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## PRESS RELEASE

# Heritage Open Days Celebrates 25 Years of People Power

[www.heritageopendays.org.uk](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk)

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**Landmark openings, 'craftivist workshops', 'wikithons' and hundreds of 'People Power' themed events – Heritage Open Days reveals plans for its 25<sup>th</sup> festival.**

This year, Heritage Open Days (HODs) is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a raft of new initiatives and partners, designed to make 2019's festival the biggest and most diverse yet. The '**25 for 25**' project will see 25 landmark properties take part in England's largest festival of history and culture for the very first time, while hundreds of events across the country will focus on this year's theme of '**People Power**'.

"Last year, we welcomed over three million visitors to a fantastic 5,500 events. We know, however, that many people still aren't aware of Heritage Open Days, and the huge range of events on offer across the festival," says Annabelle Thorpe, Heritage Open Days National Manager. "This year we're using the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary to find ways to connect with different communities and individuals, and to encourage them to take part, volunteer or visit."

For the first time, HODs is partnering with the British Muslim Council, whose hugely successful 'Visit my Mosque' shares similar aims. Building on last year's 'Extraordinary Women' theme, HODs is also working with the Women's Engineering Society and The Wellcome Collection on a series of Wikithons, helping organisers to share their stories on a wider platform. Additionally, in May, the national office will stage six 'HODx' days across the country, encouraging people to take part and create new events. All these strands come together under the festival-wide theme of 'People Power'.

'People Power' is also at the heart of a new art commission from Creative Director of the Craftivist Collective, and author of *How to be a Craftivist*, Sarah Corbett. This year's 'Unsung Stories' project, made possible by the support of players of People's Postcode Lottery, **Dare to Dream** asks people to stitch their thoughts and dreams for a positive future onto 'thought clouds', with downloadable materials and workshop guides available on the HODs website.

Event registration opens on Monday March 18<sup>th</sup>, with information on HODx days, and new downloadable packs for first-time organisers, and on staging a 'People Power' event.



For more information and photographs:

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Information about event registration: [www.heritageopendays.org.uk/organising/how-to-get-involved](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/organising/how-to-get-involved)

## NOTES TO EDITORS

### About Heritage Open Days

- Heritage Open Days is co-ordinated and promoted nationally by the National Trust with support from players of People's Postcode Lottery, and run 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](http://www.doorsopendays.org.uk)); Open Doors Days in Wales ([www.cadw.wales.gov.uk/opendoors](http://www.cadw.wales.gov.uk/opendoors)); European Heritage Open Days in Northern Ireland ([www.communities-ni.gov.uk/articles/european-heritage-open-days](http://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/articles/european-heritage-open-days)); Open House London ([www.openhouselondon.org.uk](http://www.openhouselondon.org.uk))

### People's Postcode Lottery

- People's Postcode Lottery manages multiple society lotteries promoted by different charities and good causes. People play with their chosen postcodes for a chance to win cash prizes. A minimum of 32% from each subscription goes directly to charities and good causes across Great Britain and internationally -- players have raised £404 million so far. For details of the charities and good causes which are promoting and benefitting from the lottery draws, please visit <https://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 proceed. For details, please visit [www.postcodelottery.co.uk/prizes](http://www.postcodelottery.co.uk/prizes)
- New players can sign up to pay using direct debit by calling 0808 1098765. New players who sign up online at [www.postcodelottery.co.uk](http://www.postcodelottery.co.uk) can pay using direct debit, debit card or PayPal
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