HALESWORTH HERITAGE OPEN DAYS
SATURDAY 12 - SUNDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2015
FREE TO EXPLORE

Halesworth Business Connections
Muskett McIntyre Property Agents
Suffolk County Council
heritage open days
Welcome to Halesworth’s First ever Heritage Open Day event

Heritage Open Days is England’s biggest and most popular heritage festival. It enables people to see and visit thousands of places that are normally either closed to the public or charge for admission. It happens every year over four days in September and is a great chance to explore local history and culture. 2015 will be the 21st year of Heritage Open Days. The 20th anniversary year in 2014 broke all records with 3 million visitors visiting 4,600 properties.

This year Halesworth local volunteers under an initiative of Halesworth and Blyth Valley Partnership are joining in the festival for two days, Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th September. Halesworth is a compact market town full of charming old buildings. All those being opened will be within reasonable walking distance of the centre but a Shuttle Bus is being provided for those who need it. (See back cover)

A theme of this year’s events is MALTINGS AND BREWERIES as these figure largely in the history of the town.

We plan to have Open Days every other year alternating with Felixstowe, the nearest Suffolk town with a major event. In 2017 a major theme will be the life and work of Halesworth resident SIR WILLIAM HOOKER, born 1817. He founded Kew Gardens and Kew will help us celebrate.

Most events do not require booking but for those that do the Cut Arts centre is providing a free booking service (see back cover). For security’s sake those wishing to book need to give contact details, at the time of booking. Further information will be obtainable on the Open Days themselves at St Mary’s Parish Church which will be our Festival Hub.

All Open day events are FREE. We are very grateful to the National Trust which co-ordinates these events and provides support in kind. Thank you to our local sponsors Durrants, Halesworth Business Connections, Halesworth & Blyth Valley Partnership, Halesworth Town Council, Musker McIntyre and Suffolk County Council whose generous support has made this event possible.

Thanks to Anna Bader for cover design and map and to Robert le Rougetel for many photographs
St Mary’s is the HUB for Halesworth Heritage Open Days 2015. Information and programmes are available here, with some historical display, plus directions to refreshments, toilets and other venues and events.

There will be tours of the church to discover major historical finds, distinguishing between Mediaeval and Victorian builds and appraising artefacts commemorating Halesworth brewers and maltsters. There will be activities available for young visitors.

**Open:** 10am to 4pm each day

**Tours:** (30-40 mins) at 11am, 12, 2 & 3pm

**Booking:** not required

**Nearest Parking:** and shuttle stop in the Market Place

*Largely wheelchair accessible through S porch.*
CROSS RAM & Co
18 The Thoroughfare IP19 8AJ

MAP No: 4

This property has been associated with the law since the early 1700s when it was owned by James Jermyn and later his son Peter, attorneys who were involved in every aspect and development of Halesworth life. When Peter died in 1810, the house on this site, with a coach-house, stables and four and a half acres of gardens and land, were bought by another attorney, Robert Crabtree. The house was rebuilt, sometime before 1840, as the elegant building we see today, by Robert’s nephew and partner, John. In due course new partners, from the Cross and the Ram families entered the business in succession to the Crabtrees, inheriting 300 years of legal history.

Guided tours of part of these historic offices will be conducted at fixed times, offering insights into former legal office practices. Previously unreleased historic maps and documents will be on display.

Tours: Sunday only at 11am, 1 and 3pm. Tours limited to 12 people
Booking Essential: via Cut Box Office
Nearest Parking: and shuttle stop in Town Centre Car Park
Access limited by steps and stairs

BLACK DOG ANTIQUES
Market Place IP19 8BA

MAP No: 5

This 16th century building has features which echo Gothic House in London Road. Some of the later ‘Victorian Gothic details’, like the porch and the drip-sills above the windows, seem also to have been added about the same time as the upper bay above the porch at Gothic House.

