

6th – 15th SEPTEMBER 2024

In Swindon and across the country, England's largest heritage festival celebrates our fantastic history and culture. It's your chance to explore hidden and familiar places on your doorstep **FREE OF CHARGE**. Some tours must be booked.

Search 'Swindon' at
www.heritageopendays.org.uk
for information on each venue


heritage open days

A THE WORKS HERITAGE TRAIL

Swindon's new permanent heritage trail guides you through the history of the beautifully preserved Railway Village and former GWR Works site. Bronze pavement discs guide you to information panels at key locations.

Permanent self-guided heritage trail

SUGGESTED TRAIL START: Swindon Station

CONTACT: Karen Phimister, kphimister@swindon.gov.uk

PICK UP A MAP/GUIDE: Swindon Station, local libraries, where the Works Heritage Trail symbol is displayed.

DIGITAL GUIDE: www.theworksswindon.co.uk/trail-map

The Mural Trail (self-guided)

Follow the signs around the Heritage Trail/Rodbourne to see the new murals inspired by Swindon's railway history.

Throughout September

Children's Heritage Story Trail (self-guided)

A fun way for families to follow signs to explore the history of the Railway Village through local author Hannah Dosanjh's book 'A Railway Town Called Swindon'.

Throughout September and October

1 CARRIAGE WORKS

Create Studios (heritage film screenings)

See British Film Institute and local filmmaker's heritage films of Swindon and short films on personal heritage by local young producers. 'Stitch Your Story' exhibition of beautiful textile artworks by Swindon's communities

SAT 7th Sept. 10.30am – 3.30pm

FILM SCREENINGS: with introductory talk by local film maker Martin Parry, 11am & 2.30pm

CONTACT: Shahina Johnson 07500 686765

info@createstudios.org

iCAST Creative Hub

You're invited to visit iCAST Creative Hub – designed to inspire innovation in sustainable technologies and foster collaboration among our community – to gain insight into sustainable technologies, our plans and activities!

SAT 7th Sept. 11am – 3.30pm

CONTACT: Clair Stenning, 07866 998428 or cs2628@bath.ac.uk

Creative workshop: Re-imagining the Railway Village for the 21st Century

What would the Railway Village look like if it were being built in 2024? Drop in on this fun, family creative workshop, hosted by Artsite to make some of the homes and public buildings.

SAT 7th Sept. 11am – 4pm

CONTACT: Karen Phimister, 07392 109774

2 ENGINE HOUSE Historic England Archive Swindon Routes and Networks exhibition

Visit the historic building and see highlights from our archive of over 14 million items. Free exhibitions, tours and activities for all ages. Take part in the Home Soil: Poetry & Suminagashi paper marbling workshop

SAT 14th Sept. 11am – 4pm

TOURS: 11am, 12pm, 1.30pm & 2.30pm

WORKSHOP: 11.30am – 1.30pm bookable workshop

Tours and workshop must be booked via link on

www.heritageopendays.org.uk

CONTACT: Aseye Negedu, 07920 599613 or

aseye.negedu@historicengland.org.uk

3 SWINDON DESIGNER OUTLET

GWR Factory guided tour

See beyond the shop fronts as Rodbourne History Group's guided tour explains the buildings' history and industrial heritage with photos of the Works in action.

SAT 14th Sept. 10am – 12pm

MEET: Main Entrance, Kemble Drive

CONTACT: Gordon Shaw, 07766138229

E: secretary@rodbournehistory.org

Swindon & GWR – the full story guided walk

Find out what it was like to work for GWR, before visiting the Railway Village to see the workers' homes and the pioneering public buildings they created.

THUR 12th Sept. 1pm – 3.30pm

MEET: Main Entrance, Kemble Drive

CONTACT: Karen Phimister, 07392 109774 or

kphimister@swindon.gov.uk

4 ST. MARK THE EVANGELIST Parish Church

Guided tours of this splendid gothic revival church which has served the community for over 175 years.

SAT 7th & SUN 8th Sept. 2.30pm

CONTACT: Fr Ross, 01793 538220

5 HEELIS (National Trust central office)

Visit the award winning, sustainable office building to see how the National Trust's values are literally woven into the fabric of the building – a must for anyone with an interest in modern architecture.

