HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

Thursday 10 – Sunday 13 September 2015

For more details visit www.tmbc.gov.uk
Heritage Open Days celebrates England’s fantastic architecture and culture by offering free access to properties that are usually closed to the public or normally charge for admission. It is a once-a-year chance to discover hidden architectural treasures and enjoy a wide range of tours, events and activities which bring to life local history and culture.

Organised by volunteers – usually property owners or managers – for local people, Heritage Open Days is England's biggest and most popular voluntary cultural event, attracting some 800,000 people annually. The Civic Trust gives central co-ordination and additional voice to the event which is made possible by funding and support from English Heritage.

Locally this event has been co-ordinated by Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council in partnership with The Malling Society and Tonbridge Civic Society.

Tonbridge Art Group, Tonbridge Civic Society, Tonbridge Historical Society and members from the Jane Austen Society (Kent branch) will be exhibiting in the Council Chamber Room throughout the weekend.

For more details, visit www.tmbc.gov.uk or www.heritageopendays.org

### Area: Aylesford
### Venue: Aylesford Pottery
### Dates: Thursday 10, Friday 11, Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 September 10am - 5pm (all days)
### Description: Traditional craft pottery run by two master potters. Visitors can see items being made on the wheel and view the gallery of their work.
### Location: In the grounds of Aylesford Priory
### Directions: Just outside Aylesford Village
### Contact No: 01622 790796
### Website: www.aylesfordpottery.co.uk

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**Tonbridge Castle and the Magna Carta**

