

Heritage Open Days

11th - 20th September 2026

FREE



This year's Heritage Open Days theme is Everyday Histories.

In 2026 we'll be exploring stories of working lives, from learning a craft to establishing routines and cherished rituals.

What will you discover about our factories and cottage industries, canal wharves and beyond?

FREE events, tours and experiences in and around Bromsgrove and Redditch

NEW
CULTURAL COMPACT FOR
NORTH EAST WORCESTERSHIRE



Bromsgrove
District Council
www.bromsgrove.gov.uk

Redditch
Borough Council
Working together for our communities


heritage open days

Find out more:



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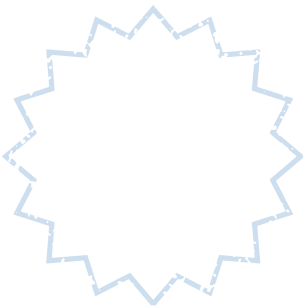
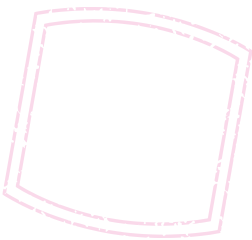
In partnership with
 **National Trust**

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Memories page

Use this page to collect a memento from each venue you visit such as a sticker, a stamp, a crayon rubbing or make a note of where you have been.



Listings were correct at the time of printing but please check online for any changes or updates before you visit: www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting

Welcome to England’s largest festival of history and culture taking place between 11th - 20th Sept 2026.

Heritage Open Days are supported by the National Trust and the People’s Postcode Lottery.



Thousands of volunteers make the events happen. It’s your chance to see hidden places and try new experiences - it’s free to explore.

Venues across Bromsgrove and Redditch have come together to promote what’s happening in and around their areas.

Check out the easy-to-use directory to find out what’s happening. For full details visit: www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting

Please also visit the above website for the most up to date list of events, as not all of the events may be included in this booklet.

Some events have restrictions on numbers, to avoid disappointment, please check if booking is required.

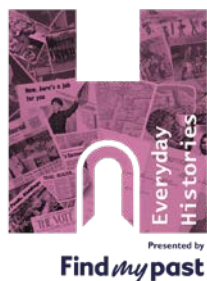
Facilities Key

					
Full wheelchair access	Partial wheelchair access	On-site disabled parking	On-site accessible toilets	Hearing Loop	Large print available
					
Assistance dogs welcome	Dogs welcome	Toilets on-site	Parking	Pushchair/ Pram friendly	Baby changing/ Breast feeding area
					
Refreshments available	Children/Family activities available	Changing Places Toilets	Site not normally open to the public		

Foreword

It is a pleasure to welcome you to this year's Bromsgrove and Redditch Heritage Open Days Festival. Every September, the festival provides a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the places, people, and stories that have shaped our communities, while bringing together residents, visitors, volunteers, and organisations from across North East Worcestershire.

This year feels particularly exciting. We are enjoying a time of growth and opportunity for culture and heritage across our area and over the coming months, thanks to ReNEW, we will see new projects, partnerships, and community-led activities take shape. Everything is designed to help more people connect with the rich cultural and heritage offer on their doorstep.



The 2026 Heritage Open Days theme, Everyday Histories, invites us to look beyond the headline moments of the past and discover the stories of ordinary people, working lives, traditions, and communities that have shaped the places we know today. It is a theme that resonates strongly across Bromsgrove and Redditch, where generations of residents have contributed to the area's character, industry, creativity, and community spirit.

Whether you are stepping inside a historic building for the first time, uncovering the heritage of a local neighbourhood, or learning about the people whose daily lives helped build our towns and villages, I hope this year's programme inspires curiosity, conversation, and a renewed appreciation for our shared heritage.

None of this would be possible without the dedication of the volunteers, organisations, community groups, and heritage sites who continue to give their time, expertise, and enthusiasm to make these events happen. Their passion for sharing local history and welcoming visitors is what makes the festival so special, and I would like to offer my sincere thanks to everyone who contributes behind the scenes and on the day.

As we look ahead, I hope to see the festival continue to grow and thrive across both districts, reaching new audiences, celebrating more stories, and creating even more opportunities for people to engage with the heritage that surrounds them. I encourage you to make the most of this year's programme, visit somewhere new, and join us in celebrating the everyday histories that connect us all.

Petro Nicolaides

**Chair of the North East
Worcestershire Cultural Compact
and ReNEW**
renew@bromsgroveandredditch.
gov.uk

Events in Bromsgrove

**Friday 11th - Sunday 13th and Friday 18th -
Sunday 20th September 10am - 4pm**

The Norton Collection Museum

26 Birmingham Road, Bromsgrove, B61 0DD

One man's lifetime collection of Bromsgrove memorabilia and artefacts. Displays feature The Bromsgrove Guild, railways, nails, glass, buttons, hardware, Garringtons, The Court Leet, a garage and two streets of Edwardian shops. Much bigger inside than it looks from the outside!

No need to book, just turn up.

- There is a disabled access lift to main displays on the 1st floor. Wheelchairs cannot get outside to the garage, but all other displays are accessible.

Contact on day: Reception Tel: 07586 157451



Friday 11th September 10.30am - 11.30am

**Interested in Discovering Your Family History -
Free Genealogy Workshop - Bromsgrove Library**
Bromsgrove Library, Parkside, Market Street, B61 8DA

Attend this one hour session to carry out research into your family history. The session will be led by a local genealogist. There will be time for you to go online and carry out research into your family tree!

