

FREE DAYS OUT

Heritage Open Days

18-21 September 2025



Blackpool and the Fylde Coast

Blackpool Council



The museum of fun
and entertainment


heritage open days

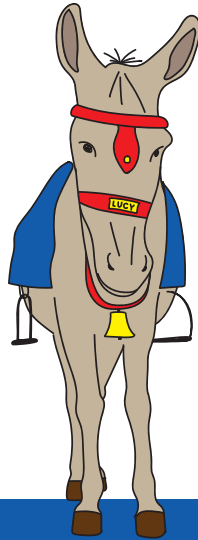
Welcome to Heritage Open Days 2025

Thursday 18th – Sunday 21st September

Heritage Open Days is England's largest festival of history and culture. Each year thousands of venues across the country celebrate their history by opening their doors, giving you an opportunity to explore and providing a variety of heritage events free of charge.

As Showtown celebrates its first year of opening, we're proud to present a vibrant programme of events that highlight Blackpool's extraordinary and eclectic history. These events, organised and delivered by local heritage venues and organisations across the town, bring to life unique stories and hidden treasures as part of this town-wide celebration.

All event details are correct at the time of printing...but hey, things can change! Check our website and social media for the latest updates and any last-minute tweaks.



How to book tickets...

Get ready! Tickets go live on Wednesday 20 August 2025 at 10am (unless otherwise stated).

Book online at:
www.showtownblackpool.co.uk/hod

Prefer to book by phone?
You can call Showtown History Centre on 01253 478090. Our lines are open Wednesday to Friday, 10am–4pm we'll be happy to help!

Symbols Key

- Parking
- Disabled Parking
- Toilets
- Full wheelchair access
- Partial wheelchair access
- Changing Places Toilet
- Accessible Toilets
- Baby Change
- Family Activity
- BSL Provided
- Hearing Loop

BLACKPOOL – Book in Advance

To make sure there's room for everyone, the events in this section need to be booked ahead of time.



AUNTY SOCIAL: NEW FUTURES FOR OLD BUILDINGS TALK

28 Topping St, Blackpool, FY1 3AQ

Join Joseph Boniface and Catherine Mugonyi as they explore ways to breathe life into heritage buildings; adapting them to meet modern day needs while preserving their history.

Fri 19 Sept 2pm

Duration: 90mins
To Book: <https://AS-HOD2025.eventbrite.co.uk>



Organised by Aunty Social
Event will also be Livestreamed

ALL HALLOWS CHURCHYARD WALK

All Hallows Road, Blackpool, FY2 0AY

Join a guided churchyard walk and uncover the stories of the people who helped shape Blackpool's early days. Explore hidden histories, local legends, and fascinating characters on this engaging tour.

Thur 18 Sept 12pm

Fri 19 Sept 12pm

Sat 20 Sept 12pm

Sun 21 Sept 12pm

Duration: 60mins

To Book: secbah@gmail.com or 01253 274172. Parish Office open weekdays Tues–Fri mornings only



Organised by
All Hallows Church

CENTRAL LIBRARY TOUR

Queen Street, Blackpool, FY1 1PX

Join a walking tour of Blackpool's Grade II listed Central Library. Discover its fascinating history, learn about its historic features & windows, and uncover Andrew Carnegie's legacy. Enjoy anecdotes and insights into how the building and its services have evolved over time.

Thur 18 Sept 10am

Fri 19 Sept 10am & 2pm

Sat 20 Sept 1.30pm

Duration: 60mins

To Book: Showtown History Centre



Organised by Blackpool Libraries

BLACKPOOL GHOST TOUR

Town Hall Steps, Talbot Square, Blackpool, FY1 1AD

Dare to uncover the ghostly side of town on this walking tour. Visit approximately 15 historic sites said to be haunted by spirits and mysterious presences. Hear strange tales and eerie legends that linger through the decades. Join us... if you dare.

