North West

People’s Landscapes

Two hundred years on from the Peterloo Massacre, we’re looking at the places where people have come together to seek dramatic social change, to reveal the radical histories that lie beneath our feet. Throughout the year, we’ll be exploring not only how we shape places but how we’re shaped by them.

Unearthing passion and protest

The Peterloo Massacre in Manchester in 1819 was a significant moment in the history of public protest. A peaceful demonstration by tens of thousands of people demanding the right to be heard in Parliament was charged by cavalry. Approximately 18 people died and 700 were injured.

People at Dunham Massey and Quarry Bank had direct links to this dramatic event and research is being carried out to explore their different experiences.

Artist family Grace Surman, Gary Winters and their two young children Hope and Merrick will also be talking to visitors at Dunham Massey and Quarry Bank about rights and responsibilities to create an artwork inspired by Peterloo and what it means today. The work will be showcased at both places as well as being part of Peterloo 2019, a special commemoration project being led by Manchester Histories and People’s History Museum.

Percy Bysshe Shelley marked the event in an epic poem ‘The Masque of Anarchy’, which was banned for 30 years. The final lines are:

‘Rise like lions after slumber
In unvanquishable number,
Shake your chains to earth like dew
Which in sleep had fallen on you
Ye are many – they are few.’

Unearthing passion and protest

The fight for children’s rights

As one of the first industrial communities in the world, Quarry Bank was on the frontline of a new way of living and working. Hundreds of children called Quarry Bank home and worked in the mill in conditions we couldn’t imagine in Britain today.

From 6 April, an exhibition in the mill will explore the fight for children’s rights and compare the lives of children then and now, through personal stories from Quarry Bank’s archive, new research with the University of Manchester and contributions from local children.

‘This Land is Our Land’

At Wordsworth House and Garden, an exhibition opening on 9 March will explore the relationship between people, culture and landscape in the Lake District. Now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, this living landscape has been shaped by thousands of years of human activity and has shaped us in return.

The Lakes inspired the people who formed the first environmental movement that led to the creation of the National Trust.

‘This Land is Our Land’ will feature contributions from many different people who live, work and are inspired by the Lakes. Writers Robert Macfarlane, Sarah Hall, Hunter Davies and George Monbiot, and artist Julian Heaton Cooper, are among those who will reveal what this special place means to them.

For more information visit nationaltrust.org.uk/north/lakes

We’d love to hear what you’ve been up to. Join the adventure and share your top spots this season:

facebook.com/NTNorthWest @NT_NorthWest facebook.com/NTLakeDistrict @NTLakeDistrict

nationaltrust.org.uk/north-west nationaltrust.org.uk/the-lakes

You’ll find your spring What’s on inside ➤
Enjoy family time this spring
As the sun starts to shine through the clouds, we’ve got loads of ideas for getting out on a family adventure and plenty of hands-on activities to keep your little adventurers busy.

Start a new chapter
Nature’s Champions

Dunham Massey has been an important green space for local people for centuries. Throughout its life, the working estate has been looked after by lots of people who’ve played an important role in shaping the green oasis that’s enjoyed by so many today.

A part of The People, Landscapes programme in 2019, Dunham Massey is celebrating the people, past and present, who could be called ‘nature’s champions’. Through a partnership exhibition with the National Portrait Gallery and a series of events, you’ll be able to join in with the story of the estate and its natural world.

The exhibition, Faces of Change: Nature’s Champions, will open on 23 March and run for three months. If you’re interested to know more, here’s a closer look at their reading pile…

A look at book care
The library at Speke Hall will be looking after centuries-old books and papers over the winter. Novels owned by those who lived at Speke, detailed records of the estate and its animals, and even a wetsuit will all be given some special attention thanks to the money you helped raise in the 2018 raffle. The library at Lyme will be getting a deep clean in January and February as we prepare for the book-themed library. Books will be checked over and dusted ready to be carried out as they go on to tell their stories for many years. Dunham Massey will also be delving deeper into its book collection in the latest century of its library, as well as the inner one before explored Stanthorpe Estate archives, to give them some TLC.

Special page-turners
Beatrix Potter’s ‘little white books’ are being celebrated in the Lakes this year in a new exhibition at the Beatrix Potter Gallery. Over a century after they were written, ‘Tall Tales’ explores why her stories still hold a special place in our hearts today. The much-loved characters will also be popping up at Hill Top, in a local wildlife centre, to bring the tales to life. Look out for your favourite animal friends, including Jemima Puddle-Duck and Tom Kitten.

Another important book in the National Trust’s collection is being given a new lease of life as Little Monsters. Join Lucy Worsley at Lyme on Wednesday 20 March to discover more about the significance of this book. You can also help us by making these special Mother’s Day masks or special page-turners.

