending on the weather.

No disabled access**Please use public car parks****Cameras welcome****No dogs****No children**

S

41. Sherborne Abbey **B**

Monday 14th 2pm and Tuesday 15th, 10am

<https://www.sherborneabbey.com/>

Location details available on the ticket

Discover 1300 years of history with a guided tour of Sherborne Abbey led by one of our experienced tour guides. Come and see this magnificent building, one of the jewels of Dorset. Two Saxon kings are buried here; Thomas Wyatt, Tudor courtier and poet, has his grave here; Sir Walter Raleigh worshipped here. You may even hear the heaviest peal of eight bells in the world! The Abbey Shop will be open plus children's trails available and other information leaflets. Tours normally take approximately one hour 30 minutes. Donations are much appreciated.

Partial wheelchair access

Cameras welcome

Dogs welcome

Accompanied children welcome



42. Sherborne Steam and Waterwheel Centre

OPEN DAY

Sunday 13th, 11.30am to 3.30pm

www.swc.co.uk

Oboorne Road, Sherborne, DT9 3RX

The Centre brings alive the story of Sherborne's drinking water supply and other public health measures. Our 26ft waterwheel and very large steam engine will be running. Basic refreshments, picnic area, toilet. Free parking on adjacent Oboorne Road. Very little parking on site. Donations welcome.

Partial wheelchair access but not to visitor centre and toilet

Cameras welcome

Dogs welcome

Accompanied children welcome

Not normally open to the public except on open days

B All events marked with this symbol must be pre-booked.

See page 5 or SCAN HERE



43. Skinner Street United Reformed Church

**Saturday 12th, 10.30 to 4pm and
Sunday 13th, 12pm to 4pm**

5 Skinner Street, Poole, Dorset, BH15 1RQ
www.skinnerstreet.com

An opportunity to visit this Grade 11* listed non-conformist church built in 1777. Poole's most historic church building. It is used for regular worship, and the pipe organ is still played at services. Church archives will also be available. Displays of the church's history and the part it has played in the social life of this part of Poole. Access to the gallery is with guides only, due to safety and is difficult for the less mobile. Tea and coffee available, donations welcome.

Skinner Street (BH15 1Q) is on the corner of Lagland Street and Skinner Street to the east of Poole High Street, just back from the quay. There is limited parking on site. A multi storey is 5 minutes across the road.

Partial wheelchair access
Accessible toilets onsite
Disabled parking onsite
Please use nearby public car parks
Dogs welcome
Cameras Welcome
Accompanied children welcome
Not normally open to the public



44. St. Andrew's Church, Kinson, Bournemouth

OPEN DAY

**Tuesday 15th and Saturday 19th,
10.30am to 3pm**

St Andrews Church, Milhams Road, Kinson, Bournemouth, BH10 7LN

<https://www.kinson.church/history>

Come and visit the oldest Church in Bournemouth. Late Norman tower, 13th century chancel, nave and aisles rebuilt 1894-95 by W.H. Romaine-Walker.

Inside there are a number of historic artefacts, including a 13th century font, Hanoverian royal arms on canvas, prayer boards, a clock installed in memory of Queen Victoria in 1904, beautiful stained glass windows, a WW1 memorial plaque and WW2 memorial bound book.

For wheelchair access please park at roadside at the front of Church on Millhams Road and use level footpath.

Please Note : Access may be restricted due to funerals or other church services.

Parking available on-site. Please drive past the Church and park in the car park behind and use inclined path to the Church.

Full wheelchair access
Accessible toilet onsite
Assistance dogs welcome
Disabled parking onsite
Cameras welcome
Dogs welcome
Accompanied children welcome
Normally open to the public



45. St James' Church, Poole

GUIDED TALK

Saturday 19th, 11am and 12pm

Church Street, Poole, BH12 1JN

<https://stjamespoole.org/>

Please join us at St James Church for a guided talk, featuring the history and architecture of our church. We will be running the same talk twice, starting at 11am and 12pm, lasting for roughly an hour. Coffee, tea & cold drinks will be available after the tour.

