



National Trust

News and events for spring 2019
Derbyshire | Leicestershire | Lincolnshire
Northamptonshire | Nottinghamshire | Rutland

Near you

Make a fresh start



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Celebrate the first signs of spring

After the bleakness of winter, spring is a welcome change of the seasons. Mother Nature springs into life with bulbs pushing through the ground, tree leaves in bud, the sound of birdsong and longer days.

At Hardwick in Derbyshire see how Lady Spencer's Wood is transformed as carpets of intense colour appear under the canopy of trees, an ideal habitat for bluebells.

Lambs are a quintessential part of spring; at Calke Abbey and Kedleston Hall in Derbyshire you can see the lambs playing in the spring sunshine, and if you're lucky you may catch one being born – check the website for dates.

At Gunby Estate, Hall and Gardens in Lincolnshire stroll along the Wildflower Walk and take in the masses of daffodils,



© National Trust/Simon Atherton



© National Trust Images/Chris Lacey

wood anemones and crocuses. While at Mr Straw's House in Nottinghamshire you can follow the spring trails in the garden and see what's growing.

The highlights for this season are spring flowers, lambs and carpets of bluebells, a sure sign that spring has arrived. You help us protect these signs of spring.

Thank you.

The New Year is a time for making resolutions and fresh starts. Perhaps you'd like to get active, spend time with friends and family, learn a new skill or give something to others – all great for boosting your wellbeing.

Wrap up warm and walk the trail for all seasons at Clumber Park in Nottinghamshire, downloadable from the website. Belton House in Lincolnshire has a weekly Park Run on a Saturday morning (starts 9am) for the energetic and for those who like things a bit more steady, there are lots of walks around the parkland including dog friendly routes too.

During half term it's all about family time. Join the team at Longshaw in Derbyshire for their Woodland Day (weather depending on 10 Feb) to help out on the estate and earn your wild woodland activity passport. At Kedleston Hall in Derbyshire you can build a bird box to help nesting birds look after their chicks. And don't forget, half term is a great time to start your '50 things to do before you're 11¾' activities that are happening at lots of our places.

Follow us...

or your local National Trust place on social media. Share your days out with us and get the latest updates on spring flowers, Easter and much more

   #NTMidlands

Volunteering is a great way to make new friends while working in amazing places – there are so many opportunities. Canons Ashby in Northamptonshire is opening on a Thursday for the first time this year and would love to hear from you if you'd like to be part of the team. At Mr Straw's House in Nottinghamshire you can become a walk leader, welcome visitors, help with research and share the stories of this unique place. Also in Nottinghamshire, The Workhouse will open Firbeck Infirmary this year and would like volunteers to help visitors make the most of their experience. Take a look at the National Trust website to find out more and be part of an incredible team.

For details of all there is to see and do, visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/midlands or take a look at the 'What's On' section



From the Director for the Midlands



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Spring is just over the horizon. The turning of the seasons is always an uplifting time of year for me and it's time for a good spring clean, getting outside and savouring the natural world. In this issue you can read about how we are working to open up some new places to explore: whether that is outdoors as at Calke Explore, or whether it is the chance to see the Firbeck Infirmary adjoining the Workhouse in Southwell.

We also want to do more to ensure that everyone feels welcome in our places and that wherever we can we provide access to people of all abilities and backgrounds. The 'hands on, hands off' project describes one way in which we are trying to do this in our houses. You can also read about 'We are Bess' where we have invited contemporary women to respond to the story of Bess of Hardwick (below).



Most of all though spring is a time for simple pleasures, which we increasingly understand to be important for our health and wellbeing. So please do join me in taking the time to notice birdsong and savour the orchard blossom, wherever you can find them.

Andy Beer

Adventures await at Calke Explore

Calke Explore has long been synonymous with family adventures: nestled in the woodland, the outdoor natural play area has been a popular attraction during recent summers. Now the site has been transformed into a year-round outdoor destination, providing a stepping stone into the wider estate for visitors of all ages.

Set to open later this spring, the new facilities include a café, toilet and changing space. Step outside and there will be outdoor play areas, nature trails and accessible footpaths.

'Whether you want to explore the National Nature Reserve, unearth some fantastic industrial archaeology or discover rich flora and fauna, Calke Explore will provide the place where you can start that exploration,' says Stewart Alcock, General Manager at Calke Abbey.

When you visit, you'll be helping to protect the heritage at the heart of Calke. Not only will you give the house and gardens some breathing space, but you'll also see nature flourish in striking parts of the parkland. Soak in

the serenity of the woodland and listen to the buzz of the thriving wetlands.

