

Watford Heritage Open Days 2015

Thursday 10 – Sunday 13 September

Events at

Sugden House

Little Cassiobury

Watford Museum

Building Research
Establishment

Town Hall

St Mary's Church

Holy Rood Church

Beechen Grove Baptist
Church

Peace Hospice

Cassiobury Park

Watford Jamia Mosque

St Andrews Church

Pope's Yard

St Michael and
All Angels Church



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



Historic England



National
Trust





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."



Dorothy Thornhill
Mayor of Watford

www.watford.gov.uk/electedmayor

2015 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 offices, a Grade II listed Georgian mansion house.



Watford Museum

Exhibitions include 'Watford During the Great War: 100 Years On', which investigates the impact of the war in Watford in 1915, with a focus on the sinking of the RMS Lusitania. The contemporary gallery Space2 will also showcase the work of the artistic group 51 Degrees in The Language of Things. The Guideposts Trust will also display the history of Henry Smith House, Watford's first purpose built police station in Victorian Watford, home of Guideposts current mental health support work.

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

The Shadow Town

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

Explore the shadow world inside Watford Museum. Using live performance, music and shadow puppets, artistic director Mark Crane will take visitors on a silhouette journey through the history of the town and museum collections.

Saturday 12 September, 7pm
No booking necessary.

An insight into the History of Holy Rood Church

Holy Rood Rectory, Exchange Road, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD18 0PJ

Explore this Grade I listed Roman Catholic Church on this fascinating tour of its architectural features and social history. There will be two tours, one on Thursday at 10am and Friday at 2pm. Visitors are also welcome to attend mass at the following times:

Thursday & Friday: 8.30am and 12pm

Saturday: 11am and 7pm

Sunday: 8am, 9.30am, 11am, 2.15pm and 6.30pm

Church can be visited during Heritage Open Days, but to attend the tour booking is required.

Booking Contact: Watford Museum
For more information tel: 01923 232297
Email: info@watfordmuseum.org.uk



Holy Rood Church

Beechen Grove Baptist Church

Beechen Grove Baptist Church, Clarendon Road, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD17 1JJ

Visit this Grade II Romanesque church dating back to 1877 as it opens its doors to the public for Heritage Open Days. Visitors are welcome to attend morning service on the Sunday.

Thursday 10th September
8:30am – 4.30pm

Sunday 13th September
10:30am

No booking necessary.
Visit: www.bgbaptist.org.uk



Beechen Grove Baptist Church

Celebrating Peace

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

Attend a presentation on the history of the Peace Memorial Hospital and Peace Hospice, which has been serving the community for 90 years. The presentation will include historic images and oral histories, with an opportunity to share your own memories of this iconic building.



Peace Memorial Hospital

The Peace Memorial Hospital was built by public subscription to mark the First World War and was 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 newspaper.

Thursday 10 September: 1.30 – 4pm
To attend the presentation, booking is essential.
For more information tel: 01923 330330
Email John Arcus: jarcus@peacehospicecare.org.uk
Visit: www.peacehospice.co.uk

Tour of Watford's Art Deco Town Hall

Watford Borough Council, Town Hall, Watford,
Hertfordshire, WD17 3EX

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

Watford Town Hall



Thursday 10 September: 2pm
Booking essential.

Booking Contact: Watford Museum
For more information tel: 01923 232297
Email: info@watfordmuseum.org.uk

St Michael and All Angels Church

Mildred Avenue, Watford, Herts, WD18 7DY

St Michael and All Angels Church is a very beautiful and little known Church in West Watford. Visitors will be able to have 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. Please be aware of roadside parking restrictions - come into Church to ask for help if necessary.



St Michael and All Angels

Saturday 12
September 9am –
5pm
No booking required.
Visit: www.stmichaels-watford.org.uk

BRE, Bouncing Bombs and more...

Building Research Establishment, Bucknalls Lane,
Watford, Hertfordshire, WD25 9XX

Visit the very first model dam used by Barnes Wallis in developing what became the Dambusters' Bouncing Bomb, which still sits at the centre of the BRE site in Watford. The once

top secret structure, 1 metre high and 15 metres long is now a scheduled historic monument.

Learn more about this fascinating monument, from a small display of archive material that will be on show. The BRE innovation park of demonstration eco-homes will also be open, including the Prince of Wales' Natural House, recently seen on BBC TV as the Watchdog Test House.

Saturday 12th September 10am – 2pm
Booking is essential.
Visit: www.bre.co.uk/openday



Introduction to Watford Jamia Mosque

Watford Jamia Mosque, Cambridge Road,
Watford, Hertfordshire, WD18 0GJ

A wonderful chance to see inside Watford Jamia Mosque on this guided tour.

There will be a brief introduction to Islam and a chance to observe prayer in this architectural gem.

Light refreshments and a chance for questions and answers will also take place. Visitors will be asked to remove their shoes when entering the prayer areas. We also ask that you please dress modestly.

Saturday 12 September: 12.45 - 2.15pm
No booking required.
Visit: www.watfordmosque.org.uk



Watford Jamia Mosque

Little Cassiobury Art Sale

Little Cassiobury, 31 Hempstead Road, Watford,
Hertfordshire, WD17 3EY

This is the third art sale fundraising event to be held at this historic house. The house was built as the Dower House by the Earl of Essex in 1670 and is a Grade II* listed property on the English Heritage at risk register.

Sadly, visitors will not be able to go inside the

building, but you can look through the windows and members of the Friends of Little Cassiobury will be available to talk about their plans for this historic gem.

