

DEAL AND
WALMER, KENT

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS 2025

13-14 and 20-21
September

AN EXTRAORDINARY HISTORY

Come and explore the surprising history of Deal. There are important connections to be discovered with the 17th to 19th century Navy, shipping, the Royal Marines, Samuel Pepys, Horatio Nelson and smuggling! Major clues to the past are the three castles at Walmer, Deal and Sandown constructed by Henry VIII from 1539 and the appearance of St. George's Church, a huge edifice in the High Street, built 1706-16. There are many stories to be learned – the Royal Borough status from 1699 – that this was the third largest port in the land, yet with no harbour – and the archbishop who owned the beach on which Lower Deal was built. There are many buildings that open for the Heritage Days in the Deal area. Please come along and bring your friends.

Deal and Walmer Heritage Open Days are organised by the Addelam History Research Group and The Deal Society in conjunction with Deal Town Council and Walmer Town Council. The programme extends over two weekends and this year includes over 30 venues, tours and exhibits.

There will be free entry to all the venues and tours. However please note that admission charges may apply on days and times other than those listed here. Please also note that tours will begin promptly at the time given.

Updated information on opening dates and times, accessibility details, and interactive maps are online at www.dealheritage.org.uk Please check before you travel.

Details of events throughout the country can be found at www.heritageopendays.org.uk

New venue



Exhibit



Talk



Tour



Addelam
History
Research
Group



Addelam History Research Group

www.eastkenthistory.org.uk

The Deal Society www.thedealsociety.org.uk

FREE TO
EXPLORE

SATURDAY 13 SEPTEMBER

Blessed Mary of Walmer 10:00–16:00

Church Street, Walmer CT14 7RX

Walmer's original parish church was built around 1120. It has significant 12th-century and later medieval features, and contains six funerary hatchments, including that of The Duke of Wellington who worshipped there.

Catholic Church of St. John the Evangelist 10:00–16:00

149 St Richard's Road, Deal CT14 9LD

This unusual design in a free version of the Romanesque style was originally intended as a combined church and social centre, built in 1934, to serve the mainly Scottish community of miners who came to work the newly-opened Kent coalfield.

Chapel of the Sacred Heart 10:00–16:00

318 Dover Road, Walmer CT14 7NX

The only remaining part of the Convent of the Visitation, this Grade II listed chapel was designed in 1881 in Gothic style by Peter Paul Pugin and Cuthbert Pugin. When the nuns left Walmer in 1971, they gave the chapel as a gift to St. Thomas's Parish, and the other convent buildings were demolished.

Deal Cemetery Chapel 10:00–16:00

Hamilton Road, Deal CT14 9BH

Originally built in 1856 as two chapels – Episcopal and Dissenters – the building has recently been refurbished. The cemetery is notable for Commonwealth war graves, civilian burials from World War II, and those of the Royal Marines killed in the Walmer barracks bombing of 1989.

Deal Museum 13:00–16:00

22 St. Georges Road, Deal CT14 6BA

The Deal museum portrays the changing history of Deal, Walmer and the surrounding area. There is an exhibit on the struggle for votes for women and men in the Deal area in the years up to 1928. The archives will be open to the public on Sunday 14 and Saturday 20 September.

History of North Beach Street 13:00–16:00

Cleary Hall, Landmark Centre, High St, Deal, CT14 6BB

An exhibition by the Addelam History Research Group presenting their latest research on Beach Street covering 19th century buildings, people, capstan grounds, Deal landladies and the pubs.

Kent Mining Museum 11:00–14:00

Betteshanger Park, Sandwich Road, Deal CT14 0BF

This museum, built on the former Betteshanger Colliery site, draws on the collection made by the East Kent coalfield communities. The museum adds to the story of mining in the UK with accounts of miners and their families who came to Kent from coalfields elsewhere in Britain.

St. Andrew's Church 09:30–16:00

West Street, Deal CT14 6DY

Designed by Ambrose Poynter for the boatmen of North Deal, this church, has several interesting features, such as a lantern on the roof apex lit as a beacon for mariners, and a chancel arch resembling the upturned prow of a ship.

St. George's Church 10:00–16:00

High Street, Deal CT14 6BA

This elegant Queen Anne structure built as a chapel of ease to St. Leonard's was completed in 1716 with monies raised by a tax on coals brought into the port. There is a memorial to Elizabeth Carter, a tomb to Captain Edward Parker, who died in 1801, and a monument to Sub-Lieutenant Arthur Tisdall VC, who died at Gallipoli in 1916.

St. John the Evangelist Church 10:00–16:00

Upper Street, Kingsdown CT14 8BJ

Completed in 1850 and funded by William Curling who also built the local school. Several members of the Curling family are either buried or are remembered on memorials in the church.

