



heritage open days



# Ledbury

[www.heritageopendays.org.uk](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk)

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# Welcome to Ledbury

## Welcome to England's largest heritage festival!

Heritage Open Days will be taking place between the 6th-15th September, at thousands of places across the country. Join 46,400 visitors in celebrating local places and stories and explore the multitude of familiar and hidden places on your doorstep, completely free of charge.

Check out HODS easy-to-use online directory to find out what's happening near you [www.heritageopendays.org.uk/directory](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/directory)

## Historical Streets, Close to the Hills

Discover the town's history as you explore its picturesque streets. Admire the unusual 17th century Market House perched on stilts and uncover Tudor secrets at the beautifully restored Master's House. Wander along the cobbled Church Lane to visit the 16th Century Painted Room, the Heritage Centre, Butcher Row House Museum, and Burgage Hall. Finish your tour at St Michael's and All Angels Church, home to a painting thought to be from Titian's school. Surrounding the town, you'll find tranquil woods ideal for walking, with the Malvern Hills and Marcle Ridge nearby for more adventurous hikes.



# The Market House

High Street, Ledbury, Herefordshire, HR8 1DH

Experience the rich history of our town through one of its most iconic landmarks: the 17th century Market House. Discover its diverse roles over the centuries and its continued importance in the community 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, craft 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 history of the Market House, and a guide will be available to answer your questions.

## Event Times

Thursday 12 September:

11:00-13:00 & 14:00-16:30

Friday 13 September:

11:00-13:00 & 14:00-16:30

Saturday 14 September:

11:00-13:00 & 14:00-16:30



## Booking Details

No booking required

**Want to listen to the audio?**

## 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.



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# Domesday Book

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



For this year's festival, we have a copy of the county edition Domesday Book which will be displayed in the Market House for all to see. The Domesday Book is by far the most complete record of pre-industrial society to survive anywhere in the world and provides a unique window into the medieval world and William the Conqueror. This County Edition of the Domesday Book is limited to one thousand copies and this set number is 112.

Ledbury's entry in the Domesday Book reveals that the town was relatively prosperous, with significant agricultural activity. It mentions the presence of a church, indicating the town's religious importance even at that early date.

The book also records the land as being held by the Bishop of Hereford. The Domesday Book's meticulous record-keeping helps historians understand the medieval economy and social structure of towns like Ledbury. This document provides a window into the Norman administration's reach and the early development of English towns.

Please note visitors will only be able to read a copy of the Domesday Book. There will be a member of staff to turn the pages when requested/needed and gloves will be worn at all times.

## Event Times

Saturday 14 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.



# Ledbury Poetry House

Barrett Browning Institute, The Homend, Ledbury, Herefordshire, HR8 2AA

Explore the history of our building and imagine its future possibilities. During Heritage Open Days, we're inviting you to delve into its past and share your vision for what it could become for the Ledbury community.

Ledbury Poetry House is the home of Ledbury Poetry, which organises the annual Ledbury Poetry Festival and year-round events and activities. The Poetry House is based in the Elizabeth Barrett Browning Institute, which was named after the nineteenth century poet who lived nearby. It has a long history as a reading room, library and meeting space. The Institute had been partially disused until 2021 when Ledbury Poetry moved in to give the charity a base, and live out the 1897 founding vision for the building to support 'the advancement of knowledge, literature, science and art'.



For Heritage Open Days we are offering the opportunity to explore the building and its past, and be part of reimagining what it can be for Ledbury in the future. We will be open each day from 11:00-17:00, and short tours of the building will enable you to see areas usually behind the scenes. Bring any photos or memories you have of the Institute to share.

The Poetry House is also hosting an exhibition 'Poets in the Landscape' by artist Bridget Macdonald as part of h.Art. This is a varied exhibition of her drawings and paintings which looks at the network of connections between individual poets and their relationship with the landscape of their times.



## Event Times

Friday 6 September: 14:00-15:00  
 Saturday 7 September: 14:00-15:00  
 Friday 13 September: 14:00-15:00  
 Saturday 14 September: 14:00-15:00

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## Booking Details

Tours are free but booking is essential <https://ledburypoetry.org.uk/home/whats-on/>

# The Master's House

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

Become inspired! Marvel at over 500 years of history in our early Tudor timber framed house with fascinating medieval links. Cunningly disguised as a Georgian brick built property with Victorian additions - step inside, the Great Hall will amaze you!

