News and events for summer 2019
Kent | East Sussex | West Sussex | Surrey

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New adventures and old roses

Roses
You are right of course. Heritage roses never go old. They’re a vital ingredient in an English country garden, scening the air with sweet nostalgia and bringing us joy with their rich colours and velvety petals. If you need your annual fix of these beauties, head out in June to one of the best rose gardens in our region.

Polesden Lacey in Surrey is rightly prized for its roses and is celebrating with talks on rose folklore and care, floral arrangements and even a potpourri bar. Or claim a corner of the rose garden at Nymans in West Sussex for a picnic and chat.

Roses were woven into the lives of the Churcill family at Chartwell. Lady Churchill planted her rose garden with many varieties, including the charming tea rose, to evoke the traditional English style. The roses at Limetrees Garden frame the central fountain with clouds of pink and scent.

Summer walks
On a warm and sunny day you might want to amble out into the parkland or estate with a picnic. There are lots of guided walks with rangers to book on this summer, or you might want to head off at your own pace. To make things easy, we’ve got lots of walking routes of different lengths on our website. Just search the website for walks at and the place you want to start from. The South Downs and the Surrey Hills are particularly rich in wonderful walks.

The routes are all easy to follow and downloadable, so there’s no fear of getting lost if there’s no patchy internet connection. Plus they often have wildlife and history information so you’re not only well-exercised, but well informed too. At some places you can best the cafe queues by pre-booking a picnic to take with you.

New to do
The long days and hopeful mood of early summer can tempt us to explore further than our usual haunts and delve deeper into their stories and activities. If you’re hopping over a county border, check the What’s On pages of our county websites to get an overview of what you can see and do there.

Highlights this year include a summer of outdoor theatre set against the iconic backdrop of our places. There’s a chance to relax in the evening light with a glass of Pimm’s at Lightham. Most each Wednesday in June. Also in June at Scotney Castle, the outside comes in during the annual flower festival. Eye-catching floral displays feature throughout the house using flowers grown in the walled garden.

Summer holidays
If you’ve children or grandchildren in tow this summer, you’ll be looking for ways to get them off-screen and into the outdoors. Whatever their ages and whatever the weather, we’ve got lots of ways to inspire and entertain. Check What’s On for details, here are a few highlights.

Micro adventures
For older children looking for more challenge and intrigue, there’s Big Tree Climbing with instructors and harnesses at Scotney Castle. Building teenagers photographers can join a course to develop their style and knowledge here too. At Dapdune Wharf you can take a skippered boat trip along the River Wey. While at Claremont Landscape Garden you can hire a rowing boat and explore the lake.

Rainy days
Dodge the showers at Polesden Lacey in the summer holidays with a new indoor bugs trail in the house. Over in East Sussex, the mill at Bateman’s starts working and opens its doors following restoration. Little ones can dress up like the miller and once the rain stops, explore the grounds to find out how the mill inspired the Kipling classic Puck of Pooks Hill.

Going wild
Get closer to nature with outdoor activities for little ones. In the Surrey Hills join a guided walk with our Rangers looking for bats, butterflies, wildflowers and nightjars. At Bodiam Castle, the T-Spy trail takes little ones on an adventure around the castle grounds looking for the different wildlife that make it their home. And of course there are plenty of 50 things to do before you’re 11

nationaltrust.org.uk/southeast
London news

Take a train from bustling central London and you’ll quickly find yourself in the peaceful grounds of beautiful 18th century Rainham Hall (below). This Georgian treasure is set to reveal some of its most fascinating secrets this summer.

New Grecian garden room opens at Sissinghurst

This summer sees the opening of a new chapter in the iconic garden at Sissinghurst. You’ll discover how the Greek island of Delos inspired Vita Sackville-West and husband Harold Nicolson to create their own Grecian style in the heart of the Kent countryside.

Back in the 1930s, the Kent climate and north-facing position of the garden, combined with a limited knowledge of Mediterranean planting, meant that the garden didn’t thrive.

This year, Dan Pearson’s studio has breathed life back into the space. The new design pulls on Sackville’s knowledge of Mediterranean gardens, combined with archival imagery and first-hand memories from the Nicolson family.

Using current design practices, clever landscaping and a broader spectrum of planting, a more robust and sustainable garden has been created, while continuing the essence of Vita and Harold’s ambition.