- **1070** Tonbridge Castle was built soon after the Norman conquest. Tonbridge Castle handed to the ‘De Clare’ family by William the Conqueror. The De Clare family rebelled against the rule of the Conqueror’s son William I. William’s forces besieged Tonbridge Castle.
- **1100** King William was killed in the new forest in a hunting accident. The man who shot the stray arrow was Walter Tyrell, the son in law of Gilbert de Clare. Following the King’s death, the De Clare’s became one of England’s most powerful families.
- **1215** Gilbert de Clare and his son Richard were part of the group of barons who forced King John into signing the Magna Carta.
- **1219** Gilbert de Clare had become Earl of Gloucester and leader of England’s barons. Richard de Clare supported John’s son King Henry III who allowed the building of Tonbridge Gatehouse, much as it stands today.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Venue</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aylesford</td>
<td>Aylesford Priory</td>
<td>Aylesford Priory</td>
<td>Hadlow</td>
<td>Hadlow Tower</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dates</td>
<td>Sunday 13 September 2pm – 4pm</td>
<td>Friday 11th and Saturday 12 September 11am – 4pm (both days)</td>
<td>Dates</td>
<td>Saturday 12 September 12 noon – 6pm  Sunday 13 September 12 noon – 4pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description</td>
<td>An extensively restored 13th century Gatehouse made possible with Heritage Lottery funding</td>
<td>Description: Hadlow Tower, a recently fully restored folly in the village of Hadlow. Climb to the top and see the amazing views. Tour the whole Tower and visit the Exhibition Centre on the ground floor. There is a lift to the fourth floor.</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Parish church of Saxo-Norman origin, dating back to the 12th and 13th centuries, but partly rebuilt and extensively refurbished in the mid-19th century. The churchyard features a memorial to 30 hop-pickers drowned in the River Medway in 1853.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>The Friars, Aylesford Priory, AYLESFORD, Kent, ME20 7BY</td>
<td>Location: Hadlow Tower, Hadlow, Kent, TN11 0EG</td>
<td>Directions</td>
<td>From Maidstone, on the A26 in the village of Hadlow. From Tonbridge on A26 in the centre of the village. From M25 follow signs to Tonbridge then Hadlow. From the M20 follow signs to Tonbridge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact No</td>
<td>01622 717272</td>
<td>Contact No: 07764 586732</td>
<td>Website</td>
<td><a href="http://www.hadlowtower.com">www.hadlowtower.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website</td>
<td><a href="http://www.thefriars.org.uk">www.thefriars.org.uk</a></td>
<td>Website: <a href="http://www.hadlowtower.com">www.hadlowtower.com</a></td>
<td>Contact:</td>
<td>01732 850238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area</td>
<td>Ditton Heritage Centre</td>
<td>St Mary’s Church</td>
<td>Area</td>
<td>Hildenborough</td>
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<tr>
<td>Venue</td>
<td>Off the A20 at the junction between London Road, Station Road and New Road where Ditton War Memorial stands.</td>
<td>Location: Church Street is off The Square in the centre of Hadlow. No parking in Church Street.</td>
<td>Venue</td>
<td>The Oast Theatre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dates</td>
<td>Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 September 10am – 3pm (both days)</td>
<td>Location: From Maidstone, on the A26 in the village of Hadlow. From Tonbridge on A26 in the centre of the village. From M25 follow signs to Tonbridge then Hadlow. From the M20 follow signs to Tonbridge.</td>
<td>Dates</td>
<td>Saturday 12th September and Sunday 13th September 10am – 4pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Local oral histories, history of the village plus children’s work. Victorian classroom setting for memory land and for children to experience and compare the past educational process with the present.</td>
<td>Description: See what happens at your local theatre- it’s not just acting! Backstage it’s scenery, costumes, props, lighting and sound. Front of house – the bar, refreshments, ice-cream and box office! Plus the art group. So come on a tour of the Oast and learn about the different skills. Refreshments available. Children’s activities.</td>
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<td>Location</td>
<td>New Road Ditton, ME20 6AH, adjacent to Ditton Junior School, opposite St Peter’s Church and within a conservation area in which The Ford and The Stream as well as an Old Mill House are located.</td>
<td>Directions: On B245, Tonbridge/Hildenborough bound. Next to Premier Inn</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>London Road, Tonbridge, TN10 3AN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact No</td>
<td>01732 840937</td>
<td>Contact No: 01732 353646</td>
<td>Contact:</td>
<td>01732 353646</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website</td>
<td><a href="http://www.dittonguild.org">www.dittonguild.org</a></td>
<td>Website: <a href="http://www.oastheatre.com">www.oastheatre.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Area</td>
<td>East Peckham</td>
<td>St Michael’s Church</td>
<td>Area</td>
<td>Hildenborough</td>
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<tr>
<td>Venue</td>
<td>St Michael’s Church</td>
<td>Location: B2016, Seven Mile Lane. Watch for Ancient Church sign and turn into Old Church Lane. Walkers follow the Sandstone Way.</td>
<td>Venue</td>
<td>The Oast Theatre</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dates</td>
<td>Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 September 10am - 4pm (both days)</td>
<td>Website: <a href="http://www.stmichaelschuchrep.co.uk">www.stmichaelschuchrep.co.uk</a></td>
<td>Dates</td>
<td>Saturday 12th September and Sunday 13th September 10am – 4pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Conserved medieval hill top church with outstanding views. Free Guide available. Popular children’s entertainer Jonjo will be performing on Saturday 12th September at 11am and 2.30pm (45 minutes each performance). There will be a focus on flowers illustrating ‘Botanical Beauty and Bravery’ throughout the weekend. Light refreshments will be served.</td>
<td>Contact: 01622 871945</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>See what happens at your local theatre- it’s not just acting! Backstage it’s scenery, costumes, props, lighting and sound. Front of house – the bar, refreshments, ice-cream and box office! Plus the art group. So come on a tour of the Oast and learn about the different skills. Refreshments available. Children’s activities.</td>
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<td>Location: London Road, Tonbridge, TN10 3AN</td>
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<td>01622 871945</td>
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**Ightham**

**Venue:** Ightham Mote

**Dates:** Thursday 10 - Sunday 13 September
Grounds, Cafe & Shop Open 10am - 5pm
House 11am - 4.30pm

**Description:** Ightham Mote, a 700 year old moated manor house, set in the beautiful surroundings of the Kent countryside. Step through the ages as the house progresses from Medieval 1320s to the modern 1990s. With its trickling stream, lakes, formal lawn and flower borders, you’re sure to find somewhere to unwind.

**Location:** Ightham Mote, Mote Road, Ivy Hatch, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 0NT

**Directions:** 6 miles north of Tonbridge on A227, 6 miles south of Sevenoaks on A25, 16 miles west of Maidstone on A20/A25

**Contact No:** 01732 810378 ext 118

**Website:** [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ightham-mote](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ightham-mote)

**Kings Hill**

**Venue:** Control Tower

**Dates:** Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th September 10am – 4pm

**Description:** Limited, timed access to view the cultural centre artwork exhibition and tour the renovated Control Tower building.

**Location:** Liberty Square, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4RG

**Contact No:** 01732 770929

**Website:** [www.kings-hill.com](http://www.kings-hill.com)

**Snodland**

**Venue:** All Saints Church

**Dates:** Saturday 12 September 10am – 5pm

**Description:** An ancient building beside the River Medway with many notable features.

**Location:** Mill Street

**Directions:** From Snodland by-pass middle exit (follow signs) and travel east (north-bound over by-pass bridge and turn left).