In the 18th century it became the Three Tuns Inn. In 1764, when Robert Reeve bought it, it had, not only stables and a bowling green, but also a brewery behind. Reeve, went on to build up a chain of inns, and related businesses which passed to his son James. In the 1840s it was sold to Reeves’s partner, Thomas Cracknell. A succession of owners followed and in 1885 it was acquired by the Colchester Brewing Co. The Three Tuns survived as a pub for a short time after the brewery closed in 1925. Later, it functioned (until 2014) as the Halesworth Social Club, used as the venue for many local clubs and groups.

Now under new ownership, the refurbishment of the interior is providing the opportunity to expose and consider many of the original interior features. Tours of part of the interior and informative display.

Open: 10am to 4pm each day
Tours: Tours as required each day
Booking: not required
Nearest Parking: and shuttle stop in the Market Place
Access limited by steps and stairs
An easy guided walk of about one mile. From Quay Street there is a footpath opposite King's Volvo Garage, through Blyth Mews in the Langley's Quay development into the Town Park or there is direct access from the central car park.

The Halesworth Millennium Green to the east of the Park was created in 2000 from 32 acres of grazing marsh in the flood plains of the River Blyth and the Town River. A Trust was set up to manage the Green on behalf of the community and their object is:

..to provide and maintain an open space to be used forever as an area for leisure and enjoyment where people can enjoy nature and wildlife at first hand

Now further land has been added and the Green consists of six meadows, an area of old sand and gravel quarries and a length of the old Southwold Railway Line totalling over 50 acres (20 hectares). The six foot wide tarmac surface of National Cycle Route One provides easy access along the length of the Green.

The New Reach is a stretch of waterway that runs from the Town Park, through part of the Millennium Green, and ends at the remains of the old Halesworth Lock. The waterway, built in the middle of the 1700s, formed part of the Blyth Navigation that once ran from Halesworth to the seaport of Southwold. Wherries - large wooden barges - once sailed along this important waterway, carrying loads of coal, timber and malt from the maltings to and from the Quay in the centre of Halesworth. It made a major contribution to the wealth and commercial prosperity of the town.

The guided walk giving details of its history, significance and wildlife will follow the towpath of the New Reach, starting from the Langley's Quay footbridge (adjacent to Blyth Mews) and finishing on the Millennium Green. Please wear suitable shoes. Dogs on leads welcome.

Walks: at 1100 & 1500 on both days. Each tour is limited to twenty people

Facilities: Toilets in the Town Park

Booking: not required

Nearest Parking: and shuttle stop in Town Centre Car Park

Accessibility - the final part of the walk has no footpath
A guided walk starting at the railway station, identifying buildings which were once pubs, ale houses or tap rooms, with the dates they were in business, names of licensees and other interesting historical facts, including listed building information where available.

Like so many communities, pubs have played a big part in the economic and social life of the people who lived or travelled through them. There are 3 pubs still open in Halesworth, all three are Grade II listed. Altogether 57 pub names have been identified, however this includes a lot of name changes. Names were chosen in honour of Royalty, military leaders, pastimes, trades and locations. As a new sovereign was crowned a pub might change its name or take on the armorial symbol of the new sovereign. There are some very beautiful signs which helped travellers find their way. The earliest record for a Halesworth pub, The White Lion, is 1450 but The Black Eagle which opened later, appears to be a mid 15th century, late medieval Hall House. Most of the buildings which once were pubs are listed buildings.

This guided walk is a stroll round our pretty, historic town trying not to be distracted by beautiful listed buildings. There were beer houses and micro breweries but these are not easy to identify in the records available. Beer has long been the drink of the working man and Halesworth residents were no exception, they were very fond of the amber nectar. Halesworth had, and still has many wells, although most are now capped for safety reasons. The water might not always be suitable to drink so beer was a much safer option. Suffolk barley is ideal for malting to make beer. Brewery workers often received a portion of barley in payment, so home brew was not unusual but it was often prepared and sold by the wife while the husband was working.