**Must be pre-booked as places are limited. Call the Library on
01905 822722.**



Saturday 12th September 10am - 4pm

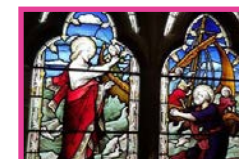
All Saints Church

6 Burcot Lane, Bromsgrove, B60 1AF

The Church has arts and crafts features, including work by the Bromsgrove Guild and beautiful stained glass windows. There is plenty to see, including an exhibition about the model laundry and cycle works that once used Blackmore Mill on the Spadesbourne Brook. Historic bound copies of the church magazine will be available to view. Refreshments will be served.

No need to book, just turn up.

Contact on day: Suzanne Thompson Tel: 07790 249510



Saturday 12th September 10am - 4pm
Sidemoor Heritage Day at NewSong
Community Church
Broad Street, Bromsgrove, B61 8LW

A day celebrating church, domestic and working life in Sidemoor. Find out about the everyday lives of nailmakers and button makers and explore information about shops, the school, pubs, sports clubs and social occasions.

The hand-wrought nail trade, well established in Sidemoor by the mid-1700s, was at its height in the 19th century. Benjamin Sanders' button factory opened at the former Sidemoor Mill in the 1820s.

The NewSong Community Church building was formerly known as the Ebenezer Methodist Church, Sidemoor. The current church building is the third to be constructed on this site. The first was opened in 1838 and the second in 1863.

The foundation stone for the current church building was laid on 18th April 1933. The exterior wall includes stones containing the names of many local people who donated to the building fund. Inside, several memorial tablets from the second chapel were re-incorporated. The stained-glass windows are by A. J. Davies. The building was extensively reordered C2002, including the removal of the organ, pews, wooden panelling and choir stalls, and the addition of a lower artificial ceiling, to create a multi-purpose worship space.

No need to book, just turn up.

- There is limited on-site parking available. If parking in nearby residential streets please respect the Church's neighbours. There is no parking for this event on the shoppers' car parks nearby.
- People of all faiths and none are welcome to attend.

Contact on day: Pat Tansell Tel: 07896 943203



Saturday 12th September 10.30am - 3pm
St John's Church, Bromsgrove
Cake & Coffee Concert
Kidderminster Rd, Bromsgrove, B61 7JW

A gloriously light-hearted concert at 10.30am (approx. 50 mins) with the Orchestra of St John, featuring 'A Musical Joke' by Mozart and Haydn's Symphony No.60. Afterwards tea, coffee and cake will be served. Please stay to explore the church or have a go on the organ! (See below).

No need to book, just turn up.

- Free concert parking at Woodland House, Church Lane, B61 8RA (by kind permission)

Contact on day: Steve Cowperthwaite Tel: 07905 950178



Saturday 12th September 11.30am - 3pm
St John's Church, Bromsgrove Open Day
As per entry above

A day of events following the Cake and Coffee Concert (see page 5) with refreshments from 11.30am. Activities include self-led history tours with audio guides and children's activities including a key hunt. Simon Henderson will be on hand to answer questions. Weather permitting, visitors will be able to climb the tower, see the bells and perhaps have a go at ringing.

No need to book, just turn up.

- The church is up a steep hill accessed via steps and slopes. Limited blue badge parking. Additional parking at Woodland House, Church Lane, B61 8RA (by kind permission) Car parking also available in town centre.

Contact on day: Ian Reading Tel: 07903 690489



Tuesday 15th September 10am - 4pm
The Greenhouse at Barnes Close - Open Day
 Barnes Close, Chadwich Manor Estate, Chadwich,
 Bromsgrove, B61 0RA

The Greenhouse at Barnes Close sits between the Waseley Hills and J4 of the M5. Barnes Close was built in 1930 by the Chadwich Manor Estate for Henry Cadbury, a member of the chocolate making dynasty. The main part of the house retains many original features. It is owned by Bournville Village Trust and managed by a separate registered charity.

During World War Two, the house and grounds were home to Millfield House Salvation Army Children's Home, Southend-on-Sea.

From 1946, Birmingham Youth and Sunday School Union (later Birmingham Council of Christian Education) used Barnes Close as a residential and day conference centre.

Barnes Close has a rich heritage in peace and reconciliation work. From the late-1980s onwards, the Community for Reconciliation used the house as a base for Christian outreach at home and abroad.

Today, the Greenhouse at Barnes Close is a place offering new ways to support people and communities to flourish in our times. It offers a sacred space to retreat to, programmes to explore reconciliation and peace-making and a community to journey with. It is an ecumenical charity, shaped and nourished by its Christian roots.

There will be an illustrated display about the history of the house and its occupants.

No need to book, just turn up.

- The Greenhouse at Barnes Close is not visible from public roads. Look out for a Heritage Open Days' banner/poster at Malthouse Lane. Care is advised when navigating the narrow lanes and the private driveway.
- People of all faiths and none are welcome.

Contact on day: Pat Tansell Tel: 07896 943203



"There's such a wonderful community spirit during the festival. Everyone comes together to celebrate the places and stories that make Bromsgrove and Redditch special." **Pat, The Bromsgrove Society.**

Tuesday 15th and Wednesday 16th
September 3.30pm - 5.30pm
Dodford Children's Farm Heritage Event
 Warbage Lane, Dodford, Bromsgrove, B61 9BE



A heritage event marking the 75th Anniversary of Dodford Children's Farm.