Saturday 12 September: 11am – 3pm
No booking required.
Visit: www.friendsoflittlecassiobury.org.uk



Little Cassiobury

St Andrews Church

St Andrew's Church, Church Road, Watford,
Hertfordshire, WD17 4PY

St Andrews will be open all day for people to look around this parish church, which is over 150 years old. It is an early example of the work of SS Teulon and features fine windows. Tea, coffee and biscuits will also be available!

Saturday 12 September: 9.30am – 5pm
No booking required.
Visit: www.standrewswatford.org.uk

Pope's Yard Brewery Visit

Pope's Yard Brewery Ltd, 477-479 Whippendell
Road, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD18 7PU

Watford has a strong history of beer brewing dating back to the 17th century, with names such as Benskins and Sedgwicks still in local memory. Pope's Yard is now the only brewery in Watford, harking back to its heritage with the name 'Pope's Yard' referencing Watford's first successful brewery in 1600s, named after the founder John Pope.



This fantastic event will give visitors an insight into the world of brewing beer, with a tour of the site and a chance to taste some real ales. There will be an opportunity to purchase bottled beer and learn more about Watford's brewing history in a display of Watford brewery memorabilia. Event not suitable for children under the age of 18.

Saturday 12 September: 12 – 5pm
No booking required.
Visit: www.popesyard.co.uk



heritage open days

St Mary's Church Watford

St. Marys Church, Church Street, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD18 0EG



St Mary's Church

The historic church will be open for visits throughout the hours indicated. Church guidebooks are available and church members will be present to answer questions. Light refreshments and toilet facilities available.

Hourly tours of the churchyard, including the historic tombstones and the adjoining Bedford Almshouses will take place on Saturday. Tours of the church tower will be led by the bellringers on Sunday.

Saturday 12 September: 10am-5pm

Sunday 13 September: 12-4pm

Tours of tombstones take place every hour from 1030am – 3.30pm

Booking for tombstone tour is essential.

Booking contact: Watford Museum

For more information tel: 01923 232297

Email: info@watfordmuseum.org.uk

A Look Inside Sugden House

2 Farm Field, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD17 3DF



Sugden House

Explore Watford's modernist gem - Sugden House, which reveals the visionary aesthetics of Peter and Alison Smithson's design in 1956, commissioned by Derek and Jean

Sugden. Explore this Grade II listed building on a tour led by Derek Sugden. Event not suitable for children under the age of 5.

Sunday 13 September: 11.30am

Booking essential.

Booking contact: Watford Museum

For more information tel: 01923 232297

Email: info@watfordmuseum.org.uk

Cassiobury Park Heritage Walk

Cha Cha Cha Cafe, Cassiobury Park, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD18 7HY

Discover the fascinating history and heritage of the Earls of Essex estate, Cassiobury Park, on this heritage walk around the park.



Sunday 13 September: 11am – 1pm

Booking essential.

For more information tel: 01923 278972

Email Debbie Brady: deborah.brady@watford.gov.uk

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. The Fire Station will also be holding an open day.



Saturday 26 September, 1 – 4pm
 No booking necessary.
 Visit: <http://fire.watfordmuseum.org.uk>

Watford Museum

194 Lower High Street, Watford, WD17 2DT

Watford During the Great War 100 Years On

6 August - 26 September

The second in a series of annual exhibitions commemorating the 100 year anniversary of the First World War.



The story is being told as it was reported in 1915, in words and pictures taken from the local newspapers and from personal letters

Free admission.
 Museum open Thursday – Saturday, 10am – 5pm
 Visit: www.watfordmuseum.org.uk

Activities

Papermouth Get Your Giggle On!

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

Saturday 5 September, 6 – 10pm

Join us for a night of local comedy at Watford Museum with a drinks bar.

Free, no booking necessary.
 Visit: www.watfordmuseum.org.uk

WW1 Zeppelin Workshop

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

Saturday 19 September, 10.30 – 12.30pm

Join Roger Kattenhorn from Watford Recycling Arts Project and make your very own WW1 Zeppelin!

Workshop is suitable for 8 – 16 year olds. Free, but booking is essential.

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

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.



heritage **open days**

Big Sports Day

The Parade, Watford Town Centre

Saturday 19 September

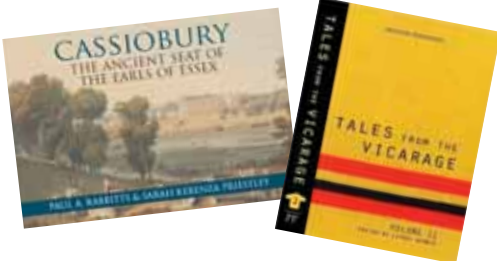
The Parade will once again be buzzing with a whole host of sporting activities for you to try out. Come down to flex your moves and show us what you've got!

For more information visit:
www.watfordbigevents.co.uk



Watford Museum Heritage Memorabilia

Want to remember your big heritage weekend in Watford? Watford Museum sells an array of historical and heritage gifts, from postcards of Watford in days past and iconic buildings to Benskins badges and magnets, bookmarks, old coins and WW1 pin badges. Not to mention an array of books on local history including *Cassiobury the Ancient Seat of the Earls of Essex* by Sarah Kerenza Priestley and Paul Rabbitts, a Heritage Guide and the various volumes of *Tales from the Vicarage* for football fans.



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 and this year the society is looking to conduct archaeological investigations in the park. To join the society or enquire about information or volunteering contact Watford Museum.

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. Now in their second year of events, expect a line up of a sports, film, music, dance and ice with a fantastic calendar of outdoor events for everyone.
www.watfordbigevents.co.uk