The new garden echoes the spirit of experimentation and inspiration that guided Vita and Harold throughout their gardening adventures. Stone pathways and terraces crisscross the space. Cleverly angled beds, that make best use of the light, are planted with Mediterranean varieties that have been chosen for their ability to thrive in dry conditions.

A central well feature has been designed into the scheme and collections of stone from the original manor house have been repurposed around the garden, scattered like they are on the island of Delos.

Rainham Hall is presented as if it were a magazine itself, inviting you to step back into spaces featuring some of Voguish’s most popular pages including: fashion, jewellery, arts, interior, food, gardening and travel. Artefacts and photographs from Denney’s personal life will bring to life his many talents and interests.

Travel even for another fresh summer sight at Ham House (below) in Richmond. This atmospheric 17th-century house on the banks of the Thames was once one of the grandest Stuart houses in England. Visitors would have been wowed by its lavish interiors and formal gardens.

Now, in Ham’s largest garden project since the 1990s, head gardener Roger Fyfe has reimagined the largest parts of its formal garden – an area the size of 10 tennis courts. New planting makes its vast manicured lawns a work harder for nature and inspire a ‘wow’ from today’s garden lovers. Following the show of 300,000 newly planted spring bulbs transforming the south side of the house earlier this year, four of Ham’s grass ‘pits’, or squares – will burst into colour this May. These native wildflower meadow partners will be full of wildlife to enjoy the tranquility of nature, or a family picnic with a beautiful backdrop.

nationaltrust.org.uk/london

Inspired by nature

This summer, a new exhibition at Standen House and Garden reveals the inspiration behind Morris & Co.’s popular repeating patterns of flowers and birds. For William Morris, the creative force behind the company, a love of nature continually influenced his work. The exhibition will explore how the patterns celebrate the natural world and the value he placed on craftsmanship, in reaction to mass production and the excesses of Victorian design.

The objects on display will complement Morris & Co. patterns decorating the rooms in the house. Loans will include wallpaper blocks for Larkspur from Morris & Co.’s archives, the original drawing of Daffodil from the William Morris Gallery, and Fox and Hare; two of Philip Webb’s drawings from the National Trust’s Wightwick Manor.

The programme extends across the house, garden and wider estate. Web-assistance from Morris & Co., the recreation of a historic showroom interior will allow visitors to experience how customers selected products for their homes.

Morris & Co. – inspired by nature is at Standen from 1 June to 10 November 2019.

Coming up roses

There are more than 2000 roses within the stunning Edwardian walled garden at Polesden Lacey. In celebration of the season, there’s a new Rose Festival in June and July. There are talks by our gardeners on rose folklore and care, floral arrangements in the house, rose-inspired cake and even a potpourri bar.

Head Gardener Jamie Harris said: ‘Roses hold a special place in the history of Polesden Lacey. The walled garden holds 15 varieties of hybrid tea, floribunda and hybrid musk, while over 100 white rambling rose shrubs climb all over the pergola. Look out for the bright yellow Graham Stuart Thomas rose, named after the famed horticulturist who redesigned the rose garden in the mid-20th century.’

‘See how many different colours, shapes and sizes of rose bloom you can spot, or smell. They are throughout the garden, around the mansion and at the entrance to the famous Long Walk. A rose, dedicated to Margaret Greville, is planted as a curtain in front of her grave, says Jamie.

The Margaret Greville Rose is also available to buy in the garden shop to take home. This salmon pink shrub rose was cultivated to celebrate 75 years since Mrs Greville bequeathed Polesden Lacey to the National Trust.

The Rose festival is at Polesden Lacey from 10 June to 20 July.

Waterlily festival

By popular demand the Waterlily Festival is back at Sheffield Park and Garden for a second year. You can step out onto a floating pontoon that allows you to get up close to the crimson pink waterlilies in this picturesque landscape garden.

There are installations of giant floating waterlilies on Ten Foot Pond, plus an art display in Oak Hall and visitor reception.

Photography and printing workshops, origami activities and waterlily cupcakes all add a splash of delight to the start of summer.

