



heritage open days



WIGAN BOROUGH

FREE EVENTS

Fri 11th – Sun 20th September 2026



Wigan[♥]
Council

www.heritageopendays.org.uk



Contents

Beyond Haigh Hall – The Estate and Its People	3
Celebrating Heritage at St Wilfrid’s	4
Catholic Church of St Oswald & St Edmund Arrowsmith.....	4
Damhouse, Historical Manor House with Tea Room	5
Chowbent Unitarian Chapel.....	5
Dig into the Story of Gerrard Winstanley – Wigan Museum.....	6
Uncover your Past at Wigan Museum	6
Ince Cemetery Tour.....	7
Coccium to Coal Miners	7
The History of the Carnegie Library, Ashton-in-Makerfield	8
Two Men of Wigan.....	9
Lancashire Mining Museum Commemorating the Battle of Britain	10
Leigh Spinners Heritage Centre extended opening	10
Mosley Common; The Roots of the Past are Deep.....	11
St James with St Thomas Church – 160th Anniversary plus Bellringing experience	12
St Peter’s Church, Leigh: Open Day & Exhibition.....	13
Wonderful Leigh Lego collaboration.....	13
Tyldesley Heritage & Miner’s Training Gallery	14
Wigan Athletic Heritage Museum with free match tickets!	15

Properties and events in Wigan Borough

Beyond Haigh Hall - The Estate and Its People

Real Crafty, 9 Upper Dicconson Street, Wigan, Greater Manchester, WN1 2AD

Wigan Local History & Heritage Society brings you this event which introduces a major new research project focused on the people who worked at Haigh Hall and across the wider estate. Visitors will hear how the project began, what kinds of records are being used, and what the first discoveries are already revealing about everyday working life at Haigh. Visitors will be invited to contribute their own family history and recollections, helping to uncover a side of Haigh's past that has too often remained in the background. It promises to be a fascinating introduction to a different side of Haigh Hall's history, shifting the focus from the Hall itself to the many working lives that supported it across generations.

Monday 14 September 7pm

Pre-booking not required

Contact on day: 07545255666



Celebrating Heritage at St Wilfrid's



St Wilfrid's Church, Church Street, Standish, Wigan, WN6 0JT

Join us for a celebration of traditional building crafts at St Wilfrid's Church in Standish. Watch our master craftsmen demonstrate a range of traditional skills from stonemasonry to metal forging, take part in our family arts and crafts workshops, tour our newly opened Peace Gate exhibition, and take a look inside the church itself.



**Saturday 12 September 11am-3pm,
Sunday 13 September: 10am - 3pm**

Pre-booking not required – book on the day

Accessibility: Partial wheelchair access. Churchyard tour includes some uneven footpaths.

Catholic Church of St Oswald & St Edmund Arrowsmith

St Oswald and St Edmund Arrowsmith RC Church, Liverpool Road, Ashton-in-Makerfield, Greater Manchester, WN4 9N

The church is the resting place of the venerated relic, the Holy Hand of St Edmund Arrowsmith, a local recusant who was martyred for his faith in 1628 and canonised in 1970. It is a highly-accomplished French Romanesque design that is considered the finest work of noted architect JS Brockslesby, who also designed most of the internal fixtures. The church's interior character is significantly enhanced by an unusually large collection of stained glass by the renowned artist Harry Clarke of Dublin, which displays a very high degree of artistic quality and craftsmanship with jewel-like colours and striking painted figures.

Saturday 19 September 12am to 5pm

Pre-booking not required

Accessibility: Disabled parking is available directly in front of the main entrance to the church.

Contact on day: 07773162880

Damhouse, Historical Manor House with Tea Room

**Damhouse, Astley Hall Drive,
Astley, Manchester, Greater
Manchester, M29 7TX**

Damhouse is a Grade II* listed Manor House in 17 acres of Woodland and houses a Tea Room, offices and function rooms. The historical part of the building remains as it was in the 1500s. On the Heritage Open Days there will be access to the top floor of the building, which has a short passage long gallery with many ancient timbers. There will be information displays, talks and tours throughout the weekend.