Partial Wheelchair Access

Accessible Toilets onsite

Limited disabled Parking Onsite

Please use public Car parks

Poole Bus station is a 15-minute walk

Cameras Welcome

Accompanied Children Welcome

Normally Open to the Public



All events marked
with this symbol
must be pre-booked.

See page 5 or **SCAN HERE**



46. St Michael and All Angels' Church, Colehill – A Caroe designed, Arts and Crafts Gem

Saturday 12th, 10am to 12pm

Wednesday 16th, 10am to 3pm

<http://www.stmichaels-church-colehill.co.uk/>

An opportunity to see a unique Dorset Arts and Crafts period Church with a Scandinavian twist

- St Michael's Church was designed by W D Carøe, an eminent Arts and Crafts ecclesiastical architect.
- Many fascinating architectural features, details and some unusual art and sculpture
- A chance to see an exhibition of other examples of the architect's work
- On display, material regarding the season of Creationtide
- Linger and look round our environmentally friendly grounds.
- If you visit on Saturday 12th then we are running our regular Coffee Morning in the Church from 10am to 12pm.
- If you visit on Wednesday our church serves Morning Coffee and Light Lunches in the Church Centre from 11.00am to 1.30pm. (Lunches from 12 noon Last orders 1:15pm)
- Refreshments served in the Church at other times
- Guides will be available to point out the various details of the church and serve refreshments
- There will be a rolling PowerPoint display of some of the more inaccessible details in close-up

Partial Wheelchair Access

Dogs Welcome on leads only

Cameras Welcome

Accompanied Children Welcome

47. St Peter's Church Bournemouth**OPEN DAYS****Friday 11th to Sunday 20th,
10am to 4pm***St Peter's Church, Hinton Road, Bournemouth,
BH1 2EE***<https://btcp.org.uk>**

St Peter's Church is a historic and architecturally striking Anglican church located in the heart of Bournemouth. Designed by renowned Victorian architect George Edmund Street, the church is celebrated for its Gothic Revival style, peaceful atmosphere, and impressive stained-glass windows. It also holds literary significance as the final resting place of celebrated author Mary Shelley amongst others, making it both a place of worship and an important cultural landmark. The grounds, recently cleared and re-planted are a beautiful place to walk through or sit and reflect.

The church is opened and closed by volunteers so please bear with us if you arrive near to the opening and closing times. This is place of worship and services take place throughout the week so please respect those who are there to pray or attending a service - you are of course very welcome to join in.

Full wheelchair access**Accessible toilets on site****No parking – drop off point and public
carparks nearby****Cameras welcome****Dogs welcome****Accompanied children welcome****Open to the public****Café and free concert Wednesday and Friday****48. St Stephen's Church Bournemouth****OPEN DAYS****Friday 11th to Sunday 20th,
10am to 4pm***Stephen's Church, St Stephen's Way,
Bournemouth, BH2 6JZ***<https://btcp.org.uk>**

St Stephen's Church, Bournemouth is one of Bournemouth's most remarkable Victorian churches, celebrated for its striking Gothic Revival architecture and rich Anglo-Catholic tradition. Designed by the renowned architect John Loughborough Pearson, the church was built between 1881 and 1898 as a memorial to Reverend Alexander Morden Bennett, an important figure in the town's early religious history. Often compared to a small cathedral because of its grand design, soaring interior, and beautiful stained glass, St Stephen's has been described by Sir John Betjeman as "worth travelling 200 miles" to see. Located close to Bournemouth town centre, the Grade I listed church remains an active place of worship and community life, known for its choral music, historic organ, and peaceful atmosphere that attracts visitors and worshippers alike.

Full wheelchair access**Assistance dogs welcome****Disabled drop off****No parking – use nearby public car parks****Cameras welcome****Dogs welcome**

49. Studland Life During WWII EXHIBITION

Sunday 13th, 10am to 4pm

Knoll Beach Discovery Centre, Ferry Road,
Studland, BH19 3AQ

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/dorset/studland-bay/events>

Studland Bay is known to many as a leisure destination boasting four miles of beach, but its historical significance is often overlooked. Come and talk to our knowledgeable volunteers, find out about the everyday lives in the village during WWII, and the exercises that took place in Studland Bay. Find out about the amphibious tanks in the Bay and the preparations for D-Day, what VIP's visited the area, how life in the village changed and the array of ordnance that has been found here. Take a self guided walk around some of our remaining WW2 remnants. Family friendly event with kids activities including clay tile making and code cracking.