Originally a house for the Master of St Katherine's Hospital (founded 1231), the Master's House, constructed in 1487, has been at the centre of Ledbury life for over 5 centuries. A magnificent timber frame at its heart, successive occupants have made their mark and altered it to suit their own needs. The building you see today is a product of all these changes with the modern restoration completed in 2015. Today it is home to Ledbury's library! The history lives on in the building's structure - discover Latin inscriptions, carpenter's marks, quirks and more.



For Heritage Open Days 2024, we're delighted to bring you our special tour of the Master's House. The tour will take place on Wednesday 11 September at 2pm. This event is free of charge, but we do ask that you collect tickets from Ledbury Books and Maps, 20 High Street, Ledbury. Numbers are strictly limited.

## Event Times

Wednesday 11 September: 14:00

## Booking Details

Booking conditions: Tickets must be collected in person from Ledbury Books and Maps at 20 High Street, Ledbury.

Booking closes: 10 Sep 2024 17:00

## Additional Information

Max no of people per tour: 15

Estimated tour duration: 1 hour(s) 15 minute(s)

## Directions

The Master's House is located in St Katherine's car park, just off the High Street and behind St Katherine's Hall and Chapel.



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the audio?



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## WORKSHOP - Connecting People at The Master's House, Ledbury

A free pop-in art workshop for children and adults aged 7+, following this year's HODs theme 'connections'.

Join us for a drop-in art workshop 'Connecting People' with local artist Jeanette McCulloch on Saturday 7 September between 10:00 and 12:00. Open to all from ages 7+. Build your own person from the medieval history of the St Katherine's Hospital and the Master's House with lots of cutting out, colouring in, gluing and generally getting stuck in! All materials supplied, no ticket required and best of all, free of charge. The art workshop will take place on the ground floor.

### Event Times

Saturday 07 September: from 10:00 -12:00

### Directions

The Master's House is located in St Katherine's car park, just off the High Street and behind St Katherine's Hall and Chapel.

As an addition to the Saturday morning event, we'll also be hosting ad hoc tours, where you will be shown both floors of the Master's House and also a glimpse inside the medieval St Katherine's Chapel, founded 1231. No ticket required for the ad hoc tours.

# St Katherine's Hall & Chapel

St Katherines Hall and Chapel, High St, Ledbury HR8 1DZ



Formally known as St Katherine's Hospital, St Katherines 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.



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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).

# 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 located in an early 16th century building now used for the Town Council offices. The paintings were done in imitation of the expensive wall hangings and tapestries found in the homes of the aristocracy and have been dated to the mid 1560s. The house is believed to have been built as a new Booth Hall, with the Painted Room used as a Court of Piepowder.



Explore our exhibits on Tudor creativity, with a special focus on the 16th Century Painted Room. Discover the artistry behind knot gardens, leather wall hangings, and tapestries.

This year, we've added a new display on the pigments used in Tudor paints, and children aged 7-9 can enjoy dressing up in authentic Tudor costumes.

We also have a small set of stocks for the children to use, as well as a supply of knitted soft fruits and vegetables to throw!

## Event Times

Thursday 12 September: 11:00-13:00 & 14:00-16:30

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

Saturday 14 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 they can get to the only surviving fragment of the wall paintings that survives downstairs although the greater amount survives in the upper room.

## 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.

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# Burgage Hall

## (Former Congregational Chapel)

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

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 1832 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. The light-filled building, with balconies at each end, is little changed and is a delightful space.

For Heritage Open Days a special exhibition of Victorian costumes and other museum artefacts have been brought out of storage; find your relative in the 1851 Census, which will be on display; a DVD featuring the rebuilding of the Butcher Row House will be shown; there will be further exhibits highlighting The Pozzie (jam factory) and the Canal Trust will display material relating to the canal in Ledbury.

### Event Times

Saturday 07 September: 10:00 - 16:00

Sunday 08 September: 10:00 - 16:00

Saturday 14 September: 10:00 - 16:00

Sunday 15 September: 10:00 - 16:00

### Booking Details

No booking required

### Access

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

### Directions

Keep your eyes peeled for the narrow alleyway at the side of the Market House on the High Street (beside the newsagents).

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the audio?



# Butcher Row House Museum

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

This fascinating folk museum measures 5m<sup>2</sup> over two floors - and has been moved twice! 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.