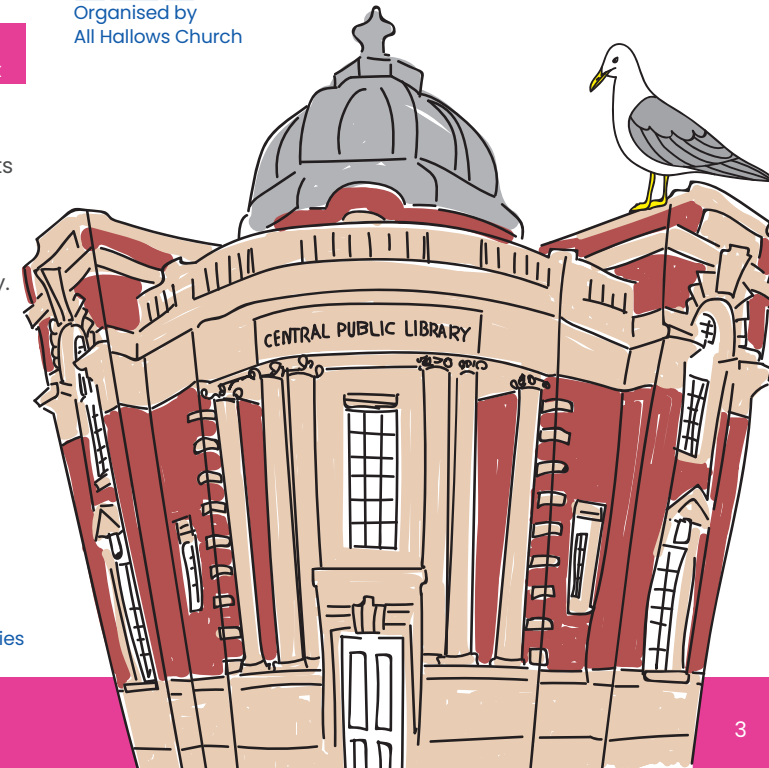
Sat 20 Sept 3pm

Duration: Up to 90mins

To Book: Showtown History Centre



Organised by Hidden History Tours



BLACKPOOL – Book in Advance

To make sure there's room for everyone, the events in this section need to be booked ahead of time.



GRAND THEATRE HERITAGE TOUR

33 Church Street, Blackpool, FY1 1HT

Have you always wanted to peek inside Blackpool's hidden gem? Discover this Grade II listed building and explore Frank Matcham's masterpiece in these short tours. It's a unique chance to admire the ornate auditorium and learn more about the rich history of this architectural treasure.

Thur 18 Sept 10.30am & 11.30am

Fri 19 Sept 5.30pm & 6.30pm

Sat 20 Sept 10.30am & 11.30am

Duration: 30mins

To Book: Grand Theatre Box Office 01253 290190



Organised by Grand Theatre

GRUNDY ART GALLERY

Queen Street, Blackpool, FY1 1PU

Join the Grundy team for a relaxed and engaging conversation about the past, present, and future of Grundy Art Gallery's architecture. Starting on the gallery forecourt, enjoy a short tour that highlights the building's beautiful original features and explores the rich history of this Grade II listed Edwardian gem.

Thur 18 Sept 10.30am

Fri 19 Sept 10.30am

Sat 20 Sept 10.30am

Duration: 60mins

To Book: Showtown History Centre



Organised by Grundy Art Gallery

THE IMPERIAL HOTEL

North Promenade,
Blackpool, FY1 2HB

BACK
FOR 2025

Visit The Imperial Hotel Blackpool for a rare opportunity to explore one of the town's most iconic Victorian landmarks. Discover the hotel's rich past through a series of guided tours led by knowledgeable hotel staff. Guests will visit some of the most historically significant spaces, including the Churchill Room, Lancastrian Suite, Washington Room, and the beautifully discovered Turkish Baths.

Sun 21 Sept 12pm & 2pm

Duration: 45mins

To Book: Email events@imperialhotelblackpool.com



Organised by The Imperial Hotel



INSIDE THE COLLECTIONS: BLACKPOOL TOWER

Showtown History Centre, First Floor, Blackpool Central
Library, Queen Street, Blackpool, FY1 1PX

Take a look inside the collections at Showtown History Centre, as we look at the construction of the iconic Blackpool Tower. See photographs of the building stages and view rarely seen archives linked to the companies that built it.

Thur 18 Sept 1pm

Duration: 30mins

To Book: Showtown History Centre



Organised by Showtown

BLACKPOOL – Book in Advance

To make sure there's room for everyone, the events in this section need to be booked ahead of time.



JC ROBINSON HERITAGE TALK

Blackpool School of Arts, University Centre,
Park Road, Blackpool, FY1 4ES

NEW

From 1920 to 1944, John Charles Robinson designed 30+ buildings which form some of Blackpool's mid-century appearance, including public baths, schools & libraries. Through a diverse lens, New Langdale Photographers captured some of the spaces as they stand now offering long-term legacy to support Blackpool's cultural ecology.

