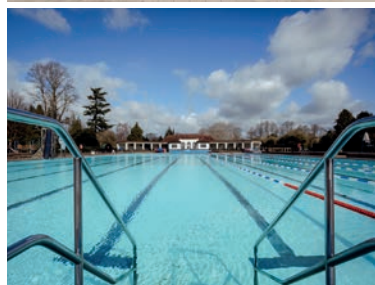


CHELTENHAM HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

11 – 20 September 2026



Cheltenham Heritage Open Days

On behalf of Cheltenham Civic Society, I am delighted to welcome you to Heritage Open Days 2026, celebrating **twenty years** of Heritage Open Days in Cheltenham.

An anniversary like this deserves something precious. While we may not be able to offer emeralds, this year's programme is filled with hidden gems, treasured places, sparkling stories and rare opportunities to explore the remarkable heritage that makes Cheltenham so special. From exclusive access to fascinating buildings, to inspiring talks and guided walks of discovery, there is something to delight every curious visitor.

My sincere thanks go to the owners and organisations who have generously opened their

doors, to the speakers and walk leaders who are sharing their knowledge and enthusiasm, and to the many volunteers whose dedication has polished this programme into another outstanding celebration of our town's heritage.

I hope you discover plenty of gems and enjoy a truly memorable Heritage Open Days 2026.

Andrew Booton Chair,
Cheltenham Civic Society



RIDE + STRIDE,
Saturday 12 September

Some churches will be taking part in this annual event where participants are sponsored to travel between churches.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS Heritage Open Days is organised by Cheltenham Civic Society, with support and sponsorship from Cheltenham Borough Council. Thank you to walk leaders, speakers and event organisers from buildings which are opening their doors to the public for its enlightenment and enjoyment. Information correct at time of going to print © Cheltenham Civic Society. The organisers reserve the right to alter or cancel any aspects if unavoidable. Heritage Open Days events are free to explore.

COTSWOLD MARKETS LTD.

OUR MARKETS IN CHELTENHAM

FARMERS & FINE FOOD

2ND AND LAST FRIDAY
OF EVERY MONTH

9:00AM - 2:00PM

THE PROMENADE, GL50 1LE

ARTS & CRAFTS

3RD SATURDAY OF
EVERY MONTH

9:00AM - 5:00PM

THE PROMENADE, GL50 1LE

WWW.COTSWOLDMARKETS.COM

2026 THEMES



Look out for these symbols in the brochure to discover Cheltenham's Secret Places **SP** and Everyday Histories **EH**.

Key for 2026 themes

- | | |
|-----------|--------------------|
| SP | Secret Places |
| EH | Everyday Histories |

Digital Event: The Curious Incident of the Man and the Pram

★ A pre recorded play, available to download throughout the festival
www.cheltcivicsoc.org/events/heritage-open-days/ and YouTube

A short film telling a remarkable true story that occurred during Gustav Holst's early life. It occurred in 1875, around the time of his first Birthday. Gustav was taken for a stroll in his pram along Winchcombe Street. He was accompanied by his mother Clara and his nursemaid Alice Speechy. Walking towards them were Henry Swinhoe and his wife. That's when a curious and near-catastrophic incident took place.

Parrot Productions gratefully acknowledges Cheltenham Arts Council funding



All Saints Church

📍 All Saints Road, Pittville GL52 2EY

🕒 Friday 11, Saturday 12, Friday 18, Saturday 19*: 10am-1pm & 2-5pm.

*Access may be restricted for Rehearsals for Holst Lunchtime Birthday Concert.

🍽️ Refreshments/Disabled access to church/Free Parking/Toilets (no wheelchair access)

★ Tours at 3pm as above.

Come and Draw: under the guidance of a graduate from the Courtauld Institute of Art. Saturday 12 & Saturday 19, 2pm

Dating from 1868, All Saints Church is a grade one listed building; described as "a splendid example of complete Gothic self-assurance with Victorian Punch".

View its fine Victorian Ironwork, and the dramatic use of stone by the architect John Middleton,



the vibrant stained glass, including its dramatic rose windows, one of which was from designs by Edward Burne Jones.

One of only 300 major churches in the UK, and an association with Gustav Holst whose father was organist here for 25 years.

- Baptism, Marriage and Funeral Records from 1868 available
- Displays of Historic and Contemporary Vestments, alongside Snapshots of the History of All Saints.

For Mass times during Heritage Open Days, please visit www.allsaintspittville.co.uk

Cambray Baptist Church

📍 Cambray Place GL50 1JS

🕒 Friday 11, 11.30am-3.30pm & Saturday 12, 11am-3.30pm

🚻 Disabled access (some steep stairs but ground floor is accessible)/Toilets

★ Tours are available throughout the day, plus short talks each day on our history
 Cambray is a listed mid-19th Century Baptist Chapel in the Italianate style. It retains many of its original features. A large hall was added in the 1890s, one of the first public buildings in Cheltenham to have electricity and heating. Visitors often compare the building to a tardis. See page 15 for talk details.





Cheltenham Arts Council – Celebration of the Arts

📍 The Promenade GL50 1PJ

🕒 Saturday 5, 10am-4pm

Market Stalls manned by volunteers from a wide range of Cheltenham's local Arts societies and organisations.



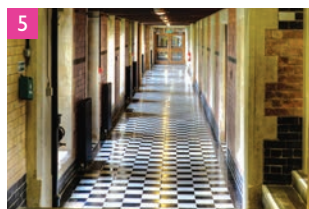
Cheltenham College Chapel

📍 Bath Road GL53 7LD

🕒 Monday 14, 9.30am; Tuesday 15, 9.30am & 2.30pm; Wednesday 16, 9.30am; Thursday 17, 9.30am & 2.30pm; Friday 18, 9.30am

♿ Disabled access/Toilets

★ 8 places per tour. Pre-book by emailing archives@cheltenhamcollege.org
Join us to discover the history of Cheltenham College (established 1841) in our magnificent Chapel.



Cheltenham Ladies' College

📍 Bayshill Road GL50 3EP

🕒 Saturday 19, 1-4pm ♿ Disabled access (check when making a booking)/Toilets

★ Tours at 1pm, 2pm & 3pm: meet at College Main Entrance on Bayshill Road.

