HALTON’S HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

Wednesday 5th – Sunday 16th September 2018

Visit www.haltonheritage.co.uk for online listings of Halton’s events.
Halton’s Heritage

Heritage Open Days is an annual, national event that sees groups, organisations and buildings open up their heritage treasures to the public. All events and activities which run as part of the Heritage Open Days programme are FREE to attend, so what’s not to love?

This brochure tells you what heritage events are happening in Halton as part of this national celebration. From guided tours to pop-up museums, there are lots of heritage activities for people of all ages and interests to explore across the borough. Take a look and see what you can discover...
Halton Heritage Partnership
Working together to bring Halton’s heritage to life

Halton borough has a unique history and is home to a great variety of organisations and groups who care passionately about local heritage. Halton Heritage Partnership brings these groups together to work collaboratively, to share their knowledge, their collections, and their enthusiasm for Halton’s history with people across the borough and beyond. You can find out more about their activities and view the Partnership’s online heritage collection including artefacts, trails, creative interpretations and much more at:

www.haltonheritage.co.uk

Halton Heritage Partnership - Heritage Open Days Launch!

Wednesday 5th September, 12pm – 2pm
The Town Square, Runcorn Shopping City, WA7 2EU
www.haltonheritage.co.uk

Come and find out about all the exciting events happening around Halton for Heritage Open Days. The national theme of this year’s Heritage Open Days is Extraordinary Women. Find out about Halton’s Extraordinary Women and vote for your favourite!
Extraordinary Women from the Parish of Daresbury
Saturday 8th Sept, 1:30pm – 4:00pm
The Hatton Show, Daresbury Village.
www.ddhg.org.uk

From Bessie Dutton - ‘who went about doing good’, to Deborah Ellam - who was ‘transported to parts across the seas’, to the Earp sisters - who nursed sick soldiers at the Oaklands in WW1, to ladies from Moore and Daresbury WI who worked tirelessly throughout WW1 and of course, ‘Alice in Wonderland’ - who was simply extraordinary in every way. Come and find out all about their stories at the Daresbury District Heritage Group’s display at Hatton Show.

Glasshouse Memories and Memorabilia
Saturday 8th Sept, 12:00pm - 3:00pm
Glasshouses, Victoria Park, Widnes WA8 7SU

fb:@VictoriaParkEnvironmentTeamButterflyHouse

Part of VPET’s Let the Light In project exploring the history of the glasshouses at Victoria Park from the late 1800’s to the present day.

There will be information on Victorian collectors of plants and butterflies, including Margaret Fountaine, a famous lepidopterist. We will have memory boxes available which explore key aspects of the history of the glasshouses, as well as the opportunity to plant up seeds of sensory plants which are great for sparking memories. Come and see what we have found so far or share your own knowledge of the glasshouses.
Runcorn’s Extraordinary Women:
A talk by the Runcorn Historical Society
Saturday 8\textsuperscript{th} Sept, 12:00pm - 2:00pm
Halton Lea Library, Runcorn, WA7 2PF.
www.halton.gov.uk/libraries

A talk about the fascinating and extraordinary women of Runcorn. Come along to this talk, hosted by Halton Libraries and Runcorn Historical Society to find out about Runcorn’s rich history of strong women dating back to Ethelfleda in the 10th Century right up to the modern day.

Halton Libraries will also be displaying material from their archives showing women throughout the late 19th and 20th centuries in Runcorn and how they contributed to our town.

Book tickets via the libraries.

Inspired by Alice
Saturday 8\textsuperscript{th}, Sunday 9\textsuperscript{th}, Saturday 15\textsuperscript{th} & Sunday 16\textsuperscript{th} Sept, 2:00pm – 4:00pm.
Lewis Carroll Centre at All Saints’ Church, Daresbury WA4 4AE.
www.daresburycofe.org.uk

Guided tours of Daresbury Church, where Lewis Carroll was baptized and see his stained glass memorial window. Visit the Lewis Carroll Centre to find out more about his life and work.