From 8 June to 14 July.

nationaltrust.org.uk/southeast
National Trust

What’s on

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Park Mill
Set dogs throughout the summer. See Park Mill operating again after a major conservation project. Families can complete a Pack of Pook’s Hill trail in the mill. 
Trail £2.50
Workshop: Watercolour painting Wed 10 Jul 10-4pm Paint the mill under the expert tuition of John Whitehill. All materials and lunch included.
£35 B 0344 249 1895

Monk’s House
Rodmell, Lewes. BN7 3HF
Tel: 01273 474760
Workshop: Creative writing Sat 1 Jun 10.30am-4.30pm Explore creative writing techniques in Virginia Woolf’s garden retreat.
£35 B 0344 249 1895
Workshop: Botanical drawing Sat 15Jun 10am-4pm Botanical drawing inspired by the flora and fauna of this bloomsbury garden.
£70 B 0344 249 1895

Art in the park
Sat 6 & Sun 7 Jul 10.30am Don’t miss the new parkland art trail with a walk down to the river where families can create their own piece of art.

Workshops: Photography Thu 3 & Sat 5 Jul 10am-2.30pm Join Roger Beahan to capture the waterfowls on the lake. Includes tea/coffee and a cake.
Adult £25 B 0344 249 1895
Trail: Summer of seeds Sat 20 Jul - Tue 3 Sep Children’s trail exploring seeds and growth in the garden.

Big butterfly walk Sat 19 Aug, 10am-1pm Join in with the big butterfly count at Frog Fir Farm with expert guides.
£6 B 0344 249 1895
Bat detectors Fri 30 Aug 8.30pm Join the Ranger for a bat walk with FSC International Bat weekend.
£4 B 0344 249 1895
Big beachedance with MCS Sat 2nd Sep 10-11pm Join in to see and enjoy beach dance at Birling Gap for happy wildlife.
01323 423257

EAST SUSSEX
Alfriston Clergy House
BN20 7ST
Tel: 01323 87961

Half-term trail Sat 25 May - Sun 2 Jun 10:30am-4.30pm 
Closed Thu & Fri 
Theemed trail around the garden.

Guided walk: Drivers, Drails & Domesday Wed 5 Jun 10.30am-12.30pm Trace the origins of the village. Adult £4 Child £3 B 01323 87961

Historic buildings talk: History of the Clergy House Thu 13 Jun 10.30am-12.30pm Clergy houses across the country
Thu 13 Jun 10.30am-12.30pm £10 B 01323 87961

Ranger-led guided walks: Barrows, byfolds & Bogarde Wed 14 Jul 10.30am-12.30pm 
Bishop’s hutches and bargemens Wed 7 Aug 10.30am-12.30pm Adult £3 Child £2 B 01323 87961

Summer holiday trail Fri 26 Jul - Sun 1 Sep 10.30am-4.30pm Closed Thu 
Family trail through our cottage garden.

Heritage Open Day Sat 14 & 21 Sep 10.30am-4.30pm Free entry to support the Heritage Open Day campaign.

Bateman’s
Burwash TN9 7DS
Tel: 01435 882502

Workshop: Garden printmaking Wed 22 May 11am-4pm Try your hand at monoprinting inspired by the garden and Kipling’s poetry. All materials provided. Includes lunch.
£20 B 0344 249 1895

Spring stroll: I am the seed
Until Sun 2 Jun 10am-4pm 
Based on this popular children’s poetry book, follow the trail through the garden and estate and claim your prize. Trail £2.50

Bodiam Castle
Roberstesbury, TN32 5LA
Tel: 01580 830096

Have-a-go archery
Wed 20 Jun 10-4pm 
Practice your archery skills. Separate charges apply

Nature craft activity
Fri 31 May & Sat 2 Jun 10am-12pm Build your own birdhouse and decorate it to encourage birds to your garden.
£3.50

Expert-led archaelogy walk Fri 19 Jul 10am-12.30pm 
Join Nathalie Cohen to learn more about the archaeology of the site followed by lunch.
£20 B 0344 249 1895

Summer holiday fun 
Wed 24 Jul - Wed 4 Sep 10am-4pm 
Free family activities from 1-4pm trails to storytelling.

Workshop: Photography Fri 25 Sep 10.30am
Learn to capture stunning autumn landscapes. Suitable for all abilities. Lunch included.
£32 B 0344 249 1895

Sheffield Park and Garden
Sheffield Park, TN22 3XQ
Tel: 01825 790231

Biddulph
Sat 1 Jun 10am-3pm
Help record the wildlife bugs and wildflowers living in the area.

Waterfall Festival
Sat 15 Jun - Sun 16 Jun
Five weeks of activities and installations to celebrate the impressive display of waterfowlles on the lakes. Book online for Waterfall tours on Thursdays.