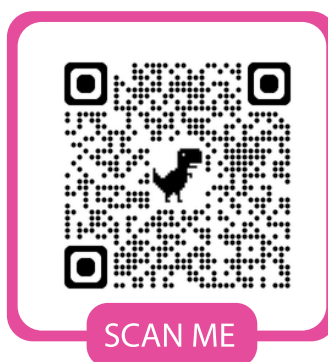


In addition to Victorian costumes, these include a glove 'donkey' used by outworkers in the glove-making trade; a ladderback chair, made by Philip Clissett of Bosbury, whose designs influenced the Arts and Crafts movement; and a boot bath, which was trundled from door to door 'For the use of the poor in Ledbury'.

## Event Times

Saturday 07 September: 10:00 - 16:00  
Sunday 08 September: 10:00 - 16:00  
Tuesday 10 September: 10:00 - 16:00  
Wednesday 11 September: 10:00 - 16:00  
Thursday 12 September: 10:00 - 16:00  
Friday 13 September: 10:00 - 16:00  
Saturday 14 September: 10:00 - 16:00  
Sunday 15 September: 10:00 - 16:00

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## 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 second floor is not accessible but there is a digital display of the exhibits on the ground floor.

# The Old Grammar School

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

The Old Grammar School is over 500 years old, and houses the Heritage Centre. Come and explore a journey through time, dress like a Tudor and find the answers to our quiz amongst our exhibitions. During HODS week we will be open as usual but with a new exhibition as well as a spinning demonstration. Our new exhibition is a copy of Indenture document from 1600s.

The Old Grammar School is a listed Tudor building where the history of the building and the town provide an insight into Ledbury's past. Our newly donated Indenture document, a photographic image of which will be seen for the first time during HODS week.

The document is an important multiple sheet vellum indenture dated 11th April 1665 from the reign of Charles II. It grants the rights to the Lordship and Manor of Ledbury together with all its rights as granted by Letters Patent under the great seal of Charles I. The document details the lands of the Manor – largely the present-day town, as well as granting rights to rents and profits from tenants, rights to take flour from tenants owning mills and also the rights to hold markets and to take profits from them.

*In addition, on 14th September between 11:00 and 12:30, there will be a spinning demonstration.*

## Event Times

Friday 06 September: 10:30 - 14:30

Saturday 07 September: 10:30 - 16:30

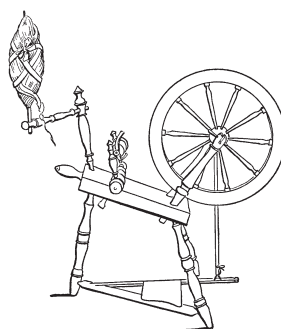
Sunday 08 September: 10:30 - 16:30

Thursday 12 September: 10:30 - 14:30

Friday 13 September: 10:30 - 14:30

Saturday 14 September: 10:30 - 16:30 & 11:00 - 12.30

Sunday 15 September: 10:30 - 16:30



## Booking Details

No booking required

## Access

The Heritage Centre is on the ground floor and has flagged stone floors. The Upper Floor - where the toilets are - is not easily accessible due to steep stairs.

## Directions

Church Lane is behind the iconic Market House in the centre of Ledbury, leading up to the parish church.

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# Saint Michael And All Angels

Saint Michael And All Angels Church, Church Lane, Ledbury, Herefordshire,  
HR8 1DR

Ledbury's church has been a center of Christian worship for nearly a thousand years, with its origins dating back to the 11th century. Inside, you'll find spaces designed for quiet reflection as well as areas dedicated to communal worship, offering a serene environment for spiritual connection and contemplation.

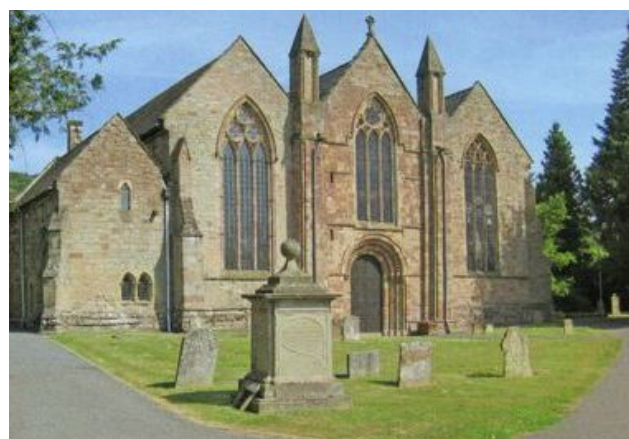
There are two paintings of The Last Supper, one by Ballard and one by the Titian School. There are a variety of stained glass windows in a range of styles, you're sure to find one you like!