'There's more to caring for the parkland at Calke than first meets the eye,' explains Bill Cove, Calke's Countryside Manager. 'Calke Explore provides a great chance to celebrate all the work we do, from routine woodland and wildlife management to important conservation projects including the recent reintroduction of the grizzled skipper butterfly.'

Calke Explore will also offer direct access to the Tramway Trail, which was extended in 2017 to open up new vistas and spaces, and provide an all-weather circular path suitable for cyclists and walkers.

The Tramway Trail is open now, with Calke Explore coming soon. Visit the website for updates as the project progresses, so you can start planning your first cuppa in the great outdoors, with birdsong as your soundtrack.

Check out the website for more information and plan your visit for later this year:
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/calke-explore



© National Trust Images/Chris Lacey

We are Bess strikes a cord

You may have read or heard about We are Bess, the new and innovative exhibition at Hardwick Hall, Derbyshire. Following its hugely popular run last autumn, it is back this spring at the house built by the Elizabeth Talbot, the Countess of Shrewsbury aka Bess of Hardwick.

The exhibition uses modern-day women to tell another side to Bess's story; household names including classicist and broadcaster Professor Dame Mary Beard, actress Patricia Greene (Jill in BBC Radio 4's The Archers), newsreader Cathy Newman, and teenage campaigner Amika George, sit alongside local women.

All these women considered the similarities between the challenges she faced in the 16th century and their own experiences. This reveals a kind, nurturing, and courageous woman - not quite the Bess we know from the history books.

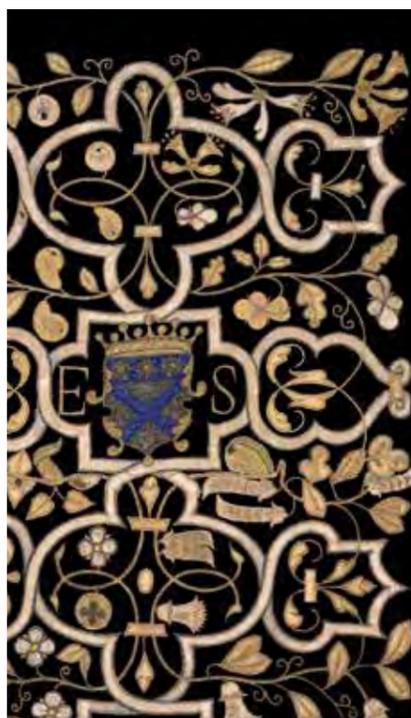
Portraits of these women, taken by award-

winning photographer Rachel Adams, hang alongside original Tudor portraits the Hall's Long Gallery, accompanied by the participants' responses to Bess's story.

'These modern perspectives on an old tale awake us to both the troubling and the comforting parallels between the present and the past,' explained We are Bess Creative Director, Dr Suzannah Lipscomb, historian, author and broadcaster, and reader in history at the University of Roehampton.

We'd like you to have a greater understanding of what a complex and formidable person Bess was, but to also find a connection with a fascinating human story.

We are Bess re-opens at Hardwick Hall 16 February - 2 June 2019 (Wed - Sun). Find out more about We are Bess and see the exhibition online at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wearebess.



Get out into nature this Easter

Bring the whole family together this Easter and treat your loved ones to the magic of our Cadbury Easter Egg Hunts! Get ready for a long weekend of fun and discovery as you spot the first signs of spring and experience nature bursting into life at the special places the National Trust looks after. Become a nature detective to follow bunny's clues and finish your adventure with a delicious, chocolatey treat.



A day in the life...

Ted Talbot, Countryside Manager, Peak District



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The cry of a curlew is unmistakable. I am lucky to hear it, here in the Peak District on the rare occasion that I have escaped the office to work with one of my Ranger teams on the upland bogs of the Eastern Moors or the High Peak. As we look to restart our moorland restoration work in late summer, after the bird breeding season, we often see or hear them. The curlew is our largest wading bird, instantly recognisable on winter estuaries or summer moors by its brown upperparts, long legs and that evocative call. We are blocking eroded peat gullies with small dams to hold back the water and rewet the peat. It's hard and dirty work.

We are replanting the peat forming sphagnum moss in the dark muddy pools that slowly puddle behind the dams, restoring the conditions for insects like crane flies to thrive again. Curlews love leather jackets - the crane fly's juicy larvae - which it extracts from the peaty soil with its long, down curved bill.

