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## PRESS RELEASE

# Heritage Open Days Celebrates 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with Biggest Festival Ever!

[www.heritageopendays.org.uk](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk)  
13<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> September 2019

This September, England's biggest festival of history and culture celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, with thousands of amazing, free days out across the country, thanks to support from the National Trust and players of People's Postcode Lottery. And with over 5,700 events, it's officially the biggest year yet, with over 3 million visitors expected to take part across 10 days!

In recognition of the 40,000+ volunteers who help run the festival each year, the theme for 2019 is *25 Years of People Power*. A special programme of events will highlight communities, groups and individuals - both contemporary and from history - who have affected positive change; buildings saved, greenspaces created, friendships forged, campaigns fought and voices heard. A series of 25 'craftivism' workshops across the country will also encourage everyone to become change-makers, by combining craft and activism as part of this year's Unsung Stories arts project, *Dare to Dream*.



Image credits, Lancashire County Museum Service / Lancashire County Council, Winchester Music and Opera Society, Oxford Preservation Trust, Eton College, Dore Village Society

And to recognise an ever-growing festival, 25 new places are being highlighted by *25 for 25*; showcasing



everything from country houses, museum archives and gardens, to theatres, wildlife reserves, distilleries and even a solar farm.

With the majority of events being drop-in, the festival is perfect for making last-minute plans with friends and family! Here's a look at some of the highlights which don't require advanced booking.

### **NEW HIGHLIGHTS FOR 25 FOR 25**

#### **Eton College Collections, Eton College and Windsor Festival and Fringe, Windsor**

Take a special 'Curators' Choice Trail' of objects from the school's archives and collections of art, natural history and antiquities, with a fun extra trail and art activities for children. Visitors can also see the School Yard, and enjoy the Tower Gallery exhibition, which is normally by appointment only.

**Sun 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1:30pm – 4:30pm**

#### **Vajrapani Kadampa Buddhist Centre, Huddersfield**

Join a short meditation session with the resident teacher at this Buddhist Centre. Visitors can also take a tour of the building, and meet members of the Kirklees Buddhist community who will be on hand to answer any questions.

**Sun 15<sup>th</sup>, 12pm – 4:30pm**

#### **New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-Under-Lyme**

Learn all the secrets of the New Vic Theatre on a backstage tour of the props and costume stores! Greeted by volunteers from the Youth Theatre, visitors can also see inside the control box, take part in drama workshops, try on costumes and see stage management demonstrations.

**Sat 14<sup>th</sup>, 10am – 4pm**

#### **Discover Dob Croft, The Intact Centre, Lancashire**

Get back to nature at this 5-acre wildlife reserve! Visitors can go on a tour of the protected landscape, and take part in a range of family-friendly activities, including making bird feeders, and learning about local species such as the great crested newt, bees, moths, hedgehogs and bats.

**Sat 14<sup>th</sup> Sep, 2pm – 5pm**

### **PEOPLE POWER AND DARE TO DREAM**

#### **Dare to Dream Workshops, Nationwide**

Take part in a series of workshops across the country exploring positive change through gentle protest, as part of this year's *Dare to Dream* arts project. Participants will reflect on change-makers of the past, before stitching a dream for the future onto a fabric 'dream cloud', to share publicly and encourage us all to be solution-seekers.

**Dates vary throughout the festival (most are drop-in sessions)**



### **British Film Institute's National Archives, Berkhamsted**

Join BFI staff for a series of tours, talks and demos, and search over 10,000 newly digitised films of local history mapped across the country, as part of the launch of *BFI Contribute*. Harnessing People Power, this new crowdsourcing platform will encourage the public to add memories, lost locations and details to enhance the National Film Collection and share local knowledge.

**Sun 15<sup>th</sup>, 10:30am – 4pm**

### **Railway Village Museum, Swindon**

Learn about Victorian re-use, repair and recycling! Visitors to the museum can find out about life before plastic, have a go at upcycling 19<sup>th</sup>-century style with rag rug making, and think about how People Power can reduce pollution and waste by learning from the past.