Since 1951, Dodford Children's Farm has welcomed children and families from across the West Midlands area. During its 75 year history the charity has offered thousands of young visitors the chance to experience the countryside, see farm animals and enjoy outdoor play. Many of the families are disadvantaged by circumstance or environment but benefit from time spent in the fresh air.

During the event visitors will be invited to explore the history of the charity and its social impact by viewing an exhibition of photographs and documents displayed in the conservatory. The Farm is set in nine acres of pasture and woodland with a stream flowing through. Visitors will be welcome to explore the grounds. The Farm is home to ponies, a donkey, sheep, pigs, rabbits, guinea pigs, chickens and ducks.

It was founded by Dr. Dorothy Beaumont with Henry and Lucy Cadbury who continued to be involved for many years. Now the day-to-day work of the Farm is managed by a manager who works with the visitors and is overseen by trustees and a management committee. The charity continues to raise funds to meet ongoing costs and further expand its facilities and services.

Must be booked. Please email info@dodfordfarm.co.uk to book your place, giving your full name and those of any other adults accompanying you. Children of all ages are welcome to attend.
(Booking closes 11th Sept 2026, 12am)

- Pre-booking is essential due to the nature of the work carried out by the charity.
- The farm is only usually open for day and residential visits which have been pre-arranged by schools and professionals working with families.
- Limited parking available on site. Please to be respectful of the farm's neighbours. Only park on the lane if the car park is full.
- There is uneven ground and steps throughout the site. Paths can be muddy and slippery in bad weather. If you wish to explore the grounds please wear sturdy footwear.
- Please follow advice given by the staff or volunteers when interacting with the animals.

Contact on day Tel: 01527 878245



Saturday 19th September 10am - 4pm
Bromsgrove Baptist Church -
Moving With The Times
New Road, Bromsgrove, B60 2JD

Bromsgrove Baptist Church presents stories from its origins three hundred and sixty years ago to the present day.

For the first fifty years the congregation met in members' homes before moving to the first of its six buildings. The present church, the third located in New Road, dates from 1990 and features a major stained glass window above the open baptistry.

During the past 360 years there have been thirty-two pastors. John Eckells, who worked in Bromsgrove's clothing trade, was minister from 1666 - 1696. The first registered meeting house was a building behind the home of Humphrey Potter who was a mercer in the High Street.

Visitors will discover stories of life and fellowship within the church from the past to today. There will be information about some of the men remembered on the First World War memorial which was designed and engraved by the Reverend James Ford whose son is one of those commemorated. There will also be information about those remembered on the Second World War plaque.

Bromsgrove Baptist Church is regarded as the mother church of others within the region including Catshill and Dodford. There was also an early association with the church at Cannon Street in Birmingham.

The Baptist Church Hall was completed in 1888. Bricks in the wall near the entrance carry the initials of people remembered by the Sunday School Children. We would be pleased hear from anyone who can identify their Victorian ancestors' initials.

No need to book, just turn up.

- Limited parking is available at the church for those who need easy access.
- Bromsgrove Baptist Church is a short walk from the High Street and within walking distance of the bus station. The nearest public car parks are in New Road (B60 2JF) and Windsor Street (B60 2QA).
- Anyone of any faith or none is welcome to visit.

Contact on day: Frank Law Tel: 07871 183333



Saturday 19th September 10am - 3pm
St Chad's Rubery - A twentieth-century gem!
New Road, Rubery, B45 9JA

Come and discover (or re-discover!) the history and architecture of St Chad's Church in Rubery. Designed by Richard Twentyman and awarded a Grade II listing in 2025, the beauty of this 1959 church both delights and surprises!

- **10am - 3pm:** Children's craft activities, refreshments, self-guided tours, local history display.
- **11am - 12pm:** The architecture of Richard Twentyman - a talk by Aidan Ridyard.
- **1.30pm - 2pm:** The history of St Chad's - a talk by Rev Claire Turner.

No need to book, just turn up. Contact on day Claire Turner Tel: 07748 998227



Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th September
Walks start at 10am, 11.30am, 1pm and 2.30pm

Tardebigge Wharf Guided Local History Walk
Church Lane, Tardebigge, Bromsgrove, B60 3AH



We welcome you to come along for a guided walk around the historic top lock section of the Tardebigge canal flight. Volunteer guides will provide a snapshot of canal construction and explain the aims of water management from the summit of the longest narrow lock flight in Britain. The story of the Wharf and the surrounding landscape is placed into context by visiting the current wharf and sites of past quays, quarries, rail tracks, lime kilns and the site of the experimental boat lift which today is replaced with a double depth lock and last year was the site of a major repair and conservation project.

Local guides from Worcester Birmingham Droitwich Canals Society and Canal & River Trust will describe how the Tardebigge section of the Worcester and Birmingham canal came to life from horse power to the age of steam and through to the establishment of the Inland Waterways Association 80 years ago. Directions are given for visitors to continue their walk along the flight to the reservoir and site of the steam pumping house.

Our charity narrowboat Cecilia will be on hand for trips through the tunnel (minimal costs apply for this).

No need to book, just turn up. (Walks last approx 1hr, 15 people max)

- Access to walk via car park. Guides will be on site to greet visitors.
- The walk will be along footpaths and tow paths. Suitable footwear is advised.

Contact on day: Al Gibbs Tel: 07398 709048

"I love Heritage Open Days because it's so much fun. I get to see things I never have before." Gideon, aged 8.

Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th September 10am - 4pm

History and Heritage Fun at Avoncroft Museum of Buildings

Redditch Road, Stoke Heath, Bromsgrove, B60 4JR

Find out how people lived, worked and played across 700 years of history at Avoncroft Museum of Buildings. FREE entry to explore 19 acres, interactive displays, have a go at fun games and activities and discover more about your past!

From millers to market-gardeners, toll-house keepers to telephone operators, farmers to farriers - the history of everyday people is celebrated and brought to life at Avoncroft Museum. Discover how people worked, prepared food, washed and went to the loo before all our modern conveniences were invented, and how they had fun in their leisure time. Why not come and celebrate our heritage with us?

- Free heritage bus service between Bromsgrove Train station and Avoncroft.
- Dogs welcome! Well behaved, on leads please!.
- Ride the miniature train all weekend for £1.
- 200yr old working windmill! (Sailing subject to wind).
- Free site tours at 10.30am and 12pm each day.
- Make a call from the Telephone Kiosks in the National Collection.
- Vintage fairground - junior swing boats, side stalls, traditional games, candy floss and traditional sweets.
- Have-a-go games and crafts.
- Hot and cold food, drinks and cakes available in our Tea Room and Pop Up Café.
- Art exhibition of original paintings of our buildings and structures.
- Music by local community groups. (see next page)
- Raffle prizes.

No need to book, just turn up.

- Art exhibition, have-a-go games, food and drink will be available to purchase through our event pop up food and tearoom.
- Free parking. Blue badge parking near entrance.
- Most buildings including the tearoom have step-free access. Due to the historic nature of the buildings, not all upstairs spaces are accessible. The buildings are linked by wide hard standing paths and there are well positioned benches around the grounds (including wheelchair accessible). The site is mostly flat, although there is one steep hill to the ice house.
- Large print maps are available on request.
- There is a sensory garden and plenty of quiet space even on a busy day.

12 **Contact on day: Avoncroft Museum Tel: 01527 831363**



Sunday 20th September 12pm and 2pm

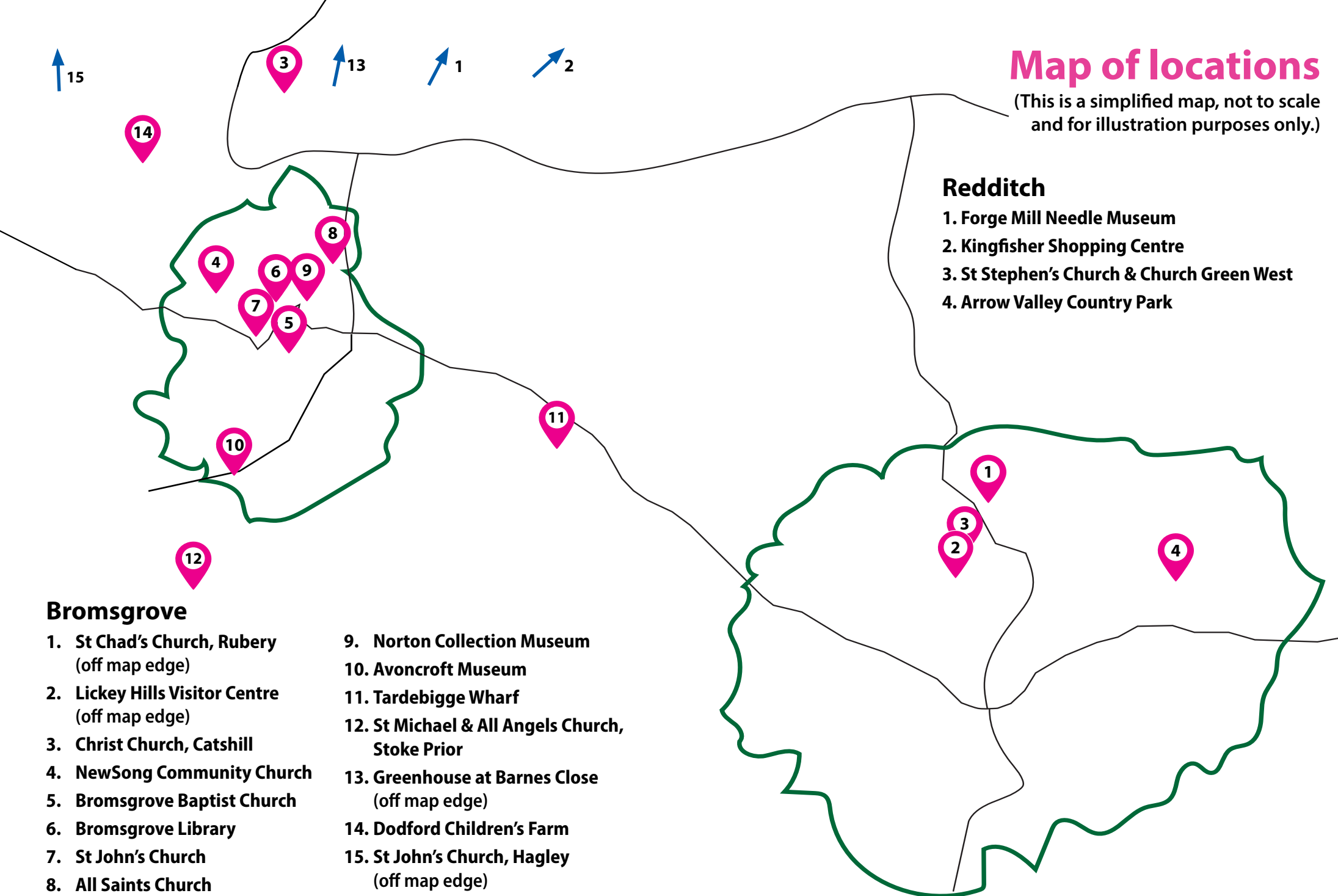
A Musical Heritage Concert at Avoncroft Museum

Redditch Road, Stoke Heath, Bromsgrove, B60 4JR

Join us in Guesten Hall at Avoncroft Museum on Sunday 20th September for a short concert featuring song arrangements from 'The Singing Villeins' and Traditional Jazz from the Family Jazz Band. The concert lasts about 45 minutes, and is part of Avoncroft Museum's Heritage Open Day.

