



**Weston-super-Mare**  
**Heritage Open Days 2022**  
Friday 9 September to Sunday 18 September

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

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Welcome to England's largest heritage festival, taking place from Friday 9 to Sunday 18 September in and around Weston-super-Mare.

This is your opportunity to explore Weston's fantastic local history, architecture and culture – all for free!

This guide provides an overview of what is on offer. For more detailed, up-to-date information about each event visit:

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

This guide has been produced as part of the High Street Heritage Action Zone initiative funded by Historic England. Enjoy!



Heritage Action Zones  
Historic England

## Weston-super-Mare

Before wealthy inhabitants of Bristol and Bath began visiting Weston in the late 18th century the village was an isolated, though self-sufficient farming and fishing settlement of about 150 residents. Early travellers came by stagecoach but found little in the way of accommodation or amusement until the first hotel opened in 1810 followed by a health spa on Knightstone Island in 1820. The railway's arrival in 1841 provided a perfect opportunity for rapid growth.

The population doubled each decade such that by 1871 the town had over 10,000 residents with many more seasonal visitors staying in an increasing number of hotels and guest houses. Trade, tourism, services and retirement flourished as did the



building industry. Locally quarried grey limestone and rail-delivered creamy Bath stone gave colour to the town's distinctive architectural style.

Elegant crescents, terraces and hillside villas along with rows of semi-detached and terraced properties quickly obliterated all but a vestige of the old village. High Street's outdated farm buildings gave way to shopping. Churches, schools, social institutions, visitor attractions and local government helped create a sense of worth and civic pride. Local architect Hans Fowler Price designed over 800 buildings between 1862 and 1912 and is recognised as the creator of our distinctive 'Weston Style'.

Increasingly in our towns and cities we see heritage act as cornerstone

to regeneration. Appreciation of what we already have will help ensure the quality of what might come. This small contribution of local sites affords an opportunity to be part of the National Heritage Open Days: a most worthy celebration of England's built heritage.



**Cllr John Crockford-Hawley**  
Heritage and Regeneration  
Champion  
North Somerset Council



## Welcome to Weston

To set the scene, please watch 'The Opening', a short video by Sally Low.

**Online:** <https://superweston.net/>



## Weston-super-Mare: The Town and its Seaside Heritage

Weston-super-Mare: The Town and its Seaside Heritage, published by Historic England. Available from the Museum, bookshops and online.

The local area has been occupied since the Iron Age. It was still a small village until the 19th century when it developed as a seaside resort.





## High Street Heritage

Weston-super-Mare High Street is full of beautiful buildings. All you need to do is look up! There you will see the variety of original windows, carvings and other details, including a Shakespearian quote and Egyptian elephant heads.

The refurbished Italian Gardens provides a lovely spot to stop, sit and relax among Italianate balustrading, modern fountain (kids love it!) and lawns. Spot Weston's first hotels (now The Royal and Olea), the 1860s Florentine palazzo style bank (now Sass Bar) and University Centre Weston's modern addition to the 1920s Winter Gardens Pavilion.

Visit Walker and Ling, the town's independent department store adjoining the gardens, with a shopfront recently enhanced through the Great Weston Heritage Action Zone project. Parts of the original building were lost to

bombing but the post-war replacement store continues the 130-year-old family business.

From here it's a two-minute stroll past Lloyd's Bank and the 1969 Playhouse Theatre to the relaxing former manorial grounds of Grove Park. On route, pause to admire 132 and 134 High Street (now The Stage Door restaurant, café and bar, and The Albert pub) which have recently benefited from shopfront enhancement funded by the High Street Heritage Action Zone scheme.

At the time of writing, two additional landmark buildings in the town centre are being restored to their former glory through the same scheme, funded by Historic England: the Fork n Ale Taproom and Kitchen on Walliscote Road and the old Kendall's building on the corner of the High Street and Regent Street.