**Saturday 19 & Sunday 20
September: 10am-4pm each day**

Pre-booking not required

Accessibility: lift access
available to all floors

Contact on day: 07762808274



Chowbent Unitarian Chapel

Alderfold Street, Atherton, Manchester, Greater Manchester, M46 9DS

Take a guided tour of the 1721 non-conformist chapel with gallery and three tier pulpit, Grade II listed. There will be an archive of the chapel and school memorabilia in the new hall (which is adjacent). Tea and coffee will be served in the hall.

Saturday 12 September 10am to 4pm

Pre-booking not required

Accessibility: Stairs leading to gallery, no lift

Contact on day: 07885414410

Dig into the Story of Gerrard Winstanley – Wigan Museum

Library Street, Wigan, Greater Manchester, WN1 1NU

Pop into Wigan Museum on the day of the Wigan Diggers' Festival to see our special display about Gerrard Winstanley and the Diggers, and enjoy free family crafts.

Saturday 12 September:
10:30am to 1:30pm

Pre-booking not required

Accessibility: Lift access available.

Contact on day: 01942828128



Uncover your Past at Wigan Museum



**Library Street, Wigan,
Greater Manchester, WN1 1NU**

Have you ever wanted to trace your family tree but don't know where to start? Are you curious about the history of your house? Would you like to know more about what your ancestors did for work? Join us for an introductory session where our staff and volunteers will give you tips and guidance on how to start researching your family history. Our research library has full access to Ancestry and Find My Past, along with a wealth of resources just waiting to unearth your story. Suitable for beginners.

Thursday 17 September 2026

Pre-booking advised – session times are 10.15–11.00, 11.15–12.00, 12.15–13.00, 14.15–15.00, call 01942828128 to book.

Accessibility: Lift access available.

Contact on day: 01942828128



Ince Cemetery Tour

Ince Cemetery Gates, Warrington Road, Ince-in-Makerfield, Wigan, Greater Manchester, WN3 4NH

A walking tour of this Victorian gem of a cemetery by Wigan Building Preservation Trust. The tour features notable graves monuments and buildings within the cemetery. Meet at the entrance to Ince Cemetery on the main road – Warrington Road.

Sunday 13 September: 11am

Pre-booking is essential. Please book by emailing seanjinks@hotmail.com

Accessibility: Please note there are uneven footpaths during part of the tour, and we will leave the footpath in some locations

Contact on day: 07563836658



Coccium to Coal Miners

Civic Building, Millgate, Wigan, Greater Manchester, WN1 1AZ

Join local historian, Jim Meehan from Wigan Building Preservation Trust, for a guided 2-hour walking tour. Learn about Wigan's rich history; from the time it was a Roman settlement, through its growth as a medieval market town, and the rapid expansion of the Victorian era. There are hidden clues to every period of Wigan's history. This is a circular tour starting and ending at the Civic Building on Millgate.



Sunday 20 September 11am

Pre-booking is essential. Please book by emailing [Jim Meehan at wiganBPT1@outlook.com](mailto:Jim.Meehan@wiganBPT1@outlook.com) or by calling 07749293030

Accessibility: The tour is around Wigan town centre, mostly on pavements, but it does include some cobbled surfaces

Contact on day: 07749293030



The History of the Carnegie Library, Ashton-in-Makerfield

St Thomas' Church, Warrington Road, Ashton-in-Makerfield, Greater Manchester, WN49PL

The library at Ashton-in-Makerfield has been described as “a good early-C20 example of a former lecture hall and library constructed at the expense of the benefactor Andrew Carnegie, which displays significant architectural presence”. Closed to the public for almost two years following the discovery of significant structural problems, its long-term future is now in the balance. This 1 hour talk from Wigan Building Preservation Trust will examine the library's origins in the context of the evolution of the municipal free public library system in England and the role of philanthropists like Andrew Carnegie.

Thursday 17 September 6pm-7pm

Pre-booking not required

Accessibility: Full wheelchair access

Contact on day: 07921684046

Two Men of Wigan

Wigan North Western Station, Wallgate, Wigan, Greater Manchester, WN1 1BJ

Join Wigan Building Preservation Society for a walking tour in the footsteps of two men with a place in Wigan history. One was a renowned architect, the other the proud station master of Wigan North Western station. The two men were, for a short time, neighbours in the same street, and died at home in their own houses. George Heaton (1840–1910), was responsible for many of the buildings we can still see in Wigan town centre; Peter Peters (1855–1898), was the Wigan stationmaster who gave his life – literally – to the railway. We start the walk at Wigan North Western station, and end, less than a mile later, at Earl Street, where they lived and died.