Workshop: Printing
Thu 25 Jul - Thur 1.30pm
Design, create and use your own waterting block. Price includes all materials, tea, coffee and cake.
£30 B 0344 249 1895

Father’s Day brunch
Sat 15 & Sun 16 Jun 10am-2pm 
Treat Dad to a cooked breakfast or brunch in the Coach House tearoom.
£29.50

Midsummer picnic evenings 
Fri 21 & Sat 22 Jun 6.30-9.30pm 
Bring a picnic or buy from our pop-up stall. Stargazing with ticket. Includes a glass of Prosecco.
Adult £10 B 0344 249 1895

70 things to do before you’re 11½
Wed 28 Jul - Fri 30 Aug 10am-3pm A fun family day in the great outdoors: with crafts, games, wildlife and history.

The Big Camp at Frog Fir Farm
Fri 26 - Sat 27 Jul 6am-9am 
Wild camping with games, wildlife walks at night and campfire fun.
Fri & Sat night Adult £25 Child £15 Fri night only Adult £15 Child £10 B 0344 249 1895

Dogs welcome
There may be places at the property where dogs cannot go, so please check websites before you travel.

Big Camp
Nights under canvas at a very special place.

Booking essential
Please book online or use the phone number provided. Normal admission prices apply for non-members (plus extra charge if applicable).

Booking fee: We are obliged to add a booking fee of 5% when booking through the box office (01323 423257). 
Family booking: This includes 2 adults and 2 children or 1 adult and 3 children.

Please note: We do our best to ensure tickets are correct when we go to press. We reserve the right to cancel or change events. Rain or shine. Tickets are not refundable.

Please always check the website for more details and updates before you travel.

nationaltrust.org.uk/southeastevents
WEST SUSSEX

Nymans
Handcross, RH17 6EB
Tel: 01444 402520

Woodland walk: Ranger’s choice
Thu 16 May, 20:30
2½ hr, 10.45am & 7.45pm
Monthly guided walk exploring the many different wonders of the woods.
B 01444 402520

Head gardener’s walk
Thu 9 May, 6.5, 4.30 & 5.5pm
Highlights of the garden tour led by our head gardener. Includes a hot drink.
£10 B 01444 402520

May half term: Clay creatures
Sat 25 May - Sun 2 Jun, 10am-4pm
Take artistic inspiration from nature & create a nature friend to take home
Unlimited natural materials and air-dry clay.
£30

Exhibition: The Lost Words
Until Sun 2 Jan, 10.30am

Summer evenings at Nymans
Fri 7, 14 & 28 Jul, 6-8.30pm
An exclusive evening with croquet and a tour of the garden. Bring a picnic. Tour times and topics vary.
£15 B 01444 402520

Chislet, Talbot & Bowers
Sat 8 Jun - Sun 9 Jun, 11am-3.30pm
The house interiors transformed with working flower displays.

Exhibition: Marzuki Kaldowski
Sat 22 Jun - Sun 20 Jul, 10am-5.30pm
Artist Marzuki Kaldowski, makes a return visit to the gallery, with watercolours of classic views from the garden.

Nymans: A Different View
Sat 22 Jun - Sun 6 Oct, 10am-5pm
A summer of activities and events revealing Nymans’ secrets. Includes rarely seen collection objects and lesser known corners of the estate such as the romantic ruins, which open from 7.30pm.

Workshop Photography
Tue 2 & Thu 4 Jul
A series of workshops led by Roger Bisham including garden photography and a woodland wander with your smartphone. Prices and times vary.
B 01444 402520

Summer holiday fun
Mon 22 Jul - Fri 6 Sep
Join us for activities throughout the summer, including garden games and outdoor art.

Petworth House and Park
Petworth, GU28 0AE
Tel: 07099 342207

Petworth House guided tours
Wed 13 & 20 May
1½ hour guided tours exploring some of the highlights of Petworth House.

Woolbeding Countryside (West)
Tel: 02435 814354

Petworth House: Great halls tour: 24 May
Tour the Great Hall and see its history and treasures.

Summer trail: Plant explorers
Sat 25 May - Sun 1 Sep
Travel to the farthest corners of the globe with plant guides and challenges to discover the hidden histories behind the trees and earn your reward.
Child £3

Rafts, mast and masts
Wed 8 Jun
Build your own miniature sailing ship to test out on our water course.
Child £2

Unlocking Petworth
Mon 18, Sun 24 Aug & Mon 29 Sep - Sun 5 Oct
Take a peek inside the Stone Hall, Cambridge Bedroom and Chamber Landing in the private apartments of Petworth House.