## Outstanding inventions



### **I** Explore the invention of Lego while discovering more about women's suffrage

Weston Library, Town Hall, Walliscote Grove Road, Weston-super-Mare BS23 1UJ

'Hope', a life size suffragette made from 32,327 Lego bricks, will be on display in Weston Library. The Lego sculpture was built in 2018 to mark 100 years since the first women won the right to vote in Britain. It's on a journey throughout the UK to encourage people to explore local stories of the local suffrage movement. The name 'Lego' comes from the Danish for "play well" and to celebrate Lego as an invention, activities will be available to encourage children to create their own

outstanding inventions using these well-loved toy bricks. Exhibition open during usual library opening times.

**Online:**

[www.n-somerset.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/libraries)

**Booking:** no booking required

**Open:** Friday 9 September 9.30am-6pm,  
Saturday 10 September 9.30am-4pm,  
Monday 12 to Friday 16 September  
9.30am-6pm,  
Saturday 17 September, 9.30am-4pm.

## 2 The history of the Pride flag at the Proud Bar

Proud Bar, 20 The Boulevard, Weston-super-Mare BS23 1NA

The Pride flag has evolved over the decades and this two-hour talk will explore its origin and its meaning.

Speakers My Umbrella and the inclusions officer for the UK Pride Organisers Network will also take a look into the life of its creator, American artist, designer and activist Gilbert Baker (1951-2017).

Since its invention 44 years ago, the Pride flag has become the global universal symbol of lesbian, gay, transgender, queer and other (LGBTQ+) communities. Its colours represent the different communities within it. Over the years, the

original rainbow flag has been updated and changed to better include and represent more communities. One of these updated versions is the Progress Pride flag.

Come along to discover more about the flags, what they represent and what they mean to the LGBTQ+ communities.

**Online:** [www.proudbarwsm.com](http://www.proudbarwsm.com)

**Booking:** no booking required

**Open:** Saturday 17 September,  
2-4.30pm





### 3 Celebrating 130 years: Walker & Ling

Walker & Ling, 84-86 High Street, Weston-super-Mare BS23 1HU

Join Walker & Ling, Weston-super-Mare's oldest independent family-run department store, as it celebrates its 130th birthday.

Pop in to explore some of the modern inventions that they use in store. You will be able to:

- View a display of archives including photographs from 1904, old headed paper and newspaper adverts from the 1950s. The business was established in 1892.
- Ride Weston's first electric passenger lift, still in use today! Made by Marryat & Scott Ltd, London.
- Watch a video of the Lamson pneumatic cash tubes in use.

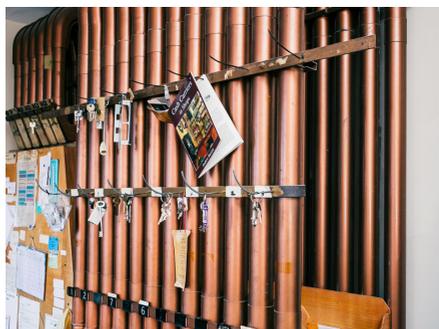
Occupying a prime position on Weston's High Street, Walker & Ling was the first business to take part in the town's Heritage Action Zone Shopfront Enhancement Scheme.

Work carried out in 2021 included restoring the store's frontage by re-instating the 1950s architecture shopfront. This included replacing the same green ceramic mosaic tiles still made today by the Italian firm Bisazza.

**Online:** [www.walkerandling.co.uk](http://www.walkerandling.co.uk)

**Booking:** no booking required

**Open:** Friday 9 to Saturday 10, Monday 12 to Saturday 17 September, 9am-5pm



## 4 Culture Weston celebrates creative inventions in prehistoric style at this year's Whirligig Festival

Italian Gardens, Weston-super-Mare BS23 1JN

From prehistoric times to the present day, there is a rich heritage of invention that has transformed our lives through the ages. As part of Theatre Orchard's annual Whirligig Festival, people in Weston and visitors to the town will be transported back to the days when dinosaurs roamed the earth with a prehistoric spectacle guaranteed to make modern jaws drop. 'SAURUS' by Close-Act Theatre Company is a unique, large-scale street theatre experience featuring giant beasts from prehistoric times. Presumed to be extinct, these majestic creatures are

returning to 21st century Weston-super-Mare to wow festivalgoers and check out the town's heritage. Crowds can expect to be taken back in time and enthralled by the spectacle and scale of these extraordinary, moving inventions.

