

PRESS RELEASE

One Festival. Two Weekends. Hundreds of Extraordinary Women.

6th-9th AND! 13th-16th September

For the first time in its 24-year history, Heritage Open Days – England’s largest festival of culture and history – will take place over two consecutive weekends in September. This year, in recognition of the centenary of the Universal Suffrage Act, there will be hundreds of events taking place on the theme of ‘Extraordinary Women’ – focusing on both well-known and less celebrated women.

In addition, Heritage Open Days is launching a second Unsung Stories project, following on from the critically acclaimed LGBTQ events last year. **put her forward**, a ground-breaking artistic collaboration, will see up to 25 new 3-D modelled figurines of present day ‘Extraordinary Women’. Interactive arts group **non zero one** will source nominations for community heroines in towns and cities, as well as online; winning candidates will be permanently commemorated with statues unveiled over the HODs weekend.

“Every year, Heritage Open Days becomes a more diverse and fascinating festival,” says patron, Loyd Grossman. “It’s wonderful that, thanks to funding from players of People’s Postcode Lottery, we are able to continue the Unsung Stories project, which actively sources and shares stories of individuals and events that conventional histories may have overlooked. And, of course, we continue to celebrate all aspects of local heritage, with thousands of other walks, talks, openings and events – all of them FREE!”

www.heritageopendays.org.uk

NEW FOR 2018

Discover the secrets of HS2, Euston, London

Join HS2’s archaeologists to uncover the history of St James’s Garden, once the site of the National Temperance Hospital. Visit their site offices and community garden, hear from their team of archaeologists, get some hands on experience and share your stories in a pop-up recording studio.

Sun 16th 11am – 5pm

Southsea Skate Park, Portsmouth

Celebrating its 40th birthday in 2018, Southsea Skatepark is one of the oldest skate parks in the UK, and is opening up for the first time for Heritage Open Days. Visitors can see the gallery of posters and photographs, watch extreme sports demonstrations - and even have a go!

Sun 16th 12-4pm

Leeds Beckett University, Leeds



Explore this historic campus with a variety of activities, including tours, talks and exhibitions marking the important role the site played as a hospital during WWI. The University will also be hosting guided night-time ghost tours at the 17th century monastic farm, The Grange, considered the most haunted building on campus!

Fri 14th, 7pm - 8:30pm. Sat 15th and Sun 16th, 11am - 4pm

American Museum in Britain, Bath

Join a day of celebrating the very best in American heritage and horticulture and see a replica of the Upper Garden at Mount Vernon, George Washington's 18th century home. Come and meet the gardening team responsible for designing and planting - you might even pick up a top tip or two from the Head Gardener!

Sat 15th, 10am - 5pm

A Walk on the Weird Side, Weird Norfolk and The Assembly House, Norwich

Take a walk on the Weird Norfolk side with storyteller Richard Hughes, on an adventure through the city's strange past. Find out about Kings that sleep under castles, ghosts that lurk in stockrooms and get a rare chance to see inside the Assembly House's atmospheric crypt, which lies beneath the historic house.

Sun 9th and Sun 16th, 6:30pm

EXTRAORDINARY WOMEN

Cromer Museum, Norfolk Museums & Archaeology Service, Cromer

Admire a beautiful series of portrait photographs of everyone from North Norfolk fishermen to royalty by Olive Edis, Norfolk's pioneering female photographer. Learn about her life with a talk by the museum's curator, and view displays of her work including autochromes – rare early 20th century colour photographs.

Thurs 13th, 10am - 4pm

Heritage Open Day at The M&S Company Archive, West Yorkshire

Celebrate the work of Flora Solomon with a talk about her ground-breaking M&S Employee Welfare programme of the 1930s, and get a unique look behind the scenes with a special tour of the archival collection.

Sat 8th, 11am - 3pm

The Dutch House, Dorking Museum, Surrey

Join a tour led by a local historian, to learn about the Suffragist events which unfolded at this site. Formerly known as The Mascot, this house achieved notoriety as the country residence of the Women's Social and Political Union, and was a centre for campaign planning as well as providing a place for suffragettes to recuperate from force-feeding in prison.

Sat 15th and Sun 16th, 2pm and 3:30pm

Hanbury Hall, National Trust, Worcestershire

Come and learn more about the women of Hanbury, from aristocracy to those who worked on the estate. Get the chance to see parts of the house not usually open on the top floor of the Hall, and follow a trail around the grounds to learn more about the features and history of the estate.

Sat 8th and Sun 9th, 10am - 5pm

Lady Waterford Hall, Ford & Etal Estates, Northumberland

Take a guided tour of unique Pre-Raphaelite murals, which tell the fascinating story of the artist who created them, Louisa, Marchioness of Waterford. Marking 200 years since the birth of this Extraordinary Woman, exhibitions will also highlight her charity work, which transformed the village and the lives of the people who lived on the Ford Estate.