Guided walk: Ponds, river and moor
Mon 26 Aug, 10-12:30pm
A walk for nature lovers taking in the banks of the River Itchen.
Child £5

Half term pizza making
Fri 31 May, 10.30am-2.30pm
Join your family and build a pizza in Saddlecombe’s primitive clay oven.
Adult £17 Child £8 B 01730 866368

Mother’s Day & campfire
Sun 14 Jun
Join us in the gardens and then cook a campfire meal.
Adult £17 Child £8 B 01730 866368

Orchid walk and talk on Newtinhill
Tue 19 Jul, 10.30am-12.30pm
Discover orchids on Newtinhill with talk from horticulturist.
Adult £12 Child £6 B 01730 877512

Saddlecombe Farm open day
Sun 22 Jul, 10am-3:30pm
Discover our ancient downland farm once owned by the Knights Templar. Small charge for some activities.

Saddlecombe Farm: 400 years of farming
Sat 22 Jul, 10am-3pm
Explore Saddlecombe Farm and its history.
Adult £12 Child £6 B 01730 877512

Tuffield craft festival
Fri 16 Aug, 10am-12:30pm & 1:30-4pm
Learn to make soap in the setting of Saddlecombe Tudor scullery.
Adult £12 Child £6 B 01730 877512

Rural crafts
Summer holiday fun
Sat 22 Jul - Sun 1 Sep
Have an adventure and get crafty with our family craft trail and craft activities inspired by the designs of Morris & Co. Small charge for some activities.

Craft workshops
Aug & Sep - dates and times vary - website for details.
Learn new skills in repousee, linocutting or embroidery and take home your finished project.
Adult £35-£50 B 01444 323029

Woodland craft fair
Sat 25 Aug, 10am-4pm
Crafts inspired by nature. Browse, buy and see demonstrations by local makers.

The South Downs Countryside (West)
Tel: 02435 814354

Devil’s Dyke & Saddlecombe Farm
Nr Brighton. BN4 7DE
Tel: 01273 857712

Half term pizza making
Fri 31 May, 10am-2.30pm
Join your family and build a pizza in Saddlecombe’s primitive clay oven.
Adult £17 Child £8 B 01730 877512

A ranger guided tour to Wiston Grove. Please book in advance.

Woolbeding Countryside
Midhurst, GU29 0QY
Tel: 01730 816538

Hairy not scary - Pond Common
Sat 25 Jun, 11am-12pm
Learn about Native Pond life.
Adult £3 Child £1 B 01730 866368

Discover Drovers & Singleton
Wed 17 Jul, 10am-1pm
A summer walk discovering the local wildlife and hidden history.
Adult £12 Child £6 B 01730 866368

Steaden House and Garden
East Grinstead, RH19 4NE
Tel: 01342 329029

Exhibition: Morris & Co. Inspired by Nymans
Sat 1 Jun - Sun 10 Nov
Discover the world of Morris & Co. at Steaden in this new exhibition throughout the house, garden and estate. Sponsored by Morris & Co.

Pottery trail
Sat 1 Jun - Sat 10 Jul
Explore the garden this summer on a trail based on William Morris’s poem ‘Tennyson Tree’.

Summer holiday fun
Sat 22 Jul - Sun 1 Sep
Pick up our special map to discover Rupins’ designs for the garden and house on this self-led route.

May half-term trail
Sat 22 May - Sun 23 Jun, 10am-4pm
Explore our garden and meadow while following our family nature trail.
Trail £1

Sunday summer music
23 Jun, 11am-12pm
A summer afternoon of live music in the garden.
£10

Alder Valley Brass Band
Sun 7 & Sun 21 Jul, 12:30pm
Enjoy a relaxed summer afternoon of brass band tunes in the garden.

