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## PRESS RELEASE

# First Look at 25th Anniversary Highlights for Heritage Open Days

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

13<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> September 2019

In September, Heritage Open Days - England's largest festival of history and culture - will celebrate its 25th anniversary, with thousands of FREE events taking place across ten days. Visitors will have the opportunity to explore places not normally open to the public, and learn more about the heritage on their doorstep. And for 2019, a special programme of 'People Power' themed events will focus on highlighting historic and contemporary communities, groups and individuals who have affected positive change; buildings saved, greenspaces created, friendships forged, campaigns fought and voices heard.



Inspired by positive changes in the past, the third arts project in the 'Unsung Stories' strand will also explore People Power. Made possible by support from players of People's Postcode Lottery, and created by the founder of the global Craftivist Collective, Sarah Corbett, *Dare to Dream* will build on stories of those who dreamt of a brighter future, by asking what we can do to keep moving things forward at a series of Craftivism workshops throughout the festival.

"Our 25th anniversary and our first-ever ten-day festival means Heritage Open Days 2019 is going to be an unforgettable year," says HODs National Manager, Annabelle Thorpe. "And what better time to celebrate 'People Power' - something that is at the very heart of our unique festival. This



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September will see a more diverse and innovative array of events than ever before - proving that Heritage Open Days really does belong to everyone.”

Highlights already registered include a rare behind-the-scenes tour of the Prince Philip Maritime Collections at Royal Museums Greenwich, a concert showcasing the music of People Power through the ages, and a community damson harvest at Brockhampton’s Orchard.

## NEW FOR 2019

### **Prince Philip Maritime Collections, Royal Museums Greenwich, London**

Take an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour of the museum's storage collection, rarely seen by the public since it opened in the 1970s. Curated by local residents, visitors will also be given a unique interpretation of the items, based on the heritage stories behind them.

**Fri 20th and Sat 21st, 10:30am, 12pm, 1:30pm, 3pm (also 4pm on Fri)**

### **Analysing Pugin, Nottingham Trent University & St Barnabas Cathedral, Nottingham**

Visit the Creative and Virtual Technologies Lab at Nottingham Trent University for a special talk revealing new discoveries about Pugin’s designs. Participants will get a unique hands-on demonstration of the 3D modelling techniques used, and discover what they can tell us about the architect’s work.

**Wed 18th, 11am - 2pm**

### **Film Screening: Sunderland, The Way We Were, Sunderland**

Join a night of nostalgia combining music, film and photographs of Sunderland over the years. A special compilation of footage will take visitors back to summers at Seaburn in the 1950s, shopping in Blacketts and watching the FA Cup wins at Roker Park!

**Tues 17th, 7pm**

### **Acton Court, Friends of Acton Court, Bristol**

Hear the story of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn’s visit to this Tudor house, on a Blue Badge guided tour. Groups will get to see the royal apartments they built to entertain the King, while learning about the ambitions of the Poyntz family who built them.

**Fri 13th and Sat 14th Sep, tours from 11am – 3pm, and Sun 15th Sep, 11am – 12pm**

### **Medieval Origins of Today's Remedies, John Innes Centre, Norwich**

Decode the mystery of early modern herbal cures! Participants at this special new talk by the John Innes Centre and the UEA will have the chance to see rare historic books, and discover how plants used since ancient times are contributing to modern medicines.

**Thurs 19th and Fri 20th, 10am**



## PEOPLE POWER

### **Collections Showcase, Newcastle University Library Archives, Newcastle**

Meet the Special Collections and Archives team and discover People Power treasures from the storeroom. Visitors will learn about issues including the fight for women's rights, campaigning for homosexual equality, student marches, and speeches on human rights, in a thought-provoking handling session.

**Thur 19th, 1pm - 4pm**

### **Moor Pool Heritage Festival, Moor Pool Heritage Trust, Birmingham**

Discover one of the city's best kept secrets, and the community's People Power campaigns to fundraise and save one of the last Garden Suburbs in the UK. Families can enjoy the grounds with musical performances, sports games, and children's activities including baby ballet and den building.

**Sun 15th, 11am - 3pm**

### **The Women's Land Army, Chelmsford Civic Society, Chelmsford**

Join Anglia Ruskin University for an evening talk, exploring the lives of the largely forgotten women of the Land Army. Using their words and contemporary images, visitors will hear how People Power helped keep starvation at bay to win 1917's food war on the home front.

**Thurs 19th, 7:30pm**

### **Scott House at WWT Slimbridge Wetland Centre, Gloucester**

Explore the 1950s home of environmental conservation campaigner, Sir Peter Scott, once visited by the Queen. Learn about his life and work, and the People Power he harnessed in founding the local Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust as well as the World Wildlife Fund.

**Sat 14th, 10am - 4pm**

### **Musical Evening with the Madding Crowd, Winchester**

Enjoy a concert showcasing the music of People Power through the ages. Performing in period costume, The Madding Crowd group will characterise the rebellion between church choirs and clergy, and the protests against agricultural mechanisation during the Swing Riots of 1830.

**Sat 21st, 7:30pm**

## GREAT FOR FAMILIES

### **Welwyn Roman Baths, Welwyn Hatfield Museum Service, Welwyn**

Go back in time to the world of the Romans! Kids will love wearing togas or gladiator outfits, challenging each other to a game of knucklebones, smelling foods from the past, and exploring trails around the ancient site to experience what life was like 1,700 years ago!