**Thursday 17 September
10:30am**

*Pre-booking required –
contact Marianne Howell
at marianneh@hotmail.co.uk or 07779677730.*

Accessibility: A short walk about one mile, all on pavements. It is not a circular walk, but it is a short walk back to Wigan town centre

Contact on day:
07779677730



Lancashire Mining Museum Commemorating the Battle of Britain

Lancashire Mining Museum, Higher Green Lane, Astley, Manchester, Greater Manchester, M29 7JB

Remembering the impact of the Second World War on coal mining in the North West of England, remembering the Bevin Boys who were drafted into the coal mines to help the war effort. Our tea-room volunteers will be dressed in WWII outfits, and we will have a display of artillery and wartime equipment. There will be tours of the former coal mine site with emphasis on coal mining during WWII. The winding engine will be running, there will be train rides on our 2ft gauge railway and you can visit our cottage to see what life was like around 100 years ago. the lamp room and underground experience will be open.

Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 September 1pm-5pm

Pre-booking not required

Accessibility: Access to engine house involves ascending and descending steps. No lift access available.

Contact on day: 01942 895841

Leigh Spinners Heritage Centre extended opening

Park Lane, Leigh, Lancashire, WN7 2LB

The Heritage Centre on floor one is manned by volunteers who are looking forward to showing you around – and making you a brew or getting you a cold drink whilst you look around. We are celebrating the centenary of Mill Two, where our Heritage Centre is situated, we will have additional exhibits you can see as you browse around the higher floors of the Mill. These will include photographs of the development of the Mill from empty floors to the building of units housing a great variety of tenants whilst maintaining and showcasing the Grade 2* listed building.

Saturday 19 September & Sunday 20 September: 10am - 4pm each day

Pre-booking not required

Accessibility: The Heritage Centre is on the first floor and is accessible by a lift or stairs.

Contact on day: 07854347844



Mosley Common; The Roots of the Past are Deep

St Johns Church of England Primary School, Commonside Road, Mosley Common, Manchester, Greater Manchester, M28 1AN

The distant past of Mosley Common was based on the clearance of the ancient woodland that covered the area and its subsequent use for farming. This changed with the exploitation of the coal seams underneath the village and the population surged, houses and shops were built to serve King Coal. All this ended with the closure of 'Superpit' Mosley Common Colliery. Our exhibition at St Johns School will tell the story of these events through images, records, films, maps and word. You will be able to view a new mural at the school reflecting our rich heritage. There will be food and refreshments served.

Saturday 19 September and Sunday 20 September 10am-5pm

Pre-booking not required

Accessibility: Fully accessible with disabled parking

Contact on the day: 07967096555

St James with St Thomas Church - 160th Anniversary plus Bellringing experience

**St James with St Thomas Church,
Church Street, Poolstock, Wigan,
Greater Manchester, WN3 5DZ**

We are a welcoming church, and all faiths are welcome to come along and visit our beautiful church. Help us to celebrate our 160th Anniversary and have a relaxing day learning a new skill. Church tours with our lovely Deacon Alison Brown (our own Vicar of Dibley). There will be a watercolour session and pebble painting with the children. Side stalls will include "Play your cards right" and a tombola. General bellringing will be available to qualified ringers, but please come up our 55 steps and have a look at what we do. Our faith cafe will be open on a pay as you feel basis. Offering hot and cold drinks, cakes and biscuits.

**Saturday 12 September:
11am – 5pm**

Pre-booking not required

Accessibility: There are 54 steps up to the ringing room where we can see the bells being rung.

Contact on day: 07910009888



St Peter's Church, Leigh: Open Day & Exhibition

Firs Lane, Leigh, Greater Manchester, WN7 4SB

Explore the beautiful Peter's Church of Austin Palen design. We also have a World War I war memorial, believed to be one of the best in the North West and will host an exhibition on the local history of the church and school. Take a look around our church you will see the alabaster pulpit which was formerly in the Military Chapel at Manchester Cathedral. Our exhibition consists of articles relating to our Mothers Union, Brownies, and in particular, documents from our school from bygone days to the present, photographs of events taken over the years.

