

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

DATE ISSUED: Tuesday 28 May 2024

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

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

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	Guildford Castle seasonal opening 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. Admission charges apply adults: £4.50, children: £2.50, family (2 adults and 2 children): £12, under 5s: free.	Open days
On now until Saturday 06 July	Museum	Secret Agent Hub Family friendly activities to practise your spy skills including sending secret messages, disguising yourself and designing a camouflage outfit for a parachuting secret agent!	Family fun activity
Saturday 27 April to Saturday 14 September	Museum	From a Garrison to a Garden 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. Drop in to design and create your own flower bed or craft individual flowers and add to our installation.	Participatory exhibition
Saturday 27 April to Saturday 01 June	Museum	Flower trail Follow our trail around the museum and find out about different spring flowers, including some with special connections to Surrey. Suitable for ages 6+. Free, donations welcome.	Family fun activity

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Saturday 27 April to Saturday 22 June	Museum	<p>Secret Agent Hub Competition! Can you design an everyday object which conceals something a secret agent would need? Hand your design into our Welcome Desk to be in with a chance of winning a spy or secret agent themed book or a book token. Prizes donated by the Secret World War 2 Learning Network. T&Cs apply. Drop-in during opening hours to design your object.</p>	Family fun competition
Every Tuesday from 7 May until 27 August 10am until 2pm	Guildhall	<p>Guildhall public opening 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
Saturday 11 May until Saturday 15 June	Guildford House: Garden Room	<p>Rainbow Squares – Embroiderers’ Guild A display of embroidery in dazzling full colour – a gloriously colourful celebration of embroidery stitches and designs made by members of the Embroiderers’ Guild. The display features hangings made up of individual four-inch embroidered squares, arranged by colour for full rainbow effect.</p>	Exhibition
Wednesday 29 May 12pm until 2pm	Museum	<p>Big Blooms! Help our garden grow by making oversized paper flowers. Take them home with you or leave them with us to brighten up the museum as part of our From a Garrison to a Garden display. Drop-in session, suitable for ages 5+. Free, donations welcome.</p>	Family fun activity
Thursday 6 June 10.30am until 12pm	Guildhall	<p>Coffee Time Talk: Not just for Spies Ever since people developed languages there has been a need to communicate in secret. This talk by Chris Shaw looks at various ways of sending secret messages and the codes we use as a part of everyday life. It includes messages using symbols, objects, letter substitution and frequency analysis, the Enigma, Lorenz and Colossus machines and other forms of ‘secret’ communication. Pre-book your place by emailing heritageservices@guildford.gov.uk or call 01483 444751.</p>	Talk – booking required
Saturday 08 June 10am until 12pm	Guildford House	<p>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.</p>	Discovery session

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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.</p> <p>Pre-book your place by emailing heritageservices@guildford.gov.uk or call 01483 444751.</p>	Talk – booking required
Saturday 6 July to Saturday 28 September	Guildford House	<p>Curtis Holder: Portraits of Brotherhood</p> <p>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</p> <p>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!</p> <p>Join in the fun of the Olympics with stories and the chance to make an Olympic relay torch.</p> <p>Drop-in session, suitable for ages 2+.</p> <p>Free, donations welcome.</p>	Family fun activity
Thursday 1 August 10.30am until 11.30am	Museum	<p>Relaxed opening and Olympic Torch Craft Activity</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Relaxed openings are aimed at families with children who have an autism spectrum condition or any other sensory needs.</p> <p>Free, donations welcome.</p> <p>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!</p> <p>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!</p> <p>You can also make your own Olympic torch to take home in a fun craft activity.</p> <p>Drop-in session, suitable for ages 5+.</p> <p>Free, donations welcome.</p>	Family fun activity

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Tuesday 6 August 10.30am until 11.15am	Guildford Library*	Olympics Craft and Storytime Family Fun! Join in the fun of the Olympics with stories and the chance to make an Olympic relay torch. Drop-in session, suitable for ages 2+. Free, donations welcome.	Family fun activity
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

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

Location details:

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](#)

For more information, including image requests: amanda.hargreaves@guildford.gov.uk