"Every year I'm amazed by the enthusiasm of our visitors. They're positive, curious, and here for a good day out - it makes for such a nice atmosphere"
Zoe, Avoncroft Museum.





Saturday 19th September 10am - 4pm
Sunday 20th September 11am - 4pm
 (Later opening on Sunday due to the Church service,
 which everyone is welcome to join from 10am).

Christ Church, Catshill and Ride & Stride
 Stourbridge Road, Catshill, Bromsgrove, B61 9LH

187 year old village church with beautiful stained glass windows, 1st and 2nd World War graves and memorial books. The Church has connections with the poet A.E. Housman, and Christopher Morcom, childhood friend of the scientist Alan Turing. We will be fundraising for the replacement of our Chancel roof and the replacement of the stone cross blown down in the winter gales.

No need to book, just turn up.

- We are happy to welcome anyone for cup of tea, piece of cake and a quiet few minutes to sit and do nothing!
- Disabled parking in Church grounds, disabled access to the Church. Ramps for easy access. Small steps inside church.

Contact on day: Patricia Hackett Tel: 01527 875876

Sunday 20th September 4pm

A Musical Heritage Concert
Christ Church, as above entry

Join us at the end of Christ Church's Open Day on Sunday 20th September for a short concert featuring song arrangements from 'The Singing Villeins' and Traditional Jazz from the Thompson-Cox Family Jazz Band. The concert lasts about 45 minutes.

No need to book, just turn up.

Contact on day: Steve Cowperthwaite Tel: 07905 950178

"We had a wonderful time discovering hidden heritage, especially those which aren't normally open to the public, preserving and showcasing the heritage of our town is so important. A big thank you to the volunteers whose stories, teas, and cakes made the events all the more enjoyable."

Tony, Heritage Hunters Winner 2025.



Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th September
10am - 4pm

Stoke Prior and Worcestershire Memorabilia
Display at St Michael and All Angels Church
 Hanbury Road, Stoke Prior, Bromsgrove, B60 4JT



A unique collection of objects, and stories from Stoke Prior, the surrounding area and further afield displayed within the Grade I Listed Church.

The nave, chancel and north aisle of Stoke Prior's Grade I Listed church date from the 12th century. Later additions include the tower and side chapels. The octagonal font has eight carved panels and dates from the 14th century. Major restoration work, funded by John Corbett the wealthy owner of the Salt Works, was carried out in the 1890s. A recent project restored structural damage to the tower. The churchyard contains many mature trees. A new path leading to the west entrance allows easy access via a glass vestibule. The war memorial contains the names of men from the village and local area. It has carved stone panels with Celtic inspired designs.

Bob and Celia Wilson have curated a display especially for Heritage Open Days. Visitors will see a great variety of interesting items relating to everyday working lives, and local companies including the Brush Works; Garringtons; Deritend (Droitwich) and the Salt Works. There will also be memories of leisure activities including memorabilia relating to cubs and scouts. Items on display will also include a 1927 large-scale Ordnance Survey map of the local area, ephemera relating to shops, and many everyday and unusual objects large and small to inspire memories of times past. The scope of the display is too vast to fully describe - don't miss the opportunity to see it and reminisce. Amongst all sorts of interesting things, there will be some items not shown before.

No need to book, just turn up.

- Bob and Celia who have curated the display will be on hand to answer questions about the objects and ephemera on show.

Contact on day: Bob and Celia Wilson Tel: 07932 671854

"I love being part of Heritage Open Days! It's a chance to welcome people through the doors and share stories they might otherwise never discover. Seeing visitors leave happy is what it's all about." **Conrad, Bromsgrove Arts.**

Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th September 11am - 4pm

Lickey Hills Heritage Weekend

The Lickey Hills Country Park Visitor Centre,
Warren Lane, Lickey, B45 8ER

Enjoy displays in the Visitor Centre and School Room on:

- Everyday Histories: Exploring daily working life through the ages in our area.
- Maps of our WW1 war dead.
- The Rubery Hill Asylum Burials in Lickey Church.
- How the Country Park and Cofton Park came about.
- The Country Park before it became a Country Park.
- Elijah Walton's watercolours of the area in the 1850s.
- A model of the WW1 Bilberry Hill Gun Proof Range.
- Bilberry Hill Gun Proof Range: 'Hidden' in the Warren Lane Quarry and normally closed to visitors. The Quarry will be accessible, and guides will show you the WW1 Bilberry Hill Gun Proof Range and explain the site's geology.
- 1840 tithe map of the local area and other maps from our collection...and more!
- Children's activities.

Please find details of the guided walks below.

Saturday 19th September 11.30am - 1pm

Sunday 20th September 1.30pm - 3pm

The Lickey Hills in the First and Second World War Guided Walks

Sunday 20th September 11am - 12.30pm

Lickey Hills Geology: 'A Walk Through Time' Guided Walk

Guided walks will last around 1½ - 2 hours. Expect uneven ground, tree roots, mud and slopes. Please wear suitable clothes and footwear - it can be muddy!