Duration 60 minutes. 10 places per tour. Pre-book by emailing hods@cheltcivicsoc.org

Dating from 1873, Cheltenham Ladies' College's main buildings are designed in ecclesiastical style. The interior shows influence of the Arts and Crafts Movement. This hour-long tour also includes History of College Museum.



Cheltenham Lido SP

📍 Keynsham Road GL53 7PU

🕒 Friday 11 & 18, 10am-2pm

♿ Disabled access (Accessibility limited within swimming pool plant room)/Toilets

★ Tours available between 10am-2pm. 12 places per tour.

Pre-book at www.cheltenhamlido.co.uk/events

Step behind the scenes at Cheltenham Lido on this fascinating heritage tour. Discover the site's rich history, explore the swimming pool plant room, browse archive materials, and gain a unique insight into how this much-loved facility has evolved.



Cheltenham Masonic Hall

📍 Portland Street GL52 2PB 🕒 Saturday 12, 10am-4pm

♿ Refreshments/Disabled access (Ground floor only)/Toilets

★ Unsuitable for children under 5 years

Purpose-built Masonic Hall constructed in 1823 by architect George Allen Underwood.

Original Regency features – early 19th century furnishings; museum and library of masonic memorabilia; dining room in Knights Templar encampment style, 1700s pipe organ, wrought iron balustrade on the cantilevered spiral staircase, and balcony railing. Displays on the history of Freemasonry and charity.



Cheltenham Playhouse

📍 47-53 Bath Road GL53 7HG

🕒 Tuesday 15 & Wednesday 16, 1pm. Pre-book at www.cheltplayhouse.org.uk

♿ Refreshments/Disabled access (partial)/Toilets

Converted to a theatre in 1945, the Playhouse has an astonishing history dating back to 1806; it has been a salts works, slipper baths, steam mill, bakery, medicinal spa, indoor cycling school, gymnasium, ARP centre and a swimming pool – which still exists under the auditorium.

Cheltenham Minster, St Mary's

📍 Well Walk off Clarence Street GL50 3HF
 🕒 Friday 11, 11am-3pm and talk at 2.30pm;
 Saturday 12, 11am-3pm; Sunday 13,
 11am-4pm: Talk & Tour: 1pm; Monday
 14 –Wednesday 16, 11am-3pm; Thursday
 17, 11am-3pm & 6.30-8.30pm: Bell Tower
 from 6.30-8pm and talk at 7pm;
 Friday 18, 11am-3pm; Saturday 19,
 11am-3pm; Sunday 20, 11am-4pm.

♿ Disabled access (ground floor only)/
 Toilets (including accessible toilet)

★ Bell Event: Ringing of bells from
 6.30-8.30pm on Thursday 17.
 20 minute talk at 7pm. Visitors not
 wanting to climb the tower can watch
 on the screen in The Minster

The Minster is the only medieval church in the town, with outstanding stained glass windows and interesting memorial tablets and an ancient schoolroom.

Sunday 13, 11am traditional Holy Communion Service. Tuesday 15, 12.30pm short Holy Communion Service. Sunday 20 traditional Morning Prayer and 3.30pm traditional Evensong Service. See pages 11 and 15 for walk/talk details.

9



Cheltenham Promenaders: Mummers play

📍 Various locations around the town
 🕒 Sunday 13, beginning at 12.30pm: The Minster Churchyard GL50 3JX; 2pm: Imperial Gardens GL50 1QZ (by Garden Bar); 3.50pm: Montpellier Gardens GL50 1SW (in front of Bandstand); 6pm: Sandford Park Ale House, 20 High Street GL50 1DZ

♿ Refreshments & toilets at some locations
 ★ Each performance lasts approximately 30 minutes
 Cheltonian actor and local history enthusiast, Phil Collins from the Cheltenham Promenaders, has written his own Cheltenham version of a traditional Mummers play. This short play was premiered at The Everyman Theatre to celebrate the King's Coronation.

10



Cheltenham Spiritualist Church

📍 Bennington Street GL50 4ED
 🕒 Tuesday 15, 10am-1pm; Thursday 17 & Saturday 19, 2-4pm
 ♿ Refreshments/Disabled access/Toilets

Come and visit our church which was built in 1926 by Mr Bubbs JP a local landowner. Find out more about him and his connections within Cheltenham. Learn a little about Spiritualism and the role of our church today.

11



12



Cheltenham Synagogue

- 📍 Synagogue Lane, St James Square GL50 3PU 🕒 Wednesday 16, 5-7pm
 - ♿ Disabled access (limited)
 - ★ Pre-booking is mandatory by emailing hods@cheltcivicsoc.org with the names and contact details of all proposed attendees. Mandatory Security Measures: No bags permitted in the building; Valid Photo ID required for entry
- Visitors are welcome to look around our 2★ Listed Synagogue, first consecrated in 1839. Members will be present, happy to engage in conversation. Traditional psalms will be sung.

13



NEW

Cheltenham Town Hall

- 📍 Imperial Square, GL50 1QA 🕒 Sunday 20, 10am-2pm
- ♿ Refreshments (Café will be open)/Disabled access (none to balconies and rear gallery)/Toilets

Ever wondered what's behind the doors of Cheltenham Town Hall? This Heritage Open Day, find out for yourself. Step inside this grand building, built in 1902–03 to host Cheltenham's balls and concerts, and admire its striking architecture, including the Main Hall's Corinthian columns and coved ceiling. Wander at your own pace on a self-guided tour. Our café will be open throughout the day for refreshments.

14



NEW

10 Year Retrospective Art Exhibition – Christian Arts Festival

- 📍 The Hub Gallery, Christ Church, Malvern Road GL50 2JH
- 🕒 Friday 11, Saturday 12, 10am–4pm, Sunday 13, 12noon–2pm, Monday 14 – Saturday 19, 10am–4pm, Sunday 20, 12noon–2pm
- ♿ Disabled access/Toilets/Limited free parking

★ No need to pre-book

Art Exhibition – *Christian Arts Festival Retrospective & New Work 2016–2026*. Opening & Celebration, Friday 11, 5-7pm. Everyone Welcome! Church open same hours as The Hub Gallery.

15



NEW

Christ Church Organ and Choir Concert

- 📍 Malvern Road GL50 2JH
- 🕒 Sunday 20, 3pm
- ♿ Refreshments/Disabled access/Limited free parking/Toilets
- ★ Free entry (donations welcome). No need to pre-book

A short concert of choral and organ music with organist Gordon Busbridge and Director of Music, Timothy Ingold, with the choir of Christ Church Cheltenham. Followed by refreshments.