Large on-site car park with accessible parking. ANPR in operation. National Trust members (please scan membership card) and blue badge holders (please display badge in window, no need to scan barcode) park for free. JustPark app can be downloaded in advance, location code is 998930, members can add their card details in app.

Partial Wheelchair Access
Accessible Toilets
Dogs on lead Welcome
Accompanied Children Welcome
Cameras Welcome



50. Studland Stories from WWII – A Village Walk **B**

GUIDED WALK

Sunday 13th, 1pm to 3pm

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/dorset/studland-bay/events>

Location details available on the ticket

Hear childhood memories of watching Allied Troops D-Day rehearsals and discover what Canadian troops kept in one-gallon Golden Syrup cans. Starting at Middle Beach car park by the sea mine, this guided walk goes through Studland village. Find out about the everyday lives in Studland during WWII. Sturdy footwear recommended. The route is approximately 2.5km.

No Disabled Access
Cameras welcome
Assistance Dogs Only
Accompanied Children over 14 only

51. Sturminster Newton Former Police Station and Cells **B** **NEW!**

GUIDED TOUR

Thursday 17th, 11am and 2pm

Location details available on the ticket

The former Sturminster Newton Police Station, built in the 19th century to serve the town's policing needs, has since been repurposed but still retains much of its historic character. Today, the building is occupied by Symonds & Sampson, a firm of estate agents and surveyors. Despite its modern commercial use, key original features remain, including the old courtrooms and even the Victorian holding cells, which have been preserved as part of the building's heritage, offering a tangible link to its past as a working police station. The main building is obviously home to a number of working office areas so it would be necessary for visitors to be mindful of this

No disabled access
No cameras
Accompanied children welcome
No dogs



**52. Sturminster Newton
Heritage Trust Mill**
Friday 18th, 11am to 5pm
OPEN DAY

The Mill, Newton Hill, Sturminster Newton DT10 2DQ – close to the A357 Blandford to Sherborne Road, approximately quarter of a mile west of the Town Bridge.

www.sturminsternewton-museum.co.uk

Recently discovered evidence suggests this mill largely dates from 1566, on a more ancient milling site which could date back to 1016. Powered by a 100-year-old turbine the machinery will be running, and a supervisor will be in attendance to give extra information. There are picnic tables and a mill shop.

No dogs allowed
Parking is available onsite
Children welcome
Cameras welcome
Disabled access to ground floor only.

Unsuitable for Coeliac and Asthma sufferers because of the flour dust

53. Sturminster Museum
OPEN DAY
Friday 18th, 10am to 4pm

1 Old Market Cross, Sturminster Newton, DT10 1AN
www.sturminsternewton-museum.co.uk

Sturminster Newton Museum is located in an attractive 16th Century thatched building in the historic conservation area in the town centre. The museum holds objects, photographs and documents relating to the once thriving cheese making industry and the famous cattle market. Exhibitions explain the history of “Stur”, the discovery of the iconic, unique Hinton St. Mary Mosaic and a fully working, detailed, replica model railway depicts an era of the towns past. Another exhibition invites you on a trip down memory lane with a display of retro domestic equipment. Or you could “visit” Newfoundland by reading the unique story of the Swanskin Seafarers of Sturminster Newton in the 1600-1700s.

As it is an old building, accessibility is limited to the ground floor. Information about the exhibitions upstairs will be available.

Partial wheelchair access
Assistance dogs only
No cameras
Accompanied children welcome
Normally open to the public

54. Swanage Town Hall

OPEN DAYS

**Friday 11th to Sunday 20th,
10am to 1pm and 2pm to 4pm**

High Street, Swanage, BH19 2NZ

The Town Hall, built in 1882, incorporates the front of the Mercer's Hall from Cheapside in London, as designed by Edward Jarman, a contemporary of Sir Christopher Wren, in 1668. The interior, which is on view, includes the foyer, staircase and council chamber, which is still used for meetings. A small but interesting collection of paintings of old Swanage is also on display.

