

Your Outreach Team



ENGLISH HERITAGE

Heritage Open Days (HODs) is part of English Heritage's Outreach Department. The programme was rescued and taken in-house by English Heritage in May 2009 after the Civic Trust who co-ordinated the event for 14 years went into administration. The Outreach team's role is to actively engage new audiences in learning from, enjoying and valuing the historic environment. We see HODs as being a fantastic way to draw communities into thinking differently about their local environment and sharing what is of importance to them. Since 2003, HODs has been a major part of the Outreach team's work, with Outreach Managers working across the country to encourage new organisers to get involved in sharing their history and culture.

Over the last seven years, we have worked in partnership to build up the scheme in many new areas from Sheffield to Milton Keynes, from the Cumbrian coast to North Devon, from Tilbury to the Black Country. We work with organisers to reflect the diverse cultural mix that makes up England's heritage; opening mosques, temples, gurdwaras, churches and synagogues, and encouraging different faith groups to come together to create multi-faith trails and events. One example is the Normanton Faith Trail, developed in partnership with the Derby Forum of Faiths to reflect the area's many faith communities.

Part of the Outreach Team's role is to support communities in building an exciting and sustainable HODs programme. This year, we will be building on our experiences of working with groups over several years, and through workshops and local conversations will be finding out how organisers and communities would like to be supported in the future. One of the great rewards for us is to see new organisers we've been working with take the HODs message and their success stories into surrounding areas, to inspire other people and places to take part.

Good luck to all the HODs Organisers this year. We're sure 2010 will be another fantastic year!

Best wishes,

Catherine Bloodworth
Head of Outreach



For Outreach contact details, please see overleaf ►►

Your Outreach Team

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Make Our Place Yours

Over the past few years, the Outreach team have supported many organisers to create new HODs schemes in their area. But of course, we can't work with everyone we would like to. To support organisations like yours who may be thinking about running projects with your local community we've developed a website that organisers might find useful. It's called Our Place and is aimed at people who work or are interested in broadening access to heritage.

It's easy and free to become a member and once you have, you'll be able to access lots of useful resources, including details of other people's inspiring work, alongside up-to-date information on relevant training and networking opportunities.

Check it out at www.ourplacenetwork.org.uk