I have known this bird since my childhood, on the North Norfolk coast where it and I used to thrive. Here, as we trudge over the moors to another gully, I wonder if any of these birds hail from the same salt marshes and tidal creeks that I played in. In folk law the curlew's cry symbolizes separation - the cry of a

parent whose children have left home perhaps. Today, I share the moment and reflect on how nature sometimes speaks directly to us. This iconic bird, such a privilege to find - like a spirit guide through my life - is confirmation that when we do good things for nature, we do good things for ourselves.

To find out more about the work of Ted and his team in the Peak District, visit: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/peakdistrict

TOP FIVE

Places to sense the joys of spring

Everyday life is busy. So it's essential to take time out and enjoy the simple pleasures that nature can bring. Here's our selection of ways to taste, touch, hear, smell and see the wonders of spring. To find out more visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/eastmidssenses

1

Canons Ashby Northamptonshire

Get your hands muddy and create a squelchy, grainy seed bomb in April (6 - 18 Apr). Appreciate the **touch** and texture of compost between your fingers then launch it into the air. Every seed bomb helps to make Canons Ashby a more welcoming space for insect life, allowing other wildlife to thrive.



2

Longshaw, Burbage and the Eastern Moors Derbyshire

At Longshaw you can **hear** the symphony of spring in the curlew's haunting cry, or even in the unmistakable call of the elusive cuckoo. Nestled amongst a diverse array of wildlife, the harmony of Longshaw's bird population really has to be heard to be believed. Where better to listen and relax than in this countryside haven?



Clumber Park Nottinghamshire

Escape the hectic world with a stroll down Limetree Avenue at Clumber Park and enjoy the fragrances of spring. **Smell** fresh cut grass as our rangers cut the grass for the first time since winter and aromatic spring flowers that carpet the pleasure ground.



3



Stoneywell Leicestershire

The garden at Stoneywell has a lovely informal feel and was an important part of family life. In spring a wonderful carpet of bright bluebells envelopes the pretty cottage and is a **sight** to behold in late April and into May.

4

Hardwick Derbyshire

Discover an abundance of aromatic wild garlic while wandering through Lady Spencer's Wood at Hardwick from April. Then **taste** the wild garlic soup or a wild garlic and cheese scone from the Great Barn restaurant, made using ingredients from the estate.



5

© National Trust Images/Chris Lacey/John Miller, National Trust/Kevin Dunnington, Sean Gray Photography

...and don't forget to share your spring images with us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram



VISITORS ARE EARNESTLY REQUESTED NOT TO TOUCH THE EXHIBIT

Hands On or Hands Off?

When visiting National Trust properties are you sometimes unsure whether you can sit on a chair or walk on the grass? Do you understand why 'do not touch' signs appear in some locations and not in others? Is it all really rather confusing?

In our efforts to create new experiences and more informal ways of visiting our properties we haven't always been clear with our visitors about what the boundaries are and we've sometimes caused confusion. Hands On or Hands Off? is a Midlands project looking at how we can connect people with our conservation work in a consistent, clear and creative way.

Throughout spring and summer, a group of five properties are testing innovative ways to engage visitors with conservation messaging, using playfulness, creativity and humour. Look out for the following:

- Sudbury Hall and the National Trust Museum of Childhood in Derbyshire – creation of a time-lapse film following the story of four chairs, two at the property and two touring public spaces in Derby, to see how they fare when subjected to wear and tear with no conservation constraints.
- The Workhouse in Nottinghamshire – 'If walls could talk' project, working with children to create sound recordings about caring for the walls and wallpaper in their own words.
- Attingham Park, in Shropshire – showcasing damaged objects in a quirky 'Dark Museum'-style manner, demonstrating the effects of lack of conservation care.
- Greyfriars' House and Garden, in Worcester – creating an ironic 'rule book' for visitors.
- Upton House and Gardens in Warwickshire – testing new logos for signalling how visitors can interact with their surroundings.

We would like your help in evaluating which methods are the most effective, clear and memorable, so please visit and join in the trials. Discover more: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/midlandshoho

We're opening the doors to a new experience at The Workhouse

The Workhouse, Southwell, Nottinghamshire has been closed to visitors over the winter months but it's been far from quiet. Extensive building and conservation work is underway and the whole site is being re-presented.

This spring, our ambitious five-year project ends when The Workhouse opens its doors to you with a brand new

experience. So what's new? Your visit will be much more immersive as you explore The Workhouse building as it was designed (where men, women and children were segregated). There will be trails, tours, exhibitions and children's games, that tell stories from a historical and contemporary perspective.