Historic tour of Dean Close Senior School

- 📍 Main Reception, Shelburne Road GL51 6HE
 - 🕒 Tuesday 15, 10am; Wednesday 16, 10am & 2pm; Saturday 19, 10am
 - ♿ Refreshments/Disabled access/Toilets
 - ★ There is a reasonable amount of generally easy walking, but as it is an old building there are changes in level. There is little to interest young children
- The tour takes just over an hour and will concentrate on the Senior School buildings which date back to 1886 when Dean Close Memorial School, an evangelical educational establishment, first opened. Tea and cake will be served afterwards. There is a maximum of 20 people per tour. Tours must be pre-booked. Please contact Leah Barton at lobarton@deanclose.org.uk or 01242 258000 ext 1219.



16

Launch of Historical Map of Cheltenham project

- 📍 Pittville Pump Room, East Approach Drive GL52 3JE
- 🕒 Tuesday 15, 11am-5pm (launch event at 4pm)
- ♿ Disabled access/Toilets

A manned display to introduce the plans for an historical map of Cheltenham in the series published by the Historic Towns Trust, followed by the official launch of the map project at 4pm. *The display is open to all and there are no limits on numbers. The launch event will be by invitation, but members of the public are welcome to attend.*



Lodge Park

- 📍 Near Sherborne GL54 3PP
- 🕒 Sunday 20, 11am-4pm
- ♿ Refreshments/Disabled access (limited)/Free parking/Toilets
- ★ 11.30am: Walk & Talk along the Deer Course. No dogs allowed. Pre-book by emailing hods@cheltcivicsoc.org. 2pm: Walk & Talk about The Bridgeman Landscape. Pre-book by emailing hods@cheltcivicsoc.org. Please wear outdoor shoes for walks.

Lodge Park, owned by the National Trust, is England's only surviving 17th century deer course and grandstand built by John 'Crump' Dutton to satisfy his love of gambling and entertaining, it is now set in a landscape designed by Charles Bridgeman. An all day exhibition of items related to the Dutton family and the use of Lodge Park for 400 years. Members of the Sherborne Village Archive will be available to answer questions on the history of the Lodge and the Park.

18



Montpellier Gardens

- 📍 Montpellier Gardens GL50 1SD
 - 🕒 Sunday 13, FOMBAG information 3-5pm
 - ♿ Refreshments (to purchase from The Garden Café)/Disabled access
 - ★ Cheltenham Silver Band 3-3.45pm & 4.15-5pm; Mummers play 3.50-4.15pm
- The Friends of Montpellier Bandstand & Gardens (FOMBAG) will be on hand with information and history of these beautiful Regency pleasure grounds. There will also be performances by the Cheltenham Silver Band and a Mummers play from The Cheltenham Promenaders.



20



'Murder Most Unladylike' tours at Cheltenham Ladies' College

- 📍 Bayshill Road GL50 3EP 🕒 Saturday 19, 1-4pm
- ♿ Refreshments/Disabled access (check when making a booking)/Toilets
- ★ Tours for children (age suitability approximately 8-13) at 1pm, 2pm & 3pm: meet at College Main Entrance on Bayshill Road. Duration 60 minutes. 10 places per tour. Pre-book by emailing hods@cheltcivicsoc.org (please specify child's age when booking)

Come and see the places that inspired Robin Stevens to create *Deepdean School*. Find the gym where the murder happened, see the original tunnel where the body was hidden. This is an hour-long tour for young fans of the Robin Stevens books and includes a bun break with Daisy and Hazel.



Pate's Grammar School

📍 Princess Elizabeth Way GL51 0HG (Entrance from Oldbury Road) 📅 Saturday 19
 ♿ Disabled access/Free parking/Toilets ★ Viewings at 11am, 12noon, 2pm & 3pm. Duration 45 minutes.
 10 places per time slot. Pre-book by emailing hods@cheltcivicsoc.org

Visit the 1965 modernist abstract stained glass window. Designed and made by the RCA Stained Glass Workshop, who were also involved with the stained glass of Coventry Cathedral. There will also be a small display of images of the 1965 boys' building (now demolished) – for which the Window was made – designed by Chamberlin Powell & Bon. *Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.*



Pittville Pump Room

📍 East Approach Drive, GL52 3JE
 📅 Saturday 12, 10am-4pm
 ☕ Refreshments (café will be open)/Disabled access/Free parking/Toilets

The jewel of Cheltenham's Regency architecture, Pittville Pump Room overlooks the sweeping lawns of Pittville Park. This Heritage Open Day, come and explore it for yourself. Drop in any time, no need to book. Follow our self-guided heritage trail, available downstairs in the Main Hall, and stop by our café for sandwiches, salads, cake and drinks while you're here.



Quaker Meeting House EH

📍 Warwick Place GL52 2NP
 📅 Friday 11, 2-5pm & Saturday 12, 11am-4pm
 ☕ Refreshments/Disabled access/Toilets

★ Drop in – no need to pre-book. Can accommodate up to 25 people at a time Did you know...? That Quakers are also called The Society of Friends? That Quakers have met in Cheltenham since 1660? And that a surprising number of businesses were established by Quakers? Why? Come and find out more, including a tasty snack made with oats that aren't Quaker at all! *Children welcome, baby changing facility.*

FREE SELF-GUIDED WALKS

Collect from the Holst Victorian House, 4 Clarence Road, Pittville, Cheltenham GL52 2AY (Tue to Sat 10am-4pm & Sun 12-4pm). There are eleven walks, written by members of Cheltenham Local History Society and Friends of Pittville, which you can do at your leisure.



A beautifully restored Victorian chapel and café open Monday-Friday 10am-4pm. A welcoming space for visitors to relax & enjoy quality coffee, homemade cakes, light lunches and refreshments.

Bouncer's Lane Cemetery GL52 5JT

Ask at the café if you'd like to look around the chapel!