**Sat 14th, 2pm - 5pm**



### **Heritage Steam Railway, Isle of Wight Steam Railway, Isle of Wight**

Welcome aboard a day of fun for the whole family at the interactive Train Story Discovery Centre. Visitors can see historic trains up close, get active on a woodland walk and even watch a birds of prey flying display!

**Sat 14th and Sun 15th Sep, 11am – 3:30pm and Thurs 19th – Sun 22nd, 9:30am – 5pm**

### **Gladstone Pottery Museum, Stoke-on-Trent**

Get hands-on at this interactive pottery museum, with demonstrations of throwing, casting and painting skills. Little ones will also love the quirky 'Flushed with Pride' exhibition, with its smelly slum, giant toilet rolls, fun quizzes and rude sound effects explaining the history of sewerage!

**Sat 21st, 10am - 5pm**

### **Cragside, National Trust, Northumberland**

Discover the world of a Victorian inventor! Crammed full of ingenious gadgets, kids will love exploring this extraordinary house. The family can then head outside for fun in the play area, and try to find their way through the Rhododendron forest tunnels of Nelly's Labyrinth.

**Thur 19th, 10am - 5pm**

## **SPECIAL EVENTS**

### **Broomhill Pool, The Broomhill Pool Trust, Ipswich**

Get an early look at the restoration of this open-air lido, before its expected reopening date in 2021. Currently shut to the public, visitors during the festival can explore the 1930s listed site, and learn about development plans for a fitness suite and diving stage.

**Sat 14th and Sun 15th, 10am - 4pm**

### **The History of the Garden Gnome, Headstone Manor and Museum, London**

Love them or hate them, discover the history of the garden gnome with this entertaining talk! From the original renaissance statues, to Black Forest dwarfs and Victorian eccentrics, visitors will learn about the ornaments in Great Barn, opening specially for the event.

**Sat 21st, 2:15pm**

### **The Glass House Redevelopment, Bright Blue Studio, North Shields**

Take a tour of this newly redeveloped private building and its modern glass gallery. Led by the architect, visitors will explore all floors to see how new spaces and technologies have been integrated with the fabric and meaning of the original 17th century fort and later smokehouse.

**Sat 21st, 10am - 3pm**

### **Brockhampton's Damson Harvest Helpers, National Trust, Worcester**

Explore Brockhampton's orchards in the autumn and help out with the community damson harvest. Rangers will be welcoming visitors to join in handpicking the fruits to support fundraising for the medieval manor's orchard replanting project.

**Sat 14th, 11am - 5pm**



## **Recycling Depot Open Day, Bath and North East Somerset Council, Keynsham**

Find out what happens to your rubbish! On this behind-the-scenes guided tour of the depot, visitors will find out about the process of turning waste into reusable materials, from sorting and bulking, to distribution and making new products.

**Sat 14th, 10am, 11am and 12pm**

*Image credits, Craftivist Collective / Robin Prime, Madding Crowd, Friends of Acton Court, National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, National Trust, Isle of Wight Steam Railway, National Trust/Steve Betts*

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Registration for events is still open, and information is available online at

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

Full listings will also be available on the website from early-June.

For more information and photographs:

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## NOTES TO EDITORS

### **About Heritage Open Days**

- Heritage Open Days (13<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> September 2019) is England's largest festival of history and culture; in 2018, over 5,500 events welcomed more than three million visitors across the country.
- All events are free, including access to many sites that usually charge for admission.
- Heritage Open Days is coordinated 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)).
- For further details, visit [www.heritageopendays.org.uk](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk), follow on Twitter [@HeritageOpenDay](https://twitter.com/HeritageOpenDay), or subscribe to the [newsletter](#).



## About People Power and Unsung Stories

- People Power is Heritage Open Days' theme for 2019, celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the festival, and highlighting the ability of local communities, groups and individuals to evoke change. For more information, visit [www.heritageopendays.org.uk/organising/people-power](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/organising/people-power)
- The Unsung Stories programme is annual arts-based strand of Heritage Open Days, commissioning artists to work with local organisers, bringing to life stories, and reflecting HODs' belief that history belongs to all of us. For more information, visit [www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting/unsung-stories](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting/unsung-stories)

## About the Craftivist Collective and Sarah Corbett

- Sarah Corbett is an award-winning campaigner, author of *How to be a Craftivist: The Art of Gentle Protest*, and founder and Creative Director of the global Craftivist Collective. She grew up in a low-income area of Liverpool and was born into an activist family. Her TED talk 'Activism Needs Introverts' has been viewed over 1 million times.
- The Craftivist Collective is a social enterprise providing products and services to help individuals, groups and organisations around the world learn and take part in 'a gentle protest' approach to craftivism (craft + activism), and transform the way people practice activism in more emotionally intelligent, creative and kind and effective ways.
- Previous craftivism projects have addressed mental health, living wage and climate change amongst other issues. Their projects have helped change laws and policies, as well as hearts and minds.
- They have worked with Save the Children, Unicef and Mind, have helped create the new Girlguiding craftivism badge, as well as collaborating with Secret Cinema and V&A, amongst others.
- Sarah is experienced as an interviewee for print, online, live or prerecorded audio, television and vlogs.
- For further details, visit [www.craftivist-collective.com](http://www.craftivist-collective.com) or follow on Twitter and Instagram @Craftivists.

## About 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 £427 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 10 9 8 7 6 5. 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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