

Guildford Borough Council Heritage Service listings: April 2024 to March 2025

DATE ISSUED: 30 June 2024

Website: [Visit Guildford's heritage and history - Guildford Borough Council](#)

Venue details, including opening times, are noted at the bottom of the listing.

Please note: all information is correct at the time of publishing.

| Date/s (during open times unless otherwise stated) | Location | Details (activities are free unless otherwise stated, donations are always welcome) | Activity type |
|---|-----------------|--|--------------------------|
| Open year round | Museum | Alongside a programme of changing exhibitions, explore our permanent displays including archaeology, trade and industry, toys, and needlework. The museum is also home to a changing display from Surrey Infantry Collection. Family activities include the Scullery play space and themed trails. | Various |
| Open year round | Guildford House | Guildford House provides the backdrop for a variety of art related exhibitions taking place throughout the year. The space is also home to a craft shop and the Tourist Information Centre. | Various |
| Saturday 30 March until Saturday 2 November | Castle | <p>Guildford Castle seasonal opening</p> <p>Find out all about the history our wonderful Norman Castle and climb to the top of the tower to take in amazing views across Guildford and the surrounding borough.</p> <p>Admission charges apply adults: £4.50, children: £2.50, family (2 adults and 2 children): £12, under 5s: free.</p> | Open days |
| Saturday 27 April to Saturday 14 September | Museum | <p>From a Garrison to a Garden</p> <p>Discover stories of Guildford Castle. From Norman fortress, to surviving medieval tower surrounded by glorious gardens. Find out what it was used for, including a garrison, royal palace, and prison. The exhibition tells the story of the Castle Gardens too, with a crafted garden at the centre of the display.</p> <p>Drop-in to design and create your own flower bed or craft individual flowers and add to our installation.</p> | Participatory exhibition |
| Every Tuesday from 7 May until 27 August 10am until 2pm | Guildhall | <p>Guildhall public opening</p> <p>Discover the hidden treasures of this iconic building during one of our public open days. Stewards will be on hand to bring to life the history of the Guildhall and share stories of its historic past.</p> | Open days |
| Thursday 4 July 10.30am until 12pm | Guildhall | <p>Coffee Time Talk: The History and Mystery of Maps</p> <p>This talk by Tony Painter is based on his career as a Government Map Research Officer and time as a local historian. It covers maps of Great Britain, county maps including Surrey, military maps, some cartographic oddities, and the recent reprint of the 1913 OS map for Guildford. This talk is now fully booked.</p> | Talk – fully booked |

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| Saturday 6 July to Saturday 28 September | Guildford House | <p>Curtis Holder: Portraits of Brotherhood This exhibition, from Guildford House Open winner and Sky Arts Portrait Artist of the Year 2020 Curtis Holder, will feature a compelling selection of large-scale figurative drawings depicting intimate portrayals of Black men, rendered in vibrant coloured pencil on paper.</p> | Exhibition |
| Saturday 20 July – ongoing | Museum | <p>A Tale of Two Torches A display of memorabilia belonging to Austin Playfoot who carried the Olympic torch through Surrey in the run up to the 1948 and 2012 games. Included in the display are the torches that Austin carried.</p> | Exhibition |
| Thursday 25 July 10.30am until 11.15am | Museum | <p>Olympics Craft and Storytime Family Fun! Join in the fun of the Olympics with stories and the chance to make an Olympic relay torch. Places allocated on a first come first served basis, suitable for ages 2+. Free, donations welcome.</p> | Family fun activity |
| Thursday 1 August 10.30am until 11.30am | Museum | <p>Relaxed opening and Olympic Torch Craft Activity For our first relaxed opening, come and enjoy the museum outside of normal opening hours. You'll have a chance to hold a London Olympics relay torch from either 1948 or 2012 and to make your own Olympic torch to take home in a fun craft activity. Relaxed openings are aimed at families with children who have an autism spectrum condition or any other sensory needs. Free, donations welcome. To book or for more information please email heritageservices@guildford.gov.uk or phone 01483 444751.</p> | Relaxed session – booking required |
| Thursday 1 August and Saturday 17 August 12.30pm until 2.30pm | Museum | <p>Olympic Torch Family Fun! Hold Olympic history in your hands! Visit the display A Tale of Two Torches to hold one of Austin Playfoot's Olympic relay torches from 1948 or 2012 and take a selfie! You can also make your own Olympic torch to take home in a fun craft activity. Drop-in session, suitable for ages 5+. Free, donations welcome.</p> | Family fun activity |
| Tuesday 6 August 10.30am until 11.15am | Guildford Library* | <p>Olympics Craft and Storytime Family Fun! Join in the fun of the Olympics with stories and the chance to make an Olympic relay torch. Places allocated on a first come first served basis, suitable for ages 2+. Free, donations welcome.</p> | Family fun activity |