**Online:** <https://cultureweston.org.uk/listings/whirligig-festival-2022>

**Booking:** no booking required

**Open:** Saturday 10 September; noon to 6pm. A monster-sized, 'SAURUS' taster event will also take place on Friday 9 September from 7pm.



## Weston walks

### 5 Blue plaques

Find out about the blue plaques across Weston.

**Online:** <https://wsm-tc.gov.uk/our-services/blue-plaques>

### 6 Ellenborough Park West

The main entrance to the park is situated opposite Corpus Christi School, Weston-super-Mare BS23 1XW.

Come and experience the beautiful Ellenborough Park West. This site is home to two Red Data Book Plants, one of which is only found in one other spot in Great Britain! The park is south facing and provides the perfect space to lay down a picnic blanket and take a moment to yourself. It's also a brilliant spot for children to take part in wild play just engaging with the environment around them. The park is on even ground in most places. Both gates exit immediately onto a road so care should be taken. On street parking. The park has a no dogs policy.

**Online:** <https://wsm-tc.gov.uk/our-services/parks-play-areas/ellenborough-park-west-wellbeing-park>

**Booking:** no booking required

**Open:** always open



## 7 In the footsteps of Hans Price

This walk provides a snapshot of some of Hans Fowler Price's architectural work in Weston-super-Mare.

The walk has been devised by North Somerset Council in partnership with Historic England as part of the Great Weston Heritage Action Zone initiative.

The walk starts on the corner of Station Road and Graham Road, close to Weston's railway station.

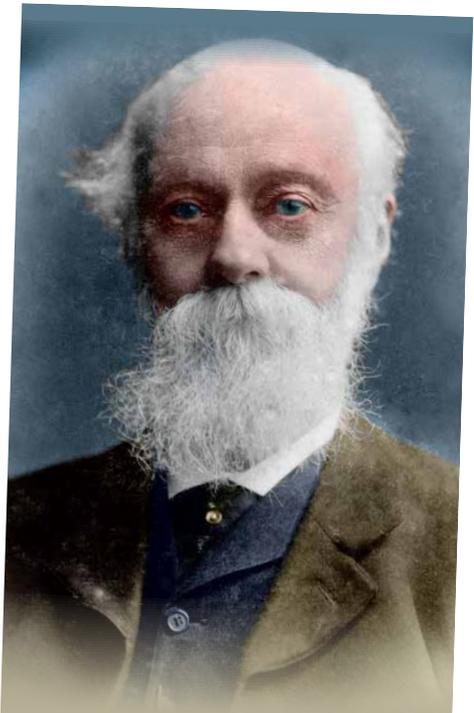
The walk is all on flat terrain and will take about an hour. You can make it a full day out and take time throughout the walk to visit the Museum, Grove Park, The Promenade and enjoy Weston's cafes and shops.

The route highlights just some of the many buildings designed by Hans Price to give some sense of how much influence this famous Victorian architect had on the architecture of Weston.

**Online:** [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/hanspricewalks](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/hanspricewalks)

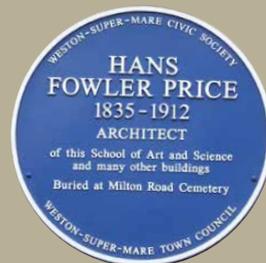
## 8 Grove House/Mayor's Parlour Virtual Tour: The home of Weston-super-Mare Town Council

**Online:** <https://youtu.be/zbN4MxlJe7Q>



## In the footsteps of Hans Fowler Price

A walk through  
Victorian  
Weston-super-Mare



## Weston talks

### 9 Weston's Heritage Action Zone: five years of heritage development

Theatre Bar, Blakehay Theatre, Wadham Street, Weston-super-Mare BS23 1JZ

A talk on Weston-super-Mare's Heritage Action Zone and what has been achieved over the past five years.