The Lewis Carroll Centre is also open day from 10am between 8th and 16th Sept, with a ‘Inspired by Alice’ display. For over 150 years, artists, writers, musicians, craftspeople and filmmakers have found inspiration in Alice’s adventures, and there will be a small exhibition of works.
Preston Brook’s Nursing Sisters

Saturday 8th Sept, 1:30pm – 4:00pm
The Hatton Show, Daresbury Village.

A display of the lives of two sisters from Preston Brook who became nurses. One was a lifelong nursing sister and one a VAD during WWI.

In addition there will be many items of interest from the Preston Brook & District History Group’s archives.

St Peters Church Heritage Open Day

Saturday 8th Sept, 10:00am – 4:00pm
St Peters Church, Aston Lane, Sutton Weaver, Runcorn WA7 3DB.

Staying with the theme of “Extraordinary Women” we will be profiling 2 females buried in the churchyard. Chloe Gambia is a slave girl who worked on the Aston Estate and eventually rose to the level of Housekeeper. Catherine Harrison is a renowned portrait artist from late 18th Century, whose work is exhibited in Grosvenor Museum in Chester. She was the wife of a Mayor of Chester.

We are also holding a “Brides through the Ages” exhibition; and there will be a history talk by Philip Littlemore.

Weather permitting there will be a self-guided Churchyard tour, highlighting items of interest.

Refreshments will be available all day.
Runcorn Locks Restoration Society

Saturday 8th & 15th Sept, 11:00am - 4:00pm
RLRS Visitors Centre, 1 Algernon Street, Runcorn, WA7 1ER
www.unlockruncorn.org

Come and join us at our new Visitors Centre where you can see artefacts, pictures and learn about the history of the Bridgewater Canal and find out about our exciting plans for the future. Join us for a guided walk.

St Mary’s Church, Hale

Saturday 8th & 15th Sept, 10:00am - 4:00pm
St Mary’s Church, Church Road, Hale Village
www.saintmaryshale.com

The church will be open from 10am to 4pm on Saturday 8th and 15th September.
There will be displays including photographs of the church and the community of Hale, as well as displays from other community organisations. Refreshments available.

Tours up the church tower from 2pm to 4pm.
Women of St Marie’s
Sunday 9th Sept, 2:00pm - 4:00pm
St Marie’s, Lugsdale Road, Widnes WA8 6DB
www.stmarieschurch.com

Former parishioners and residents will gather in the picturesque, historic setting of St Marie’s to reminisce about the hugely important role played by women in the community. Throughout the summer, local people will be encouraged to submit written stories & anecdotes which pay tribute to the Women of St Marie’s and we’ll be displaying the submissions at our event.

As always with St Marie’s Heritage Group events, there’ll be free refreshments and the chance to meet up with old friends.

Places must be reserved in advance. Contact Matthew Roberts on mroberts@haltonsthelensvca.org.uk tel: 01928 592 405.

Talk: Extraordinary Women from the Parish of Daresbury
Thursday 13th Sept, 7:30pm
Lewis Carroll Centre, All Saints’ Church, Daresbury WA4 4AE
www.ddhg.org.uk

Come and hear the stories of some of the Extraordinary Women of the parish of Daresbury. From Bessie Dutton - ‘who went about doing good’, to Deborah Ellam - who was ‘transported to parts across the seas’, to the Earp sisters - who nursed sick soldiers at the Oaklands in WW1 and of course, ‘Alice in Wonderland’ - who was simply extraordinary in every way.
Extraordinary Women of Runcorn
Friday 14th Sept, 7:30pm - 9:00pm
& Saturday 15th Sept, 10:00am - 3:00pm.
St John’s Church Hall, Weston, Runcorn WA7 4LY.
www.runcornhistsoc.org.uk

The event will be a display showing some of the extraordinary women, who have helped to build, or improve Runcorn. There will be photos & brief biographies of the women chosen. There will also be some archive items on show and Runcorn related publications on sale.