Thur 18 Sept 11am

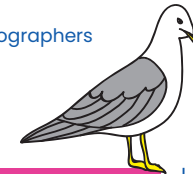
Duration: 60mins

Photographers

To Book: Showtown History Centre



Organised by New Langdale Photographers



PROMENADE HISTORY WALK

Meeting Point: Wilton Parade Tram Shelter opposite the
Imperial Hotel, FY1 2HB

Covering just one mile of our beautiful coastline, this tour covers 23 historic landmarks from the Victorian era to the present day. Discover the fascinating heritage of the north Promenade while enjoying the stunning sea views.

Thur 18 Sept 3pm

Duration: 90mins

To Book: Showtown History Centre



Organised by Showtown

PRIDE BESIDE THE SEASIDE

Showtown, Bank Hey Street,
Blackpool, FY1 4TQ

NEW

Join a Showtown curator for a tour around three of the museum's galleries to explore the queer threads in Blackpool's entertainment history. Hear more about gender diversity beside the seaside, from sideshows to magicians and drag artists!

Sat 20 Sept 2pm

Duration: 60mins

To Book: Showtown History Centre



Organised
by Showtown



WHITEGATE DRIVE TOUR

The Number Three, Whitegate Drive, FY3 9BW

Take a guided stroll down Whitegate Drive – once known as Whitegate Lane – and uncover the rich heritage woven into its streets. Explore historic homes, iconic pubs, and the fascinating stories of past residents. Along the way, discover hidden tales and lesser-known chapters of this remarkable area's past.

Thur 18 Sept 2pm

Duration: 90mins

To Book: Showtown History Centre



Organised by Stella Siddall

BLACKPOOL – Balloted Tours



These tours are in high demand...

...and because everyone wants in, we're running a ballot! Register your interest from Wednesday 20 August, if your name is picked from the Ringmaster's hat, we'll let you know you've been selected on Friday 5 September.

BLACKPOOL TOWER TOUR

Promenade Main Entrance, FY1 4BJ

Join us for a guided tour of the iconic Blackpool Tower. Explore the stunning ballroom, captivating circus and uncover the history and colourful characters that have shaped the past of Blackpool's tallest landmark.

Sun 21 Sept 10.30am–12pm

Duration: 90mins **To Book:** Showtown History Centre



Organised by Blackpool Tower and Showtown

LIGHTWORKS ILLUMINATIONS DEPOT

Amy Johnson Way, Blackpool, FY4 2RL

Discover the magic behind Blackpool's world-famous Illuminations on this guided heritage tour. Explore the workshop, learn the story of the lights, and see original designs up close.

Fri 19 Sept 1pm–2.30pm

Duration: 90mins **To Book:** Showtown History Centre



Organised by Lightworks and Showtown



BLACKPOOL – Drop-In Events

All the events in this section are drop-in. No need to reserve a spot, just show up and enjoy!



AUNTY SOCIAL:

DESIGNING A GOOD TIME

28 Topping Street, Blackpool, FY1 3AQ

NEW

Ever wondered about the design of buildings that helped Blackpool visitors and residents enjoy their leisure time? Drop into Aunty Social for a special display of original architectural plans dating from 1912 to 1960. If you're a fan of Art Deco, Moderne or Victorian architecture, here's your chance to see original plans of a variety of Blackpool's pubs, cinemas, and hotels.

Thur 18 Sept 10.30am–5pm

Fri 19 Sept 10.30am–5pm

Sat 20 Sept 10.30am–5pm



Organised by Aunty Social



ALL HALLOWS CHURCH

All Hallows Road, Blackpool, FY2 0AY

A chance to explore this beautiful, historical ecclesiastical building, including a short pre-recorded talk. Learn more about the only place of worship in Blackpool until 1821.

Thur 18 Sept 1pm–2pm

Fri 19 Sept 1pm–2pm

Sat 20 Sept 1pm–2pm

Sun 21 Sept 1pm–2pm



Organised by All Hallows Church

BLACKPOOL MASONIC HALL

83 – 85 Adelaide Street, Blackpool, FY1 4LU

BACK FOR 2025

Freemasonry came to Blackpool in 1847. In 1888, land was purchased on Adelaide Street for £1,700. The Freemasons' Hall cornerstone was laid in 1898 and opened in 1899 by Lord Latham. Discover this historic building and explore Blackpool's rich Masonic heritage and experience history firsthand.