There are carved stone heads to discover dotted around, along with various family memorials and an amazing sculpture of a child covered in a lace-edged cloth. Take a walk round the churchyard and enjoy the delightful and peaceful grounds.



## Event Times

Friday 06 September: 09:00 - 18:00  
 Saturday 07 September: 09:00 - 18:00  
 Sunday 08 September: 12:00 - 16:00  
*(Services at 10:00 and 17:30 do come)*  
 Monday 09 September: 09:00 - 18:00  
 Tuesday 10 September: 09:00 - 18:00  
 Wednesday 11 September: 09:00 - 18:00  
 Thursday 12 September: 09:00 - 18:00  
 Friday 13 September: 09:00 - 18:00  
 Saturday 14 September: 09:00 - 18:00  
 Sunday 15 September: 12:00 - 16:00  
*(Services at 10:00 and 17:30 do come)*



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## Booking information

Pre-booking not required

## Accessibility details

Stone floors are uneven

# The Tower of St Michael's Church

Church Lane, Ledbury, Herefordshire, HR8 1DL

On Sunday 15th September, all five levels of this 13th century tower will be open to visitors via a guided tour.

You can visit the permanent bellringing exhibition on the ground floor of the tower (open every day, 09:00 to 17:00) which will introduce you to the history and culture of bellringing in this country and to a number of unusual local stories about ringing. The exhibition will also help you to understand what skills and knowledge lie behind the sound of the bells which is so familiar in our town. On the afternoon of Sunday 15th September, you can take part in a tour of the tower which will culminate in a visit to the parapet from which you will see spectacular views of Ledbury and the surrounding area.



## Event Times

Sunday 15 September: 13:00, 14:00 & 15:00

You may book your free place by emailing the Tower Captain, Tim Keyes. All those attending a tour need to read a Tower Guidance Guide sheet for visitors and sign that they are aware of any risks entailed. The tour involves, for instance, climbing many steps and negotiating some uneven floors. All visitors should be 12 or older.

**Booking contact name:** Tim Keyes

**Booking telephone number:** +447577720154

**Booking email:** [thkeyes28@hotmail.com](mailto:thkeyes28@hotmail.com)

**Booking closes:** 12 Sep 2024 12:00

## Access

The ground floor of the tower has one step. The floor is uneven so mind your footing! Access to the other levels of the tower requires you to be able to climb various numbers of steps (around 115 in all to reach the parapet).