St Luke’s Church and Farnworth Village Tours
Saturday 15th Sept, 10:00am - 4:00pm.
St Luke’s Church, Pit Lane, Widnes WA8 9HU

St Luke’s Church Farnworth will be open for visitors on Saturday 15th September between 10am and 4pm; guided tours of this historic church will be available on demand.

Tea and Coffee will be served all day and light lunches between 12pm and 2pm.

Walking tours of Farnworth Village will take place at 11am and 2pm – meet at the church for these; no prior booking required
Catalyst’s Chemical Connections
Sunday 16th Sept, 10:00am - 4:00pm.
Catalyst Science Discovery Centre & Museum,
Mersey Road, Widnes WA8 0DF
www.catalyst.org.uk

Catalyst will be opening up aspects of its archives, in particular its Mond archives. There will be a display on the life of Frida Mond and a talk on the Mond family and their influence locally. Also a display of many of the rare children’s books written by two Extraordinary Women; Margaret and Mary Baker.

A series of workshops will be run throughout the day:
11:30am and 2:00pm – Soap Workshop
12:30pm and 3:00pm – Light Fantastic Workshop
1:00pm – Mond family talk by Dr Diana Leitch

Visitors will be able to use interactive tablets which explore the landmarks of the area from the panoramic top floor Observatory; and find out about Catalyst’s local project work in West Bank. There will also be an opportunity for kids to create a DNA bracelet.

Workshops must be pre-booked.

An Afternoon Stroll
Saturday 15th Sept, 2:00pm - 4:00pm
Meet in the car park, All Saints’ Church,
Daresbury, WA4 4AE.
www.ddhg.org.uk

Come and join us for an afternoon stroll around Keckwick and Daresbury, discover some of the history of the area, stretch your legs and enjoy the views.
**Norton Priory & Halton Castle**

Sunday 16\(^{th}\) Sept, 10:00am - 5:00pm.
Norton Priory Museum & Gardens, Tudor Road, Manor Park, Runcorn WA7 1BD
www.nortonpriory.org

Norton Priory Museum & Gardens and Halton Castle will be FREE ENTRY all day! There will be a free shuttle bus service between Norton Priory Museum and Halton Castle running throughout the day. Enjoy tours and family activities at the castle 11am - 4pm.

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**Halton’s Gallant Heroes**

The Halton Heritage Partnership has been awarded Heritage Lottery Funding to mark the centenary of WWI. Those who died during WWI are commemorated on various cenotaphs across the borough of Halton, but the new project will focus on recognising those who returned after the war. It aims to help build awareness among the community and in local schools of heroism and crucially the life stories of those who survived the war and what their life was like afterwards.

Do you have memorabilia, photographs, newspaper clippings or letters? Can you remember the stories told and the lives lived afterwards? We are looking for your stories of people from Widnes, Runcorn, Moore and Daresbury.

If you would like to help, or have stories to tell please contact: education@nortonpriory.org or call 01928 569 895.
Æthelflæd - Æthelflæd, Lady of the Mercians, ruled Mercia from 911 until her death. She was born around 870 at the height of the Viking invasions, the eldest daughter of Alfred the Great, king of the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Wessex. Æthelflæd married Æthelred, who had played a major role in fighting off renewed Viking attacks in the 890s, together with Æthelflæd's brother, the future King Edward the Elder.

Alfred had built a network of fortified burhs (settlements) and in the 910s Edward and Æthelflæd embarked on a programme of extending them, one being Runcorn. From this burh in Runcorn, the town evolved into the town it is today. Without Æthelflæd there would have been no Runcorn. She was a great ruler, praised by Anglo-Norman chroniclers such as William of Malmesbury who described her as "a powerful accession to [Edward's] party, the delight of his subjects, the dread of his enemies, a woman of enlarged soul".