Sat 20 Sept 10am–2pm



Blackpool Freemasons Trust

BLACKPOOL TOWN HALL

Talbot Square, Blackpool, FY1 1AD

Enjoy this tour of the Town Hall showing off the Mayor's Parlour, the silverware, stained glass windows and other artefacts. The highlight of the tour will be the impressive Council Chamber with its many points of interest, such as the Wragg Window, history wall paintings and the four windows representing the activities for which Blackpool was known.

Sat 20 Sept 10.30am–3pm



Organised by Blackpool Civic Trust

BLACKPOOL – Drop-In Events

All the events in this section are drop-in. No need to reserve a spot, just show up and enjoy!



GRAND THEATRE

33 Church Street, Blackpool, FY1 1HT

Step inside Blackpool's Grand Theatre and explore its glorious Grade II* listed interior, an architectural masterpiece by Frank Matcham. Enjoy rare, self-guided access to the stunning auditorium, cantilevered tiers, and intricate design details. This is a unique chance to admire the breathtaking beauty of a theatre not usually open to wander.

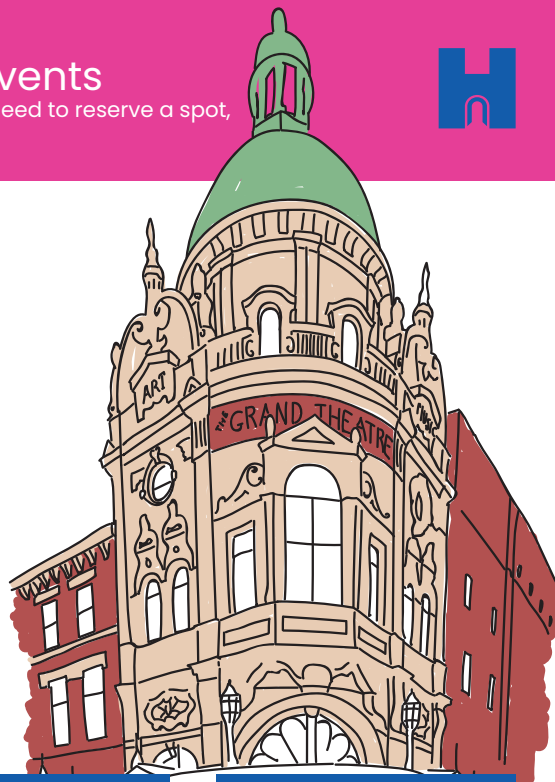
Thur 18 Sept 10am-1pm

Fri 19 Sept 5pm-8pm

Sat 20 Sept 10am-1pm



Organised by Grand Theatre



COCKER CLOCK STANLEY PARK

West Park Drive, Blackpool, FY3 9HU

Since 1927, this 85ft-high clock tower has become one of Blackpool's iconic heritage sites. Take the rare opportunity this Heritage Open Days to climb the tower and enjoy the stunning views of the park and beyond.

Sat 20 Sept 11am-2pm

Sun 21 Sept 11am-2pm

The clock tower stairs are steep and may not be suitable for those with mobility issues.



Organised by Friends of Stanley Park

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

Dean Street, Blackpool, FY4 1BP

Take the opportunity to explore this impressive Grade II listed building, which has stood proudly on the South Shore skyline for over 140 years.

Thur 18 Sept 10.30am-12pm

Fri 19 Sept 10.30am-12pm

Sat 20 Sept 12pm-2pm

Sun 21 Sept 12pm-2pm



Organised by Holy Trinity Church

LAYTON CEMETERY

Talbot Road, Blackpool, FY3 7BD

Discover a hidden slice of history with Layton Cemetery Tours. Expert volunteer guides lead you through centuries of captivating tales and intriguing memorials in Blackpool's very own Victorian cemetery. Stroll among timeless headstones, uncover mysterious legends, and experience a day steeped in local heritage.

Sat 20 Sept 11am & 2pm

Sun 21 Sept 11am & 2pm

Duration: 90min



Organised by Friends of Layton Cemetery

BLACKPOOL – Drop-In Events

All the events in this section are drop-in. No need to reserve a spot, just show up and enjoy!



LITTLE MARTON WINDMILL

Langdale Road, Blackpool, FY4 4PH

Join the Friends of Little Marton Windmill for an open day that includes a chance to see the extensive machinery inside the mill, guided tours of the structure, exhibitions of the many mills Blackpool was once home to, and additional family activities.

