



heritage open days



Ledbury 2026

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#HODs

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All Events
are Free

Welcome to Heritage Open Days 2026

Welcome to England's largest heritage festival!

Heritage Open Days (HODs) is England's largest community led festival of history and culture. Run by hundreds of local organisations and volunteers, you can discover unique stories, fascinating places, hidden gems and have experiences to remember by visiting hundreds of amazing **FREE events across Ledbury from Friday 11 - Sunday 20 September 2026.**

HODs offers everyone the opportunity to explore our local history, traditions, community and cultural heritage through talks, tours, workshops, open days, exhibitions and much more.



Ledbury Celebrates Heritage Open Days 2026 – Everyday Histories

This September, Ledbury will once again take part in Heritage Open Days, England's largest festival of history and culture. This year's theme, "Everyday Histories", celebrates the ordinary people, places and moments that have shaped our communities over time – and Ledbury has countless stories to tell.

From the birthplace of poet John Masefield, whose childhood in Ledbury inspired much of his writing, to the bustling Market House that has stood at the heart of the town for over 400 years, Ledbury's history is woven into the lives of the people who have called it home. Its medieval streets, timber-framed buildings and hidden historic gems are not simply landmarks – they are places where generations have lived, worked, traded and celebrated.

During Heritage Open Days, visitors will have the opportunity to step inside some of Ledbury's most treasured buildings, many of which are not normally open to the public. Guided tours, exhibitions and special events will reveal the fascinating stories behind the town's rich heritage, from remarkable architecture to the everyday lives of the people who helped shape Ledbury into the vibrant community it is today.



**Scan here to listen to
our introduction**

16th Century Painted Room

Town Council Office, 1 Church Street, Ledbury, Herefordshire HR8 1DH

Uncovered in the late 20th century, these 16th century wall paintings offer a glimpse into the past. Engage with knowledgeable guides, explore display cabinets and information boards, and enjoy activities designed for children.



The 16th Century Painted Room is situated within an early 16th-century building that now serves as the Town Council offices. This remarkable room features stunning wall paintings created in the mid-1560s, designed to imitate the luxurious tapestries and wall hangings typically found in the homes of the aristocracy. These painted decorations reflect the wealth and status aspired to by the building's original occupants, offering a rare glimpse into Tudor-era interior design beyond the grandest estates.

The building itself is believed to have been constructed as a new Booth Hall — a multifunctional space traditionally used for meetings and local administration. The Painted Room, in particular, is thought to have served as a Court of Piepowder, a special tribunal held during fairs to swiftly resolve disputes involving traders and visitors. This connection highlights the building's important role in the commercial and judicial life of the town during the 16th century.

Together, the architectural significance and exquisite painted decorations make the Painted Room a unique historical treasure that connects us directly to Ledbury's rich civic and social heritage.

Our guides will be on hand to chat informally about the wall paintings and answer your questions. Explore our roller banner display showing how the paintings may have originally looked in the 16th century—funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

Children aged 7–9 can enjoy dressing up in Tudor costumes, try out our small indoor stocks with soft knitted fruit and veg to throw, and pose with our new Tudor face-in-the-hole board.

Event Times

Thursday, 17 September: 11:00-13:00 & 14:00-16:30

Friday, 18 September: 11:00-13:00 & 14:00-16:30

Saturday, 19 September: 11:00-13:00 & 14:00-16:30

Booking Details

No booking required



Access

Wheelchair users can access the ground floor of the building from the main Town Council reception door on Church Lane, from where you can get to the only surviving fragment of the wall paintings that survives downstairs although the greater amount survives in the upper room. There is no wheelchair access to the upper floor.

Directions

The entry door to the 16th Century Painted Room is the first door on the right on Church Street, which curves around to the left from behind the Market House in the middle of the High Street. Several public car parks are available nearby.

Artisan Art in 16th century England: Ledbury leads the way

Town Council Office, Church Street, Ledbury, Herefordshire HR8 1DH

Dr Kathryn Davies will give a talk and slide show on 16th Century Wall Paintings in the Jacobean Room in the Town Council Office in Ledbury on Friday, 18th September at 19.30.

We are delighted to welcome Dr Kathryn Davies, a leading expert on domestic wall art. Dr Davies has done a great deal of research into the subject and often uses the 16th Century Painted Room in the Town Council offices in Ledbury as her example to illustrate typical characteristics of wall paintings. However she feels that the paintings have some interesting puzzles which can make us think about social and cultural life of the time.

Dr Davies has produced a superb book. 'Artisan Art: Vernacular wall paintings in the Welsh Marches, 1550–1650', which is now in its second edition. The book will be available for sale on the evening of the talk.

The room size is limited so the talk will be pre bookings only.

Event Times

Friday, 18 September: 19:30

Booking Details

Pre-booking required

Elisabeth Hughes : +44 1531 632306

tourguides@ledburytowncouncil.gov.uk

Booking opens:

06 Aug 2026 12:00 AM

Booking closes:

18 Sep 2026 12:00 AM

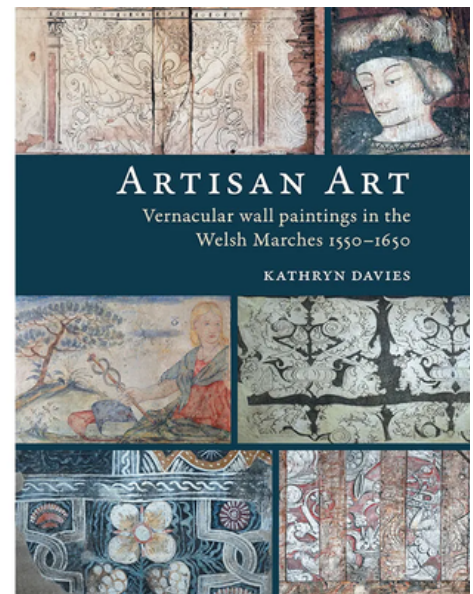
Additional information

Car parks and street parking are nearby and are free/unrestricted after 18.00hrs.