Please note, if a meeting or wedding is taking place during the period of the DAHW, visitors will not be able to access the Council Chamber.

No disabled access

No dogs

Cameras welcome

Not normally open to the public



T

55. The Boathouse, Poole **B**

GUIDED VISIT

**Thursday 17th and Friday 18th,
10am, 12pm and 2pm**

Location details available on the ticket

Visit to the listed house built in 1938 around the salvaged interior of the Cunard Ocean Liner, RMS Mauretania including 2nd Class ladies saloon, captains cabins built in furniture from the liner along with other personal collection of memorabilia from the ship and associated books and publications. The grounds are a garden with Mediterranean planting commanding views over Poole Harbour and Arne.

No disabled access – there are stairs in the property

Parking nearby

No cameras

No dogs

Accompanied children welcome

Not normally open to the public

56. The History of The Tivoli Theatre, Wimborne **B**

TALK

Thursday 17th, 11am

Location details will be on the ticket

Hear about the re-birth of this successful theatre. Discover the full history of this successful theatre from the very beginning to its closure and re-opening after almost being demolished in 1980.

No latecomers please – event lasts approximately 1 hour and will start promptly.

Full wheelchair access

Accessible toilets onsite

Assistance dogs only

No cameras

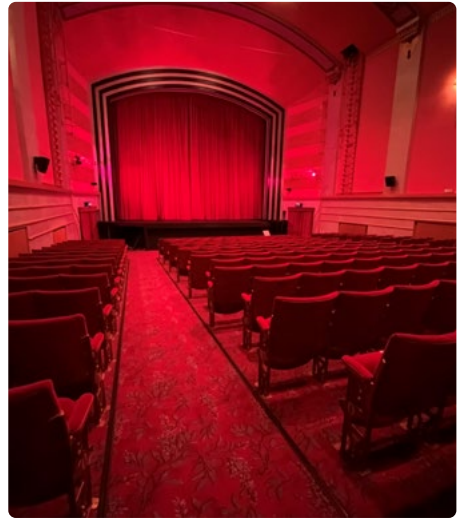
No children

57. The Hyde Tennis Club, nr Bridport B**GUIDED VISIT****Sunday 13th, 2pm and 4pm**www.hyderealtennis.co.uk*Location details will be on the ticket*

Step inside a remarkable piece of sporting architecture at the Hyde Tennis Club. Built in 1885 using beautiful local sandstone, this is no ordinary tennis court, but a historic Real Tennis court, a fascinating and complex indoor design that predates the modern game. It stands as one of only 50 active courts worldwide, still proudly used for its original purpose.

Delve into the building's captivating past, from its Victorian beginnings as a premier sporting venue to its unexpected roles during periods of disuse. Learn how this remarkable building transformed from a skating rink and venue for flower shows and WI meetings, into a cow shed and milking parlour before being restored to its former glory in the late 1990s.

Our guided tours will take you inside and out, explaining the unique and intriguing features of a Real Tennis playing area. To truly appreciate this historic sport, you'll have the chance to see the game being played during a live demonstration.

Partial wheelchair access**Accessible toilets****Cameras welcome****Assistance dogs welcome****No dogs****Accompanied children****Limited onsite parking****58. Tour of the Regent Christchurch B****GUIDED TOUR****Wednesday 16th, 10.30am**<https://www.theregent.co.uk/event/108890>*Location details will be on the ticket*

Discover the hidden world behind Christchurch's historic art-deco theatre and cinema on our new guided backstage tour. Explore the auditorium while learning about the venue's 90-year history, from its 1931 opening as a super-cinema to its modern life as a vibrant theatre and cinema. Step onto the stage, visit backstage areas and dressing rooms, and see rare archive photos.