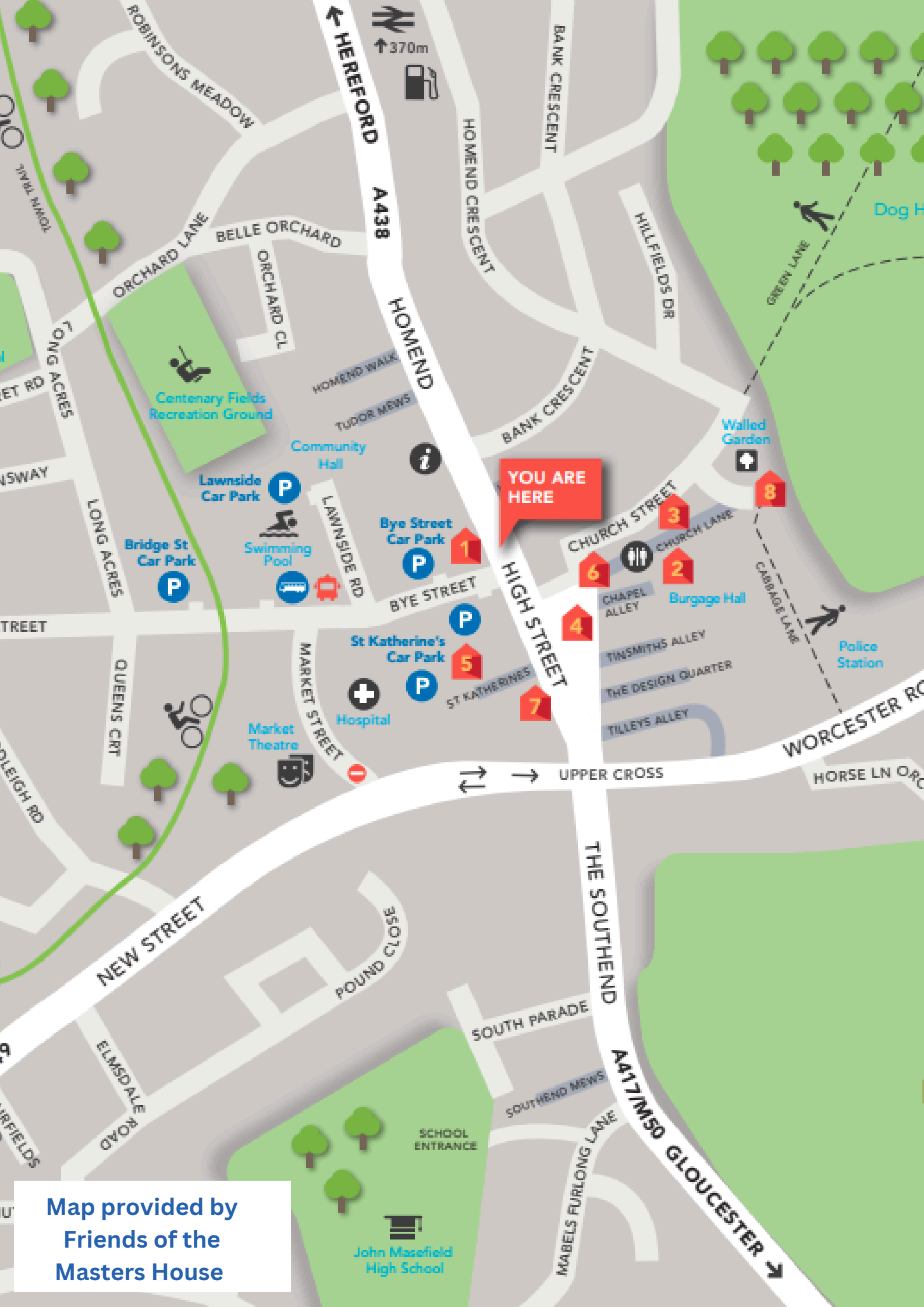
## Directions

The church is at the top of Church Lane. The tower is separate from the church but right next to it.

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**YOU ARE  
HERE**

Map provided by  
Friends of the  
Masters House

1



2



**Barrett Browning Memorial Institute**

**Butcher Row Museum**

3



4



**Old Grammar School**

**Market House**

5



6



**Master's House**

**16th Century Painted Room**

7



8



**St Katherine's**

**St Michael's Church and all Angels**

# 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. Michaels 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 14 September: 10:00 - 14:00

## 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 Co-op supermarket on your left handside. The cemetery is 0.4 miles from Co-op and can be found on your left handside.



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# Eastnor Castle

Eastnor Castle, Eastnor, Ledbury, Herefordshire, HR8 1RL

Visit Eastnor Castle and discover the grandeur of the rooms with a guided tour. Enjoy a stroll around the grounds afterwards and marvel at the magnificent trees in the arboretum, alongside a breath-taking lake.

Heritage Open Day visitors will be given a guided tour of the state rooms and bedrooms of Eastnor Castle, after which they are welcome to enjoy the castle grounds, tree trail, arboretum, and lakeside walk. Eastnor Castle is now the home of the Hervey-Bathurst family, grandsons of Arthur Cocks, 6th Baron Somers and is surrounded by a beautiful arboretum and lake. It has richly decorated interiors containing medieval armour, fine art and tapestries.

Visitors who explore the castle can view the magnificent state rooms including the Great Hall, State Dining Room, Gothic Drawing Room, and Octagon Saloon. Visitors are invited to enter the castle through the magnificent main doors. The beautiful grounds are home to a spectacular arboretum and a magnificent lake where visitors can walk freely or follow set trails and walks to discover some breathtaking views and landscapes.