Sat 8th, Sun 9th, Sat 15th and Sun 16th, 11am - 5pm

FAMILY FUN



Locomotion, The National Railway Museum at Shildon, County Durham

Get a 'behind the scenes' look into the operation of a steam locomotive! Explore the museum's workshop, where engineers and conservators work on restoration projects from welding and riveting to coach painting and signwriting. Visitors can also see over 70 rail vehicles and learn about the area's railway heritage with a schedule of talks and tours.

All festival days, 10am - 5pm

Medieval Music in the Dales Family, Bolton Castle, North Yorkshire

Sign up for a day of medieval music-making, storytelling and dancing for all the family! Workshops in the castle courtyard will teach the instruments, singing and play-acting of the period, and visitors will also enjoy professional musical performances.

Sun 9th, 9:30am - 4pm

Waterworks Museum, Hereford

Enjoy a great day out for all the for the whole family with interactive exhibits and a unique children's Heritage Water Park. Housed in an authentic Victorian waterworks, the museum is a time capsule of social history and will be demonstrating over thirty working engines and pumps on the day.

Sun 9th, 12pm - 4pm

Crofton Beam Engines, The Kennet & Avon Canal Trust, Wiltshire

Visit the oldest fully working steam engine in the world! Crofton Pumping Station was built in the 1800s to supply water to the highest point of the Kennet & Avon canal, which links London and Bristol. See this rare survivor of the technology which enabled British engineers to drain mines and supply water to towns and cities, with special talks and trails for children.

Thurs 6th to Sun 9th, 10:30am - 4:30pm

NOT NORMALLY OPEN

The Banqueting House, The Landmark Trust, Gateshead

Explore the house, gardens and stable block of Gibside, normally only accessible to the public as a holiday home. Designed as an embellishment to Gibside Park, this 18th-century Gothic folly stands in a grassy clearing, offering visitors a stunning view of the Derwent Valley beyond.

Sat 8th and Sun 9th, 10am - 4pm

Nuclear Bunker, Canterbury Society and Woodland Trust, Whitstable

Come and explore a nuclear bunker! Built in 1966 to monitor potential attacks during the Cold War, it was decommissioned in 1976. The bunker is not normally open, so this is a rare chance for visitors to climb down the 15 ft. vertical ladder and learn more about the history of warfare from a local historian.

Sat 15th, 12pm - 3pm

The Wavertree Lock-Up, The Wavertree Society, Liverpool

A rare chance to visit the normally shut Wavertree Lock-Up. Built in 1796, the lock-up was originally used as an overnight jail and has also been used to isolate cholera victims and provide temporary accommodation for destitute Irish families. After falling into decay, the building was threatened with demolition in the 1860s, but is now listed.

Sun 9th, 12pm - 4pm

6-9 & 13-16 September www.heritageopendays.org.uk

For details of more events, images, or to arrange an interview with Loyd Grossman, or HODs Manager Annie Reilly, contact:

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NOTES TO EDITORS

About Heritage Open Days

- Heritage Open Days is co-ordinated and promoted nationally by the National Trust with funding by 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/?lang=en); European Heritage Open Days in Northern Ireland (www.ehsni.gov.uk); Open House London (www.open-city.org.uk)

People's Postcode Lottery

- People's Postcode Lottery manages multiple charity lotteries (also known as society lotteries). Players play with their postcodes to win cash prizes, while raising money for charities and good causes across Great Britain and globally
- A minimum of 32% goes directly to charities and players have raised £291 million to date for good causes across the country
- £10 for 10 draws paid monthly in advance with prizes every day. For further prize information visit: www.postcodelottery.co.uk/prizes
- Maximum amount a single ticket can win is 10% of the draw revenue to a maximum of £400,000
- Players can sign up by Direct Debit online at www.postcodelottery.co.uk, or by calling 0808 10-9-8-7-6-5
- Postcode Lottery Limited is regulated by the Gambling Commission under licences number: 000-000829-N-102511-014 and Number: 000-000829-R-102513-013. Registered office: Titchfield House, 69/85 Tabernacle Street, London, EC2A 4RR
- For details on which society lottery is running each week, visit www.postcodelottery.co.uk/society

NON ZERO ONE

non zero one creates experiences where the audience is active and vital. The artists' group is formed of Sarah Butcher, Cat Harrison, John Hunter and Fran Miller and its work has been shown nationally and internationally since 2009. The company makes critically acclaimed live and digital interactive experiences for theatre, museums, galleries and public space, alongside an outreach programme working with groups from primary age upwards. Most recently, with *let's take a walk* (Barbican, 2016), the group worked with members of the public found via workshops and call-outs to create a collection of interactive journeys recorded by the individuals themselves, taking visitors to the Barbican on unique journeys via a smartphone app. The work was installed in the Barbican for 6 months, receiving over 18,000 visitors.

“Ambitious, tech-savvy and collaborative... their work encompasses the best traits of their generation”
Telegraph