Your guide will share stories, reveal how performances are brought to life, and answer any questions along the way. A perfect experience for theatre lovers, history fans, and anyone curious about what happens behind the curtain. boxoffice@theregent.co.uk

No disabled access**Cameras welcome****No dogs****Accompanied children welcome****Not normally open to the public****No Parking – please use public car parks**

59. Tudor House Museum, Weymouth

**Friday 11th, Sunday 13th, Friday 18th
and Sunday 20th, 10.30am to 4pm**

3 Trinity St, Weymouth, DT4 8TW

www.tudorhouseweymouth.org.uk

The Tudor House was built at the end of the reign of Elizabeth I at the beginning of the 17th Century. It has the traditional double gable style of the period and stood facing a body of water known as 'The Ope', a Dorset word for a cove or inlet. This was infilled in about 1780, and some years later houses were built on the recovered land. The Tudor house survived flood, plague and wars but was almost demolished in 1938 when it was declared unfit for habitation by the Borough Medical Officer. It was later acquired by Ernest Wamsley Lewis, the founder of Weymouth Civic Society, so that it could be preserved for the town. A tour of the house gives a fascinating insight into the history of Weymouth in the early seventeenth century during its heyday as a port for trade and exploration. The guides describe the domestic daily life of the times, including furniture and clothing, cooking and serving of food, lighting and candle making

No disabled access

**No Parking - Please park in public car parks
- North Harbour or North Car parks**

Cameras welcome

No dogs

Accompanied children welcome

Normally open to the public



W

**60. Walford Mill, Wimborne - From
Millers to Makers, a brief historical
journey **B****

TALK AND TOUR

**Wednesday 16th and Thursday 17th,
11am**

www.walfordmillcrafts.co.uk

Location details will be on the ticket

Using material from the Mill's own archive, this illustrated talk will cover highlights of the Mill's history over more than 500 years. These include its origins, structural changes, subsequent uses and conversion to an arts and crafts centre. There will be time for a short tour inside the building (please mind your head) and outside too, weather permitting.

The presentation will take place in the Mill's ground floor Education Room. The building tour involves low ceiling beams and wooden staircases. Wheelchair access is available to the ground floor, gallery and mezzanine floor areas. Upper floors are only accessible only by wooden stairs. Lunch and refreshments will be available at Little Pickle at the Mill cafe, across the courtyard.

Partial wheelchair access

Accessible toilets onsite

Please use pay and display car park

Cameras welcome

Dogs welcome

No children

61. West Bay Discovery Centre**OPEN DAY****Sunday 13th, 11am to 3.30pm***Chapel on The Beach, West Bay, DT6 4EN***westbaydiscoverycentre.org.uk**

Visit a former Methodist Chapel that has been beautifully converted to a heritage centre. Learn a little about West Bay's varying architectural styles in a small display. The building's small mezzanine area will be open to visitors to get a different perspective of the building and surrounding areas. Unfortunately, this is not wheelchair accessible. The Discovery Centre is located in a former Methodist Chapel (Grade II listed) on the edge of East Beach. There is no admission charge.

Partial wheelchair access**Dogs welcome****Cameras welcome****Accompanied children welcome****Please use pay and display car park**

pot-spotting sheets from the group's files. Copies will be available on the day.

Full wheelchair access**Limited Seafront Parking, The Swannery and local public car parks****Cameras welcome****Dogs welcome****Accompanied children welcome****62. Weymouth - A Chimney Pot Spotter's Guide B NEW!****GUIDED WALK****Sunday 20th, 10.30am**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/10272344980>

Location details will be on the ticket

Have you ever considered the world of Chimney Pots? Weymouth has an abundance of them, and the pots along the seafront are easily appreciated from the Promenade. Bring your camera and join Chimney Pot spotter, Tim Prevett, for a tour pondering aspects of chimney pots you may never have considered. The tour will take an entirely accessible route (with some slopes) ranging along the promenade and will last about 1.5 hours. Dress suitably for the weather and consider windchill for the seafront.