St Andrew's United Reformed Church

- 📍 Montpellier Street GL50 1SP
- 🕒 Saturday 12 & Saturday 19, 11am-3pm
- 🍽️ Refreshments (Saturday 12 only)/ Disabled access/Toilets

★ Saturday 12, 12noon-1pm:

Organ Concert, celebrating 'Father Willis' Organ, and 140th Church Anniversary. Free admission. Donations in aid of Spire Restoration. Saturday 12 & 19: Exhibition of St Andrew's 140 years, including the recently completed Spire Refurbishment project.

Grade II Victorian Gothic Church. Opened 1886, hall addition 1896, refurbished 2002. See page 17 for talks details.



24



St Christopher's Church

📍 3 Lincoln Avenue, Warden Hill GL51 3DD

🕒 Saturday 12, 2-5pm

🍽️ Refreshments/Disabled access/Free parking/Toilets

★ Talks at 2pm, 3pm & 4pm. Bell-ringing between the talks. No need to pre-book

A wonderful mix of stained glass and etched windows, regular talks and self-guided tours. Bell-ringing. Tea and cake. A talk about the windows given on each hour.

A self-guided tour of the windows with leaflets and stewards available to assist. The lightest ring of bells in a church in the world. See page 15 for talk details.



25

St Luke's Church

📍 St Luke's Road GL53 7JJ 🕒 Wednesday 16 & Saturday 19, 12noon-5pm

🍽️ Refreshments/Disabled access/Free parking/Toilets

★ Talks on Wednesday 16, 2pm & 3.30pm, with afternoon tea between talks.

There is also a tour of the clock tower on Saturday 19, 12.15 & 2.15pm.

Bookings preferred, text 07816 749947 or email sylvia.a.lauder@gmail.com

View the Gothic revival architecture of St Luke's church on a 45 minute guided tour of the galleries and clock tower, via a hidden spiral staircase. View an illustrated display, listing men of the parish who served in WW1. See page 16 for talks details.



26

St Stephen's Church SP

📍 St Stephen's Road GL51 3AD 🕒 Friday 11 & Saturday 12, 9am-5pm;

Sunday 13, 1-5pm; Monday 14 – Sunday 20, 9am-5pm

🍽️ Disabled access (ramps in church)/Free parking/Toilets (no disabled access)

★ Monday 14: Talks at 11am, 1pm & 3pm. No need to pre-book

Grade II listed building; architect John Middleton. Listed as the most complete example of his work, built as a chapel of ease for overflow from Christchurch, Tivoli. A magnificent Apostles frieze. The organ is Norman and Beard and considered a fine example of early 20th century organ building. See page 15 for talk details.



27

WWI Battlefield Crosses Museum SP

📍 Cheltenham Cemetery, Bouncers Lane GL52 5JT

🕒 Friday 11 – Sunday 20, during normal cemetery opening hours

🍽️ Disabled access/Free parking

Visit this unique museum housing the wooden grave-marker crosses commemorating local soldiers who died on the battlefields of the 1914-18 First World War. Cheltenham Civic Society supervised the conservation of the remaining 23 crosses and the creation of this small museum, which opened in 2024. It is the only museum of its kind in the UK and provides an informative and moving experience for visitors.



28

The Wilson Art Gallery and Museum

- 📍 51 Clarence Street GL50 3JT
- 🕒 Tuesday–Saturday, 10am–5pm; Sunday, 10am–4pm.
Closed on Mondays
- 🍽️ Refreshments available to purchase from
The Wilson Kitchen/Disabled access/Toilets

The Wilson is home to an internationally significant museum collection of exceptional quality and variety, changing displays including the museum's historic Dutch masters and 20th century painting collection, fine art collections, and The Open Archive, which houses our fascinating archives relating to Antarctic explorer Edward A. Wilson, Cheltenham's history, and the Emery Walker Library.

Discover our *Cheltenham Story* map, a fun day out to learn 10 exciting stories about the town with lots of interesting things to see on the way. Drop in to pick up a free printed map, fun worksheets, and stickers! This project is funded by the UK government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

29



© Alex Merry

FREE SELF-GUIDED WALKS

Collect from **Cheltenham Tourist Information Centre, Cheltenham Town Hall, Imperial Square GL50 1QA**

(Monday–Saturday 10am–4pm, Closed Sundays)

There are eleven walks, written by members of Cheltenham Local History Society and Friends of Pittville, which you can do at your leisure.



GUIDED WALKS AND TALKS – HOW TO BOOK

It is essential to pre-book for all guided walks and some talks (see individual entries for details). Entry to all walks and most talks is by ticket only. Bookings can be made from **3 August** until one day before the walk/talk.

Bookings must be made by email to hods@cheltcivicsoc.org. You will be sent a pdf of the ticket which you must show when joining the event. When you make a booking you will be asked to give your contact phone number so if there are any changes you can be contacted with an update. Your contact details will only be held for 6 weeks.

If you don't have access to email you may call 07711 631962 for assistance with the booking.

We are very grateful to all walk and talk leaders who are giving their own knowledge, time and enthusiasm free of charge and without them Heritage Open Days would be much poorer.

Please carefully check the entry in this brochure for the event you are interested in and ensure that you book correctly. Please note that all walks and talks finishing times are approximate.

Please check when booking any events if dogs are welcome.

Walk: The Art of Cheltenham

👤 Phil Collins

📍 Start: Outside Waterstones GL50 1LE Finish: The Gardens Gallery GL50 1SW

🕒 Friday 11, 11am & Wednesday 16, 11am

⌚ Duration 60 minutes. 20 places. Pre-book by emailing hods@cheltcivicsoc.org

Discover the stories behind the town's public art, the artist and the creative legacy that continues today. From Regency elegance to contemporary work displayed in Montpellier's art galleries. This enjoyable walk reveals how art has helped shape Cheltenham's unique character. A one hour gentle stroll.



Walk: Brewers, Bankers and Barons

👤 Neela Mann

📍 Start & Finish: Cheltenham Minster, Well Walk off Clarence Street GL50 3JX

🕒 Friday 11, 1pm

⌚ Duration 60 minutes. 15 places. Pre-book by emailing hods@cheltcivicsoc.org

Join Neela Mann, local historian for a tour around the Minster and the stories behind a few of the memorials including some Brewers, Bankers and Barons.



Walk: Creative Connections Wellbeing Walk

👤 Nicole Daw and Amanda Steer

📍 Start & Finish: Cleeve Hill Golf Club, Cleeve Hill GL52 3PW

🕒 Friday 11, 1pm ⌚ Duration 2 hours. 10 places.