Walks: both days at 9.30 am and 3.30pm (Length approx 1.5 hours)

Facilities: Several public toilet 'stops' en route including one wheelchair accessible toilet

Booking: not required

Nearest Parking: and shuttle stop at Halesworth Train Station
The Museum has been at the heart of the Open Days project providing valuable historical material about many of the properties being opened. It will be displaying its collection of appropriate material representing the cultural and historical heritage of Halesworth and District. These include a recently completed model of the Town as it was in Tudor times. There will be a continuous showing of archive material on video.

The aim is to excite curiosity and interest in that heritage for the advancement of public education at every level.

As well as the Museum being open extended hours for the weekend there will be special explanatory visits to the unique Halesworth moving railway platforms and demonstrations of the working model in the Museum.

The Museum has also prepared historical notes about all the main buildings in the Thoroughfare and Market Place which will be placed in the windows of the properties.

Open: from 10am to 4pm each day.
Platform visits half hourly

Booking: not required

Parking: Limited parking available at station and in Station Road car park. Shuttle stop at Halesworth Train Station
# Event Locations

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<td><strong>WELLINGTON COURT</strong> 123 Chediston Street IP19 8BJ</td>
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MAGNOLIA HOUSE
Station Road IP19 8BZ

MAP No: 10

This is a Grade Two listed building dating from 1840 offering tours and a display of deeds.

One early use of the house was as a rectory. Later it became a doctor’s house and surgery. The separate coach house to the rear probably housed his pony and trap. More recent residents included Sir William Aitken MP for Bury St Edmunds with his children Jonathan, the MP and Maria, the actress.

The exterior of the house is largely original, though a new two-storey wing added four rooms in the 1870’s. Inside are a number of period features, including original shutters, bell pulls and floorboards and you can see how the house was divided between the families living there and their servants.

Tours: at 1130, 1230, 1430 & 1530 each day
Tours limited to 12 people

Booking Essential: via Cut Box Office

Nearest Parking: Station Road Car Park.
Shuttle stop at Halesworth Train Station.

Access limited by steps and stairs

THE OLD RECTORY
Rectory Street IP19 8BL

MAP No: 9

By repute there was a house on this site in Saxon times. The central part of the present house dates from the 15th century. It was extended to the north around a hundred years later and in the 19th century the bay windows were added to the south. It was the Halesworth rectory for many years. Occupants included John Argall the Halesworth Rector of 1600 and Archbishop Whately. The Deed of Sale from the Church will be on display. It was also the ‘billet’ for visiting Land Girls with many wartime memories of their stay at the Old Rectory.

The tour includes admission to the extensive garden with its lake.

Tours: at 1000 and 1130am, 2 & 3.30pm
Tours limited to 10 people

Booking Essential: via Cut Box Office

Nearest Parking: Norwich Road near roundabout. Shuttle stop Rectory Street

Access limited by steps and stairs
TILLY’S OF HALESWORTH
10 The Market Place IP19 8BA

MAP No: 6

This prominent Grade Two listed building from the 17th century was formerly the Three Tuns tavern owned by the Reeve family, proprietors of the Halesworth brewery, which stood behind it. Early in the nineteenth century they updated it to provide an elegant dwelling. When the Colchester Brewing Company took over the brewery this was the manager’s house. The brewery closed in 1925 and Dr Melville Hocken acquired the house and installed his surgery at the side. The surgery continued when he died but No 10 became a school, then a well-loved petshop and finally a restaurant which Tilly’s have returned to something of its former elegance.

Heritage lunches (Book on 01986 835899) and teas will be available as well as free tours of the building and a display of historic documents.