Summer holidays architecture trail
Sat 25 Jul - Sun 8 Sep, 10am-4pm
Solve the clues on our family trail to bring Uppark’s architecture to life.
Trail £1

Outdoor theatre: Sense and Sensibility
Sat 20 Jul, 6.30-8.30pm
Heroes, heartbreak and debonair villains, all topped off with a dancing duel from DUT productions.
Adult £35 B 01273 853239

Outdoors: Brysia All Baba
Sat 17 Jul, 7-9pm
Brysia present this classic tale adapted from One Thousand and One Nights.
Adult £10 Child £5 B 01444 249385

Herbscape border maintenance
Thu 16 May, 1pm
Our gardeners will share tips on feeding, dead-heading, division and how they create a beautiful display.
£25 includes entry and refreshments B 01444 249385

Planting summer containers
Wed 26 Jun, 1-3pm
Join our Head Gardener and learn practical techniques on planting containers for a summer display.
£25 includes entry and refreshments B 01444 249385

Propagation for beginners
Thu 28 Jul, 7-9pm
Join our Senior Gardener who will share her skills in the art of propagation.
£25 includes entry and refreshments B 01444 249385

Vegetable garden basics
Wed 4 Aug, 7-9pm
Join our vegetable gardener for tips on sowing seeds and planting a vegetable garden.
£25 includes entry and refreshments B 01444 249385
SURREY

Clandon Park
Near Guildford. GU4 7QR
Tel: 01483 222482

House and garden open Wed – Sun until 3 Nov 10.30am-5pm
Explore the ground floor and basement at Clandon Park. Find out more about this fascinating restoration project, and meet the team behind it.

Claremont Landscape Garden
Near Esher. KT10 9GJ
Tel: 0372 687658
May half-term: Plant explorers
Sat 25 May – Sun 3 Jun 10.30am-4pm
Children’s trail. Tue 28 – Fri 31 May 8am-1pm
Crafts. Trail E1 crafts E50

Teddy bears’ picnics & storytelling
Wed 2, 9, 23, 30 Jun 8.30-9.30pm
Fun-filled teddy bears’ picnic with stories and songs to delight young and old alike. Bring along your own picnic. Child £3 accompanying adults free

Outdoor theatre: The Jungle Book
Sat 11 Jun at 2pm
The Herbal Players
Adult £12 Child £8 Family £40
B 01483 244919

Six weeks of summer adventures Sat 5, 12, 19, 26 Jul & 2, 9, 16 Aug 11am-2pm
Discover Claremont with exploring and adventures all summer long. Claremont has some activities!

Big Camp Sat 17 – Sun 18 Aug
Camp at Claremont. Night time nature and awesome activities with our wildlife expert, Jonnie.
Adult £35 Child £18 B 01483 244919

Hatchlands Park
Near Guildford. GU4 7RT
Tel: 01483 222482

Hatchlands tree walk
Thu 2 May 10am-3pm
Discover new and unusual trees on a guided walk with the senior gardener. £3 B 01483 444334

Bat walk
Thu 2 May 18:30-21:30
Get out and make a mini-quest and see how far it will sail. Free entry for dabs.

Sculpture in the garden
Jul 4 – Sep 19 Sun 10am – 5pm
Enjoy a range of sculptures from South Sculpture Society, thoughtfully positioned throughout the garden.
Outdoor theatre: Wuthering Heights
Sat 15 Aug at 2pm
Join Heartbreak Productions for this iconic tale of a timeless love affair.
Adult £16 Child £8 Family £40 B 01483 444334

Polesden Lacy Rose Festival
Mon 30 Jun – Sun 27 Jul 2023
Annual Rose Festival throughout the stunning gardens and atmospheric rose shop.

Outdoor theatre: Love’s Labour’s Lost
Sat 29 – Sun 30 Jun & Sat 6 – Sun 7 Jul 2023
An afternoon of Edwardian fun with this Shakespearean favourite. Adults £15 under six free B 01306 887177

Summer family fun
Daily Sat 22 Jul – Sun 5 Aug
Giants in the orchard and craft activities throughout the summer holidays. £2.50 per child

Bat walks
Sun 5, 12, 19, 26 Jul & 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Jul
Learn about bats, their facts about bat in the Time of King John and have a go yourself. £2.50 for 6 arrows

Shalford Mill Guildford. GU4 1RS
Tel: 01483 561389

Wheat by mill to sell
Wed 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 Jul & 7, 14, 21, 28 & 5 Aug 2023
10am-3pm
Visit to Shalford Mill walk up to the mill for a tour and sandwich lunch. Boat back to Dapdune Wharf
ET B 0344 249 1905

Fergusson’s Gathering events
Wed 7, 14 & 21 Jun
Gathering tours of the Mill and a bookable midday ‘teatime’ feast for children on the 22nd.
£8 for midnight feast. B 01483 561389

The joy of journaling workshop
Thu 27 Jul 10am-3pm
An innovative workshop for wellbeing and self-reflection.
Materials supplied. £10 B 0344 249 1905

Welcome to the ugly bags ball
Wed 27 Jul 6-8pm
Build a bog bag, or make butterfly wings, come up dressed as children or for families.