Speakers:

- Rohan Torkildsen, Historic England Partnerships Team Leader South West, and
- Cara MacMahon, Heritage Action Zone Project Officer.

Over the past five years, Weston-super-Mare has had Heritage Action Zone status funded by Historic England. This talk – lasting 90 minutes – will look at the highs and lows of delivering heritage related work in Weston.

From the highs of adopting Weston as a conservation area and adoption of

a shopfront design guide, to the lows of trying to roll out a programme of shopfront enhancement during a global pandemic.

The talk will offer insight into the work of the Heritage Action Zone and provide an opportunity to consider what's next for the town's heritage. An exhibition of the Heritage Action Zone community engagement work will also be available to view.

The talk is being coordinated by the Weston-super-Mare Civic Society.

**Online:** <https://blakehaytheatre.co.uk>

**Booking:** no booking required

**Open:** Monday 12 September 7.30-9pm.



Before



After

## 10 Meet Birnbeck Regeneration Trust

Birnbeck Pier, Birnbeck Road  
Weston-super-Mare BS23 2EF

Pop along to Birnbeck to find out more about the history of the pier and island from the Birnbeck Regeneration Trust.

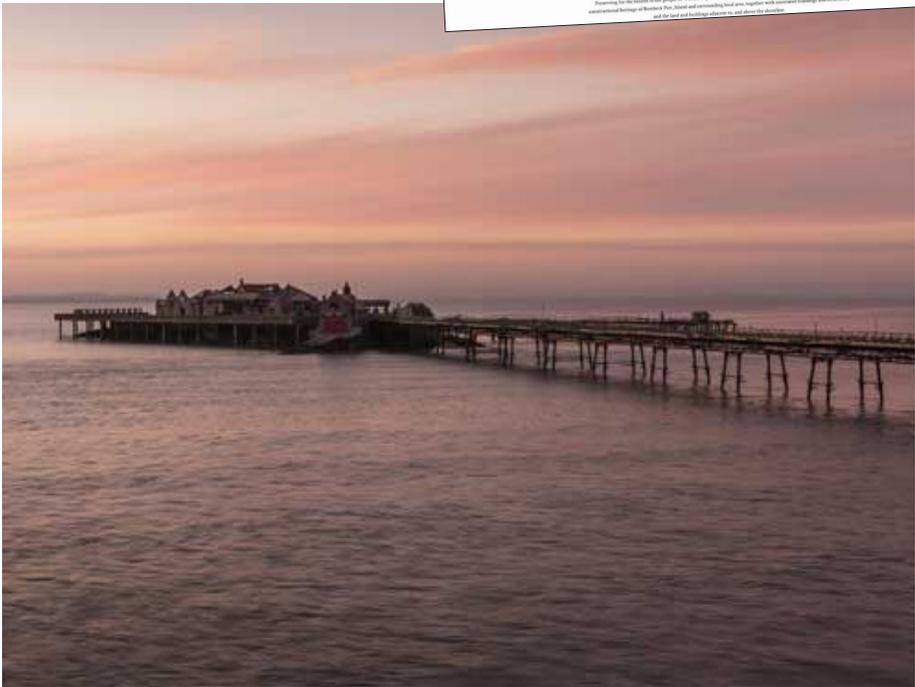
The Birnbeck Regeneration Trust's mission is 'saving heritage for the future'. They are working with North Somerset Council to preserve for the benefit of the people of Weston-super-Mare and the nation, the natural, historical, architectural and constructional heritage of Birnbeck Pier, the island and the surrounding local area.

**Online:**

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

**Booking:** no booking required

**Open:** Saturday 10 September, between noon and 4pm. Please note that there will not be any access to the pier or island.