If you use Facebook, follow the website link, or look up "The Chimney Pot Appreciation Society" and download and print out the two

63. Wimborne Architectural Guided Walk B**Tuesday 15th, 2.30pm****<https://wimbornecivicsoc.org.uk>***Location details will be on the ticket*

An Architectural Walk around Wimborne, to include most of the buildings worth looking at in the centre of this historic and attractive town, with plenty of architectural detail and including Wimborne Civic Society's unusual eighteenth-century Gazebo off West Borough. The walk will be led by members of the Civic Society, whose predecessors rebuilt the Gazebo some forty years ago.

Please allow 2 hours for the walk. People taking part need to be fit enough to walk for a period of time which will involve lots of standing to appreciate and understand the beauty of the town. Assistance dogs welcome.

No disabled access**Please use public car parks****Cameras welcome****No dogs****Accompanied children welcome****Not normally open to the public**



64. Wimborne Bricks and Mortar Guided Walk **B**

GUIDED WALK

Thursday 17th, 10am

<https://wimborecivicsoc.org.uk>

Location details will be on the ticket

A Bricks and Mortar Walk Round Wimborne, taking a closer look at many of the buildings of significance in the centre of this historic and attractive town. This walk takes as its focus the brickwork that defines the character of most of Wimborne's built environment. Over the course of the walk you will learn how, by using a little bit of careful observation, the age and status of many of the town's buildings can be revealed. Walk will be led by members of Wimborne Civic Society.

Please allow 2 hours for the walk. People taking part need to be fit enough to walk for a period of time which will involve lots of standing to appreciate and understand the beauty of the town. Assistance dogs welcome.

No disabled access

Please use public car parks

Cameras welcome

No dogs

Accompanied children welcome

Not normally open to the public

65. Wimborne Minster Bell Tower **B**

GUIDED VISIT

Monday 14th, 2pm and 3pm

wmscbr.org

Location details will be on the ticket

A rare opportunity to visit the Bell Tower of Wimborne Minster which was built in 1464. Sit in the Ringing Chamber and watch the ringers in action. Discover the history of the bells and hear about ringing for special events. Participants need to be able to climb the 72 uneven spiral stone steps to the Ringing Chamber.

No disabled access

Please use public car parks. King Street is the nearest.

Cameras welcome

No dogs

Not normally open to the public

Accompanied Children Welcome - Children must be over 7 and accompanied by an adult.





66. Wimborne Minster Chained Library

Tuesday 15th, 1pm

Thursday 17th, 1pm

Saturday 19th, 1pm

Location details will be on the ticket

Founded in 1686 by two local Wimborne gentlemen, the Chained Library is one of only five remaining in England and is still in its original setting.

See and hear about a diverse array of books, including a handwritten manuscript nearly 700 years old, a bible in nine languages and a 1667 book describing how to build houses safely after the Great Fire of London.

This is an experience not just for all lovers of books and history but also for the curious.

The Chained Library is at the top of the former Treasury Tower in the Church of Saint Cuthburga, Wimborne's Minster. Access is via a spiral staircase of 26 steps.

No disabled access

Please use public Car Parks

Cameras Welcome

Dogs Welcome

Accompanied Children Welcome

Normally Open to the Public

67. Wimborne Minster Chained Library Illustrated Talk

**Wednesday 16th, 10.30am
and Friday 18th, 10.30am**

www.wimborneminster.org.uk

Location details will be on the ticket

If you don't want to negotiate the 26 steps of the Chained Library's defensive spiral staircase but would like to know more about the Library, this is an illustrated talk delivered by Jayne & Mike Twomey, Senior Librarians. Ground floor venue with disabled access.

Founded in 1686 by two local Wimborne gentlemen, the Chained Library is one of only five remaining in England and is still in its original setting.

Come and hear about a diverse array of books, including a handwritten manuscript nearly 700 years old, a bible in nine languages and the first book written in English in 1621 on the subject of mental health.

This is an experience not just for all lovers of books and history but also for the curious.