No need to book, just turn up for any of the above activities.

- Please share your memories of the Lickeys with us. We are always interested to learn more about our local history.
- Café on site.
- The School Room and Quarry are wheelchair accessible, but the walks are not. Please be aware that the Quarry has slightly uneven ground and can be muddy.
- Free car parking, including disabled. (Free parking at the moment though charges are expected to be introduced soon, check Birmingham Council website for latest info).
- Dogs on leads welcome. Dogs (except Guide Dogs) not allowed in the Visitor Centre.

Contact on day: Jill Harvey Tel: 07773 3385019



Sunday 20th September 1pm - 5pm

St John's Church, Hagley

Top of Hall Drive, Hagley, Stourbridge, DY9 9LQ

Visitors will have the opportunity to chime one of the bells to see how important it is to get the correct timing between each of the bells. Please allow 30 minutes at the very least for your visit.

If you or your party wish to arrange a visit before 20th September, please contact the organiser directly. Text or WhatsApp is the preferred method of communication.

Access to the church is subject to the church not being used for any other event or church service.

No need to book, just turn up.

- Everyone who rings must be able to climb a spiral staircase without a walking aid and have free use of both arms and hands. Children as young as 9 years old find the art of bell ringing very easy to master.
- If your party is 6 or more in number please contact the organiser to arrange another day and time.

Contact on day: Richard Scarth Tel: 07768 273545



"Heritage Open Days gives us the opportunity to reach new audiences and introduce people to our site for the very first time. Many visitors tell us they never knew we were here, but we're so glad the festival gave them the chance to find us." **Kevin, Norton Museum.**



YOUR VOICE MATTERS

WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR VIEWS ABOUT WHERE YOU LIVE.

The My Neighbourhood Survey gives residents the opportunity to tell us what matters most in their local area, what we're doing well, and where you think improvements are needed.

Your feedback will help us understand residents' experiences and inform future decisions, priorities and service improvements across Bromsgrove.

IT ONLY TAKES 10 MINUTES



Bromsgrove District Council
www.bromsgrove.gov.uk

Events in Redditch

Available anytime, no need to book

Royal Enfield Bullet Sculpture

The Boathouse Café, Arrow Valley Park Visitor Centre, Battens Drive, Redditch, B98 0LJ



Visit the Royal Enfield Bullet sculpture and scan the QR code to watch 'The World's longest-running production motorcycle: the Royal Enfield Bullet'. Take in the beautiful landscape of Arrow Valley Lake as we celebrate the craftsmanship of the Royal Enfield Bullet. Made in partnership with ReNEW, watch as the story - which began here in Redditch - unfolds in stunning videographic detail. All ages welcome. Fully accessible.

Friday 11th September 11am (30 min walk)

Saturday 12th September 11am (1 hour walk)

Thursday 17th September 11am (30 min walk)

Friday 18th September 11am (30 min walk)

Saturday 19th September 11am (1 hour walk)

Redditch Local History Museum Heritage Walks

RLHM, New Walk, Kingfisher Shopping Centre, Redditch, B97 4YP

(Museum located inside the Centre opposite TGJones, formerly WHSmith)

Discover Redditch through the stories of the people who built it. The RLHM Heritage Walks explore the town's working lives and history from needle making/ fishing tackle workshops, to theatres, shops, railways and community landmarks. Each route offers a different pace and depth, guiding visitors through key sites that shaped everyday life for over 150 years. All ages are welcome.

Two routes - Choose your pace

- Easy (30 mins): A gentle loop through the town's cultural heart.
- Moderate (60 mins): A journey across industry, transport and community spaces within the heart of the town and surrounding area.

All walks finish at the museum's mini exhibition - "Hands That Built Redditch" showcasing tools, photographs and memories from Redditch's Industrial Past.

Pre-booking preferred via email contact@rlhm.online or by phone 07387 191824 or pop into the museum 10am - 2pm on Thur/Fri/Sat.

(Booking preferred but we will try to accommodate walk ins on the day.)

- The walks are outside so please be prepared for inclement weather.
- Wheelchair users please note walks will be on pavements and may require crossing some roads but should be accessible for all.

20 **Contact on day: June Strong Tel: 07400 563022**



Saturday 12th September Church open 10am - 4pm and pre-booked tower tours

Monday 14th - Saturday 19th September

Church only, 10am - 2pm

Sunday 20th September Church Service 10am

Everyday History at St Stephen's Church

Church Green West, Redditch, B97 4DY



As part of Heritage Open Days 2026, St Stephen's Church invites visitors to explore the theme of Everyday Histories through the lives of those who worshipped, worked, celebrated, mourned and served here. Built in 1855 at the heart of a growing industrial town, St Stephen's has been a place of worship, community gathering and refuge for generations of Redditch residents for over 170 years.

Visitors will be able to step inside this iconic Redditch landmark and:

- Explore the church and historic features
- Discover stories from Redditch's needle-making past
- View Bordesley Abbey Medieval tiles
- Learn about the people remembered in our stained glass and memorials
- Share their memories and connections with St Stephen's
- Visit the vestry and heritage displays
- Climb the tower and see the bells (pre-booking required, see below)
- Join our Church service Sun 20th 10am

From Victorian factory workers and Sunday school children to today's congregation, St Stephen's continues to be shaped by ordinary people whose stories deserve to be remembered. Whether you have worshipped here, attended a wedding or baptism, have family connections to the church, or are simply curious about Redditch's history, we would love to welcome you.