FRI 6th Sept. 11am & 2pm

BOOK TOUR PLACES: heelisreception@nationaltrust.org.uk

CONTACT: cathy.downes@nationaltrust.org.uk

6 PATTERN CHURCH

The 1897 GWR Pattern Store is now home to Pattern Church. See how the historic fabric has been restored and given a new lease of life. Tours include the upper floors not opened to the public since the Pattern Store was closed in the 1980s.

SAT 7th Sept. 1pm – 4pm

TOURS: every 30 minutes from 1pm – 3:30pm

CONTACT: Kaf Smith, hello@patternchurch.org

7 EMLYN SQUARE FESTIVAL

The heart of Swindon's historic Railway Village comes alive! Visit former pubs, the Cricketers and the Bakers, and the Railway Village Museum for guided tours, exhibitions, talks, activities and refreshments.

SAT 7th Sept. 11am – 4pm

RAILWAY VILLAGE TOURS: 11.30am and 1.30pm

CONTACT: Dan Fishlock, 07955 373172

www.mechanics-trust.org.uk/events

8 THE GLUEPOT (and Connected Pubs)

Enjoy local real ales and bar snacks and join the landlord for a talk on the history of this Grade II listed building. (On 7th) visit former pubs, the Cricketers and the Bakers, to learn about their history, followed by a Swindon pubs talk at Cultural Heritage Institute by John Stooke, author of 'Last Orders'.

SAT 7th & SUN 8th Sept. 12pm – 11pm

GLUEPOT TALK: 2.30pm (both days)

CONTACT: Mark Hepplewhite, 07468 947757

CONNECTED PUBS TOUR: 3.30pm; **TALK:** 4.30pm (7th only)

CONTACT: Dan Fishlock, dan@mechanics-trust.org.uk

HOW CANALS (and rail) CONNECTED SWINDON guided walks

First came the canals, then the railways connecting Swindon via transport links to the rest of the country, transforming the small market town into a prosperous industrial centre.

B Walk: How Canals Connected Swindon

Walk on former canal routes through the town centre, westwards to Wichelstowe

SAT 7th & SAT 14th Sept. 11am

MEET: Sheppard Street underpass

CONTACT: Gary Kenyon, 07853 085113 or

gary.kenyon@wbct.org.uk

C Walk: How Canals & Rail Connected Swindon

Town centre canals and the Railway Village for the story of the GWR

TUES 10th Sept. 10am – 12:30pm Meet at the

Faringdon Rd entrance to GWR Park

CONTACT: Karen Phimister, 07392 109774 or

kphimister@swindon.gov.uk

9 CENTRAL LIBRARY (Local Studies)

Moonies, Movers & Shakers illustrated talk

Graham Carter, discusses his new book, co-written with Noel Ponting – a chronicle of the Association of Wiltshiremen in London and celebration of largely forgotten, but surprising and remarkable 'Moonies'.

MON 9th Sept. 7.15pm

CONTACT: localstudies@swindon.gov.uk

Swindon's Greatest Hits

Swindon Shuffle Fringe Event. Discover Swindon's surprising place in music history in an after-hours tour of the Local Studies collection. Which local act won Melody Maker best band – twice? What links Swindon to Snoopy, the LSO, and Black Sabbath? Find out!

TUES 10th Sept 6.30pm-10pm

TOURS: 7pm & 8.30pm with bar, live music and DJs

Electric Wonderland? Women and the 1930s' Modern Home – a talk by Sarah Yates

Early C20th, pioneering women, the Women's Engineering Society and Electrical Association for Women, were at the centre of a huge technological and social shift: demonstrating how technology could improve the lives and homes of women.

SAT 14th Sept. 11.30am

10 HEALTH HYDRO guided tours

Enjoy a behind-the-scenes tour including an update on the current refurbishment project and a presentation on this unique building's fascinating social history.

THUR 12th Sept. 1.30pm & 3pm

BOOK A PLACE: ruth.pritchard@fourth-street.com

D RADNOR STREET CEMETERY

Guided cemetery walk

Join us for a guided walk around Swindon's historic cemetery and hear the stories of some of our town's former residents.