We will be revealing the history and significance of the newly conserved Firbeck Infirmary – an area of the site where the public previously had limited access. This intriguing building discusses history of social care and how it developed across two centuries. This contemplative and thought provoking experience will encourage questions about poverty, health and social welfare from then and now.

We couldn't do this work without your support, and we hope that you will visit us and contribute to the building and its conservation, but also share your stories with us. Join us for our much anticipated opening in spring and tell us what you think.

For all the latest information and updates, please check The Workhouse webpage at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/the-workhouse-southwell and follow our social media channels @NTWorkhouse



Work in progress at Firbeck Infirmary, The Workhouse.

© National Trust

Gravity and graffiti Woolsthorpe's new guidebook covers it all

In our trailblazing new guidebook, Isaac Newton at Woolsthorpe Manor, you'll find a space explorer, a hologram, graffiti and the unravelling of the mysteries of the universe. Leading historian of science at Cambridge and Newton expert, Dr Patricia Fara, shines a new light on Newton's story and the worldwide scientific significance of Woolsthorpe.

How better to convey the importance of Newton's work on science today, than by asking British astronaut Tim Peake to write the foreword? Already a supporter of Woolsthorpe, Tim Peake's mission to space was named after Newton's great work, Principia. On that same mission, Tim took apple pips from Newton's tree into space. Those pips are now young trees. Tim continues to support our work by helping launch the campaign to find homes for these 'Space Saplings', which is currently ongoing.

You can buy the guidebook online at <https://shop.nationaltrust.org.uk>



© National Trust Images/James Dobson

The enigmatic woodlark

A smaller, more elusive version of the familiar skylark, the woodlark is rarely seen by most of us. It most likely falls into the LBJ ('little brown job') category for most birdwatchers, but like all our birds it has beautiful plumage when looked at a little more closely.

Despite its name, the woodlark is not a woodland species at all. Its German name translates as 'Heath Lark' which is where you'll be most likely to spot one in the UK. This little bird prefers to nest on the ground on heathland, usually under grass tussock, a habitat which provides lots of insect food for rearing its chicks too.

I like to look out for woodlarks around March time (this little one starts breeding very early!) when I venture onto the open heathland areas of Clumber Park in Nottinghamshire. They are quite easy to spot if you know where to go. Look out for singing males atop a hawthorn or birch tree, from where the male launches himself into the air crying out 'lu-lu-lu-lu' and then descends in a spectacular spiral display.

In the 1980s, the numbers of woodlarks hit a record low at around 250 pairs in the UK. Thanks to conservation initiatives however, the population has recovered to around 1,500 pairs today. At Clumber Park, we now have around five breeding pairs thanks to the extensive heathland restoration work that we've been working on over the last twenty years. We've been reducing scrub and bracken, heather seeding and stock fencing so that we can graze cattle and sheep on the heathland, which is a natural way of maintaining the habitat for birds like woodlarks trying to build their nests on the ground.

Over time, the National Trust plans to restore more heath on a grand scale at Clumber Park to increase the habitat for woodlarks further, which will benefit other wildlife too and provide more space for people to explore. So, wrap up warm in February or March, grab your binoculars and head out onto the heath to enjoy the wonderful song and aerial display of the woodlark. In order to not disturb these birds nesting on the ground, please do keep well back and always have your dog on a lead.

Carl Hawke
Wildlife & Countryside Consultant



City connections

Longshaw Estate, nestled in the idyllic Peak District, is surrounded by ancient woodlands and rolling moorland. It's also only seven miles from the bustling urban centre of Sheffield, and the National Trust has been working with partners to encourage more people to connect with nature and enjoy exploring the outdoors.

This has recently involved working with local charity Roshni, Sheffield's Asian Women's Resource Centre, in partnership with the Peak District National Park. Roshni, which means 'light', supports the welfare and education of Asian women in Sheffield.

We invited the women from the Roshni Centre to visit Longshaw, to enjoy connecting with the beautiful environment of the Peak District, to reap the health and wellbeing benefits of being out in nature, and to hopefully encourage them to feel like Longshaw is now a familiar welcoming place they can enjoy again and again. In turn, our guests worked closely with our staff so that we can encourage more

people from diverse communities to enjoy visiting in future.

During their trips the women explored our natural play trail, visited our kitchen garden, and learned about the trees and wildlife of the Peak District. We also worked with a local artist on a two day photography and collage workshop, where the women were invited to explore what the countryside means to them.

Ghazala Razzaq, centre coordinator at Roshni, said: 'On our visits to Longshaw it has really struck me how a walk in the countryside can lead to a sheer transformation in spirit taking place; especially for some of the women we work with, who have very complex lives. This project deepens their connection to Longshaw, the wider countryside and nature.'