Max number of people: 40

Estimated duration:

1 hour(s) 30 minute(s)



The Market House

High Street, Ledbury, Herefordshire HR8 1DH

Step into the story of Ledbury through one of its most iconic landmarks — the 17th-century Market House. From a bustling trading hub to a community gathering place, this remarkable timber-framed structure has played many roles over the centuries. Discover how its purpose has evolved, and why it remains at the heart of town life today.

The stilted black and white Market House dates from the early 17th century and was built as a Corn Warehouse, but also used to store wool, hops and acorns through the centuries. It was used for a few years as a Marriage Room, although that was stopped in 2004 because of disability access laws. Today it is used for town council meetings, sales and exhibitions etc. The twice weekly charter market, dating from the 12th century, still takes place beneath it on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

There will be a PowerPoint Presentation about the building of the Market House.

A guide will be available to answer your questions and there are display boards with information about the Market House and the town's timber framed building heritage.

We are adding to our activities for children this year. There is a children's book reading area included in the new display about our linked town, Strömstad in Sweden, and we are adding our own bookshelf to the Market House with children's history books and activities. We intend to have some reading sessions on Saturday, 19th September.



We also have available our Tudor 'Face in Hole' board that we added last year, for children of all ages to have their photos taken.

Event Times

Thursday, 17 September: 11:00-13:00 & 14:00-16:30

Friday, 18 September: 11:00-13:00 & 14:00-16:30

Saturday, 19 September: 11:00-13:00 & 14:00-16:30

Booking Details

No booking required

Access

The Market House is not accessible upstairs by wheelchair.

Directions

The Market House, a black-and-white timber-framed building on stilts, is prominently located on Ledbury's High Street.

Domesday Book

The Market House, High Street, Ledbury, Herefordshire HR8 1DH



Explore a unique historical treasure: a rare, limited-edition reproduction of the Domesday Book, revealing the world of medieval England as seen through William the Conqueror's eyes.

This exclusive County Edition of the Great Domesday Book will be on public display at Ledbury's iconic Market House throughout the event. One of only 1,000 copies ever produced worldwide, this edition – number 112 – is a meticulous reproduction of the original 11th-century manuscript, capturing every detail with exceptional accuracy.

Commissioned by William the Conqueror in 1086, the Domesday Book was an unprecedented survey that recorded land ownership, resources, population, livestock, and taxable values across England. It was created to assess the wealth of the kingdom and establish a fair tax system following the Norman Conquest.

The Domesday Book provides invaluable insight into the medieval economy and society, detailing the distribution of land among nobles, the size and productivity of estates, and the resources available in villages and towns. It remains one of the most important and detailed records of 11th-century England, still studied by historians and scholars today.

To ensure the preservation of this rare volume, visitors are invited to view it under careful supervision only.

A knowledgeable member of staff will turn the pages upon request, and gloves will be worn at all times to protect the book's delicate condition.

Event Times

Saturday, 19 September: 11:00-13:00 & 14:00-16:30

Booking Details

No booking required

Access

The Market House is not accessible upstairs by wheelchair.

Directions

The Market House is easily located in the centre of Ledbury, as it is the black and white timber framed building on stilts on the High Street.



The Master's House

The Master's House, St Katherine's, Bye Street, Ledbury, Herefordshire HR8 1EA

Visit Ledbury's Hidden Gem! Outside an imposing Georgian and Victorian Mansion but come inside and revel on the spectacle of the Great Hall of the original Tudor timber frame Hall House of 1487.

The Master's House built in 1487 has been at the centre of Ledbury life for more than 500 years. At its heart is the original timber frame Tudor Hall House but throughout its 500 years of history there have been many adaptations and additions. Originally a home for the Master of St Katherine's Hospital (founded 1231), successive occupants have altered it to suit their own needs. The building you see today is a product of all these changes, with the modern restoration carried out between 2011 and 2015 revealing the many faceted story of the Master's House.



The Friends of the Master's House; a small dedicated band of volunteers will be on hand on Saturday, 19 September between 9.30am to 12.30pm to offer guidance and give ad hoc tours of the House including viewing the magnificent roof from the balcony and a glimpse of St Katherine's chapel in the original Hospital (areas not usually open to the public).

Event Times

Saturday, 19 September: 09:30 - 12:30

Booking Details

Pre-booking not required



Additional Information

The Master's House is also Ledbury's Library and so if visiting on other days than 19 September, please check Library opening hours (open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday morning).

Accessibility details

The Upper floor of the Master's House may be difficult for wheelchair users.

Children's Free Drop-in Craft Workshop

10.00 am – 12.00 noon

The Great Hall, The Master's House

Join Jeanette McCulloch for a fun, free craft workshop where children can create their own parrot pirates, sea-faring characters, and miniature ships to set sail on a swashbuckling adventure!