## Event Times

Thursday 12 September: Pre-booked tours at 10:00, 11.30 and 13:00

## Booking Details

Pre-bookings only from <https://eastnorcastle.digitickets.co.uk/category/41128>

Booking contact name: Amy Woolveridge

Booking telephone number: +441530633160

Booking email: [enquiries@eastnorcastle.com](mailto:enquiries@eastnorcastle.com)

<https://eastnorcastle.digitickets.co.uk/event-tickets/59018?catID=41128&>

## Additional Information

The Castle Tea Room will be closed but refreshments will be available offsite from The Woodshed from 9:30 until 16:30

Max no of people per tour: 25

Estimated tour duration: 1 hour(s)

## Directions

Please see booking confirmation for details on how to find us.

# Discovering History Beyond the Walls

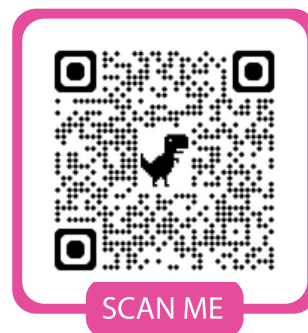
History isn't just confined to the interiors of buildings; it's all around us. We've crafted a special trail in Ledbury that allows you to explore some of the fascinating exterior features and stories that highlight our historic buildings. While not all of our buildings will be open throughout Heritage 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!

## The Barn

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



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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.

## The Viaduct

The Hereford Road ( we advise you drive there)

The Ledbury Viaduct, completed in 1861, is a remarkable example of 19th century railway engineering. Designed by Sir John Fowler, this brick viaduct spans 1,014 feet with 31 arches, gracefully crossing the River Leadon and surrounding fields. It was built to carry the Hereford and Gloucester Railway, a key route in the Great Western Railway network.

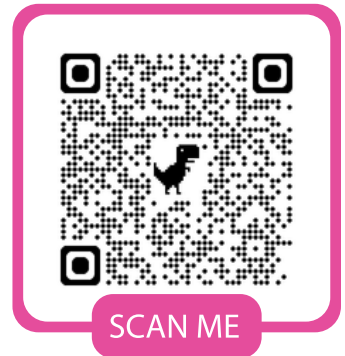


# Little Marcle Road Toll House

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.

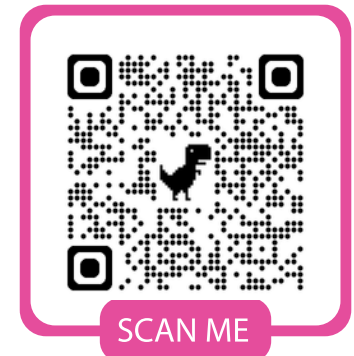
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the audio?



# 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.



# 18th Century sundial

Bowling Green Cottage, The Southend, Ledbury HR8 2HD



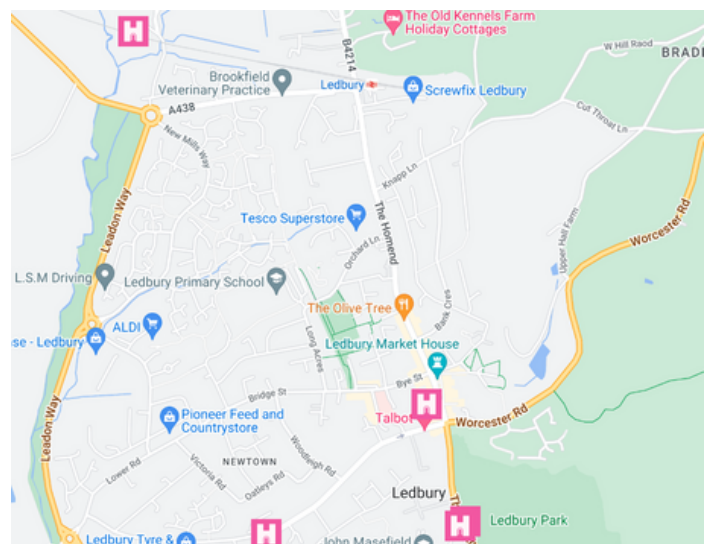
This is an 18th-century sundial, dated 1783, located on the gable end of a historic building in Ledbury. This sundial reflects the architectural and practical importance of time in daily life during that period.



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>



# Ledbury's Heritage Word Quest



Tapestry

Tudor

Market

Heritage

Piepowder

Spire

Medieval

Victorian

Viaduct

Historic

Wool

Chancery

Restored

Victorian

Master's House

Masefield

Barret Browning