Pre-book at www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/cleeve-common-trust-12949043210

This relaxed walk is perfect for meeting new people, enjoying fresh air and connecting to nature and the special place that is Cleeve Common. Suitable for off-road mobility scooters and other mobility aids. Please contact Nicole on hello@cleevecommon.org.uk to discuss your requirements. Off-road mobility scooter available, booking required.



Walk: Characters & Developers of the Naunton Area 1850-1950

👤 Derek Scarborough 📍 Start: Natural Grocery Store, 156 Bath Road GL53 7NF

Finish: The Triangle, Naunton Crescent GL53 7GH

🕒 Saturday 12, 10am and 2pm

⌚ Duration 60 minutes. 8 places. Pre-book by emailing hods@cheltcivicsoc.org

A saunter around Naunton Estate, with moving churches, moving congregations and moving stories. Discover who owned the most houses in Cheltenham, and why there were so many laundries. Encounter remarkable residents: A slave-ship sailor, well-sinker and repentant sinners. Why were some houses never there?



Walk: Town Centre Public Art Trail

👤 Tess Beck

📍 Start: The Wilson Art Gallery and Museum, Clarence Street GL50 3JT

Finish: Montpellier Gardens GL50 1SD

🕒 Sunday 13, 10.30am

⌚ Duration 90 minutes. 15 places. Pre-book by emailing hods@cheltcivicsoc.org

Discover Cheltenham's history through its statues and public art. A walking tour covering the town centre, Imperial Gardens and Montpellier Gardens.



Walk: The Works of Cheltenham Paint Festival

👤 Andy 'Dice' Davies

📍 Start: Cavendish House The Promenade GL50 1HP

Finish: Holiday Inn Express, 33 Dunalley Street GL50 4AP

🕒 Sunday 13, 11am

⌚ Duration 60 minutes. 30 places. Pre-book by emailing hods@cheltcivicsoc.org

A tour of works from the Cheltenham Paint Festival including works by Cheltenham Paint Festival Director, Andy 'Dice' Davies. Featuring discussions on the artists, their works and methods, inspiration behind them and curating a town-wide festival.



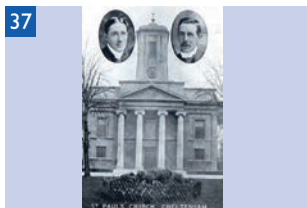
36



Walk: Stories of the First World War

- 1 Matthew Routledge 📍 Start & Finish: Car park of Cheltenham Cemetery, Bouncers Lane, Prestbury GL52 5JT
 ☉ Monday 14, 5.30pm
 ⌚ Duration 60 minutes. 20 places. Pre-book by emailing hods@cheltcivicsoc.org
 Come along to find out more about the work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission whilst exploring the First World War graves in our care in Cheltenham Cemetery. *The cemetery is flat, but caution must be used when leaving any paths due to concealed trip hazards. Come dressed for the weather and in suitable walking shoes.*

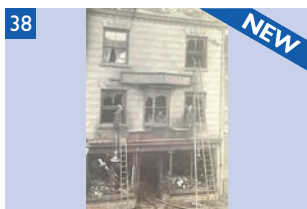
37



Walk: Preachers, Teachers, Patients and Paupers

- 1 Neela Mann
 📍 Start: High Street entrance to Winston Churchill Memorial Gardens
 ☉ Tuesday 15, 11am & 2pm
 ⌚ Duration 60 minutes. 10 places. Pre-book by emailing hods@cheltcivicsoc.org
 A walk around the St Paul's area.

38



Walk: Pubs of the Past **SP**

- 1 Alan Jones 📍 Start: Lower High St (jct with Ambrose St) outside Bowling Green GL50 3HQ Finish: 199 High St (Boots Corner, opp jct with North St) GL50 1DB
 ☉ Tuesday 15, 11am
 ⌚ Duration 60 minutes. 14 places. Pre-book by emailing hods@cheltcivicsoc.org
 Walk along the mid-section of Cheltenham High Street (encompassing side streets) where I will identify the locations of licensed premises that no longer exist, providing historical details and colour. It will include the Original Brewery, and perhaps the town's oldest identifiable inn, The Pelican.

39



Walk: Cheltenham's Industrial Heritage **EH**

- 1 Paul Davies, U3A Urban Walks group
 📍 Start & Finish: Boer War soldier statue (northern end of the Promenade's Long Garden)
 ☉ Tuesday 15, 2pm
 ⌚ Duration 2 hours. 15 places. Pre-book by emailing hods@cheltcivicsoc.org
 A short tour of former industrial sites close to the centre of Cheltenham. With places and tales which may surprise you. *Mostly level metalled ground (pavements), but some steps and a short decline. Not suitable for under 16 years of age and no dogs please.*

40



Walk: Imperial Gardens – Guided Tree Walk

- 1 Chris Chavasse
 📍 Start & Finish: Gustav Holst Statue, Imperial Gardens
 ☉ Tuesday 15, 5pm
 ⌚ Duration 75 minutes. 30 places. Pre-book by emailing hods@cheltcivicsoc.org
 Guided tree walk by Borough Council Trees Officer identifying and explaining trees within Imperial Gardens. *Walking on soft and hard ground.*

41



Walk: Historical Cheltenham – Central

- 1 Neela Mann 📍 Start: Tourist Information Centre, Cheltenham Town Hall, Imperial Square GL50 1QA
 ☉ Wednesday 16, 10am and Thursday 17, 12noon
 ⌚ Duration 45 minutes. 8 places. Pre-book at The Tourist Information Centre.
 Open Monday–Saturday, 10am–4pm
 To introduce the new free Tourist Information Centre self-guided historical walks leaflet, Neela Mann, local historian takes you on a gentle stroll around the Central area of town.