**Sat 14<sup>th</sup> and Sun 15<sup>th</sup>, 10:30am – 4pm**

### **Winchester Musical & Opera Society Present *Made in Dagenham*, Winchester**

Watch a street-performance of Winchester Musical & Opera Society's recent production of *Made in Dagenham*. Through snippets of the play, the audience will learn the story of the Ford Dagenham machinists, whose strike and demands for equal pay brought about historic People Power change for women in the workplace.

**Sat 21<sup>st</sup>, 12pm, 1pm and 2pm**

## **FAMILY FRIENDLY**

### **A Medieval Day in Dore, Dore Village Society, Sheffield**

Join knights, archers, ladies and squires on Dore's ancient village green! The whole family can enjoy watching costumed characters demonstrate medieval skills like candle making and archery, as well as living history displays, culminating in a tournament of arms!

**Sun 15<sup>th</sup>, 11am – 4pm**

### **The Secret Forest, Coleford Area Partnership, Gloucestershire**

Discover the Secret Forest! Children will be enchanted by the magical cave-like hollows in the trees, and their ancient twisted branches, on a walk through this incredible woodland, and learn about the iron age while exploring the replica roundhouse village.

**Fri 13<sup>th</sup> and Fri 20<sup>th</sup>, 10am – 4pm**

### **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 19<sup>th</sup>, 10am – 5pm**

### **Norwich Puppet Theatre, Norwich**

Take a peek behind the scenes of the city's much-loved Puppet Theatre! Visitors can discover the history of the theatre and its unique conversion inside a medieval church, while kids will have fun getting creative with puppetry crafting activities.

**Sat 21<sup>st</sup>, 10am – 4pm and Sun 22<sup>nd</sup>, 12pm – 4pm**



## SPECIAL EVENTS

### **Big Data Institute, Oxford Preservation Trust, Oxford**

Learn how medical researchers use 'Big Data' to answer questions about human health around the world, at the Li Ka Shing Centre. Exclusively opening to the public for the festival, visitors can join a talk, as well as taking a virtual lab tour and enjoying science games for all ages!

**Sat 14<sup>th</sup>, 12:20pm – 4pm**

### **Dancing Maharajas with Festive Road, Milton Keynes**

Enjoy a show inspired by the culture of Northern India, with dancing Maharajas and musicians, and even a life-size pedal-powered elephant! Performed by artists interpreting traditional Bhangra, Punjabi and Dhol art forms, visitors can take part in this celebration of cultural diversity.

**Sat 21<sup>st</sup>, 11am – 1pm**

### **De Vere Tortworth Hotel, Gloucestershire**

Delve into the estate's history with a series of exclusive talks, covering everything from a mention in the Domesday Book to housing American servicemen in the 1940s. Visitors can also explore one of the country's finest arboretums, featuring more than 300 plant and tree specimens.

**All festival dates, 8am – 10pm, talk at 2:30pm**

### **Lancashire Conservation Studios, Preston**

Go behind-the-scenes at the museum, with a tour of the specialist conservation studios. Visitors will learn about techniques used to clean and restore items from sculptures and paintings, to textiles and taxidermy, with the chance to bring in a mystery item from home for object identification.

**Sat 14<sup>th</sup>, 10am – 4pm and Wed 18<sup>th</sup>, 6pm – 8pm (object identification Wed only)**

Full listings can be searched here: [www.heritageopendays.org.uk](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk)

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For more information and photographs:

**Laura Davey, Press and Communications Officer**

020 3097 1977 | [laura.davey@heritageopendays.org.uk](mailto:laura.davey@heritageopendays.org.uk)



## 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 Dare to Dream

- *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).
- *Dare to Dream* is part of the Unsung Stories programme, an 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/dare-to-dream](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting/unsung-stories/dare-to-dream).

### 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 £462 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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