**Daily Tours:** 10 & 11am, 3 & 4pm.
**Maximum 20 people**

**Booking:** not required

**Nearest Parking:** and shuttle stop in Market Place

*Ground floor and garden accessible*

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BASSETTS
84 London Road IP19 8LS

MAP No: 12

The current house combines three 16th century cottages behind a Georgian façade. The large windows on the corner betray a former life as a shop – one of many which have now disappeared from London Road, once almost a self-sufficient community in its own right. Three generations of the local Ellis family ran a baker’s and general grocery shop here, the bread and cakes being baked ‘out the back’. The last baker, Bernard Ellis, retired in 1972, after 50 years of baking. The premises were bought by Mr Stewart Bassett, a Londoner, first as a baker’s and delicatessen, selling such exotic goods as pastas, patés and Indian food, and then as a fine-dining restaurant which won a place in the Good Food Guide.

Now a private house it boasts stunning gardens in which old air raid shelters are put to good use. Guided tours of 16th century features of the building are offered with a display of historic documents.

**Tours:** 10 & 11am, 1 & 2pm each day.
**Maximum 8 people**

**Booking Essential:** via Cut Box Office

**Nearest Parking:** and shuttle stop in Market Place

*Access limited by steps and stairs*
WELLINGTON COURT
123 Chediston Street IP19 8BJ

MAP No: 14

On part of this Grade II Listed site, then known as Clarke’s Yard, 23 tiny dwellings were once squeezed. Such poor housing resulted from the demand for labour generated by the 18th century Blyth Navigation and tended to be centred around Chediston Street - or Cherry Bow as it was then called. The residents drew their water from a pump in the yard of a nearby pub which after many name changes, became known as the Duke of Wellington (hence Wellington Court). The site achieved notoriety as the place where PC Ebenezer Ty was bludgeoned to death in 1862.

The pair of late 19th century warehouses that sprung up in place of the dwellings remained in the ownership of one local family for over 100 years. The buildings became redundant in 1984 and conversion to four residences began in 1989/90. Restoration extended to the walled garden and an idyllic island meadow.

This is an exceptional opportunity to explore the site. Those behind the conversion will be on hand to provide insights into the thinking behind the works. Viewing the interiors is not included but there will be a display of ‘before’ and ‘after’ images.

Open: 11am, 1pm, 3pm Saturday only
Tours limited to 16 people. No dogs
Booking Essential: via Cut Box Office
Nearest Parking: and shuttle stop in Market Place

Not suitable for wheelchairs. Some uneven surfaces and steps

HALESWORTH GALLERY
Steeple End IP19 8LL

MAP No: 7

The Gallery, run by a local non-profit making association, occupies the upper floor of a picturesque building known as the Steeple End Almshouses. For most of its 300-year life however this building was more generally known as Cary’s Almshouse, after its founder, William Cary, a Halesworth lawyer, whose body lies beneath a ledger stone at the west end of the nearby church. When he died in 1686, William was the owner of a raft of properties in Suffolk and London. In his will, he left £10 to the poor of Halesworth and directed that land be bought and a building erected as “a house for the poore, to conteyn twelve rooms besides garrets.”

The almshouse served the town for almost three centuries. When new bungalows were built in the 1960s to replace the now ageing and poorly equipped building, it was put to new use as the town’s branch of the County Library. One part was also used for a time as an office for the issue of animal movement licences. In 1985 the town’s first Museum opened here and remained here until it moved to the Railway Station in 2000.

The Gallery was founded in 1966. The objective is to exhibit modern painting and sculpture of the highest possible standard on a non-profit-making basis and for the general enjoyment of all; since works are for sale.

The Gallery will house a special display about the history of the building as well as an exhibition by local artists.

Open: From 10am each day
Booking: Not required
Nearest Parking: and shuttle stop in Market Place

Access limited by steps and stairs
POLICE STATION
Norwich Road  IP19 8HJ

MAP No: 8

This prominent brick and glass building which dates from 1970 is not only the headquarters for local policing but also houses the new cyber crime unit serving Norfolk and Suffolk forces.