Friday 18 September & Saturday 19 September: 10am – 14pm each day

Pre-booking not required

Accessibility: No restrictions

Contact on the day: 07411220286

Wonderful Leigh Lego collaboration

Leigh Civic Square (outside Leigh Town Hall), Leigh, Greater Manchester, WN7 1EB

Join Archives Wigan & Leigh to discover the past of Leigh's civic square from Suffragette protests to miners' strikes, then build your future Wonder Town in a collaborative LEGO project! Be inspired by photographs from the Archives and dress the part with our historical costume box.

**Saturday 12 September:
11am to 3pm**

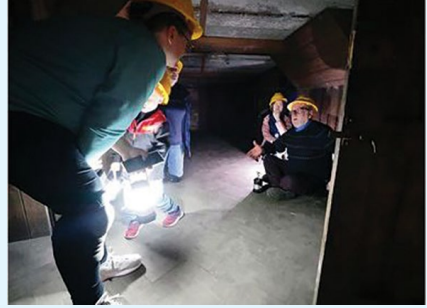
Pre-booking not required

Accessibility: No restrictions

Contact on day: 01942404430



Tyldesley Heritage & Miner's Training Gallery



Tyldesley Technical School, Upper George Street, Tyldesley, Manchester, Greater Manchester, M29 8HQ

Explore the newly opened Tyldesley Heritage Centre. Immerse yourself in the rich history of Tyldesley, spanning from Roman times to the vibrant businesses of today. Suitable for all age groups, with quiz, colouring and dress-up for the children. Don't miss the opportunity to discover the fascinating coal miner's ventilation apprentice training gallery, beautifully preserved below the floor in its original state. Guided tours throughout the day (tours last 20 minutes). It's an experience you won't want to miss!

Sunday 13 September: 12pm – 4pm (Underground tours 1pm – 3:30pm)

Sunday 20 September: 12pm – 4pm (Underground tours 1pm – 3:30pm)

Pre-booking not required

Accessibility: The Miner's Training Gallery has a low ceiling and is not fully accessible – please ring for more details.

Contact on the day: 07710537789

Wigan Athletic Heritage Museum with free match tickets!

The Brick Community Stadium, 15 Loire Drive, Robin Park Road, Wigan, Greater Manchester, WN5 0UH

Explore the Wigan Athletic Heritage Museum celebrating the Club's heritage from formation in 1932 and our old home Springfield Park, to FA Cup victory and the modern era. The Heritage Project was created in 2023 by a dedicated team of volunteers to share the achievements, memorable moments, and cultural impact of the Latics.

The newly renovated Museum is now in the Boston (East) Stand, open from 1300-1430 on matchday. During your visit, visit the Museum to be in with a chance of winning exclusive prizes! Please note match tickets will be issued digitally. Sign up via the online form.

**Saturday 19 September: The Museum is open 1300-1430.
Kick-off is at 15:00.**

Pre-booking essential: https://bit.ly/HOD_WAFC19Sept or email community@wiganathletic.com

Accessibility: Please see the Club website for access information: <https://wiganathletic.com/info/disability-information/> Please note that wheelchair accessible tickets are limited and allocated on a first come, first served basis. If you require a wheelchair accessible ticket, please first contact our Disability Liaison Officer Louise Peet regarding availability. Phone: 01942 311111, Email: l.peet@dwstadium.com

Contact on day: 01942404430





Wigan Borough Heritage Open Days

Every September events are organised across the country to celebrate our fantastic history and culture. It's your chance to see hidden places and try out new experiences – all of which are FREE to explore. Wigan Borough is proud to take part.

All properties are open at the kindness and discretion of their owners and guardians.

Opening times are restricted to the hours stated and may be subject to alterations.

All events are FREE but many are put on by charities so donations to their causes is always very welcome.

Please see site entries at:

<https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/whats-on/printable-area-lists/wigan.html>

for full access and restriction details, facilities, locations and parking.



Wigan♥
Council



heritage open days