Alice Liddell - Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, a mathematician at Christ Church, Oxford, but born (in 1832) and brought up in Daresbury, first told his surreal story of Alice in Wonderland to the daughters of Dean Henry Liddell as they rowed down the Thames. It is quite certain that Charles Dodgson had Miss Liddell on his mind while creating his character.

In 1864, Charles gave her a manuscript called Alice’s Adventures Under Ground, which contained the original illustrations done by him. In November 1865, the novel was officially published. It was an instant success. Lewis Carroll soon became a well-known name around the world.

Alice married Reginald Hargreaves, an English cricket player. He died in 1926, leaving Alice alone in their house. The maintenance costs were too much, so she was forced to sell her copy of Alice’s Adventures Under Ground. The piece achieved a price of £15,400, four times more than predicted by Sotheby’s auction house.

Later, it was purchased by the American businessman Eldridge R. Johnson and then was finally purchased by a consortium of American bibliophiles and given back to the people of Britain as an award for their bravery in World War II. Today, the manuscript is located in the second largest library in the world, the British Library in London.

Alice died on November 16, 1934, at the age of 82. Her remains rest in a graveyard in St. Michael and All Angels Church in Lyndhurst, Hampshire.
Margaret McCann - worked in local government all her life, but it was her volunteer work that set her apart. Margaret was a dedicated Governor and Chair of Governors for over 30 years at St Marie's school in Widnes and later when it merged with St Patrick's school to become St Gerard's school. In her role as Governor she worked tirelessly on behalf of the children. She was also a member of the Legion of Mary for over 50 years carrying out good work throughout Widnes including visiting the sick and elderly. She was honoured for 50 years of devoted service. Margaret is far right on the picture with her award.

Chloe Gambia - This is the amazing story of a young African child who survived the hazardous "Triangular Trade" journey from West Africa to the West Indies and onto Liverpool in the 1760's. Chloe was baptised in Aston Church and worked as a servant in Aston Hall, where she rose to the senior position of Housekeeper. Her duties would have included managing the indoor servants, ordering food and other supplies and acting as a guide to all visiting gentry - a well respected role. Despite her sad and treacherous start in life, Chloe lived until she was 77 years old and was honoured with a gravestone in the Churchyard, alongside other Aston servants. We hope the broadly held West African belief of death reuniting far-flung kin applies in Chloe's case and that she is now at peace with her native family.

Edith Fildes - On Tuesday May 15th 2018, Mrs Fildes, one of the congregation of St Luke’s, became a centenarian. She was educated in Widnes and was one of the first intakes into The Wade Deacon Grammar School for Girls. She later taught English there.

Edith and her husband were hugely involved in church life at St Luke’s and with many of its building and restoration projects. Many will remember the beautiful Fund Raising Garden Parties held in the garden of their home on Coroners Lane. She was the ‘Mary Berry’ of her time; she would bake, amongst other things, the most amazing pavlovas; light as a feather meringue topped with masses of whipped cream and piled high with juicy strawberries.

Edith has never lost her interest in St Luke’s and though she is now in a local care home, she still maintains her contacts with the church and is regularly visited by parishioners.
In the late 18th century, Deborah was employed as a servant by Henry Byrom of Moore. Whilst there, she and two others stole three gowns and several yards of cloth from Mary Byrom and Elizabeth Jackson. All three women were tried at Chester Quarter Sessions on 24 August 1784 and found guilty. Deborah was sentenced to be ‘transported to parts beyond the seas’ for seven years. She was sent to Australia on the first fleet of convict ships to sail to the colony.

Deborah married a fellow convict, John Herbert. They were allocated a garden plot, on the site of what is now Sydney Botanic Garden. The marriage was a stormy affair. One day John returned home to find that pigs had got into his garden and rooted up plants. He accused Deborah of neglect. He hit her and she returned his blows. A court case ensued and she was sentenced to receive 25 lashes!