St. Leonard's Church 10:00–16:00

Rectory Road, Deal CT14 9LU

The Grade II* listed parish church for Deal, dating back to at least 1180. There is a nationally significant collection of funerary hatchments dating back to 1673, unusual for having four women, three admirals, four captains and local dignitaries.

St. Martin's Church 10:00–16:00

Northbourne Road, Great Mongeham CT14 0HD

St Martin's is a 'tour de force' of 13th-century architecture. The north and south aisles, with their narrow pillars, create a large space for worship. Internally we see the 19th-century restoration of William Butterworth

St. Mary's Church 10:00–16:00

St. Mary's Road, Walmer CT14 7QA

Walmer's new parish church was designed by Arthur Blomfield and completed in 1888. The reredos, in painted glass mosaic, is a fine example of late Victorian craftsmanship. Most windows are by James Powell and Sons, exponents of the 19th-century Gothic Revival.

St. Mary the Virgin Church 10:00–16:00

Church Lane, Ripple CT14 8JL

A Grade II* listed parish church, built 1861 on the site of an earlier church by Arthur Ashpitel in Romanesque style, and with many features in imitation of St. Nicholas, Barfrestone. Monuments from the 17th to 19th centuries come from the earlier building.

St. Nicholas' Church 10:00–16:00

Church Lane, Ringwould CT14 8HR

Grade I listed 12th-century church with 14th century additions and a tower from 1628, much altered in the 19th century. Monuments date from the early 1500s, and include those of the Monins family. The churchyard contains two ancient yew trees, one of which is over 1,300 years old.

St. Nicholas' Church, Sholden 10:00–16:00

London Road, Sholden CT14 0AU

This delightful 13th-century church was built as a chapel of ease to Northbourne Church. Originally it had a north aisle, which at some stage was demolished in favour of the single roof structure found today. This creates an unusually wide interior which deserves to be seen.

St. Peter & St. Paul Church 10:00–16:00

Church Hill, Sutton, Dover CT15 5DF

A delightful simple two-cell church, 12th-century in origin, Grade II* listed with 19th-century additions, including an apse by Arthur Ashpitel. Fittings include poppy head choir, and a heavily decorated 17th-century pulpit. Please note that there are steps into the church.

St. Saviour's Church 10:00–16:00

The Strand, Walmer CT14 7EG

A Victorian chapel of ease built 1848–49 in the Neo-Gothic architectural style, for the town's boatmen, and to help serve the growing congregation of Blessed Mary of Walmer.

St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Church 10:00–16:00

Blenheim Road, Deal CT14 7DB

The church in late Norman style by FA Walters was officially opened on the Feast of St. Thomas of Canterbury in December 1885. Its most striking feature is the high altar with its ornate canopy. A Catholic parish was established in Deal in 1926.

SUNDAY 14 SEPTEMBER**Deal Museum 13:00–16:00**

See listing for **Saturday 13 September**. The archive will be open to the public, and author Suzanne Green will be signing copies of her new book *Domesday to Suffragettes*.

Wellington at Walmer 15:00

St. Mary's Church, St. Mary's Road, Walmer CT14 7QA

A talk by Revd Dr Richard Warden to coincide with the anniversary of The Duke of Wellington's death at Walmer Castle in 1852. After the talk, there will be the opportunity to visit Blessed Mary of Walmer, in Church Street, where the Duke attended worship for 23 years. It is a short walk or 2 minutes by car.

TUESDAY 16 SEPTEMBER**Kent Mining Museum 11:00–14:00**See listing for **Saturday 13 September**.**Old Wine Vaults 11:00–13:00**

114 High Street, Deal CT14 6BB

A Grade II listed building established in 1802 by the wine merchant and brewer Charles Thomas Hills. Together with the premises next door, it was operated from about 1860 for many years as a wine & spirits business by the Nethersole family. The entrance to the old cellar vaults is through the Taylor-Jones Gallery standing on the corner of Oak Street.

THURSDAY 18 SEPTEMBER**Kent Mining Museum 11:00–14:00**See listing for **Saturday 13 September**.**SATURDAY 20 SEPTEMBER****A Forest of Flags 14:00**

Start: Deal Town Hall, High Street, Deal CT14 6TR

Finish: Deal Angling Club, 13 The Marina, Deal CT14 6NF

Electoral bribery and corruption was rife in the late 19th century. An 1880 by-election in Deal and Walmer saw it taken to unprecedented and sometimes humorous heights, leading to the result being annulled and the borough disenfranchised after a lengthy trial in the Town Hall. Pat Wilson will name some of the culprits involved in giving and receiving bribes, and point out the streets and houses in which they lived.