SUN 15th Sept. 2pm

MEET: at the chapel

CONTACT: francesbevan@outlook.com

11 SWINDON FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE

Experience the peaceful atmosphere of the meeting room (built 1904); hear personal memories, see historical documents and photographs on its many uses and ask members questions about our history and Quakers today.

SAT 14th Sept. 10am – 4pm

CONTACT: Steve Russell, 07548 394580

12 SWINDON CIVIC OFFICES, Euclid Street

See inside Swindon Borough Council's Grade II listed, art deco Civic Offices including the impressive Council Chamber and Mayor's Parlour. Take part in a Q&A session with the Mayor & ward members about their experiences of representing Swindon's residents.

SAT 7th Sept. 3pm – 5pm

Q & A SESSION: 3pm, Civic Chamber

MEET THE MAYOR: 4pm, Mayor's Parlour

CONTACT: David Dewart, 07769 281727

E PROSPECT PLACE CONSERVATION AREA

Join guided tours of the area that developed during C19th for GWR workers. From academic discourse to anecdotal stories of local people.

SAT 14th & SUN 15th Sept. 2pm – 3pm

MEET: Prospect Place Car Park, opposite BBC.

CONTACT: Michael Gray, 07415 280405

F TOWN GARDENS HERITAGE TOURS

Guided tours led by a local historian. Explore the Victorian origins, learn about the garden's design and development over the decades, and discover little-known facts. Meet at the Westlecot Road entrance.

SUN 8th Sept. 1pm

WED 11th Sept. 6:30pm

SUN 15th Sept. 11am

CONTACT: Abigail Garside-Scutts, 07712 256663

www.towngardens-swindon.co.uk/events

G VICTORIAN OLD TOWN guided walk

Explore Swindon's Victorian Old Town. The approx 2 mile (4km) walk visits some of the places associated with, or familiar to, the nature-writer Richard Jefferies when he lived in this area.

SAT 7th Sept. 5.30pm

MEET: Lawns entrance, off High Street, SNI 3EG

BOOK A SPACE: walks@richardjefferies.org

13 ST. MARY'S CHURCH

Called one of the most important small parish churches in England, Lydiard Tregoze church is renowned for its extraordinary monuments and wall paintings.

FRI 6th/13th & SAT 7th/14th Sept. 11am – 4pm

SUN 8th & SUN 15th Sept. 2pm – 4pm

CONTACT: Paul Gardner, 07831868429

14 ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, North Swindon

Discover the story of St Andrew's. Enjoy talks on the building, stained glass and the people buried in the churchyard as well as family friendly activities, games and crafts. Tea, coffee and lunch available from 12pm.

Saturday 14th Sept. 10am – 4pm

TALKS: 10.30am and 2.30pm.

