

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

DATE ISSUED: 02 August 2024

Website: <https://www.guildford.gov.uk/heritageandhistory>

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

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

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><b>Guildford Castle seasonal opening</b></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><b>From a Garrison to a Garden</b></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><b>Guildhall public opening</b></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
Saturday 6 July to Saturday 28 September	Guildford House	<p><b>Curtis Holder: Portraits of Brotherhood</b></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

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Saturday 20 July – ongoing	Museum	<p><b>A Tale of Two Torches</b> 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
Saturday 17 August 12.30pm until 2.30pm	Museum	<p><b>Olympic Torch Family Fun!</b> 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
Thursday 1 August – ongoing	Museum	<p><b>Wheels of Time</b> Join Roamin' Rex as he travels through time (and around Surrey)! Collect a badge from each participating museum, including ours. For more details, visit <a href="http://www.surrey.wheelsoftime.uk">www.surrey.wheelsoftime.uk</a>.</p>	Family fun activity
Tuesday 6 August 10.30am until 11.15am	Guildford Library*	<p><b>Olympics Craft and Storytime Family Fun!</b> 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
Saturday 10 August 10am until 12pm	Guildford House	<p><b>Finds identification session</b> 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
Tuesday 13 August 10am until 12pm	The Hive**	<p><b>Fabulous Flowers!</b> Join Guildford Museum at The Hive to make some fabulous paper flowers, inspired by the wonderful displays in the Guildford Castle Grounds. Take your flower home or staff can take it back to Guildford Museum to go on display. Free, drop-in session, suitable for all ages.</p>	Family fun activity
Wednesday 21 August 12.30pm until 2.30pm	Museum	<p><b>Be a Knight Family Fun!</b> 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+.</p>	Family fun activity

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		Free, donations welcome.	
Thursday 12 September 10.30am until 12pm	Guildhall	<p><b>Coffee Time Talk: Freiburg: Friends for 45 Years</b> (part of <b>Heritage Open Days</b>)</p> <p>2024 is the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the twinning of Guildford with Freiburg in Germany. How did it come about, why was Freiburg chosen and what does twinning involve? The Chair of Guildford Twinning Association, Barbara Ford, will explain all and why this special friendship is still important. NB. this talk takes place on the second Thursday of the month.</p> <p>Pre-book your place by emailing <a href="mailto:heritageservices@guildford.gov.uk">heritageservices@guildford.gov.uk</a> or call 01483 444751.</p>	Talk – booking required
Friday 13 September 12pm until 4.30pm and Saturday 14 September 10am until 4.30pm	Guildhall	<p><b>Heritage Open Days: Special Opening and Design Awards Exhibition!</b></p> <p>Take a look around our iconic Guildhall, taking in the amazing artworks and artefacts within. Our knowledgeable stewards will be on hand to share stories of this history of the building, including what it has been used for and who's visited (including royalty!).</p> <p><b>Guildford Design Awards pop-up exhibition</b></p> <p>This small display, by the Guildford Society, shows off the award-winning projects from the 2023 Guildford Design Awards.</p>	Open day and exhibition
Friday 13 September 12pm until 4.30pm and Saturday 14 September 10am until 4.30pm	Castle	<p><b>Heritage Open Days: Free Entry, Early Opening and Shields Up!</b></p> <p>Visit our Norman Castle for free as part of Heritage Open Days. Take in the long history of this amazing building and climb the steps to the top of the tower to take in the vistas far across Guildford borough. We'll be open from 10am on Saturday to celebrate Heritage Open Days.</p> <p><b>Shields Up!</b> Why not design and colour your own shield to defend the Castle Keep from potential invading armies? What will you include on your shield – something terrifying to scare the enemy away perhaps?</p>	Open day and family fun activity
Friday 13 September and Saturday 14 September 10am until 4.30pm	Guildford House	<p><b>Heritage Open Days: Guildford Mapped Out and Come rest awhile</b></p> <p>Come along to Guildford Mapped Out to see maps of the town centre from the 1700s, 1800s and 1900s. See pictures of the streets, buildings, and objects found like 'buried treasure'. Discover how much has changed, and what has stayed the same. Why not enjoy completing our family fun activity sheet too? Drop-in, suitable for ages 6+.</p> <p>Our secluded courtyard at Guildford House is an oasis of calm amongst the hustle and bustle of the town centre. If the weather's fine, our garden furniture will be out, so feel free to drop by and <b>come rest awhile</b> enjoying the peace and quiet, (weather dependent).</p>	Interactive session, family fun activity and relaxation space