North Beach Street 11:00

Start: In front of Deal Pier

Finish: The Marina

A walk to uncover the long since gone 24 pubs, capstan grounds and the developments in tourism in this part of Deal. The local history of this area stems from the beginnings of Deal's history and Alan Buckman will try and paint a picture for you of the changes to the seafront.



CONTINUED OVERLEAF

SATURDAY 20 SEPTEMBER

Chitty's Mill 14:00–16:00

2 Lower Mill Lane CT14 9AG

The remains of Chitty's Steam Mill are to be seen in this private garden. The house is built on the old mill walls and foundations of worker's cottages are present. The original mill built next door was known as Lower Deal Windmill. It was re-developed as a steam mill during the 19th century. Entry by a flight of modern fire escape stairs. There is no parking in Lower Mill Lane.

Deal Angling Club 10:00–13:00

13 The Marina, Deal CT14 6NF

Originally built by the RNLI as the North Deal lifeboat station, the Club is host to two exhibitions. The Goodwin Sands Trust tells the story of the Sands over time, giving a broad flavour of their cultural heritage and their international importance. Another display marks the 85th anniversary of Operation Dynamo, and the nearby memorial plaque to the men and boats of Deal that helped evacuate the British Expeditionary Force from Dunkirk.

Deal Masonic Hall 10:00–16:00

Sondes Road, Deal CT14 7BW

A rare chance to see inside the world of Freemasonry featuring the symbolic and ornate temple. The Masonic Hall dates from 1910 and is home to five lodges, members of which will be present to explain the building and the role of Masonry today.

Deal Museum 13:00–16:00

See listing for [Saturday 13 September](#). The archive will be open to the public.

Timeball Tower 11:30–16:30

Victoria Parade, Deal CT14 7BP

An iconic Grade II listed building, which is a reminder of the importance of the town to the navy in Georgian times. The museum features exhibits about the use of the tower for navigation, signalling, timekeeping, and the mechanics of the operating timeball, which was established in 1855 by the Admiralty and maintained by the Greenwich Observatory from 1864 until 1927.

Town Hall 10:00–14:00

High Street, Deal CT14 6TR

The Town Hall is an elegant Georgian Grade II listed building dating from 1803. The Chamber (formerly Court Hall) is magnificent with many original paintings, panelling and roll boards naming former mayors. An exhibition tells the history of the town's halls from feudal Vill to Town then Borough and onwards.

Sandown – Deal's lost Castle 13:00

Start and finish: Sandown Castle Gardens, north end of Sandown Road, Deal

Learn from Jenny Wall, author of a recent book about one of Henry VIII's Castles of the Downs. Badly damaged by the sea and demolished in 1863 it stood at the northern end of 2.6-mile-long fortress, protecting the natural harbour of Deal.

SUNDAY 21 SEPTEMBER

Captain's Garden 10:00–14:00

Opposite Deal Castle, Victoria Road, Deal CT14 7BA

Historically this was an ornamental and a kitchen garden for the Captain of Deal Castle. For years neglected, this is now being brought back into use by the community. Members of Deal Hop Farms will be on hand to tell you about their work and English Heritage volunteers will be there to explain the history of the site.

Deal Castle 14:00

Start and finish: Deal Castle, Victoria Road, Deal, Kent, CT14 7BA

A special tour of the castle, by a member of the English Heritage team, which will focus on its architecture, why it is there and how it was built. Places are limited; please reserve your place from 10:00 at the Captain's Garden opposite the castle (see entry above).

Deal Museum 13:00–16:00

See listing for [Saturday 13 September](#).

Operating Theatre East Barracks 10:00–14:00

Admiralty Mews, The Strand, Walmer, CT14 7AZ

Formerly part of the Royal Naval Hospital at Deal, dating back to the late 18th Century, the operating theatre retains much of the atmosphere of surgery in that era. Now the music room of a private home it is not normally open to the public.

Ripple Windmill 12:00–16:00

Dover Road, Deal, Kent CT14 8HD

This Grade II listed smock mill was built in Hawkinge parish and moved to its present location in the early nineteenth century. In 1895, Trinity House contributed towards repairs to the mill, which was an important navigational landmark. From 1955–1976 the building was used as a television relay station. It has since been restored as a working windmill by the current owners. Parking in Ringwould layby and local roads. Up to 10 minute walk.

Royal Marines Heritage Trail 10:00

Start and finish: Captain's Garden, Victoria Road, Deal CT14 7BA.

This two-hour guided walk will recount the history of Royal Marines in Deal from 1665 to 1996, visiting many historic buildings and also some locations where there is no longer any sign of the history, including some places which the public cannot usually access.