No booking required – just drop in.

Event Times

Saturday 19 September: 10:00- 12:00

Booking information

Pre-booking not required

Accessibility details

The Workshop takes place in the Main Hall of the Master's House which is at ground floor level

FREE EVENT



Butcher Row House Museum

Butcher Row House Museum, Church Lane, Ledbury, Herefordshire HR8 1DW

The House that has MOVED TWICE! This fascinating folk museum measures only 5m square, on two floors. Today it can be found in a pretty courtyard and has local exhibits including a selection of Victorian christening robes and rare musical instruments.

Butcher Row House was built in the 1580s as part of a row of traders' properties down the centre of the High Street. The 'row' was demolished in the 19th century for hygiene reasons and to give better access for stage coaches and larger vehicles.

This building is one of only two which survived and was originally moved to a garden behind a shop in the High Street, where it was used for storage. In the 1970s, the House was gifted to the Civic Society who re-erected it in its present location and created this unique museum of local artefacts. In addition to Victorian costumes, these include a glove 'donkey' used by outworkers in the glove-making trade; a ladderback chair, made by Philip Clissett of Bosbury, whose designs influenced the Arts and Crafts movement; and a boot bath, which was trundled from door to door 'For the use of the poor in Ledbury'.



Of particular note is a rare and important example of a 'Regency' Lute made around 1800. Until its re-discovery in 2015 by stringed-instrument conservator & restorer, Chris Egerton, and world-renowned early-music performer, Taro Takeuchi, it was known in literature but no actual examples of such a lute had been positively identified.

Event Times

Saturday, 12 September: 10:00-16:00

Sunday, 13 September: 10:00-16:00

Monday, 14 September: 10:00-16:00

Saturday, 19 September: 10:00-16:00

Sunday, 20 September: 10:00-16:00



Booking Details

No booking required

Access

The museum is located in a paved courtyard off a cobbled lane. There are a couple of steps to the ground floor but a ramp is available on request. The first floor is inaccessible - there is a steep staircase - but there is a digital display of the exhibits on the ground floor.

Burgage Hall

(Former Congregational Chapel)

Burgage Hall, Chapel Alley, High Street, Ledbury , Herefordshire HR8 1DW

A Hidden Gem! Discover the Burgage Hall, up a tiny alleyway in the centre of town and a living remnant of history from when this building was originally a black and white Congregational chapel. It was rebuilt in 1852 in an austere classical style.

The hidden location of this former chapel can be explained by it being outside the remit of the Church of England in the 16th and 17th centuries. Worship tended to be hidden out of sight, hence its situation, so close to the High Street, but hidden from the casual eye. After falling into disuse, it was replaced in 1852 by this brick building, which is relatively grand, testifying to the new-found respectability of non-conformity in a period of growing religious freedom. It was renovated in 1987 by the Civic Society for community use. The light-filled building, with balconies at each end, is little changed and is a delightful space.

For this year's HODs, we will have a display of items from the museum that are normally kept in storage, including some fabulous Victorian costumes. Medical artefacts and medicinal herbs from the garden will be on display, and visitors will be invited to peruse a selection of historical photos and papers, all with a Ledbury connection.

The Masefield Matters project will be organising an activity on one of our Open Days - see next page for more information!

Event Times

Saturday, 12 September: 10:00-16:00

Sunday, 13 September: 10:00-16:00

Saturday, 19 September: 10:00-16:00

Sunday, 20 September: 10:00-15:00

Booking Details

No booking required

Access

The hall is on the ground floor and fully accessible from the High Street. The Butcher Row House Museum can also be accessed from here, avoiding the cobbled lane.

Directions

The Hall is also accessible from Church Lane, where it is situated behind the Butcher Row House Museum.



Ledbury Morris Dancers

Under the Market House, High Street, Ledbury, Herefordshire HR8 1DH

An established and vibrant mixed Border Morris side, the group performs traditional dances from the border counties of Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Shropshire in a lively and engaging style.

Jones of Ledbury, who also founded Silurian Morris, The Old Wonder Morris and the Bromyard Folk Festival.

Dave Jones was a key figure in the revival of Morris dancing during the 1970s. He travelled throughout the local area, collecting traditional dances directly from local people and recording them for future generations.

Ledbury Morris continues this tradition by performing these dances in their original form, alongside one or two dances of their own.

During the event, Ledbury Morris will have a stall beneath the Market House, where visitors can find out more about the history of Morris dancing in Ledbury, the traditions they preserve and why they continue to dance today.

Visitors will also have the opportunity to see some of these traditional dances performed — and may even be invited to join in!



Event Times

Saturday, 19 September: 10:00 - 14:00

Booking Details

No booking required

Access

There is wheelchair access under the Market House.

Directions

The Market House, a black-and-white timber-framed building on stilts, is prominently located on Ledbury's High Street.

Scan here to visit the
Ledbury Morris website and
keep up to date with
upcoming events locally.