Tower tours must be booked via <https://ststephensredditch.churchsuite.com/events/tkc21ujor> or office@ststephensredditch.com (Tickets are subject to availability).

No need to book to visit the church only, just turn up.

- The church is wheelchair accessible, with level access to the main worship area.
- Bell tower access is via a narrow spiral staircase and not suitable for wheelchair users, those with limited mobility, heart conditions, vertigo, or unable to climb steep stairs. Children visiting the tower must be accompanied by an adult. Sensible footwear is recommended.
- As St Stephen's is an active parish church, visitors are asked to be respectful of those using the building for prayer and worship.
- Photography is welcome.

Contact on day: Rhiannon Walpole Tel: 07850 213556

Saturday 12th September 9am - 10am
Interested in Discovering Your Family History -
Free Genealogy Workshop - Redditch Library
 Redditch Library, 15 Market Place, B98 8AR

Attend this one hour session to carry out research into your family history. The session will be led by a local genealogist. There will be time for you to go online and carry out research into your family tree!

Must be pre-booked as places are limited. Call the Library on 01905 822722.



Sunday 13th September 11am - 4pm
Forge Mill Needle Museum and Bordesley
Abbey Visitor Centre
 Needle Mill Lane, Redditch, B98 8HY

Forge Mill Needle Museum showcases Redditch's needle and fishing tackle heritage, while nearby Bordesley Abbey features the excavated ruins of a medieval Cistercian abbey.

Highlights include:

- Museum entry including current exhibition. See the refurbished water-powered scouring mill.
- Guided museum and Abbey ruins tours.
- Displays of motorbikes from Royal Enfield Owners Club and model boats from Little Radford Model Boat Club.
- Arts in Redditch, Worcestershire Wildlife Trust and other organisations.
- A preview of 'The Eye of the Needle', a musical history of needle making at Forge Mill by Indigo Arts, ahead of ticketed performances on 18 - 21 September.
- Children's play area and family activities.
- Museum shop and refreshments/light lunches available from the refurbished Mill View Coffee Bar.

No need to book, just turn up.

- *Museum car park is limited. Parking available a short walk away.*

Contact on day: Anthony Green Tel: 01527 62509



Saturday 19th September 10am - 3pm
What Do I See? Past and Future in Redditch's
Paolozzi Mosaics
 Kingfisher Shopping Centre, Milward Square,
 Redditch, B97 4HJ

Have you seen the colourful mosaics by Eduardo Paolozzi in the Kingfisher Centre? Join us to explore Redditch's past and future through the mosaics and a fantastic new mural that reimagines them for the 21st century.

Enjoy a day of activities hosted by Reimagine Redditch and Midlands Mosaics, with guides to the artwork, badge-making, a mini-exhibition and a sneak peek at a brand-new virtual tour to celebrate the Grade II listing of the mosaics and Milward Square. All ages welcome!

No need to book, just turn up.

- *Milward Square is located in the Kingfisher Shopping Centre near Car Park 2 and next to The Range and Coffee #1.*



Saturday 19th September 12pm - 5pm
Redditch Carnival Street Festival
 Church Green West, Redditch Town Centre, B97 4EA

The day will be packed with family-friendly entertainment, including a walking parade, dancing in the street, dance and singing performances, community stalls, food vendors, workshops and a stage next to HSBC, with Wilson Fairground joining the celebrations too. The walking parade starts at 1.30pm from the Canopies, travels through the Kingfisher Shopping Centre, up to the top of Unicorn Hill, onto Church Green West, and then back to finish at the top of Unicorn Hill. There will be stalls around the Bandstand and St Stephens Gardens, giving visitors plenty to see, enjoy and explore. Everyone is welcome to come along and celebrate Redditch with us!

No need to book, just turn up.

- *Parking around Redditch Town Centre is entirely at your own risk. **No free parking - parking charges apply.** All vehicles must pay the applicable parking charges. Failure to pay may result in enforcement action. We accept no responsibility or liability for any loss, theft, damage, or other incident involving vehicles or their contents while parked in or around this area. By parking here, you acknowledge and accept these conditions. **Park at your own risk - parking charges apply.***
- *Public toilets are located inside the Kingfisher Shopping Centre.*



"For us, Heritage Open Days is about opening doors - literally and figuratively. It helps people connect with heritage, with local organisations like us, and with each other." **Philip, Arts in Redditch.**

"The fact that events are free removes so many barriers. It allows people to explore, learn and enjoy local heritage in a welcoming and accessible way." **Debbie, Forge Mill Museum.**

"I've lived in the area for decades and Heritage Open Days still surprises me every year. There's always a hidden story waiting to be uncovered." **Marlene.**

"It's much more fun than I expected! I've learned loads about where I live and it's a nice way to see friends that's a bit different." **Esther, aged 12.**

"I only came last year because it was free, but I'm so glad I did. This year I'm looking forward to making the most of everything that's on offer." **Nicholas.**

"Heritage Open Days has become a family tradition for us. It's a great way to spend time together and discover places we've never visited before." **Marie-Claire.**





2026 MY NEIGHBOURHOOD SURVEY

COMPLETE THE ANNUAL MY NEIGHBOURHOOD SURVEY 2026
Open from 10 August until 21 September



<https://www.redditchbc.gov.uk/MyNeighbourhoodSurvey>

YOUR VOICE MATTERS

WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR VIEWS ABOUT WHERE YOU LIVE.