Walk: The History of Sandford Park

📍 Steve Mason

📍 Start: Unwins Fountain, Sandford Park, off College Road GL50 1DZ

📍 Finish: The Sanctuary Garden, Sandford Park, off Keynsham Road, GL53 7PU

🕒 Wednesday 16, 5pm

⌚ Duration 60 minutes. 30 places. Pre-book by emailing hods@cheltcivicsoc.orgA journey through the history of Sandford Park, from medieval to the present day. *Some uneven ground.*

42

**Walk: Sherborne Village – Bat Walk**

📍 Mike Robinson

📍 Start & Finish: Sherborne Allotments GL54 3DS

🕒 Wednesday 16, 7pm

⌚ Duration 2 hours. 10 places. No children under 12. No dogs. On road parking, please respect local residents. Pre-book by emailing hods@cheltcivicsoc.orgAn evening walk and talk on the local bat population with the chance to see and hear bats in flight. *Uneven ground, good off-road shoes, warm clothes, torch and a Bat Detector if you have one.*

43

**Walk: Historical Cheltenham – Montpellier**

📍 Neela Mann 📍 Start: Tourist Information Centre, Cheltenham Town Hall, Imperial Square GL50 1QA

🕒 Thursday 17, 10am & 3pm

⌚ Duration 45 minutes. 8 places. Pre-book at The Tourist Information Centre.

Open Monday–Saturday, 10am–4pm

To introduce the new free Tourist Information Centre self-guided historical walks leaflet, Neela Mann, local historian takes you on a gentle stroll around the Montpellier area of town.

44

**Walk: Stories of the Second World War**

📍 Matthew Routledge 📍 Start & Finish: Car park of Cheltenham Cemetery, Bouncers Lane, Prestbury GL52 5JT 🕒 Thursday 17, 5.30pm

⌚ Duration 60 minutes. 20 places. Pre-book by emailing hods@cheltcivicsoc.orgCome along to find out more about the work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission whilst exploring the Second World War graves in our care in Cheltenham Cemetery. *The cemetery is flat, but caution must be used when leaving any paths due to concealed trip hazards. Come dressed for the weather and in suitable walking shoes.*

45

**Walk: The Forgotten Past of Cleeve Common** EH

📍 David Aldred 📍 Start & Finish: Cleeve Hill Golf Club, Cleeve Hill GL52 3PW

🕒 Friday 18, 10am ⌚ Duration 2 hours. 20 places.

Pre-book at www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/cleeve-common-trust-12949043210A walk over Cleeve Common with local historian David Aldred. Unveiling the everyday histories of ancient and modern life on the top of the Cotswolds! The walk will focus on sheep dipping, quarrying and horse racing and training. Donations welcome. *Strenuous walk with some steep climbs. Terrain will be uneven in places, so boots recommended.*

46

**Walk: Cheltenham – Balancing Past and Potential**

📍 Andrew Booton 📍 Start: Promenade, outside Waterstones

Finish: The Queens Hotel 🕒 Friday 18, 11am

⌚ Duration 2 hours. 15 places. Pre-book by emailing hods@cheltcivicsoc.orgJoin Cheltenham Civic Society for a walk through the heart of England's finest Regency town. Explore how architecture, public spaces and civic pride continue to shape Cheltenham today. Visiting key historic and contemporary sites, we'll examine the challenges of balancing heritage, adaptation and growth in a living historic town. *Wear comfortable shoes & bring waterproofs. Regular stops but not many places to sit.*

47



48



NEW

Walk: Nine Trees Trail

1 Ruth End and Christine Whittemore

📍 Start: Sandford Park Fountain on College Road

Finish: Main entrance to the University, Park Campus 🕒 Friday 18, 2pm

⌚ Duration 90 minutes. 12 places. Pre-book by emailing hods@cheltcivicsoc.org

A walk through Cheltenham, with artist Ruth End and poet Christine Whittemore, based on their collaborative book, *Thirteen Trees*. You will meet nine trees growing in parks and pavements across the town. At each tree, Christine will read the matching poem. *The trail includes uneven parkland and crossing some busy roads.*

49

Midland & South Western Junction Railway.
(1918)TO
Leckhampton**Walk: Off the Rails in Leckhampton – Travelling, Through Time**1 Becky Dine 📍 Start: Junction of Leckhampton Road and Old Station Drive, approx: GL53 0BN. Finish: Church Road, Leckhampton GL53 0PR **EH**

🕒 Saturday 19, 10am

⌚ Duration 75 minutes. 10 places. Pre-book by emailing hods@cheltcivicsoc.org

A gentle linear uphill walk to explore the varied transport methods employed historically in Leckhampton. Connecting people, goods and places, numerous forms of transport were introduced, evolved and were lost within a century, reflecting social and industrial change.

50



NEW

Walk: Farming with Nature & the Wisdom of Traditional Practices

1 Lydia Handy 📍 Start & Finish: The Three Turnips Farm Shop, Lower Hampen Farm, Andoversford GL54 4JJ 🕒 Sunday 20, 2.30pm

⌚ Duration 60 minutes. 15 places. Pre-book by emailing hods@cheltcivicsoc.org

Hear about the shift away from using chemicals in a conventional system, to farming in a wildlife friendly way. Celebrating and encouraging diversity including re-establishing wildflower meadows, rearing native and rare breed livestock, growing heritage grains, market gardening and agro-forestry. All to produce food and fibre for the local community.

**Partner
Event**

**Holst
Victorian
House**
**The Holst
Birthday Concert**

A programme of songs by Holst and Vaughan Williams performed by
Gareth Brynmor John (baritone)
and **William Vann** (piano)

Saturday 19th September 2026, 12 noon

All Saints Church, All Saints Road,
Pittville, Cheltenham GL52 2EY

Coffee from 11.15am

Tickets £20 FT Students £10

Book online at: holstvictorianhouse.org.uk/whats-on,
call **01242 528764**, or in person at
Holst Victorian House and All Saints Church

Talk: Why Cambray? The story of the Baptists who settled in Cambray Place

📍 Caroline Baker 📍 Cambray Baptist Church, 1 Cambray Place GL50 1JS
🕒 Friday 11, 12.30pm & Saturday 12, 2pm
⌚ Duration 60 minutes. No need to pre-book

This talk will cover many of the questions we receive from visitors in more detail. Where did the Baptists come from? How did they decide to settle in Cambray Place? How the Church community has developed the building that is still in use today.



Talk: Minster Stained Glass Windows

📍 Adrian Barlow 📍 Well Walk off Clarence Street GL50 3HF
🕒 Friday 11, 2.30pm ⌚ Duration 60 minutes. No need to pre-book

The talk will encompass general aspects of stained glass, construction techniques, processes, and generic designs – specifically Geometric, Flowing Tracery and Perpendicular styles all present in The Minster. This will then transition to an examination of specific windows at The Minster and their creators concluding with a focus on modern techniques.