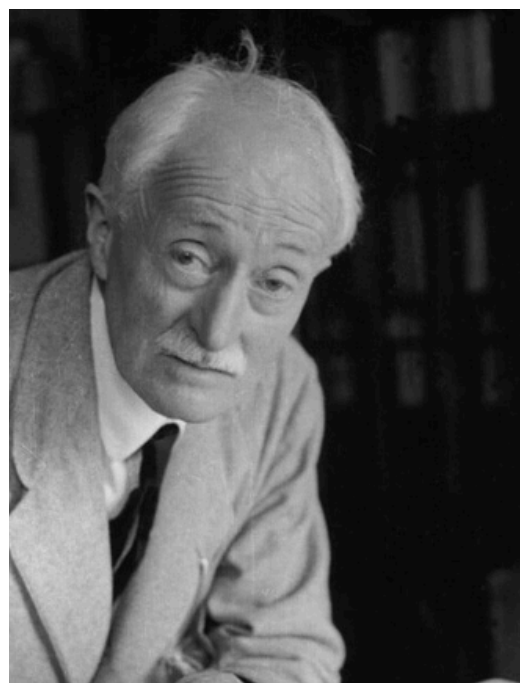
Shakespeare & John Masefield: The Power of Place

Burgage Hall, Chapel Alley, High Street, Ledbury, Herefordshire HR8 1DW



What connects William Shakespeare, John Masefield and the places they called home? This illustrated presentation will explore the shared literary and cultural connections between Stratford-upon-Avon and Ledbury through the lives and legacies of two of England's most celebrated writers.

Discover how Shakespeare inspired Masefield, how Masefield shaped Stratford's cultural life as Poet Laureate, and explore archive material, photographs and collection highlights that reveal the enduring relationship between these two remarkable places. Featuring an additional guest speaker (to be confirmed) and a display of archival material.

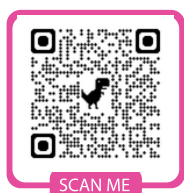


This event forms part of Heritage Open Days, England's largest festival of history and culture. It is also part of Masefield Matters, a National Lottery Heritage Fund-supported programme celebrating the life, work and legacy of Ledbury-born Poet Laureate John Masefield ahead of the 150th anniversary of his birth in 2028.

The programme has been developed in collaboration with colleagues at the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust. It reflects a shared commitment to exploring the literary and cultural connections between Ledbury and Stratford-upon-Avon.

By bringing together research, archive collections and local stories, the event offers an opportunity to discover more about our shared literary heritage. It celebrates the power of heritage to strengthen connections between people, place and community.

Opposite is a map showing sites that were important to Masefield, featured in his work, or are now linked to his memory. Follow the trail to explore Ledbury through the eyes of a young Victorian boy and the Poet Laureate that he would eventually become.



Scan here to
follow our
Masefield
Matters blog

Shakespeare
birthplace trust

Event Times

Thursday, 17 September

14:00–16:00 - Rolling Talks (4 talks throughout the afternoon)

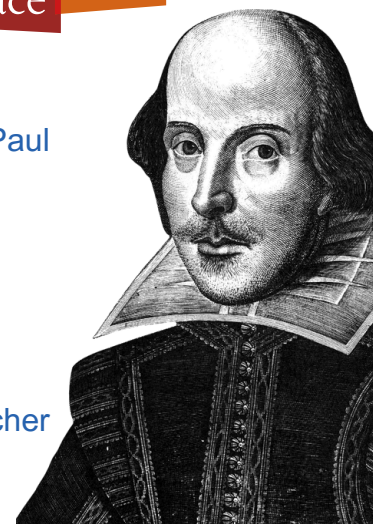
16:15–17:15 - An online and in person conversation with Reverend Dr Paul Edmondson (local specialist) and colleagues from Shakespeare Birthplace Trust.