Full wheelchair access

Accessible toilets onsite

Assistance dogs welcome

Disabled parking onsite

Cameras welcome

Dogs welcome

Accompanied children welcome

Not normally open to the public

68. Wimborne Minster **- The Church of Saint Cuthberga** **B**

GUIDED TOURS

The Building Tour
Saturday 12th and Thursday 17th, 2pm

The Characters Tour
Tuesday 15th, 2pm

The Artefacts Tour
Saturday 19th, 2pm

<http://www.wimborneminster.org.uk>

St. Cuthberga founded her double Monastery in 705 and around it the town of Wimborne grew. Sometime around 1043, Edward the Confessor re-founded the place as a College of Cannons. During the civil war Cromwell's fighting priest started a riot here and in the Nineteenth century Issac Gulliver, the smuggler, became Church warden.

The Minster is full of our heritage, and the Minster Guides would like to share some of that heritage with you. For thirteen hundred years the Minster has been very much part of the town.

It is a centre for Christian worship, a grade 1 listed building, a museum, and a place for quiet and stillness in our busy world.

- **The Building Tour** - A look at the structure of the Minster including the different phases of architecture and an invitation to imagine how it might have looked at various stages in the past.
- **The Characters Tour** - An introduction to some of the characters associated with the Minster. Including the legend of Cuthberga, the dancing nuns, Ethelred, Margaret Beaufort, the man with two left feet, Edmund Barnes, our own Dick Wittington together with other personalities from our past.
- **The Artefacts Tour** - We look at several interesting items, be they of stone, glass, wood, or metal that relate to the Minster's long and interesting heritage.

Partial wheelchair access

Accompanied Children welcome

No Parking – please use nearby carparks

Cameras welcome – non commercial

Dogs welcome





69. WWII Bombing Decoy Bunker OPEN DAY

**Saturday 12th and Sunday 20th,
10am to 2pm**

*Moors Valley Country Park, Horton Road,
Ashley Heath, BH24 2ET*

*Bunker What3Words location
///spoiler.poorly.bowhead*

moors-valley.co.uk/world-war-ii-bunker

The decoy bunker at Moors Valley was used during World War II to power and control lights to mimic the nearby RAF airfields at Hurn and Ibsley, including a 1km flare path whose location has been identified. This is an opportunity to take a closer look at the bunker, which is not normally open to the public.

Step back in time and follow in the footsteps of the service people whose job it was to try and get bombed. Volunteers will explain how the bunker was used and tell the story of its operation.

The event takes place near Potterne Park, Verwood. Signage to the event will be available on the day. The bunker is on the edge of an active golf course, so dogs must be on a lead.

No disabled access

**Limited free parking at Potterne Park
or paid parking at Moors Valley Country Park
Cameras welcome**

Dogs welcome but must be on leads

Accompanied Children Welcome

Not Normally Open to the Public



If you feel you would like to contribute we have organised a JustGiving campaign where you can donate to help us continue this wonderful event. Please scan QR code to donate.



East Dorset Heritage Trust

We are a small educational charity celebrating more than 35 years as part of the Wimborne community.

Our home is Allendale House – it's the place to learn something new or brush up on old skills.

Take a course to improve your Italian, French or Spanish conversation or maybe improve your writing skills; learn about famous artists or poetry and literature, computing, iPads or even phones. We also have pottery courses, floristry, lots of craft workshops and art courses too...

There is something for everyone! There are heritage events throughout the whole year, with guided walks, coach trips, talks or visits to interesting and unusual places.

The house itself is a beautiful historic building with elegant rooms for hire which are light and airy - the perfect place for training or meetings.

Call in and we will be happy to help. We are open Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm.

Allendale House, Hanham Road, Wimborne, Dorset, BH21 1AS
Telephone: 01202 888992 e-mail: info@edht.org.uk www.edht.org.uk



East Dorset Heritage Trust
a llendale house



DORSET

ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE WEEK



Allendale House, Hanham Road, Wimborne, Dorset, BH21 1AS

Telephone: **01202 888992**

e-mail: **dahw@edht.org.uk**

www.edht.org.uk/dahw



Cover Images:

a	b
c	d

a *Hardy Monument (Event 25)*

b *Russel Coates Conservatory (Event 40)*

c *Wimborne Minster Chained Library (Events 66 & 67)*

d *Lyme Regis Chapel (Event 29)*