There will be guided tours of the Old Custody block which is now redundant. The premises and equipment reflect police practice in the late 20th century which is rapidly becoming ancient history. There will also be a display of material (prepared in collaboration with Halesworth Museum) relating to the murder in 1862 of Police Constable Ebenezer Tye in Halesworth. His murderer John Ducker was the last man to be publicly hanged in Suffolk.

Tours: between 10 am and 4pm every half hour.
Tours limited to 8 people
Booking: not required
Nearest Parking: Limited parking on site including disabled parking. Shuttle stop at building

Wheelchair accessible

THE BLACK EAGLE
15 Chediston Street IP19 8BE

MAP No: 13

This is a Grade II Listed timber framed building, stucco lined as ashlar. It is now a private house but before restoration it had the appearance of a medieval Hall House dated about 1450. It is mentioned November 28th 1748 in the inventory of Philip Knights but no more references have been found until the 1841 census.

Census returns and Post Office Directories show that it was a pub or Inn from the 1841 census to 1930. In 1855 it was called The Eagle and in 1871 The Spread Eagle but mostly it was called The Black Eagle. On February 17th 1930 it was sold by Steward Patteson Ltd (registered office Pockthorpe Brewery Ltd Norwich) to Mr Arthur Spall of HM Ship President, Victoria Embankment, City of London for £500. The sale was made under the condition that it was not to be used to sell or manufacture intoxicating liquors and not a Club, Inn, Public House or Hotel. Obviously Pockthorpe Brewery didn’t want competition for any of their other enterprises.

Tours: Sunday, 10am - 4pm open house
Booking: Not required
Nearest Parking: and shuttle stop in Market Place

Wheelchair accessible
More things to see and do in Halesworth

The Thoroughfare
One of the most attractive parts of Halesworth is its pedestrianised shopping street with its floral displays, not only in the planters along its length, but in the many different hanging baskets and containers, maintained by virtually all the individual businesses in the street. These along with drought-friendly plantings on the roundabouts and many other small parks and gardens helped Halesworth win Gold in the 2014 Anglia in Bloom competition. An arch leading to the Town Centre Car Park contains the shop sign for Frost & Son, Grandfather to Sir David Frost.

World Land Trust
Halesworth is home to this international charity which raises funds to purchase and protect critically threatened habitats worldwide. The trust celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2014 and during that time has saved more than 500,000 acres of tropical forest and other wildlife habitats. Its patrons include Sir David Attenborough. Their Gallery in Bridge Street will be open at the weekend with displays about their projects and a selection of attractive art work for sale.

The Little Gallery
The Little Gallery is run by Mary Gundry. Mary is a well established local artist having been painting professionally for 20 years. Her partner Colin Huggins is a retired accountant with a life-long interest in photography. In addition to Mary’s original paintings and prints, there is a permanent exhibition of Colin’s photography together with bronzes and ceramics by other artists. The gallery, at number 5 in the historic Market Place, reputed to be the oldest house in Halesworth, dating from 1350, will be open on both Heritage Open days from 10am to 2pm.

The Town Park
The Town Park was created by Donald Newby (Chairman of Halesworth UDC 1970 - 1971) with the help of Lady Rugby who donated some of the land. A path leads to the Millennium Green which is the largest in the country. It has many mature trees beside the Town river. There is a skatepark and apparatus for younger children to play on. There is a public toilet. Access from the Town Centre car park is by an underpass next to the river.

Millennium Green
Apart from containing the New Reach (see p 5) this is a major conservation area. Part of it has been planted as an orchard, where many traditional varieties of apples and other fruit are conserved. Water voles are still to be seen and otters frequently pass through. The barn owl hunts over the meadows at dusk and the kingfisher and grey wagtail breed on the waterways. Special shelters for grass snakes and slow worms have been set up. Frogs, fish, toads and newts are found in several ponds. Management is designed to maintain and improve access and to conserve wildlife and historic features.