Ways to be a nature champion
Join in monthly walks on the Wray Castle estate, or help with planting trees on Ascott Martin. Learn about the value of birds and plants with dedicated experts and find out about these activities and more at nationaltrust.org.uk/volunteering.

For more ideas, visit
nationaltrust.org.uk/volunteering

Find some headspace
At any time of year, a bit of headspace in the outdoors can do wonders. And even in the colder months, there are plenty of special places across the North West to stroll, run or cycle to clear the head and get the blood pumping.

Get your body ‘Tudor-ready’…. Of course, thinking about health and wellbeing isn’t a modern thing – you can find out all about the Tudor approach to health and exercise at Little Montebello, where scientists in April to help in water rescue projects, with changing ambience-expiring bosses to get your body ‘Tudor-ready’!

For some extra peace and quiet, Arnside and Silverdale have coastal walks and a hidden nature reserve to discover. Take the short climb up to Arnside Knott, a classic ideal spot for a mindful moment, with views stretching across Morecambe Bay in one direction and the inland fields in the other. Whitewebrook Edge, Alderney Edge and family-friendly Holker Hall are other great spots from the countryside to a peaceful place.

If you’re looking for an invigorating bath and winter warmer, explore Quarry Bank Mill and village. Take a dip in the mill pond or sip a hot chocolate in the café, then head into the National Trust pub to relax. Or round off a day at Quarry Bank, walk along the River Bollin’s tree-accorded path and warm up with a hot chocolate in the café that’s on the bitumen, going, going, going, window seat with a view over the water.

C o m e early at Wray Castle and take on the Great Wray Castle Drawing Challenge, help create a life of paper birds or make special Mother’s Day masks or special page-turners.

There are other artsy activities happening across the North West too, including Easter craft taking at Allan Bank, toddler craft at Speke Hall, egg decorating at Gawthorpe Hall and rock painting at Westmorland House and Garden.

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Get your floral fix this spring

February

As spring starts to stir, wander through carpets of snowdrops in the winter garden at Dunham Massey – it’s one of the largest of its kind in the UK and has over 250,000 snowdrops, along with iris, cyclamen and narcissi. Look out for delicate crocuses as they begin to appear in the gardens at Rufford Old Hall too.

March

The nodding heads of daffodils can brighten up the dullest of days. There’ll be thousands waiting to welcome you along the drive at Speke Hall and in the aptly named Yellow Meadow at Dunham Massey. For wild daffodils, head into Brigsteer Woods at Sizergh. Thanks to your donations, we’ll be adding the last plants to the restored South Rockery at Wray Castle too.

April

Colourful tulips take over as spring continues and there’ll be tulip festivities at Dunham Massey, where they planted 17,000 bulbs last year. Look out for tulips and daffodils at Wordsworth House and Garden too, plus a ‘host of golden daffodils’ on the shore of Ullswater and in Dora’s Field in Grasmere.

May

On sunny days it’s easy to think summer has arrived. Head out on a wildflower walk with the rangers at Lyme, see the wisteria start to bloom at Hill Top or discover carpets of bluebells – look out for a sea of blue in the woodland at Speke Hall and Rufford Old Hall.

The Bell Tree

You’ll discover nature-inspired art in the heart of Speke Hall’s woodland too, where an ancient oak tree has been transformed by award-winning artist Serena Korda. Inspired by the folklore of the bluebells that grow beneath its branches, ‘The Bell Tree’ celebrates the dark side of the fairy kingdom through a sculptural sound installation with over 300 ceramic bells.

Active holidays

Kick start your year with an active outdoor break this spring.

Low Wray Campsite, Windermere

Pitch your tent, pick a camping pod or try out a new tree tent in this lakeside campsite and let the stresses and strains of everyday life disappear. You can take an early morning stroll along the shore, hire a bike to visit nearby Claife Viewing Station, then enjoy a night under the stars.

Bird How, Eskdale valley

Get well and truly off the beaten track in this peaceful, quirky retreat. A former cow barn, Bird How offers simple but cosy accommodation and is an ideal base for some of the Lake District’s most challenging walks. It’s great for a digital detox too – there’s no phone signal – making it an ideal place to reconnect with nature.

Further afield

Look out for some brand new places opening in 2019. From spring you can set up camp in a bothy at Malham Tarn, perfect for exploring the rolling Yorkshire Dales, and there’ll be a cozy cottage at Wallington in Northumberland, with acres of walks and cycle hire on the doorstep.

Visit nationaltrust.org.uk/holidays to check availability (and any special last-minute deals).

For alternative formats, please call us on 015394 35599 or email NW.CustomerEnquiries@nationaltrust.org.uk