Talk: The Windows of St Christopher's Church

📍 Trish Burns 📍 St Christopher's Church, Lincoln Avenue, Warden Hill GL51 3DD
🕒 Saturday 12, 2pm, 3pm & 4pm.
⌚ Duration 15 minutes plus question time. No need to pre-book

The history of our stained and etched windows; a description of these, including a closer look at several examples and at some of the artist's techniques; question and answer session.



Talk: Minster Talk and Tour

📍 Dr Steve Jones, Chair of The Friends of Cheltenham Minster, St Mary's
📍 Well Walk off Clarence Street GL50 3HF 🕒 Sunday 13, 1pm
⌚ Duration 60 minutes. No need to pre-book

This illustrated talk explores the many phases in the making of Cheltenham Minster, tracing how the building has been shaped by centuries of craftsmanship, change, and devotion. Through architecture, artefacts, maps, and models, it reveals the people, materials, and building techniques behind one of Cheltenham's most remarkable historic sites.



Talk: Cheltenham from on High

📍 Neela Mann 📍 Honeybourne Gate, 2 Gloucester Road GL51 8DW
🕒 Monday 14, 11am & 2pm
⌚ Duration 45 minutes. 10 places. Pre-book by emailing hods@cheltcivicsoc.org
A new and revised look at the history of Cheltenham's churches from those seen from the panoramic roof garden of Honeybourne Gate. *You are welcome to have a look round Honeybourne Gate after the talk. Park in Tesco Car Park.*



© Stephen Ladyman

Talk: The Hidden History of St Stephens

📍 Layla Harrison and David Morgan 📍 St Stephen's Church, St Stephen's Road GL51 3AD
🕒 Monday 14, 11am, 1pm & 3pm
⌚ Duration 40 minutes. 30 places. No need to pre-book

Join us for an immersive guided tour exploring the history of St Stephen's Church, one of Cheltenham's hidden gems. This whistlestop tour reveals the hidden stories within the building, from its striking architecture by John Middleton to its significant war memorials, offering insight into Cheltenham's rich heritage.



57



NEW

Talk: Everyman Theatre History Talk & Tour of Grove Street

1 Caro Day and Sarah Bottomley
 9 The Everyman Education Centre, Grove Street GL50 3LZ
 9 Wednesday 16, 11am & 2pm
 9 Duration 60 minutes. 30 places. Pre-book by emailing hods@cheltcivicsoc.org
 Join us at the new Everyman Education Centre for a presentation including lots of wonderful old photographs of Cheltenham and the theatre through the years, including details of our community projects. Get involved, as Caro tells the history with enthusiasm and passion. *Children allowed, must be accompanied by an adult.*

58



NEW

Talk: Cheltenham Women in The Great War

1 Neela Mann
 9 St Luke's Church, St Luke's Road GL53 7JJ
 9 Wednesday 16, 2pm
 9 Duration 60 minutes. No need to pre-book
 What was life like for those left behind in Cheltenham during WWI? Neela Mann, author of *Cheltenham in the Great War*, gives a glimpse of what happened in the town from Belgian refugees to Soldier's Welcomes and slippers for soldiers in her hour long talk.

59

**Talk: Queen Katherine Parr – Gloucestershire's Queen**

1 Mike Bottomley 9 St Luke's Church, St Luke's Road GL53 7JJ
 9 Wednesday 16, 3.30pm
 9 Duration 45 minutes. No need to pre-book
 Survived! The Life, Loves and Times of the Last Wife of Henry VIII. The largely unknown story of this incredible Queen and her journey from obscurity to the heart of English history and on to her final resting place at Sudeley Castle. *Followed by refreshments.*

60



NEW

Talk: The Stained Glass Windows of Christ Church

1 Andrew Judge
 9 Christ Church, Malvern Road GL50 2JH
 9 Thursday 17, 11am
 9 Duration 30 minutes. 20 places. Pre-book by emailing hods@cheltcivicsoc.org
 Christ Church Cheltenham has 8 beautiful stained glass windows depicting biblical scenes from the New Testament. A short talk will examine each window in turn and explore the stories they show.

61

**Talk: The History of Leckhampton Court**

1 Becky Dine
 9 St Peter's Church, Church Road, Leckhampton GL53 0QJ
 9 Thursday 17, 2pm
 9 Duration 45 minutes. No need to pre-book
 Over 700 years, Leckhampton Court, one of Gloucestershire's oldest mediaeval houses, has changed in both structure and use. This talk explores those changes from its creation as a manor house to its current status as a Sue Ryder Hospice. *Donations to Sue Ryder welcomed.*

62



NEW

Talk: The Mercers, The Masons and a Mariner – A short history of Cheltenham Quakers 1650-1850

1 Neela Mann 9 The Everyman Education Centre, Grove Street GL50 3LZ
 9 Friday 18, 11am
 9 Duration 60 minutes. 30 places. Pre-book by emailing hods@cheltcivicsoc.org
 This is the story of Cheltenham Quakers in the town during the 17th to 19th centuries and the roles of three families important in the history of Cheltenham. Talk by Neela Mann, local historian.

Talk: From Pittville to Hollywood – Ernest Cossart, Gustav Holst's Film Star Brother

📍 Laura Kinnear 📍 Holst Victorian House, 4 Clarence Road, Pittville GL52 2AY
 🕒 Saturday 19, 10am & 11.15am
 ⌚ Duration 45 minutes. 8 places. Pre-book by emailing hods@cheltcivicsoc.org
 Discover the exciting story of Ernest Cossart, born Emil von Holst at 4 Pittville Terrace (later 4 Clarence Road) who swapped Cheltenham for Hollywood, acting alongside Ginger Rogers, Bob Hope, Ronald Reagan and Noel Coward amongst others. *Booking includes free admission to the house. Refreshments for a donation.*



Talk: St Andrew's Church Polar Connections

📍 Anne Strathie
 📍 St Andrew's United Reformed Church, Montpellier Street GL50 1SP
 🕒 Saturday 19, 11.30am & 2pm ⌚ Duration 60 minutes. No need to pre-book
 In 1896 Edward Wilson visited St Andrew's new 'Lecture Hall' to hear George Baden-Powell talk about his own Arctic expedition and that of his explorer friend, Norwegian Fridtjof Nansen. Five years later Wilson was in Antarctica on *Discovery* – a ship Robert Baden-Powell eventually acquired for the Sea Scouts. Anne talks about these and other related connections involving St Andrew's.