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| Saturday 10 August 10am until 12pm | Guildford House | Finds identification session Have you come across an interesting archaeological object while out walking or using a metal detector? Bring your find to our Finds Identification Sessions and find out more about it. Our Surrey Finds Liaison Officer, Simon Maslin will take a look. | Discovery session |
| Wednesday 21 August 12.30pm until 2.30pm | Museum | Be a Knight Family Fun! Inspired by our display From a Garrison to a Garden, make a knights helmet and a shield decorated with your own coat of arms. What symbols will you choose to represent your family in your coat of arms? Drop-in session, suitable for ages 5+. Free, donations welcome. | Family fun activity |
| Thursday 12 September 10.30am until 12pm | Guildhall | Coffee Time Talk: Guildford Twinning Association To tie in with our Heritage Open Day weekend and its theme of Routes, Networks and Connections, Barbara Ford from Guildford Twinning Association will be our speaker. NB. this talk takes place on the second Thursday of the month. Pre-book your place by emailing heritageservices@guildford.gov.uk or call 01483 444751. | Talk – booking required |
| Friday 13 and Saturday 14 September | Various | Heritage Open Day weekend Our heritage attractions will be open on Friday and Saturday to celebrate Guildford’s Heritage Open Day weekend. A variety of events will be on offer including music, a special exhibition and family activities! | Various |
| Saturday 14 September 10am until 12pm | Guildford House | Finds identification session Have you come across an interesting archaeological object while out walking or using a metal detector? Bring your find to our Finds Identification Sessions and find out more about it. Our Surrey Finds Liaison Officer, Simon Maslin will take a look. | Discovery session |
| Saturday 28 September to February 2025 | Museum | Guildford’s Quilt: Your Stories Stitched into History A display of embroidered panels made by local people illustrating the thoughts, feelings and acts of kindness that helped them through the Covid 19 Pandemic. Assembled by Stitch Together, the hangings now provide a moving record of an unprecedented, shared experience. | Exhibition |
| Thursday 3 October 10.30am until 12pm | Guildhall | Coffee Time Talk: The History of Allotments This talk isn't just about Digging for Victory and growing huge vegetables. It's also about the history of land rights, riots and rebellion, and the impact of legislation on today’s allotments. Did you know that a parliamentary question about allotments brought down a Prime Minister? Jean Wickens will reveal all. | Talk – booking required |

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| Saturday 12 October to Saturday 9 November | Guildford House | Following the Thread This is the first exhibition of new work by Quilt Art since the pandemic caused a four-year gap in their exhibition programme. The exhibition celebrates the creativity and diversity of the artists, who are united by their passion for fabric and stitch, and the limitless expressive possibilities of the textile surface. Each artist 'Follows the Thread' in their own way. | Exhibition |
| Saturday 23 November to Saturday 1 March 2025 | Guildford House | Guildford House Open Exhibition Our exhibition of the shortlisted entrants to the Guildford House Open Competition, in partnership with Parker Harris. This promises to be an eclectic mix of stunning contemporary artworks and a visual feast for any art lover. | Exhibition |
| Thursday 5 December 10.30am until 12pm | Guildhall | Coffee Time Talk: Tales of a Loseley Guide Hugh Anscombe has been a guide in Loseley House for over ten years. He has shown all kinds of groups around the house: those with a huge love of Tudor England as well as people who have never heard of the Tudors. Why did they call it Loseley? It's a question he is sometimes asked. Delving deeper he will be with Elizabeth I's visit in no time. Hugh's talk is sure to inspire you to visit Loseley for yourself. | Talk – booking required |

*Guildford Library, 77 North Street, Guildford, GU1 4AL

Location details:

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| Guildford Museum Quarry Street Guildford GU1 3SX Open Wed – Sat 12noon until 4.30pm (last entry 4pm) About Guildford Museum - Guildford Borough Council | Guildford House 155 High Street Guildford GU1 3AJ Open Tue – Sat 10am to 4.30pm (last entry to exhibitions 4pm) About Guildford House - Guildford Borough Council | Guildford Castle Castle Street Guildford GU1 3UW Open seasonally Wed – Sat 12noon until 4.30pm (last entry 4pm) between 30 March and 2 November 2024 Admission charges apply About Guildford Castle - Guildford Borough Council | The Guildhall 131 High Street Guildford GU1 3AA Open seasonally every Tue 10am until 2pm between 7 May and 27 August 2024 About Guildford Guildhall - Guildford Borough Council |
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For more information, including image requests: amanda.hargreaves@guildford.gov.uk