

FREE TO EXPLORE



heritage open days

Rugby 2025

Tea and Talk with the Mayor of Rugby

Town Hall, Evreux Way, Rugby, CV21 2RR

The Mayor of Rugby, Councillor Barbara Brown, welcomes visitors to a tour of the Council Chamber on Monday 15th September, followed by tea in the Mayor's Parlour.

Children are welcome, but must be supervised as there are fragile and valuable items displayed in the Mayor's Parlour.

15 September, 12pm to 1pm

Booking essential

Vintage Midland Red Bus and St. Peter's Church Tour

Meet at Rugby Visitor Centre, Little Elborow Street, Rugby, CV21 3BZ

Enjoy a trip down memory lane on a No. 5905 Midland Red class S22 single-deck bus built in 1968. The bus will be parked outside Rugby Visitor Centre, where you can enjoy an informative chat about Rugby town or learn about the history of the bus and Midland Red. There will be two trips, stopping at Dunchurch for a brief tour of St. Peter's Church and refreshments. The tour will last approximately two hours.

17 September, 11am and 2pm

Booking essential for the trips



Guided Walking Tour of Rugby's Public Art

Meet at Rugby Visitor Centre, Little Elborow Street, Rugby, CV21 3BZ

Discover the history of Rugby's public artwork, the artists involved and the idea behind each piece.

13 September, 2pm to 3.30pm

Booking essential



Guided Walking Tour of Rugby's Heritage and History

Meet at Rugby Visitor Centre, Little Elborow Street, Rugby, CV21 3BZ

The tour will visit the Webb Ellis Football Museum, the Webb Ellis Statue and The Queen's Gates at The Close. Other stops include Regent Street, High Street, the Rupert Brooke Statue and St Andrew's Church. The tour is fully accessible.

12, 13, and 18 September, 11am to 12.30pm

Booking essential

Guided Walking Tour of Rugby's Sporting Heritage

Meet at Rugby Visitor Centre, Little Elborow Street, Rugby, CV21 3BZ

Join a free walking tour of Rugby Town, focussing on its sporting heritage, from birthplace of the game to the development of the rugby ball and beyond. The tour is fully accessible.

20 September, 11am to 12.30pm

Booking essential



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Sustainable Saturday

Rugby Art Gallery and Museum, Little Elborow Street, Rugby, CV21 3BZ

Join us for a day of creativity and climate-conscious community. Discover hands-on crafting for all ages, with drop-in workshops and our makers' market. Enjoy live music, meet alpacas and connect with inspiring community groups.

20 September, 11am to 3.30pm

No booking required

One Hundred Years of the Percival Guildhouse

St. Matthew's Street, Rugby, CV21 3BY

The Percival Guildhouse is celebrating 100 years of being an Independent Adult Education Centre by creating an exhibition of their Archives, alongside a textile exhibition.

13 and 14 September, 11am to 3pm

Pre-booking preferred, call 01788 542467

Bournville in Rugby

28 Regent Place, Rugby, CV21 2PN

A little bit of Bournville in the centre of Rugby. In 1909, a dual purpose adult school and meeting house was built for Rugby Quakers in what was then Moat Street. Designed and built by Bedford Tyler, the architect of the Bournville Estate.

13 and 20 September, 11am to 4pm

No booking required

Coombe Abbey Park

The Visitor Centre, Coombe Abbey Park, Brinklow Road, Binley, Coventry, CV3 2AB

A self-guided walk to see the hidden architecture and historic points within the award-winning park. Visit the information centre to find your map and information sheet to help explore the park.

12-21 September, 10am to 3pm

No booking required



Coombe Abbey Hotel

Coombe Abbey Hotel, Brinklow Road, Binley, CV3 2AB

With this unique guided tour, you will be shown around the historic Coombe Abbey Hotel to learn about its history and find out some of its fascinating facts. Once the tour has concluded, you can enjoy some refreshments in one of the historic rooms.

17, 18 September. Tours last an hour, starting at 11am, 1pm and 3pm

Booking essential, call 02476450450, 'Events' option



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Princethorpe College

Leamington Road, Princethorpe, CV23 9PX

Founded in 1833, St Mary's Priory was one of the first priories to be built in England after the Reformation. Tour the magnificent building with the archive team and discover its history and architecture. Areas open include Pugin's chapel, the cloisters, nuns' cells, library (former church) and the roundhouse. Complimentary tea and coffee will be available.

21 September, tours leave at 1.30pm, 2.15pm and 3pm and take approx. 1 hour

Booking required: archives@princethorpe.co.uk

Parts of the building are only accessible by stairs.

St. John's the Baptist Church

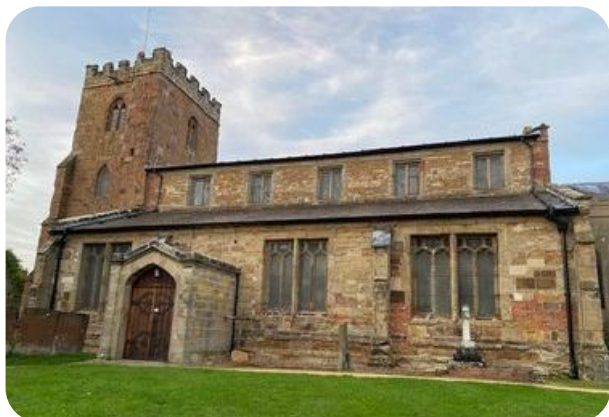
The Locks, Hillmorton, Rugby, CV21 4PP

This beautiful church in its wonderful setting will be open daily for visitors, offering a quiet space with many artefacts dating back to the 13th century, including two tabletop effigies. St John's is situated next to the Oxford Canal, as well as the mainline west coast train line and the old Rugby Radio Station, in a quiet area with a pretty, natural churchyard.