Things became more settled and they raised seven children and became quite prosperous. Deborah died in June 1819. Her headstone says she was ‘universally respected by her numerous friends and acquaintances’. A far cry from the young woman convicted of theft. Today, many Australians are proud to be able to prove their descent from the First Fleeters. The picture shows the memorial garden in Quirindi Creek, Wallabadah, New South Wales where Deborah is commemorated.

Frida Mond - Born Frederike Löwenthal in Cologne in 1847, she married her cousin Ludwig, a young industrial chemist. They moved to England in pursuit of Ludwig’s blossoming business interests. There, his growing success saw them established first in Farnworth Village in Widnes, then next to his new industrial plant at Winnington in Cheshire, and finally in London (from 1884) and at Combe Bank, near Sevenoaks (1907).

Ludwig’s scientific and commercial achievement can be measured by the fact that the business he founded eventually became one of the principal constituent companies of ICI. His scientific eminence and curiosity was matched by Frida’s equally passionate enthusiasm for literature and art. Frida was mother to Robert Mond, a chemist and Egyptologist and Alfred Mond who founded ICI.

By the time of her death in 1923, she had made an extraordinary contribution to British cultural life, gifting a collection to King’s College, London of manuscripts, paintings, drawings, books and other memorabilia relating to the German poets Goethe and Schiller.
Margaret and Mary Baker - In 1896 six-year-old Margaret Baker came to Runcorn from Worcestershire. Her father, Harry Baker, had just been appointed as the first Works Chemist at the newly-created Castner-Kellner Alkali Works at Weston Point. The family moved in to what is now Lawson House on Moughland Lane. On 25th July 1897 her younger sister, Mary, was born. The sisters became inseparable and formed an amazing partnership which lasted all their long lives. When interviewed in their eighties Margaret described them as ‘the stay-at-home-daughters’ - a great contrast to their brothers who went on to international fame in science and engineering. They never went to school and Mary developed multiple sclerosis as a teenager, but they became a highly-respected children’s author (Margaret) and illustrator (Mary) of over 30 books. The first one ‘The Black Cats and the Tinker’s Wife’ was published in 1923 and the publications continued between the two wars. Some were reprinted in the 1970s. They are all now very rare.

Sophia & Arabella Furnell - Sophia Furnell was just in her 20’s, with a 6 month old baby, Arabella, when her husband tragically drowned in the Shannon River. One of Frederick’s possessions, inherited by Sophia, was an old brass masonic square, which Sophia then gave as a gift to his Freemasons Lodge in Munster. This relic, The Baal’s Bridge Square, is now internationally renowned. It is believed to be one of the oldest Masonic artefacts in the world (dated 1507).

Sophia & Arabella lived together all of their lives and were great philanthropists. Arabella graduated from Edinburgh University with a First Class Honours Degree in Modern Languages, extremely unusual for a woman at the turn of the century. She travelled and lived in Europe, became a fluent linguist and was published in journals. Arabella was appointed Senior Mistress at Widnes Municipal Secondary School in 1913, teaching German & Spanish.

In WW1 Arabella gave lectures about Belgium and Paris to raise money for the Belgian Relief Fund. She died suddenly aged 47 and her long obituary tells us that ‘Her knowledge of modern Europe was unusually good, her judgements on the events of the war singularly shrewd, and her intimate knowledge of German psychology often very helpful in pointing out the trend of events and the possibilities of new movements in the various theatres of the war.’ (Widnes Weekly News, April 25, 1919).

Sophia and Arabella are buried in Widnes Cemetery.
HALTON’S EXTRAORDINARY WOMEN

The national theme of this year’s Heritage Open Days is Extraordinary Women; Halton Heritage Partnership has decided to profile some Extraordinary Women from our own Borough’s past and present. Their stories are described in the insert and will be shown at some of our events.

We are inviting YOU to vote for your most Extraordinary Woman – please complete the voting slip at any of the HODs participating venues or email funding@halton.gov.uk with your choice by Sunday 16th Sept. Halton’s most Extraordinary Woman will be announced at the end of HODs 2018.