## II The Old Thatched Cottage

The Old Thatched Cottage Restaurant, 14 Knightstone Road, Weston-super-Mare BS23 2AN

Find out more about the history of The Old Thatched Cottage, the oldest building in Weston-super-Mare.

Discover how the building changed from an 18th century holiday home on the beach (before the seawall was built) to the restaurant it is today.

Step into the private dining room and discover a treasure trove of historical photos and information dating back to the 18th Century.

Plus, find out more about the history of The Old Thatched Cottage restaurant, one of Weston-super-Mare's most

popular restaurants which has been owned and operated by the Michael family since 1959.

**Online:**

[www.theoldthatchedcottage.com](http://www.theoldthatchedcottage.com)

**Booking:** no booking required

**Open:** Tuesday 13 September, one-hour tours starting on the hour between 11am and 3pm. A maximum of eight people per session on a first-come, first-served basis.

## 12 Weston Museum: High Street Community Exhibition

Burlington Street, Weston-super-Mare  
BS23 1PR

Explore Weston's High Street in this community exhibition and remember shopping, entertainment and leisure of the past. The exhibition is a celebration of the High Street. It has been supported by North Somerset Council's Heritage Action Zones.

Weston has two Heritage Action Zones thanks to a combined investment of £2m from Historic England.

**Online:** <https://westonmuseum.org/event/westons-high-street-community-exhibition>

**Booking:** no booking required

**Open:** Friday 9, Saturday 10, Tuesday 13, Wednesday 14, Thursday 15, Friday 16, Saturday 17 September 10am-4pm



## 13 The Blakehay Theatre

Wadham Street, Weston-super-Mare  
BS23 1JZ

Join the team at the Blakehay Theatre for guided backstage tours, take part in a weekly studio class/workshop, watch local company rehearsals, listen to a talk by John Crockford-Hawley on the history of the building and theatre. The box office will be open, as will the theatre bar for refreshments. A full schedule of activities is available on the Heritage Open Days website.

[www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting/event/blakehay-theatre](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting/event/blakehay-theatre).

**Online:** <https://blakehaytheatre.co.uk>

**Booking:** No booking required

**Open:** Saturday 10 September  
10am-4pm





## Churches

### 14 Victorian neo-gothic cemetery chapel

Lower Bristol Road, Weston-super-Mare BS23 2TN

The neo-gothic cemetery chapel was designed by Mr Charles Davies in 1856 as part of a Victorian garden cemetery, Milton Road cemetery has an arboretum of native and exotic trees and pathways to lead you around the grounds to enjoy the spectacular views that the cemetery has to offer.

In 1917, the cemetery was extended down to Milton Road. Weston-super-Mare Town Council took over ownership of the cemetery in October 2003 and has worked hard to improve the cemetery grounds.

The cemetery is open daily and is well worth exploring. Heritage Open Days offers a rare opportunity for the general

public to see the lovely interior of the chapel, perhaps combined with a stroll around the cemetery grounds.

This event is being organised by Weston-super-Mare Town Council.

**Online:** <https://wsm-tc.gov.uk/our-services/cemeteries>

**Booking:** no booking required

**Open:** The Chapel will be open on Saturday 10, Sunday 11, Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 September 10am-2pm.

The cemetery is available to visit at anytime.



## 15 All Saints Church

All Saints Road, Weston-super-Mare BS23 2NL

All Saints Church in Weston-super-Mare is a wide, triple gabled Grade II\* listed building designed by Royal Academician George Bodley in 1898. The south aisle was added by his pupil, Francis Eden, in 1925.

John Betjeman described All Saints as “the finest church of entirely modern foundation in Somerset”.

Heritage Open Days offers a rare opportunity for the general public to see the lovely interior of the chapel, perhaps combined with a stroll around the cemetery grounds.

**Online:** [www.allsaintswsm.org.uk](http://www.allsaintswsm.org.uk)

**Booking:** no booking required

**Open:** Tuesday 13, Wednesday 14 and Thursday 15 September 11am-4pm

## Heritage resources

### 16 A heritage tour of Weston-super-Mare

This tour celebrates the rich and varied architectural heritage of the town and tells the story of how it grew into a busy seaside resort.

