



Charity No. 1099250

Preserving the past for the future

Heritage Open Week: 13th – 20th September 2025

Trust celebrates Station Road, Birchington

Birchington Heritage Trust is preparing to open its doors to the past and invite both residents and visitors to experience the unique stories, architecture, and vibrant culture that make our community truly special. This year, Heritage Open Week is focussing on architecture and promises a captivating journey through time, celebrating not only our historic landmarks but also the cherished shops that have shaped daily life for generations.

Heritage Open Week is an annual event designed for those with a passion for tradition, curiosity about local history, and appreciation for the enduring spirit and character of our village. Over the course of the week, scan the QR codes on special notices in the windows of shops and businesses in Station Road and discover a short history of individual properties. More detailed historical information may then be obtained via a link or by searching the Trust's website (www.birchingtonheritage.org.uk)

We're also launching our brand new *Station Road Heritage Trail* booklet, that provides an opportunity to explore the architecture of the commercial heart of the village. It will be on sale at the Museum, which is within the library at 17 Alpha Road. The Museum will be open until 3pm on Saturday 13th September, then Monday – Saturday the following week between 0930 and 1230 daily (except Wednesday). We'll display images of shops and businesses from the past. Our volunteers will be on hand to help research our extensive archives too.

Why Support Heritage Open Week and Station Road Shops?

Our historic shops are the lifeblood of the village—preserving traditions, supporting local employment, and offering personalised service that cannot be found elsewhere. Station Road has been a “main road” for 130 years since it was designated as such in 1895 and has grown into the principal commercial hub of the village. Participation in Heritage Open Weeks and shopping locally helps sustain these businesses and ensures that future generations can enjoy their unique charm.

Shortly after Heritage Open Week, the Trust will host a talk by Alexandra Gilbert on ***Revisiting Birchington's Victorian History***. This is on 25th September at The Centre, Alpha Road, CT7 9EG. Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start. All are welcome: it's free to Trust Members and we invite donations from guests. The bar will be open.