Booking Details

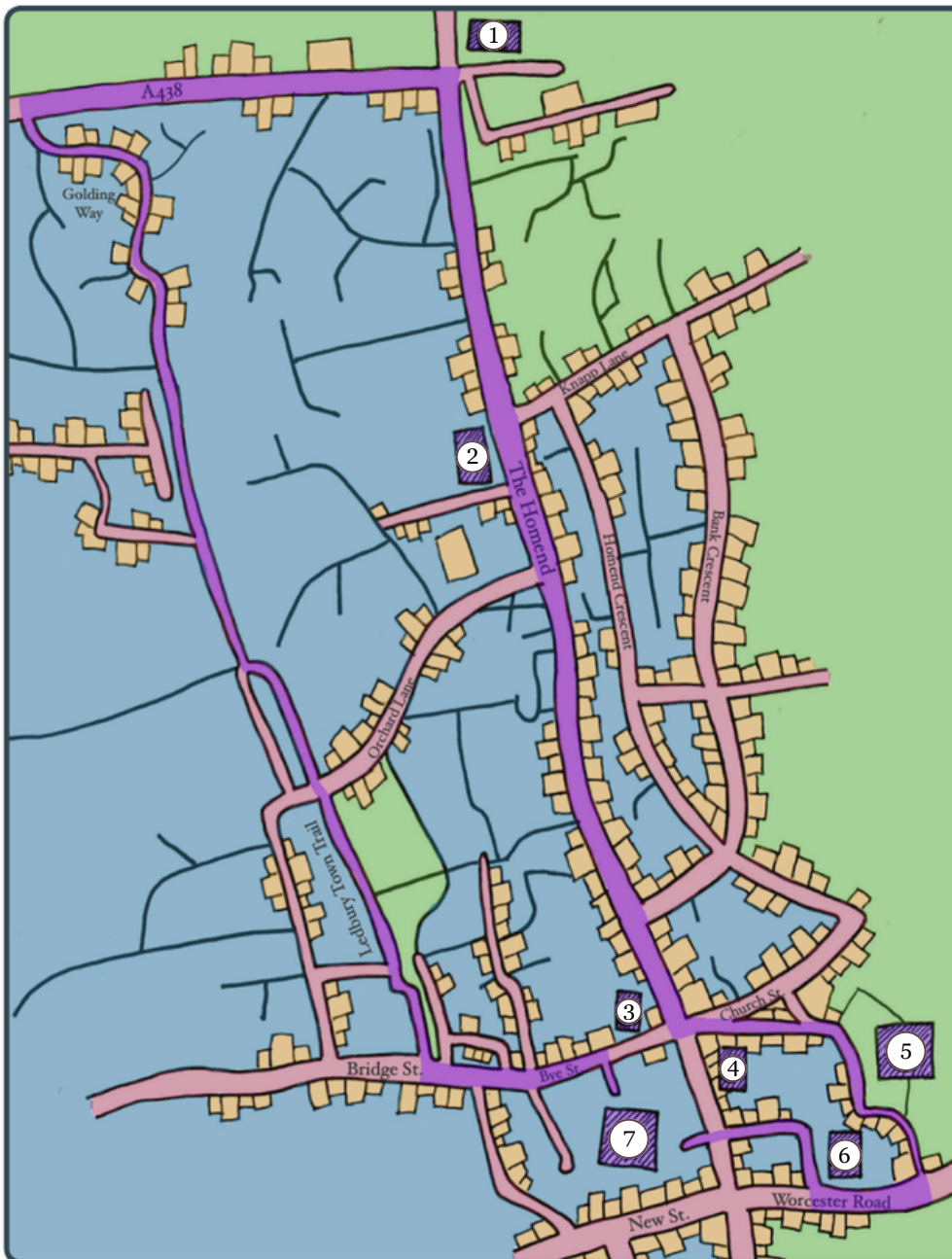
No booking required

Access

The hall is on the ground floor and fully accessible from the High Street. The Butcher Row House Museum can also be accessed from here, avoiding the cobbled lane.



Masefield Map of Ledbury



This circular route of John Masefield's Ledbury can be started at any point. Follow it to discover Ledbury's connection with the Poet Laureate.

1 Ledbury Rail Station

Railways feature prominently in Masefield's works. The Ledbury Station is known as the 'Junction for Poetry'.

2 The Knapp

This large house was John Masefield's childhood home before his mother died. He lived here with his parents and five siblings.

3 The Barratt Browning Institute

Once the home of Ledbury Poetry, which ran the Ledbury Poetry Festival. It is named after another poet with Ledbury connections. Masefield officially opened the building when Ledbury Library occupied the space.

4 The Market House

The Market House is an iconic Ledbury landmark and is referenced in Masefield's poems *The Everlasting Mercy* and *Wonderings*. Head down Church Lane towards St Michael's.

5 St Michael's Church

In the 1950s, John Masefield published a pamphlet called *The Ledbury Scene* about his use of the town as a setting in his works to raise money to restore the Church bells.

6 The Priory and Tilley's Alley

Head along Tilley's Alley, which features a Banksy-style painting of John Masefield. You will pass the Priory, the large house where the Masefield children lived with their aunt and uncle after they were orphaned.

7 The Master's House

The Master's House holds both Ledbury Library and the library and archive of the John Masefield Society, which includes books, letters and Masefield's own paintings.

Market Theatre

Market Theatre, Market Street, Ledbury, Herefordshire, HR8 2AQ

A unique opportunity to see behind the scenes at the Market Theatre, Ledbury. Regular tours throughout the day enabling you to see parts of the theatre that are normally out of bounds to visitors.

The current Market Theatre was officially opened on 19 January 2000 and was the first theatre to be opened in the new millennium anywhere in the world. The new building replaced the old Market Theatre on the same site, which was demolished in 1999.

The Market Theatre is owned by Ledbury Amateur Dramatic Society (LADS) and operates as a community theatre space for the benefit of everyone. It is run and maintained entirely by a group of dedicated volunteers. As well as hosting all LADS theatrical productions, the Market Theatre also offers a successful film club, live screenings from national venues, visiting theatrical companies and music events of all genres.



The tour of the theatre will enable visitors to see behind the scenes, including: Sound & Lighting control room, Props & Furniture store, Costumes, Dressing Rooms, Rehearsal Space and Scenery Stores. The tour will also take visitors onstage where they can walk around the set of "Into the Fire" - a play set in Pompeii. The tour will also include a brief demonstration of lighting and sound effects.

The tours will be run by members of LADS who will be happy to answer any of your questions

Event Times

Saturday, 12 September: 10:00-16:00. Tours at 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 14:00, 15:00

Booking Details

Pre-booking required and limited to 12 people per session (45 minutes)

Booking conditions:

Please e-mail the address below with your chosen tour time and the names of everyone in your group. Please also provide a contact telephone number.

Booking contact name: Nick West

Booking email: nickw@themarketttheatre.com

Accessibility details

The event is open to visitors of all ages. Please note that the visit will involve climbing up and down stairs. Therefore, the tours are not suitable for people with limited mobility.

Directions:

The Market Theatre is located on Market Street, Ledbury. There is no dedicated parking at the venue. However, there are several pay and display car parks within a short walking distance.