Sun 21 Sept 11am-4pm



Organised by Friends of Little Marton Windmill

SAINT STEPHEN ON THE CLIFFS

Saint Stephen's Church, Saint Stephen's Avenue, Blackpool, FY2 9RG

Come and see the famous Church of St Stephen on the Cliffs, containing one of the only two Actors' Chapels in the world. Guided tours are available throughout the day.

Fri 19 Sept 9am-3pm

Sat 20 Sept 10am-3pm

Sun 21 Sept 9am-7pm



Organised by The Parish Council of St Stephen on the Cliffs

WAR MEMORIALS WALK

Blackpool Cenotaph, FY1 1RQ

A walk round the Town Centre taking in Blackpool's principal war memorials. Starting at the Cenotaph, followed by a circuit of the town centre with visits to other memorial venues. This walk provides an insight into the contribution and sacrifice made by Blackpool citizens and organisations.

Thur 18 Sept 11am

Duration: 90min



Organised by Mike Coyle



c. 1925

BEYOND BLACKPOOL – Drop-In Events

All the events in this section are drop-in. No need to reserve a spot, just show up and enjoy!



1894



ABANA BELL ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

Rossall Road, Cleveleys FY5 1DX

Uncover the story of the Abana bell and its journey from Canada to Cleveleys. 130 years after the Abana, a sailing barque, was shipwrecked off the Fylde coast, see the bell itself and hear its story at St Andrew's Church, Cleveleys.

Fri 19 Sept 10am-12pm
Sat 20 Sept 1pm-3pm



Organised by St Andrew's Church

THE DITCHBURN JUKEBOX MUSEUM

19 Alexandria Drive,
Lytham St Annes, FY8 1JF

The home of the original British-made jukebox, find out about how the first British jukeboxes were made here on the Fylde Coast. Enjoy the amazing sounds of the jukeboxes that first appeared in coffee bars and milk bars back in 1947.

Thur 18 Sept 10am-4pm
Fri 19 Sept 10am-4pm
Sat 20 Sept 10am-4pm
Sun 21 Sept 10am-4pm



Organised by The Ditchburn Jukebox Museum

REMEMBERING PLACES A LIFE IN LYTHAM

Lytham Heritage Centre,
2 Henry Street, Lytham St Annes,
FY8 5LE

A collection of landscape art pieces by Gerald Eccles and his father Tom Eccles. This is an exciting opportunity to see two generations of work by one family who both used the landscape in different ways.

Thur 18 Sept 10am-4pm
Fri 19 Sept 10am-4pm
Sat 20 Sept 10am-4pm
Sun 21 Sept 10am-4pm



Organised by Lytham Heritage Group

BEYOND BLACKPOOL – Drop-In Events

All the events in this section are drop-in. No need to reserve a spot, just show up and enjoy!



ST ANNE'S PARISH CHURCH

St Anne's Rd East,
Lytham St Annes, FY8 3BB

St Annes-on-Sea Parish Church was one of the first buildings in the new town of St Annes and gave the town its name. This is an opportunity to view this fine church with its WWI Memorial Chapel and to see the famous St Annes -on-Sea from 1873 to the present day.

Sat 20 Sept 10am-3pm



Organised by St Annes Parish Church

LYTHAM INSTITUTE

Public Library, Lytham Institute and Hewitt Lecture Room,
27 Clifton Street, FY8 5EP

St Annes-on-Sea Parish Explore this beautiful Grade II listed institute, including the billiard room, lecture room and public library. Originally opened in 1878, don't miss out on this opportunity to visit this exquisitely preserved building.

Sat 20 Sept 10am-3pm



Organised by Lytham Institute

BLACKPOOL & BEYOND – Book in Advance

To make sure there's room for everyone, the events in this section need to be booked ahead of time.



CLEVELEYS COTTAGE EXHIBITION

Corner of Cleveleys Avenue and West Drive,
Cleveleys, FY5 2BL

Take a walking tour of 42 homes from the 1906 Cleveleys Cottage Exhibition. You will explore a series of houses from the period showcasing cutting-edge building technology. Join us and discover what remains of this pioneering project.

Thur 18 Sept 12pm
Fri 19 Sept 12pm




Duration: 60mins

To Book: Showtown History Centre



Organised by Hidden Heritage Tours



 www.showtownblackpool.co.uk
 facebook.com/Showtownblackpool
 instagram.com/showtownbpl

Blackpool Council



 heritage open days