Surrey Hills

Surrey Hills

Hurstwood Parke

Guided walks: Jordan Brink
Thu 9, 16 & 23 Jun 7.30-9pm
Meet at Hurstwood Park visitor centre. £3 B 01483 222482

Guided walks: My Guide
Thu 4, 11 & 18 Jul, 1 & 8 Aug 7.30-9pm
Meet at Shalford Mill car park, includes hot chocolate and pastry.
£12 B 0344 249 1905

Winkworth Arboretum
Godalming. GU7 1AD
Tel: 01483 208477

Guided walks: Early morning adventure
Sun 5 May 9.30am
Explore Winkworth with the dawn chorus. Breakfast and. £15 B 0344 249 1905

Teddy bears’ picnic and storytelling
Every Mon – Wed 2-5.30pm
Bring along a teddy and a picnic for an afternoon of storytelling and songs.
Child £3 accompanying adults free

Artists’ Day: Creative Charcoal
Sat 29 Jul 10am-4.30pm
Learn the woodland skil of making charcoal, and then use it to create a masterpiece inspired by the Arboretum. £40 B 0344 249 1905

Outdoor theatre: The Jungle Book
Sat 5 & 12 Jun 2.30pm
Join Mobile Zoo for a jungle adventure in this lively new adaptation of Kipling’s children’s classic by The Herbal Players.
Adult £15 Child £8 Family £40 B 0344 249 1905

Guided walks: Big Camp
Sat 13 & 20 Jun 9am-6pm
See Winkworth beneath the stars and among the trees, featuring activities with the ranger and a fishy nature hunt. Adult £35 Child £18 B 0344 249 1905

Guided walks: Local Live
Sun 10 Jun 10am-4pm
A guided walk in Winkworth’s extensive community day with live music, falconry displays and much more. See website for details.

nationaltrust.org.uk/southeasteventes
KENT

Chartwell
Westminster. TN16 1PS
Tel: 07732 863831

Family trail: Exotic animals
Sat 25 Apr - Sun 2 Jun 10am-4pm
Discover Winston’s favourite exotic pets and animals hidden around the garden.
Trail £1

Family trail: Butterflies
Sat 29 Apr - Sun 5 May 10am-4pm
Discover Winston’s love of butterflies and the garden and woodland.
Trail £1

Emmetts Garden
Sevenoaks. TN13 6BA
Tel: 07732 863831

Family trail: Birds
Sat 26 May - Sun 2 Jun 10am-4pm
Find out about bird life and complete some ‘50 things to do before you’re 11½’ activities.
Trail £1

Family trail: Ants
Sat 29 Jun - Sun 5 Jul 10am-4pm
Follow the trail around the garden looking for Ants the Ant and his colony of amazing ant friends.
Trail £1

Outdoor theatre:
A Midsummer Night’s Dream
Thu 15 May, picnics from 6.30pm
Performance starts 7.30pm
A spectacular production and a treat for all from The Lord Chamberlain’s Men.
Adult £15 Child £8 (from 8 years)

Outdoor theatre:
Alice in Wonderland
Thu 20 Aug, picnics from 3.30pm
Performance starts 4pm
On a warm summer afternoon watch a production of Alice in Wonderland with the Immerse Theatre Company.
Adult £12 Child £7 Family £26

Ightham Mote
Near Sevenoaks. TN8 7NT
Tel: 07732 810378

Half-term family fun
Sat 25 May - Sun 2 Jun 10am-4pm
Bring a picnic to enjoy and follow the trail around the garden to earn your prize.
Trail £2.50

Sculpture exhibition
May 3 - Sun 30 Jun 10am-5pm
Artworks by East Kent Sculpture Society in and around the house.
£3 £0 07732 810378

House talks
Every Wed at 6pm
Afternoon guided tours of the moated manor house. Enjoy a glass of Prosecco in the garden.
£8 £0 07732 810378

Music at the Mote
Sat 5 & Sun 6 Apr 7pm
Live music in the garden, 500m to the present day in June and classic rock, soul and dance in August. Bring a picnic.
£8 £0 0344 249 1895

Workshop: Floral jewellery
Sat 22 Jun 10am-4pm
Learn the art of floral wearable design with award-winning designer Wendy Anderick.
£20 £0 07732 810378

Summer holiday fun
Wed 26 Jul & Wed 17 Jul 10.30am
Themed ranged rambles on the estate.
£5 £0 07732 810378

Kneol
Seventoaks. TN3 1HU
Tel: 07732 462100

Conservation week
Tue 4 - Sun 11 June & 8 - Sun 9 Sep
Meet the Kneol showrooms conservation team, then explore the newly renovated King’s Closet.