**Website:** [www.allsaintschurch.org.uk](http://www.allsaintschurch.org.uk)

**Contact:** 01634 243001

**Snodland**

**Venue:** Snodland Millennium Museum

**Dates:** Sunday 13 September 2pm – 5pm

**Description:** The museum covers Snodland and District: artefacts and research facilities for local and family historians.

**Location:** Waghorn Road, 2nd on left in High Street.

**Contact No:** 01634 243001

**Website:** [www.snodlandhistory.org.uk](http://www.snodlandhistory.org.uk)
### Haysden Country Park

**Area:** Tonbridge  
**Venue:** Haysden Country Park  
**Dates:** Sunday 13 September 10am & 2pm (maximum 15 per group)  
**Description:** A led interpretive walk, learning about the history of Haysden Country Park/Pre book via Tonbridge Castle Gateway. Meet at main car park by the flag pole at the time indicated.  
**Location:** Haysden Country Park, Lower Haysden Lane, Tonbridge, Kent, TN11 9BE  
**Directions:** Follow the brown tourism signs from Tonbridge town centre along Brook Street and Lower Haysden to the entrance of the Country Park.  
**Contact No:** 01732 876172  
**Website:** [www.tmbc.gov.uk/hcp](http://www.tmbc.gov.uk/hcp)

### High Hilden Country House Living for the Elderly

**Area:** Tonbridge  
**Venue:** High Hilden Country House Living for the Elderly  
**Dates:** Saturday 12 September 10am – 12 noon  
**Description:** An Edwardian house and garden, originally built as a family home. Later used as an educational facility during World War II, before its establishment as a facility for the elderly in 1948. Of particular interest is the Battle of Britain memorial plaque.  
**Location:** High Hilden Close, Tonbridge  
**Directions:** From the B245 London Road, turn into High Hilden Close and continue to the end of the road.  
**Contact No:** 01732 353070  
**Website:** [www.highhilden.co.uk](http://www.highhilden.co.uk)

### Mountain's Country House

**Area:** Tonbridge  
**Venue:** Mountain's Country House  
**Dates:** Sunday 13 September 2pm – 6pm  
**Description:** A magnificent 19th Century Grade II listed mansion set in acres of stunning parkland with magnificent Redwood trees close to the building. Built in 1866, the mansion has a crenelated roof and gargoyles.  
**Location:** Noble Tree Road, Hildenborough, Kent, TN118ND  
**Directions:** From M25, leave at Junction 5 and follow A21 towards Sevenoaks. Leave A21, taking B245 towards Hildenborough (London Road), Follow London Road towards Hildenborough and turn right into Watt’s Cross Road. Take first left into Noble Tree Road. Continue along Noble Tree Road for 0.2 miles. Mountains Country House is on the left. From Tonbridge, follow London Road towards Hildenborough. Pass St John’s Church on right and take the first left into Noble Tree Road. Mountains Country House is directly on the left.  
**Contact No:** 01732 834212  
**Website:** [www.fossebankschool.co.uk](http://www.fossebankschool.co.uk)

### St Saviour’s Church in the Parish of St Peter & St Paul, Tonbridge

**Area:** Tonbridge  
**Venue:** St Saviour’s Church in the Parish of St Peter & St Paul, Tonbridge  
**Dates:** Saturday 12 September (10am – 6pm)  
**Sunday 13 September (1 - 4pm)  
**Description:** St Saviour’s is an attractive, welcoming church built in 1875 with some internal alterations to the west end made in 1993. Please add, Bellringing demonstrations and exhibition at 1 and 3pm. Refreshments available  
**Location:** Dry Hill Park Crescent, Tonbridge  
**Directions:** At the end of Dry Hill Park Crescent on the left hand side. On the junction with Dry Hill Park Road.  
**Contact No:** 01732 838411  
**Website:** [www.tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk)