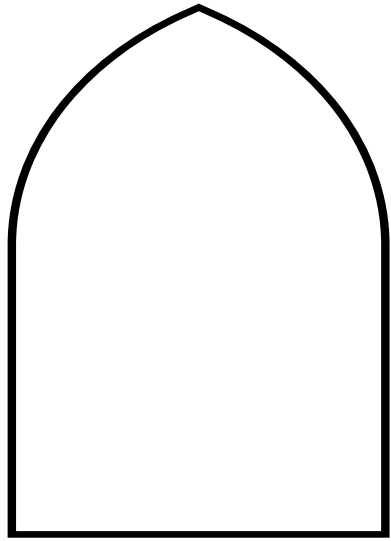
The My Neighbourhood Survey gives residents the opportunity to tell us what matters most in their local area, what we're doing well, and where you think improvements are needed.

Your feedback will help us understand residents' experiences and inform future decisions, priorities and service improvements across Redditch.

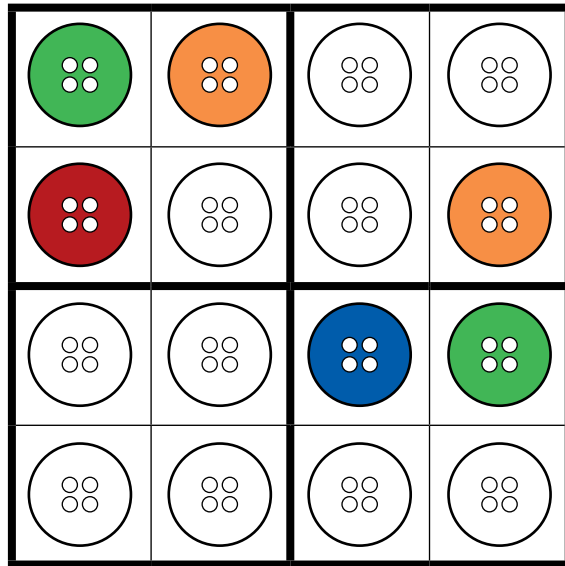
IT ONLY TAKES
10 MINUTES

**Redditch**
Borough Council
Working together for our communities





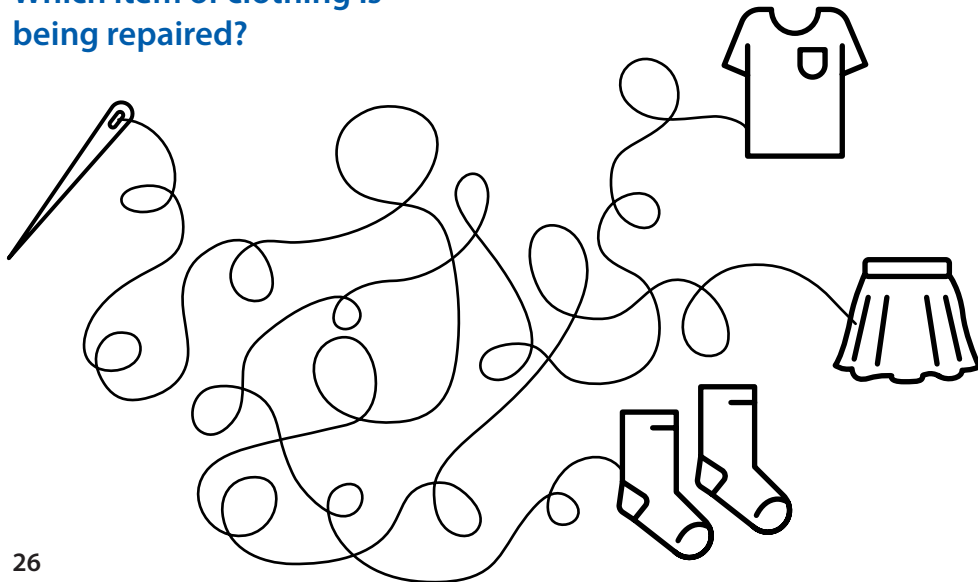
Some of our local churches have beautiful stained-glass windows. Have a go at designing your own!



Button Sudoku - can you colour the buttons so that no colour appears more than once in each row, column and square?

Did you know? Bromsgrove is famous for its buttons.

Which item of clothing is being repaired?



Can you find the following words?
Answers at the bottom of the page.

AVONCROFT
BORDESLEY ABBEY
BROMSGROVE
BUTTONS
CANAL
CHURCH
EVERYDAY LIVES
EXPLORER
FORGEMILL
HERITAGE
NEEDLES
REDDITCH

Everyday Objects for Everyday Lives
Can you spot...

- ☐ A cooking item
- ☐ A tool
- ☐ An old-fashioned chair
- ☐ A school-related object
- ☐ A toy
- ☐ A piece of clothing
- ☐ A photograph of local people
- ☐ Something used for transport
- ☐ Something handmade
- ☐ Something made in Redditch or Bromsgrove





Become a Heritage Hunter

Discover amazing local places, hidden stories and historic treasures during Heritage Open Days 11th - 20th Sept 2026.

Visit. Explore. Scan. Win.

Simply visit the different venues and find the special Heritage Hunter poster. Scan its QR code at 3 or more venues for your chance to win prizes.

Adventure is closer than you think!

To find out more, including T&Cs, please visit the Heritage Open Days 26 pages via:

www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/HODS

www.redditchbc.gov.uk/HODS



Remember, entries must be submitted by someone aged 18 or over.