You're here because you care
about Cheltenham.

We're here because we care
about Cheltenham... Join us.



Cheltenham
Civic Society

Facebook.com/cheltenhamcivicsociety
 Web: cheltcivicsoc.org/



FORAGING IN WARDEN'S WOOD, CLEEVE COMMON 16 September 5.30pm

Come along and join us as we explore a secret corner of Cleeve Common – Warden's Wood – with foraging tutor Rob Gould, aka Cotswold Forager, and Nicole Daw of Cleeve Common Trust. Finish with some tasty foraged morsels.

BOOKING ESSENTIAL, £35pp

www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/cleeve-common-trust-12949043210

PARTNER EVENT



CHELTENHAM TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE

OPENING HOURS

Monday–Saturday
10am–4pm

Closed Sundays

Cheltenham Town Hall, Imperial Square GL50 1QA
admin@cheltenhamtouristcentre.info



HOME GROWN
at
HAMPEN

THE THREE TURNIPS FARM SHOP AND BAKERY & CAKERY

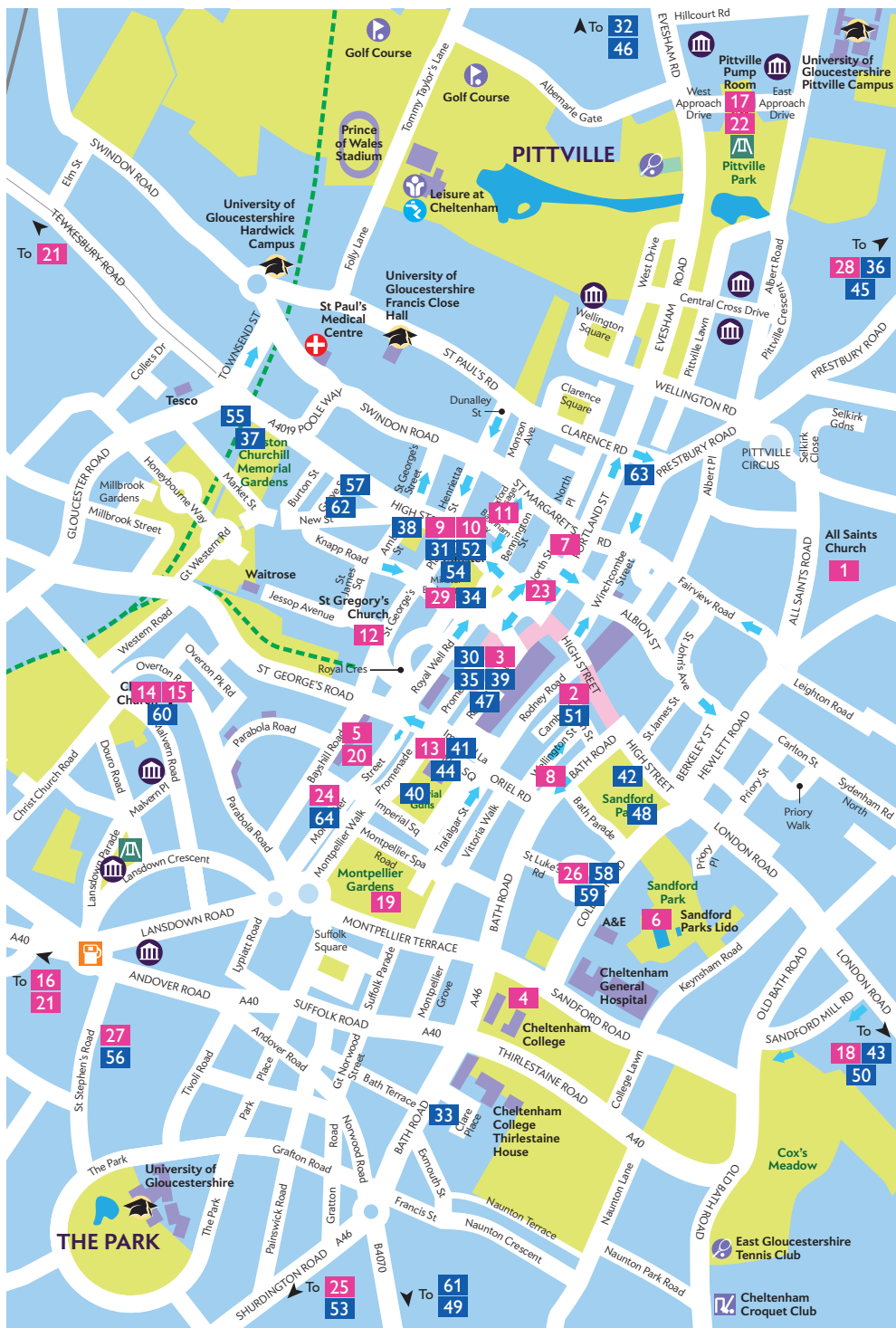
Open Thursdays & Fridays 10am–5pm, Saturdays 10am–1pm.
Lower Hampen Farm, Andoversford, Cheltenham, Glos GL54 4JJ

www.homegrownathampen.co.uk

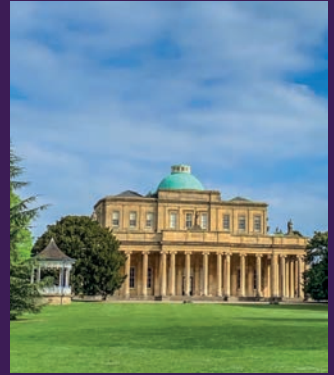
See No50 page 14. *Join us for a walk on Sunday 20 September*

CHELTENHAM HERITAGE OPEN DAYS LOCATIONS MAP

© Arka Cartographics Ltd



TICKETS MUST BE PRE-BOOKED FOR SOME EVENTS AS NUMBERS ARE LIMITED SEE PAGE 10 FOR INFORMATION



THE OFFICIAL GUIDE TO CHELTENHAM

www.visitcheltenham.com



WHAT'S ON GUIDE
AND INSPIRATION
FOR PLACES TO STAY,
VISIT, SHOP & EAT

**VISIT
CHELTENHAM**
THE FESTIVAL
TOWN