### The Schools at Sommerhill

**Area:** Tonbridge  
**Venue:** The Schools at Sommerhill  
**Dates:** Sunday 13 September 2-4pm  
**Description:** This Grade 1 listed Jacobean Mansion (1611), the second largest Jacobean house in Kent, with a later Victorian extension which together with 20th and 21st century additions, is home to the schools at Sommerhill. The House is set in 170 acres of listed parkland which is currently undergoing restoration to “grazed parkland estate” condition, under the guidance and with the support of Natural England and English Heritage. Access to house, parkland and gardens.  
**Directions:** Access via Tudeley Road / B2017 entrance  
**Location:** Tudeley Road, Tonbridge, Kent, TN11 0NJ  
**Website:** [www.somerhill.org](http://www.somerhill.org)
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<tr>
<td>Tonbridge</td>
<td>Tonbridge Castle</td>
<td>Saturday 12 September 9am – 5pm, Sunday 13 September 10.30am – 4.30pm</td>
<td>Tonbridge Castle is a medieval castle that boasts Kent’s best example of a Motte and Bailey Gatehouse, and its mighty gatehouse is amongst the finest in England. Free partial tours will operate over Heritage weekend.</td>
<td>North end of Tonbridge, just off the High Street</td>
<td>For sat nav users, please enter the postcode TN91BG Pay and display car parks are situated next to the Castle site (Sunday only)</td>
<td>01732 770929</td>
<td><a href="http://www.tonbridgecastle.org">www.tonbridgecastle.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Malling</td>
<td>West Malling Baptist Church</td>
<td>Saturday 12 September 10am – 5pm</td>
<td>The church started in 1827, originally the congregation met in Eden Farm until they were able to erect the building in 1836.</td>
<td>Swan Street, West Malling, Kent, ME19 5LW</td>
<td>From West Malling High Street, walk down Swan Street and the church is on the left opposite the Abbey. From the station, walk up towards West Malling and the church is on the right.</td>
<td>01732 843117</td>
<td><a href="http://www.wmbc.org.uk">www.wmbc.org.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Malling</td>
<td>Pilsdon at Malling Community</td>
<td>Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 September 10am – 5pm (both days)</td>
<td>Pilsdon at Malling occupies the former monastery on six acres of land next to St Mary’s Abbey, where we have flower, fruit and vegetable gardens and keep hens, ducks, geese, sheep and pigs.</td>
<td>27 Water Lane, West Malling, Kent ME19 4LH</td>
<td>Water Lane is just off West Malling High Street. Limited Parking in Water Lane, plenty in the car park behind Tesco.</td>
<td>01732 870279</td>
<td><a href="http://www.pilsdonatmalling.org.uk">www.pilsdonatmalling.org.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Malling</td>
<td>The Twitch Heritage Centre</td>
<td>Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 September 11am – 4pm (both days)</td>
<td>RAF West Malling memorabilia. Graffiti in smoke on ceiling and cartoons on walls by RAF officers. Uniforms of officers billeted at Douces Manor.</td>
<td>Cellar at Douces Manor, St Leonard’s Street, West Malling</td>
<td>No parking on site. Park in High Street, Country Park or road on St Leonard’s Street.</td>
<td>01732 842245</td>
<td><a href="http://www.themallingsociety.org.uk">www.themallingsociety.org.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Malling</td>
<td>St Mary the Virgin</td>
<td>Saturday 12 September 10am – 1pm, Sunday 13 September 2-4pm</td>
<td>An 11th century Norman church and tower. Guided tours of the tower with great views from the top. Coffee available on Saturday, cream teas on Sunday.</td>
<td>Top of High Street in West Malling</td>
<td>The church is situated at the top of the High Street. There is No parking at the church but a car park behind Tesco is a 5 minute walk away. Disabled access into the church but not up the tower.</td>
<td>01732 842245</td>
<td><a href="http://www.stmaryswestmalling.org.uk">www.stmaryswestmalling.org.uk</a></td>
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<td>01732 842245</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trottiscliffe</td>
<td>St Peter &amp; St Paul Church, Trottiscliffe</td>
<td>Every day</td>
<td></td>
<td>Church Lane, Trottiscliffe, West Malling, Kent, ME19 5EE</td>
<td></td>
<td>01732 841170</td>
<td><a href="http://www.bartcombinedbenefice.org.uk">www.bartcombinedbenefice.org.uk</a></td>
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AN INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF MUSIC
WEST MALLING, KENT
20 SEPTE. - 27 SEPTE. 2015

Box Office: 01732 770929
www.musicatmalling.com

Dragon Boat Racing
Sunday 13 September

Twenty teams will battle it out to become dragon boats champions. The event is free and heats will commence at 10am with the final at around 4pm.

More information at www.tonbridgetownteam.org.uk

For more details visit www.tmbc.gov.uk

Disclaimer: Whilst every care has been taken to ensure all entries were correct at time of print, Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council cannot accept responsibility for any errors, omissions or subsequent alterations. We would suggest contacting Tonbridge Castle Gateway on 01732 770929 before making your visit to your chosen venue.