WHERE TO EAT

Seashell Fish & Chips Bridge Street
Hong Kong Chinese Takeaway Bridge Street
Cafe Frapa Thoroughfare
Deli Thoroughfare
White Hart Thoroughfare
Edwards Thoroughfare
Focus Organic Thoroughfare
Cleones Angel Hotel Angel Link
Singtong Neeyon Thai Restaurant, London Road
Fish and Chip Shop London Road
Pinky’s Market Place
Tilly’s Market Place
Golden House Chinese Takeaway Market Place
Raj Puth Indian Market Place
The Cut was converted out of the dilapidated New Cut Maltings between 2000 and 2007 by an inspired local arts charity called New Cut Arts. A Maltings had certainly existed on this site since the early 19th century although its present architectural appearance dates largely from the end of the Victorian era. The building has retained many of the original Maltings features during its sympathetic restoration. These include the two Victorian steeps, typical maltings windows, cast-iron pillars, low ceilings, original doors, original maltings tiles, the remains of the original fire-places and several maltings artefacts.

During the Open Days there will be several general tours of the building with Simon Raven (including a short film about the building’s conversion); a specialist talk by Ivor Murrell (retired Director General of the Maltsters Association of Great Britain) about how a maltings of this vintage actually worked (he will also take a specialist tour); and a 45 minute archival film of mid-20th century Halesworth presented by local resident Muriel Barber.

The Poetry Trust, organisers of the Aldeburgh Poetry Festival, who have their headquarters in the Cut will be throwing their offices open all day on both Saturday and Sunday giving the public a chance to inspect their considerable Poetry Library and to hear some of their sound archives of poets reading their own poetry.

The Cut Café will be open on both days serving homemade cakes, sausage rolls and scones all day. Light lunches freshly made from local produce will include soups, sandwiches and daily specials.

In keeping with the theme of the weekend the licensed bar will be serving a selection of locally brewed beers and a Halesworth Heritage Bitter uniquely available at the Cut for this occasion.

Open: From 10am to 4pm each day
Tours: All start in the Auditorium. Simon Raven 10.20, 11 & 11.40am each day - booking not required
Ivor Murrell Talk 12pm each day - booking not required. Also, Ivor Murrell specialist tour 12.45 pm each day Maximum 12 people booking essential via Cut Box Office
Film (45 mins) Muriel Barber 2.30 each day - booking not required
Facilities: Toilets (including wheelchair accessible)
Booking: generally not required
Nearest Parking: Station Road Car Park and Town Centre Car Park
Street parking in the Cut and Station Road is RESIDENTS ONLY and strictly enforced.
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* Timed tours - booking essential
Other events do not require tickets

HOW TO BOOK
FREE REQUIRED TOUR TICKETS ARE ONLY AVAILABLE AT THE CUT BOX OFFICE NOT AT THE VENUES

Advance booking opens **Tuesday August 18**

Box Office open
Tuesday - Saturday 11am - 2pm
September 12th & 13th 10am - 4pm

Box Office telephone
0845 673 2123

Postal booking to
Heritage Open days
The Cut,
New Cut,
Halesworth IP19 8BY

Our thanks to Miles Berry and The Cut for donating this facility.

TRAIN TIMES

**Saturday 12th September**
IPSWICH dep hourly at 17 mins past
HALESWORTH arr 9 mins past (52 mins)

LOWESTOFT dep hourly at 7 mins past
HALESWORTH arr 40 mins past (33mins)

**Sunday 13th September**
IPSWICH dep 2 hourly from 10.02
HALESWORTH arr 56 mins past (54 mins)

LOWESTOFT dep 2 hourly from 10.05
HALESWORTH arr 36 mins past (31 mins)

With thanks to our sponsors;
Durrants, Halesworth Business Connections, Halesworth & Blyth Valley Partnership, Halesworth Town Council, Musker McIntyre, Suffolk County Council