

inventors behind them. Alongside stories of wonders, the festival will highlight some of the blunders, fads and outright failures that pepper England's rich history of innovation.

Liam Montgomery, Heritage Open Days Marketing & Projects Manager says: "We're thrilled to be focusing in on inventions for this year's festival, as they offer such an exciting lens for examining heritage. From the humble chocolate bar to the World Wide Web, England has an incredibly diverse history of innovation and discovery. We wanted to celebrate this by sharing stories from across the regions to really showcase the ingenuity and hard work behind them. Once again, we're very excited to see what our community put together!"

Events registered so far include:

Tilehurst Bell Ringing, Reading, Berkshire

Celebrating the great British invention of church bell change-ringing, this celebration of church bell ringing set in a beautiful and historic church includes hands on have a go sessions.

The British Lawnmower Museum, Southport, Lancashire

At the cutting edge - the astounding invention of the lawnmower. Come along to the museum for special tours and talks focusing on this most British of obsessions.

The History of Gas - Beverley, North Yorkshire

Join internationally acclaimed historian of gas, Professor Russell Thomas, for a talk on the origins and development of the industry and how Beverley came to be lit by the elegant gas lamps that still stand today.

Great Linford Manor Park

Learn more about park's fascinating history, including the Industrial Revolution and the coming of the Grand Union Canal, as well as the unique opportunity to step aboard the astounding invention that is Milton Keynes' community electric canal boat, Electra.

British Vintage Wireless and Television Museum - London

From rare pre-war radios to television sets you might remember seeing at your grandparents' house, learn about advances in technology during a century of broadcasting.

The scale of Heritage Open Days is itself astounding. Last year more than 44,000 organisers and volunteers ran 4,000 events across the country. Festival-goers said their visit made them more proud of their local area (80%) and felt events were a great way to bring communities together (70%),

Meleri Roberts, Heritage Open Days Coordinator for Leeds Civic Trust, West Yorkshire says: "As an organisation that champions the heritage, culture and diversity of Leeds, Heritage Open Days is a natural platform for the Trust to reach a wide audience and to showcase the treasure the city has to offer. It is a great way to bring local organisations, businesses and passionate local storytellers, historians and creatives together on an annual basis to explore, reinterpret and provoke our city's ever evolving heritage."

Laura Chow, Head of Charities at People's Postcode Lottery, said, "In supporting the festival this year, our players are helping bring communities together to share the stories of the people, places, and spaces important to them. We're particularly looking forward to what we can learn from the country's inventors and innovators, past and present."

Heritage Open Days is brought to you by the National Trust with support from players of People's Postcode Lottery. Every single Heritage Open Days event is free, including access to many sites that usually charge for admission.

For further information, and to register your event, visit www.heritageopendays.org.uk.

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A selection of photos from previous HODs events is [available here](#) (password: festivalphotos)

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Notes to editors:

About Heritage Open Days

- Heritage Open Days is England's largest festival of history and culture. Running for ten days every September, the festival offers free access to heritage events and activities across England.
- Heritage Open Days is coordinated and promoted by the National Trust with support from players of People's Postcode Lottery, and delivered locally by a large range of organisations (including civic societies, heritage organisations and local councils, community champions and thousands of enthusiastic volunteers)
- Heritage Open Days is England's contribution to European Heritage Days, taking place across 50 countries. Other events in the UK are Doors Open Days in Scotland (www.doorsopendays.org.uk); Open Doors Days in Wales
- (www.cadw.wales.gov.uk/opendoors); and European Heritage Open Days in Northern Ireland (www.communities-ni.gov.uk/articles/european-heritage-open-days).

People's Postcode Lottery

- People's Postcode Lottery manages lotteries on behalf of 20 Postcode Trusts. People play with their chosen postcodes for a chance to win cash prizes. A minimum of 33% from each subscription goes directly to charities and good causes in Britain and internationally. Players have raised more than £800 million so far. For details of the charities and good causes which are promoting and benefitting from the lottery draws, please visit www.postcodelottery.co.uk/good-causes/draw-calendar
- It costs £10 a month to play and winning postcodes are announced every day. The maximum amount a single ticket can win is 10% of the draw proceeds. For details, please visit www.postcodelottery.co.uk/prizes
- New players can sign up to pay using direct debit by calling 0808 10 9 8 7 6 5. New players who sign up online at www.postcodelottery.co.uk can pay using direct debit, debit card or PayPal.
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