The Peak District welcomes everyone. If you'd like to build your connections with nature visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/shared-futures-at-longshaw



News in brief

My National Trust

For an easy way to organise your membership and choose how you hear from us, remember to register and stay up to date on My National Trust.

Register for My National Trust at nationaltrust.org.uk/mynationaltrust and update your email settings to receive regular 'What's near you?' emails, plus an exclusive monthly member e-newsletter, packed with ideas and inspiration to help you enjoy every benefit of being a member.

Peak District Appeal update

The Peak District Appeal was launched in the spring of 2018, and has already helped raise £16,000 to support the woodlands in the Peak District. Rangers and volunteers have been able to start tree thinning and replanting in the White Peak to tackle ash dieback disease, and also extended our native tree planting in the High Peak. Thank you for your support.

Find out more at: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/PeakDistrictAppeal

Welcoming visitors for 250 years

As part of the 2019 anniversary celebrations, new tours at Kedleston Hall in Derbyshire will give visitors access to more of the collection, the hall and its stories. These will reflect the route and warm welcome received by visitors when Kedleston's housekeeper, Mary Garnett, gave her own tours 250 years ago.

Visit Kedleston Hall in 2019 and join us on a new tour. www.nationaltrust.org.uk/kedleston-hall

HumanKind at Calke Abbey

This year, to mark the 200th anniversary of the death of 'the Isolated Baronet' Henry Harpur, we're looking afresh at Calke's past. HumanKind is a research-led collaboration with the University of Leicester's Research Centre for Museums and Galleries, casting new light on the lives of the people who once lived at Calke.

Look out for more information coming soon at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/calke

Volunteering



Our project volunteers

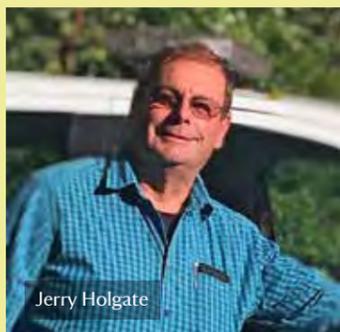
Exciting projects are happening across the region this year and volunteering supports many of them from concept to delivery.

The National Trust creates new opportunities for existing volunteers to be involved in projects and also recruits new volunteers with particular skills to support our work.

There are volunteers involved in projects such as the Peak District's People's Landscapes Art Project and planning visitor experiences at Shugborough.

Jerry Holgate, Project Board volunteer for the People's Landscapes project says 'I have been involved since the early planning stages and have found it most interesting, especially meeting the different groups involved in the project. As a volunteer I enjoy having an input into the project as it develops.'

Christine Harding, Experience Design Volunteer at Shugborough says: 'It is not only allowing me to learn more about my local



community, but it also gives me the opportunity to expand my knowledge and grow in a more professional capacity.'

Volunteers have also been the driving force behind the Fishpool Valley Project at Croft Castle. Volunteer teams have been leading the way in every respect; from ecological work to archaeological excavations.

Find out about volunteering opportunities at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/find-an-opportunity

Have tea with a tiger at Gunby this spring

Get up close to the beloved artwork from Judith Kerr's much-loved children's classic picture book, 'The Tiger Who Came To Tea'. Celebrating the book's 50th anniversary and over five million copies sold, The Tiger Who Came to Tea exhibition will come to Gunby in Lincolnshire as part of as part of a nationwide tour.

The exhibition has been originated by 'Seven Stories, The National Centre for Children's Books'.

The magic of The Tiger Who Came to Tea story is brought vividly to life with a giant cuddly tiger and an interactive kitchen, so that children

can make their own tea for the tiger, as well as delighting in Judith Kerr's iconic drawings.

Why not come to Gunby to enjoy the exhibition and buy a copy of the book in the tea-room to read at home?

'The Tiger Who Came To Tea' exhibition will be in the Gunby basement from 9 March to 28 April. You can visit it Saturday to Wednesday from 11am to 5pm. For further details, visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/have-tea-with-a-tiger-at-gunby



OPEN NOW

Your membership card shouldn't gather dust in the winter. Many of our places are open in some way at the moment, whether it's the garden or some or all of the house. Winter arrangements may be a little different to the rest of the year, but the doors are open. Look through your new handbook to plan your winter days out.

For membership queries please call 0344 800 1895

If you require this information in alternative formats, including the Talking Newsletter, please telephone 0121 224 7460 or email: mi.customerenquiries@nationaltrust.org.uk