The Old Grammar School

Old Grammar School, Church Lane, Ledbury, Herefordshire HR8 1DN

The Old Grammar School tells the story not only of a remarkable Tudor building, but of the community that grew around it. Discover how local people lived, learned and worked, from schoolchildren and craftsmen to shopkeepers and tradespeople who lined the High Street and The Homend.

One of the building's most personal connections to the past can still be seen today. In the 1700s, boys who attended the Old Grammar School scratched their names into the window glass. These simple inscriptions have survived for centuries, preserving the signatures of pupils who once sat in the classrooms and offering a rare, direct link to the everyday lives of the children who learned here. Also take a glimpse into a display of the log book entries from the 1890s, about a day - or longer-in our local primary school.

Explore our extended Street Through Time panorama to see how Ledbury's streets have changed over the centuries. Find out what businesses once stood beside The Feathers, where George Brookes the saddler worked, and how familiar buildings have been adapted by generations of local families and traders.

One of our displays also reveals the documents that recorded the town's history, including a striking photographic reproduction of a multiple-sheet vellum indenture dated 11 April 1665. Created during the reign of Charles II, it granted rights to the Lordship and Manor of Ledbury and offers a fascinating glimpse into the lives, property and governance of the town's people over 350 years ago.

Event Times

Friday, 11 September: 11:00–15:00

Saturday, 12 September: 10:30–16:30

Sunday, 13 September: 10:30–16:30

Monday, 14 September: 11:00–15:00

Tuesday, 15 September: 11:00–15:00

Wednesday, 16 September: 11:00–15:00

Thursday, 17 September: 11:00–15:00

Friday, 18 September: 11:00–15:00

Saturday, 19 September: 10:30–16:30

Sunday, 20 September: 10:30–16:30



Booking Details

No booking required

Access

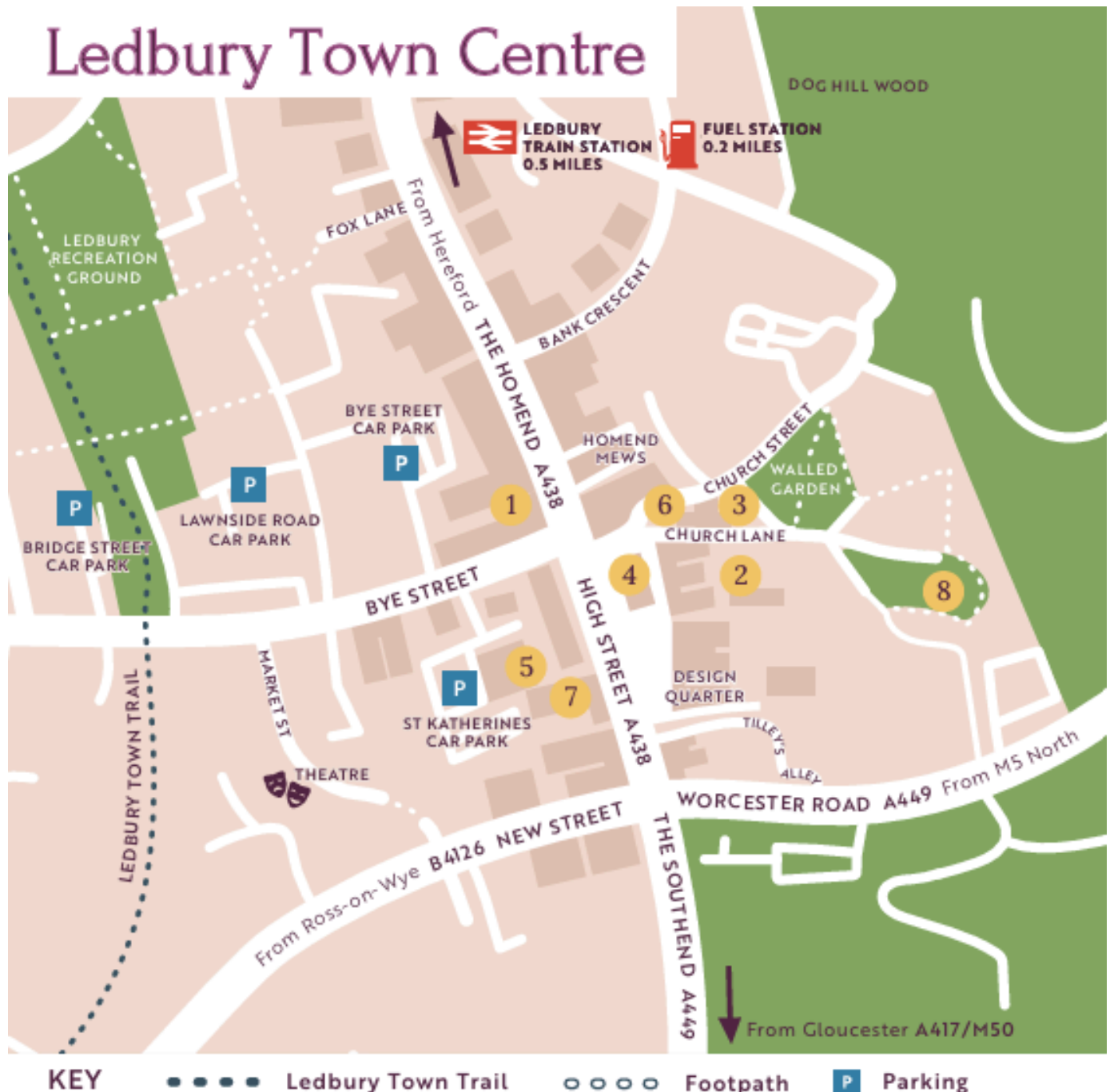
The Heritage Centre is wheelchair & pushchair/pram accessible.