13 and 20 September, 10am to 4pm

14 and 21 September, 12pm to 4pm

No booking required



Rugby Theatre

Central Hall, Henry Street, Rugby, Warwickshire, CV21 2QA

Come along and take a look behind the scenes! See all areas, including backstage, on stage (with a set in place!), our lighting booth, sound desk, scenic area, wardrobe and rehearsal space - as well as enjoy refreshments in our bar! Please note only limited areas are wheelchair accessible.

14 and 21 September: bookable tours 10am to 3pm, starting on the hour (tours last one hour)

17 September: drop-in tours 7pm to 9pm

20 September: drop-in tours 10am to 4pm

Children welcome from ages 8+

The Home Front in Rugby

Rugby Library, Little Elborow Street, Rugby, CV21 3BZ

The library will be showing a small display about the Home front in Rugby during the Second World War, including photographs and other material from the Local Studies collection. Material may also include other aspects of World War II life in Rugby, such as rationing, the Home Guard, air raid shelters etc.

12-21 September during Library opening times

No booking required



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St. Peter's Church

St Peter's Church, Wolfhampcote, Rugby, CV23 8AR

Join us for an open day at St Peter's Church - a historic medieval church standing in an isolated position in the civil parish of Wolfhampcote. Since 1960 the church and its attached mausoleum has been designated as Grade II* listed building.

21 September, 12pm to 4pm

No booking required

Author Talk: Aidan McRae Thomson, 'Churches of Warwickshire'

Rugby Art Gallery and Museum, Little Elborow Street, Rugby, CV21 3BZ

Join author and stained-glass artist Aidan McRae Thomson as he introduces his new book, exploring a selection of the most interesting churches across the whole of the County. Books will be available to purchase, with a book signing session at the end.

19 September, 3pm to 4.30pm

Booking essential

St. Edith's Church

Miller's Lane, Monks Kirby, Rugby, CV23 0QX

St Edith's Church is a Grade I listed building, located in Monks Kirby near Rugby. It dates from 1077 and is the largest parish church in Warwickshire.

Open daily for visitors, no booking required

Free guided tours on 13 September 2pm to

3.30pm and 14, 20, 21 September, 2pm to 4pm

Have a go at bell ringing and climb the tower on 21 September



Marton Museum of Country Bygones

Louisa Ward Close, Marton, Rugby, CV23 9SA

An eclectic mix of artefacts showing how people lived and worked in the country. This small museum is run by a group of volunteers and is open on Sunday afternoons in June, July, August and September. All of the exhibits were acquired locally and cover a wide variety of aspects of country life.

Hands on exhibits and demonstrations by a blacksmith, corn dolly making, spinning and other local crafts will be on show. Homemade cakes and refreshments will be on sale in the pavilion.

13 and 14 September, 10.30am to 4.30pm

No booking required



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Rugby Family History Group

**Rugby Art Gallery and Museum, Rugby Library,
Little Elborow Street, Rugby, CV21 3BZ**

Members will be based in the foyer of Rugby Art Gallery, Museum, and Library building to tell people about the group and help with family history research.

13 September in the foyer, 10am to 4pm

20 September in the Library, 10am to 4pm

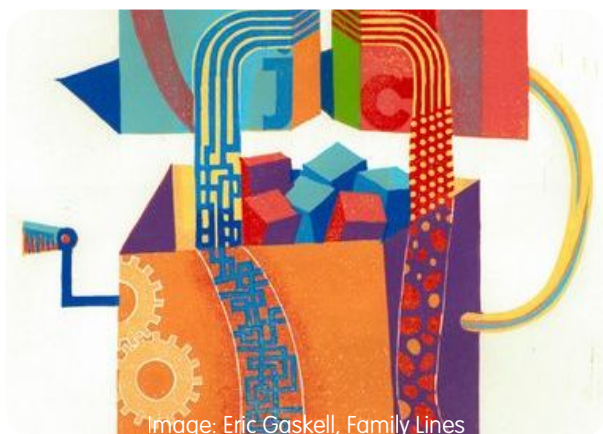


Image: Eric Gaskell, Family Lines

Art at the Alex

72-73 James Street, Rugby, CV21 2SL

Art exhibits, and exhibit/Talk by artist Eric Gaskell about his work depicting family histories. Heritage Crafts with Tudor music - evening event. Crafts/art exhibitions as part of Northants & Rutland Open Studios. Cafe and Garden on site.

19 September: 11am to 4pm (exhibitions and open studios), 6pm to 9pm (Tudor music and song with heritage crafts)

20 September: 1.30pm to 3.30pm (Eric Gaskell Family Lines talk)

21 September: 11am to 4pm (open studios and heritage crafts)

No booking required

Rugby Distillery Tour

Home Farm, Pailton Road, Harborough Magna, Rugby, CV23 0HG

Set on a beautiful farm, this tour will include a talk on how Rugby Distillery came about. Discover how Rugby Distillery was created and how craft Rugby gin is crafted, from the start of the process to the very end.

16 September, 1pm to 2.30pm

17 September, 6pm to 7.30pm

Booking essential, suitable for ages 18+



For bookings and further information, please visit:

www.therugbytown.co.uk/what-s-on

Tel: 01788 533217



All information correct at the time of print. Please check the link above for the latest updates.