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Saturday 14 September 10am until 4.30pm (last entry 4pm)	Museum	<b>Heritage Open Days: Early Opening!</b> Our museum will open earlier than normal for this special heritage celebration. Drop by to see our colourful exhibition From a Garrison to a Garden or our display of Olympic memorabilia bequeathed to us from Olympic torch relay runner, Austin Playfoot and lots more!	Exhibition and activities
Saturday 14 September 12pm until 4pm	Museum	<b>Heritage Open Days: Vintage toy vehicles</b> See vintage toy vehicles and Victory Industry slot cars up close with our Collections team. Families can make their own paper race car and drive toy vehicles on our play table.	Family fun activity
Saturday 14 September 12.15pm until 1pm and 2pm until 2.45pm	Guildhall	<b>Heritage Open Days: Jazz from Trad's Army</b> Trad jazz is where jazz started, so join us for this celebration of heritage jazz in the Guildhall. Trad's Army, a 6-piece trad jazz band made up of retired army musicians will entertain visitors in our historic building. This event is part of the Guildford Jazz and Soul Festival: <a href="https://www.guildfordjazz.org.uk">https://www.guildfordjazz.org.uk</a>	Music
Saturday 14 September 10am until 12pm	Guildford House	<b>Heritage Open Days: Finds identification session</b> 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	<b>Guildford's Quilt: Your Stories Stitched into History</b> 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.  <b>Nature, Stitched with Style by Stitch Together</b> In this display, we invite you to celebrate the skill of embroiderers, and to share their joy in the natural world which inspires their work. Flowers, foliage, fungi, and fruit are skilfully re-created with needle and thread. Embroidered mice clamber amongst juicy brambles and sleep wrapped in oak leaves. Snippets from poetry and literature caption meticulous stitched drawings of plants, reminding us of their powers to heal and soothe.	Exhibition
Thursday 3 October 10.30am until 12pm	Guildhall	<b>Coffee Time Talk: The History of Allotments</b> 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 enlighten us.	Talk – booking required

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Saturday 12 October to Saturday 9 November	Guildford House	<p><b>Following the Thread</b></p> <p>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.</p>	Exhibition
Saturday 26 October to Saturday 2 November	Museum	<p><b>Design your own museum board game</b></p> <p>Do you love a board game? Design your own board game based on the displays in the museum. We'll supply a template, resources, and lots of inspiration from the museum displays.</p> <p>Suitable for ages 5+.</p> <p>Free, donations welcome.</p>	Family fun
Wednesday 30 October 12pm until 2pm	Museum	<p><b>Dice games and board games</b></p> <p>Join in the fun making your own dice – will it have 6 sides or maybe 8 or even 20?! Learn some Roman style dice games and enjoy board games that need dice too.</p> <p>Drop-in session, suitable for ages 5+.</p> <p>Free, donations welcome.</p>	Family fun
Thursday 7 November 10.30am until 12pm	Guildford House Gallery	<p><b>Coffee Time Talk: Following the Thread</b></p> <p>Join this exhibition tour at Guildford House Gallery with Quilt Art member Sara Impey. Quilt Art was the first exhibiting group of its kind in Europe and in 2025 celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This international group has exhibited all over Europe and further afield. All the members are leading textile artists and many use quilting techniques as their starting point. Each member was free to interpret the exhibition title as they wished.</p> <p>Pre-book your place by emailing <a href="mailto:heritageservices@guildford.gov.uk">heritageservices@guildford.gov.uk</a> or call 01483 444751.</p>	Tour – booking required
Saturday 23 November to Saturday 1 March 2025	Guildford House	<p><b>Guildford House Open Exhibition</b></p> <p>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.</p>	Exhibition
Thursday 5 December 10.30am until 12pm	Guildhall	<p><b>Coffee Time Talk: Tales of a Loseley Guide</b></p>	Talk – booking required

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		<p>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. Pre-book your place by emailing <a href="mailto:heritageservices@guildford.gov.uk">heritageservices@guildford.gov.uk</a> or call 01483 444751.</p>	

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

\*\*The Hive, Park Barn Drive, Guildford, GU2 8EN

**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](#)

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