

June 2021



PRESS RELEASE

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS RETURNS WITH A RECIPE FOR DISCOVERY

The festival Event Directory is available now

www.heritageopendays.org.uk
10th-19th September 2021

Hundreds of places and spaces that aren't usually open to the public are getting ready to open their doors as part of Heritage Open Days (HODs). England's largest festival of history and culture returns this

September, thanks to support from players of People's Postcode Lottery. From family activities to evening experiences, this year's programme has something for everyone and it's all free.

Each year, thousands of volunteers organise events and experiences which uncover the stories, sites, places and people that traditional history has overlooked or forgotten. As well as visiting historic places and spaces in person, for the second year running there will be virtual tours and online discussions taking place too.

This year's programme offers a recipe for discovery: the festival's theme is Edible England. From woodland foraging to factory floor, forgotten recipes to regional delicacies, the HODs festival community will explore the past, present, and future of England's culinary heritage and culture.

The event directory is now live on the [HODs website](#) and new events are being added each week.

Edible England highlights so far include:

- **Celebrate Ormskirk - Ormskirk, Lancashire**
Take a trip down memory lane to the market town that is said to be the birthplace of gingerbread and rediscover some of Lancashire's traditional culinary delights.
Sunday 19 September, 11am to 4pm
- **Herbs and health in monastic times - Norwich Cathedral, Norwich, Norfolk**
Visit the Cathedral's herb garden to learn how the produce was used for culinary and medicinal purposes within the infirmary.
Tuesday 14 and Thursday 16 September, 11:30am to 12:30pm
- **CemeTreats and Funeral Feasts - Wombwell Cemetery, Barnsley, South Yorkshire**
From Victorian picnics to lemons left on gravestones, discover some weird and wonderful funereal foody traditions.
Friday 17 and Saturday 18 September, 10am to 4pm

Visitors will be welcomed into beautiful houses and historic churches, plus there are plenty of unusual events and experiences to look forward to, such as:

- **Rubbish to Resource - Recycle for Greater Manchester, Manchester**
Local residents can find out exactly what happens to the contents of their bins during this behind-the-scenes tour of a recycling centre.
Tuesday 14 September, 1pm to 3pm and 6pm to 8pm
- **Founders Favourites - Sir Harold Hillier Gardens, Romsey, Hampshire**
Discover the plants and trees that avid plantsman, Sir Harold Hillier, cherished and pick up tips from present-day horticulture experts.
Tuesday 14 September, 10am, 12pm, 2pm and 4pm
- **High Street Sound Walks - various locations**
Historic England is working with the National Trust and Sound UK to launch a series of self-guided, immersive sound walks to help people in Redruth, Reading, Great Yarmouth, Grantham, Barrow and Hull to discover the magic of their local high streets.
Friday 10 to Sunday 19 September

Sarah Holloway, Programme Manager for Heritage Open Days, said: "We're all interested in where we live but we don't necessarily know the stories behind the buildings and spaces we walk past each day. Our event organisers keep finding creative ways to tell these tales and keep them alive."

“HODs connects people through shared experiences and this year, that feels more important than ever. It’s also one of the reasons we chose Edible England as our theme. Food brings people together and what we eat and drink is at the heart of much of our culture, our history, our communities, and our daily lives.”

Laura Chow, Head of Charities at People’s Postcode Lottery, said: “We’re delighted our players are able to support Heritage Open Days for another year. The festival is about bringing communities together and we’re excited to see such a wide range of events on offer for visitors to enjoy and learn more about some of the hidden histories in their local area.

To find participating places and spaces in your local area and (where advised) pre-book your visit for free, go to www.heritageopendays.org.uk. There is also information available for people who are interested in hosting their own events.

ENDS

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

press@heritageopendays.org.uk

Francesca Baker and Gemma Pettman

Heritage Open Days Press & Media Relations

m: 07877 461555 (Francesca)

m: 07968 125717 (Gemma)

w: www.heritageopendays.org.uk

p: 20 Grosvenor Gardens, London, SW1W 0DH

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Notes to editors:

About Heritage Open Days

- 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); Open Doors Days in Wales (www.cadw.wales.gov.uk/opendoors); European Heritage Open Days in Northern Ireland (www.communities-ni.gov.uk/articles/european-heritage-open-days); Open House London (www.openhouselondon.org.uk)
- Heritage Open Days will continue to monitor government guidance and public health advice in respect of the coronavirus pandemic and act in accordance with the requirements. The HODs website will be updated accordingly; please check the site regularly for updates.

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 in Britain and

internationally. Players have raised more than £600 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
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