Directions

The indenture document is on the Upper Floor only accessible by stairs. Church Lane is behind the iconic Market House in the centre of Ledbury, leading up to the parish church.



Ledbury Town Centre



Ledbury's Heritage

As you take in Ledbury's town centre you'll find breathtaking buildings and heritage highlights at every turn.

Getting Here Ledbury might seem off the beaten track, but it's a wonderfully well-connected town with excellent road and rail links to the local area and the rest of the UK.

BY RAIL - Regular trains to Hereford, Malvern, Worcester, Birmingham, Oxford, London Paddington and Euston. www.nationalrail.co.uk/stations/ledbury

BY BUS - Regular buses to Hereford, Worcester, Bromyard, Ross-on-Wye and Newent. www.bustimes.org/localities/ledbury

BY CAR - Junction 2 of the M50 is five miles to the south of Ledbury. Tourist Information T: 01531 632306 Ledbury Town Council Office, Church Lane, Ledbury HR8 1DH www.visitherefordshire.co.uk/ledbury



Barrett Browning Memorial Institute



Butcher Row Museum



Old Grammar School



Market House



Master's House



16th Century Painted Room



St Katherine's Chapel



Saint Michael and All Angels Church

New Street Chapel

Ledbury Cemetery, New Street, Ledbury, Herefordshire, HR8 2EL

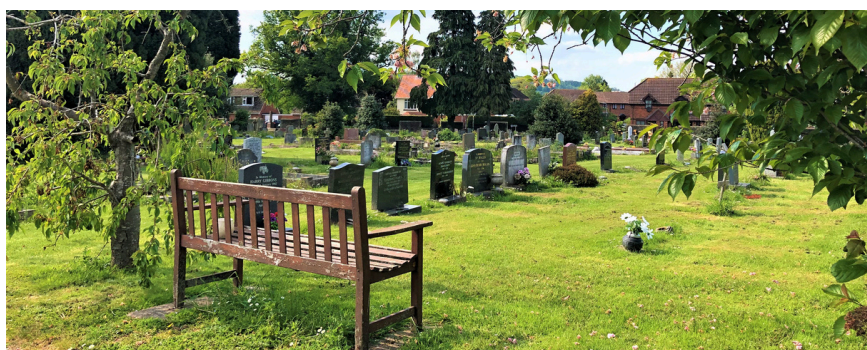
The new cemetery and its two chapels in New Street date from the 1860s, the chapels being designed by London architect, Frederick Cockerill, using local stone with Bath Stone dressings. Visitors will also have some access to the Burial Books.



In the late 1850s the graveyard at Ledbury Parish Church, St. Michael and All Angels, was full and the authorities started to look for a suitable piece of ground on which to build a new cemetery, in line with the requirements of the 1857 burial act. A piece of land of about two and a half acres was purchased at the bottom of New Street and the new cemetery was consecrated in 1861.

The chapel which will be open for Heritage Open Days is the one originally designed for the established church; the smaller chapel is now used as a mortuary. Both chapels were built of local stone with Bath Stone dressings.

The chapel has a raised platform with a reading desk for the Minister, and having accommodation down either side for mourners and bearers. There is a small separate vestry with doors of oak that have ornamental hinges to match the main doors of the chapel. The vestry also has a very attractive turret and a bell. The cemetery grounds were laid out in the style of a landscaped garden, with paths, bushes and trees, as well as flowerbeds.



Event Times

Saturday, 12 September: 11:00 - 15:00

Booking Details

No booking required

Additional Information

Max 6 people per tour/session. Some Burial Books or copies will be available on the day.

Directions

From the top of the High Street, follow the road called New Street, passing the Co-op supermarket on your lefthand side. The cemetery is 0.4 miles from the Co-op and can be found on your lefthand side.





"Visiting the New Street Chapel was such a memorable part of Heritage Open Days. I loved discovering more about the history of the cemetery and hearing some of the stories connected to the people who are buried there.

It's a fascinating place that I'd passed many times without ever knowing just how much history was there."

HODS visitor 2025

History Beyond the Walls

History isn't just confined to the interiors of buildings; it's all around us. We've crafted a special trail in Ledbury that allows you to explore some of the fascinating exterior features and stories that highlight our historic buildings. While not all of our buildings will be open throughout Heritage Open Days, this trail offers you a unique opportunity to walk through the town, learn intriguing facts about these landmarks, and uncover details you might otherwise overlook. Enjoy your journey through Ledbury's rich heritage!

St Katherine's Hall & Chapel

St Katherine's Hall and Chapel, High St, Ledbury HR8 1DZ



Formally known as St Katherine's Hospital, St Katherine's Hall and Chapel is one of the most important surviving medieval hospital sites in the country. Hospitals like this were fairly common in the Middle Ages, but few have been retained in their entirety. St Katherine's Hospital was founded in 1231 by Bishop Hugh Foliot to provide for the spiritual as well as the material well-being of the poor and the aged, the sick and the distressed, travellers and pilgrims.