It was prepared by Historic England in partnership with North Somerset

**Online:** <https://historicengland.org.uk/heritagetourweston>



Council and is a product of the Great Weston Heritage Action Zones.

Explore the map to find out more about Weston's heritage.



### 17 Know Your Place

Know Your Place encourages people to identify what they consider to be important heritage features in their own community.

A dedicated space (Community Layer) on the map allows users to submit contributions which are moderated and validated before being published on the site. The process of identifying these features is the first step towards getting more recognition for them and ensuring their protection. From the coastal communities of Portishead, Clevedon and Weston, further inland to Blagdon and Leigh Woods, you can discover how North Somerset has been transformed over time. Find out more about the depth

of history of your street or village, and explore historic maps going back further than 1840 to see when your house was built. You can also find out a little more about the archaeological and historical past of North Somerset by looking at the Historic Environment Record map layers. To access the map and start exploring, head to [www.kypwest.org.uk](http://www.kypwest.org.uk), click 'Explore the map' and scroll down to 'North Somerset' or head straight to the map at <https://maps.bristol.gov.uk/kyp/?edition=nsom>

Check out the Know Your Place on social media

**@Know Your Place North Somerset** (Facebook) and **@KYPNorthSom** (Twitter).



# North Somerset Heritage Forum Directory

Interested in local heritage, history and archaeology? Get involved in the many groups and societies across North Somerset.

## Avon Gardens Trust

A registered charity that are actively involved in the protection and conservation of historic parks, gardens and designed landscapes in the area.

**Email:** [events@avongardenstrust.org.uk](mailto:events@avongardenstrust.org.uk)

**Online:** [www.avongardenstrust.org.uk](http://www.avongardenstrust.org.uk)

## Banwell Society of Archaeology and Local History

**Online:** [www.banwellarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.banwellarchaeology.co.uk)

## Blagdon Local History Society

**Online:** [www.blagdonlhs.com](http://www.blagdonlhs.com)

## Clevedon and District Archaeological Society

**Online:** <https://e-voice.org.uk/cdas>

## Crockerne Pill & District History Society

**Online:** <https://pillandeaustingordano.org/groups/crockerne-pill-district-history-society>

## Friends of Weston Museum

**Online:** <https://westonmuseum.org/your-museum/get-involved/friends-of-the-museum>

## Gordano Civic Society

**Online:** [www.gordanosociety.org.uk](http://www.gordanosociety.org.uk)

## Helicopter Museum in Weston-super-Mare

**Online:** [www.helicoptermuseum.co.uk](http://www.helicoptermuseum.co.uk)





## High Street Heritage Action Zone

High Street Heritage Action Zone covers the Town of Weston-super-Mare. High Street Heritage Action Zone aims to boost economic growth and keep Weston on the map as a great place to live, work and visit.

The Heritage Action Zone initiative is funded through Historic England.

To find out more about High Street Heritage Action Zone visit [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/heritageactionzone](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/heritageactionzone)

## Conservation Area

Weston-super-Mare was adopted as a Conservation Area in 2019.

To find out more about the Conservation Area visit: [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/greatwestonconservationarea](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/greatwestonconservationarea)

## Shopfront Design Guidance

If you are interested in shopfront design and how we encourage excellence in North Somerset check out the adopted policy on Shopfront Design: [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/shopfrontdesignguide](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/shopfrontdesignguide)

## North Somerset Council

Keep up to date with North Somerset Council Facebook page: [@northsomersetcouncil](https://www.facebook.com/northsomersetcouncil)

Stories bring heritage to life. Whether you are visiting the places you love or discovering something new, we want to hear about it.

So share your experiences and thoughts on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter or Pinterest using: [#westonHODS](https://www.instagram.com/westonHODS)

For full details about events for Heritage Open days visit [www.heritageopendays.org.uk](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk)

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In partnership with



National  
Trust