CONTACT: Revd Sally Robertson, 07588 594410

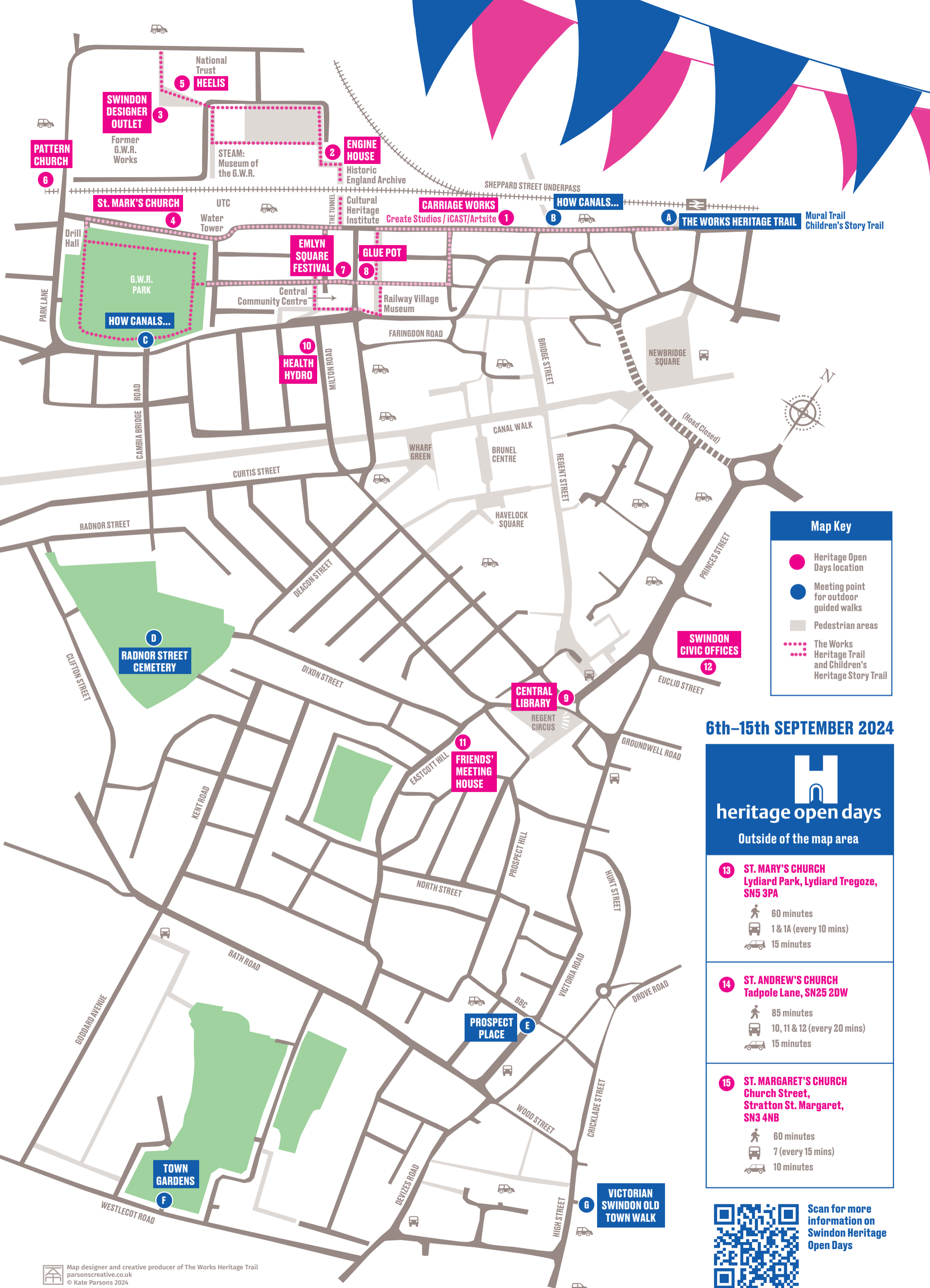
15 ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH guided tour

This Grade I listed church in Stratton St. Margaret dates from 1280. Church historian Andrew Martin guides you through the history.

Saturday 14th Sept. 1 – 1.45pm

MEET: at the church porch

CONTACT: Roger Smith, 07510 273143



PATTERN CHURCH
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SWINDON DESIGNER OUTLET
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Former G.W.R. Works

HEELIS
5
National Trust

STEAM: Museum of the G.W.R.

ENGINE HOUSE
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Historic England Archive

St. MARK'S CHURCH
4

UTC
Water Tower

CARRIAGE WORKS
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Create Studios / iCAST/Artsite

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PROSPECT PLACE
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VICTORIAN SWINDON OLD TOWN WALK
G

TOWN GARDENS
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Map Key

- Heritage Open Days location
- Meeting point for outdoor guided walks
- Pedestrian areas
- ⋯ The Works Heritage Trail and Children's Heritage Story Trail

6th-15th SEPTEMBER 2024

heritage open days

Outside of the map area

13 ST. MARY'S CHURCH
Lydiard Park, Lydiard Tregoze, SN5 3PA

- 60 minutes
- 1 & 1A (every 10 mins)
- 15 minutes

14 ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH
Tadpole Lane, SN25 2DW

- 85 minutes
- 10, 11 & 12 (every 20 mins)
- 15 minutes

15 ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH
Church Street, Stratton St. Margaret, SN3 4NB

- 60 minutes
- 7 (every 15 mins)
- 10 minutes



Scan for more information on Swindon Heritage Open Days