In the Middle Ages, 'hospital' didn't mean what it does today. St Katherine's was something like a cross between a church, a hostel and a soup kitchen. It stood right in the centre of town, amidst all the hustle and bustle of everyday life. A small group of men (and women from 1238) called 'brethren' looked after poor and needy local people by giving them 'alms' (food, shelter and care).

Want to listen to the audio?



SCAN ME

The Barn

St Katherine's, High Street, Ledbury, HR8 1EA



Want to listen to the audio?



SCAN ME

The Grade II listed barn, located just to the southwest behind St. Katherine's Hospital, is a remarkable historical structure dating back to the 17th century. Originally part of a larger farmstead, the barn is the only surviving remnant of that era.

Once used to store coaches and horses when the Master's House served as a private residence, the barn fell into disrepair during the 20th century. However, it has since been meticulously restored by its current owners. Today, this beautifully preserved barn thrives as a vibrant music and arts venue, also serving as a café and bar, seamlessly blending history with modern cultural life.

Little Marcle Road Toll House

97 Little Marcle Road, Ledbury

The first turnpike acts were introduced in the late 17th century, with the turnpikes operated directly by the Justice of the Peace. Later, turnpikes such as the ones in Ledbury were operated by the Turnpike Trusts which had been introduced early in the 18th Century.

Want to listen to the audio?



SCAN ME

Southend Toll House

The Southend, Ledbury HR8 2HD

This is one of the two remaining toll houses in Ledbury. With turnpikes set up on all nine roads leading into the town, merchants and farmers had no way to evade the unpopular tolls. This widespread discontent with the turnpikes led to a riot in Ledbury in 1735, where the protesters tried to conceal their identities by blackening their faces and wearing ragged clothing.



SCAN ME

18th Century Sundial

Bowling Green Cottage, The Southend, Ledbury HR8 2HD



This is an 18th-century sundial, dated 1783, located on the gable end of a historic building in Ledbury. This sundial reflects the architectural and practical importance of time in daily life during that period.

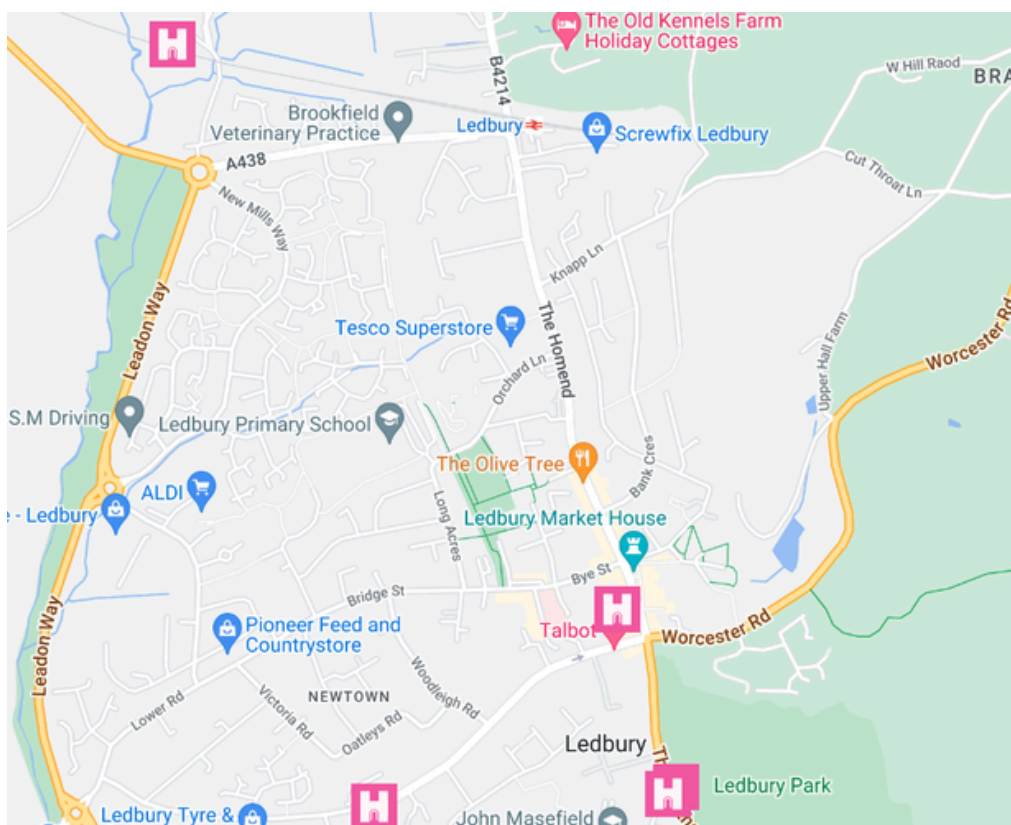


SCAN ME

Please be considerate when visiting the outside of these buildings, as many are privately owned and serve as residences. We kindly ask that you admire them from a respectful distance.

Visit our website to download the map.

<https://www.ledburytowncouncil.gov.uk/en-gb/latest-news/heritage-open-days>





LED'BURY
STATION



G W R

5786

For more information

www.heritageopendays.org.uk



LedburyTownCouncil



wild_about_ledbury

Ledbury Town Council extends its thanks to all the venues that have joined the scheme this year and to all the volunteers who give up their time to make this event possible.

The information in this guide was correct at the time of going to print, but may be subject to change or cancellation at short notice

www.ledburytowncouncil.gov.uk

