



A NEW FUTURE FOR HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

English Heritage is delighted to announce, as of 1st October 2011, that Heritage Open Days will be jointly run by the National Trust, Civic Voice and The Heritage Alliance.

These three organisations will take over the national coordination of the programme which English Heritage will continue to fund until March 2015. Between the three bodies, they offer a unique combination of skills, resources and experience and will build on Heritage Open Day's impressive track record. This new partnership will help to ensure the future of Heritage Open Days so volunteers up and down the country can continue to open their doors to the public for years to come. With the numbers of volunteers registered to take part dramatically up compared to last year, 2011's Heritage Open Days is set to be bigger than ever.

All interested parties were invited to apply to take over the national coordination in January of this year. The closing date for entries was in April and applicants took part in discussions with a panel chaired by Deborah Lamb, Director of National Advice and Information at English Heritage.

This agreement brings together the nation's largest charity in the form of the National Trust, the most extensive network of local community based heritage organisations through Civic Voice and expertise from the leading coalition of national voluntary heritage organisations in The Heritage Alliance.

Baroness Andrews, Chair of English Heritage, said: "English Heritage is committed to the future of Heritage Open Days, a flourishing programme that celebrates our heritage and local communities. We look forward to working with the National Trust, The Heritage Alliance and Civic Voice who together provide the experience, resources and passion to carry Heritage Open Days through."

Dame Fiona Reynolds, Director General of the National Trust, said: "The National Trust is delighted to be part of the consortium that will coordinate Heritage Open Days from 2012 onwards. It's the biggest event in the heritage calendar, and one that we have long been proud to be associated with as such a strong expression of local pride of place. We look forward to contributing to its continuing success, as well as to determining a sustainable future for the event."

Chairman of The Heritage Alliance, Loyd Grossman OBE, said: "We are thrilled to be working in partnership with Civic Voice and the National Trust as one of the three charities taking Heritage Open Days forward to a strong, sustainable future. Run by volunteers for the benefit of their local communities, it's the largest voluntary cultural event in England; with over a million visits last year and over 40,000 volunteers giving up their time to share their passion and knowledge with their neighbours. English Heritage proved a good friend to the sector when it rescued the event in 2009, and we're grateful for its continued support in making sure the transition is smooth.

We all know how extraordinarily popular our heritage is with people up and down the country, and Heritage Open Days gives us all an opportunity to showcase that heritage and the outstanding voluntary effort and commitment that makes it available to all."

Civic Voice's Director, Tony Burton, said "Heritage Open Days was initiated by the civic movement and we are excited to be part of its future. Over the years millions of people have enjoyed discovering new places brought to life for them by thousands of dedicated volunteers. We intend to build on this outstanding success so that Heritage Open Days goes from strength to strength."

Notes to Editors

Heritage Open Days is England's largest and most popular grassroots heritage event, taking place annually on the second weekend in September across England (apart from London, which has Open House London), celebrating local heritage, culture and architecture. English Heritage provided core funding for the Civic Trust to run Heritage Open Days between 2001 and 2009. Following the demise of the Civic Trust in April 2009, English Heritage took over the co-ordinating responsibility. Heritage Open Days is run locally by a large range of organisations (including civic societies, heritage organisations, and local councils), community champions and thousands of volunteers. What to open/put on is determined locally and then either managed by individuals or often in small hubs within towns or communities. Heritage Open Days takes place this year between 8 and 11 September.

www.heritageopendays.org.uk

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