Fawns walk
Sat 22 & 29 Jul 10-11am
Short walk to look for “new additions” to the landscape and deer herd.
£2 suggested donation

Workshop: Linocut print making
Wed 15 July 10.30am-4pm
Explore pattern and mark making using Kneol’s architectural and decorative features as inspiration.
£15 £0 0344 249 1895

Workshop: Summer flower arranging
Mon 26 Jul 10.30am-4pm
Create a beautiful floral display with expert guidance from Chelsea medal winning Portia San-Johnson.
£15 £0 0344 249 1895

Workshop: Improve modern calligraphy
Fri 30 Jul 10.30am-1pm
Work on your technique, letterforms, connections and style with Judy Broad.
£15 £0 0344 249 1895

Workshop: Brush calligraphy
Fri 30 Jul 2-4.30pm
Discover the fundamentals of brush calligraphy, work on lower and upper case alphabet, take home your artwork.
£15 £0 0344 249 1895

Paper cutting workshop
Sat 20 Jul 10.30am-1pm
Learn different paper cutting techniques and produce an intricate stage papercut.
£15 £0 0344 249 1895

Quebec House
Westminster. TN6 1TO
Tel: 07732 863831

Guided house tours
Daily Week - Sun 12noon & 2.30pm
Discover the stories behind Quebec House and its famous occupants.
£10 £0 0344 249 1895

Outdoor cinema
Fri 13 & Sat 14 Sep 6.30pm
Adult £12 Child £7.50
B 0344 249 1895

Sissinghurst Castle Garden
Near Cranbrook. TN8 7AB
Tel: 01580 790700

Big Camp
Sat 27 Jun – Sun 14 July
Den and Nest
Camping under the stars with a weekend packed full of family activities.
Adult £30 Child £20
B 0344 249 1895

Smallyth Place
Near Tenterden. TN30 7NG
Tel: 01580 762154

Theatre: Three Men in a Boat
Sat 26 May 7.30pm
Giles Shenton expertly takes the helm and pilots you through Jerome K. Jerome’s ridiculous ride.
£14 £0 0344 249 1895

Comedy at the Barn
Fri 8 Aug 7.30pm
Explore themes of sexuality, suffrage and the independence of working women.
£14 £0 0344 249 1895

Smallhythe Place
Near Tenterden. TN30 7NG
Tel: 01580 762154

Theatre: Tenth Night
Wed 24 - Sun 28 Jul 8pm
Wed 31 Jul – Sat 3 Aug 7.30pm
Shakespeare’s hilarious tale of midsummer and deception brought to you by The Summer Theatre Company.
£14 £0 0344 249 1895

Outdoor theatre:
Sens and Sensibility
Thu 8 Aug 6.30pm
A funny, fast-paced adaptation of Jane Austen’s classic novel. Performed by Opera Anywhere.
£16 £0 0344 249 1895

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Get in touch
We love to hear what you think of this newsletter. Please let us know by contacting us:
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High Wycombe
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Tracking nature

The wildlife specialists in our region have just completed an important project. They've been mapping the types of habitat we have in London and the South East along with the plants and wildlife that live there. You could be forgiven for suppressing a yawn at the thought of all that data, but Polesden Lacey's area ranger Jamie Parsons explains why habitat surveying and wildlife monitoring is vital – and surprisingly fun.

There are days when I'm out in the pouring rain looking for a butterfly egg, the size of a pin head in a blackthorn bush the size of a tennis court, and I definitely question my life choices. But for other surveys I might be walking a transect line round in the sunshine every week and I can't believe that it's actually my job to track the progress of summer.

With the new full of headlines about the decline of nature, it's more important than ever to do what we can to look after the countryside and the nature within it. But how can we say we are doing the right thing unless we set a consistent baseline to start from and then monitor what is happening to the species we are conserving?

We're undertaking an ambitious project in the National Trust to restore or create 25,000 hectares of priority habitat by 2025. This will go a long way to helping nature in the UK recover. But how will we know if our hard work has paid off if we haven't tracked things along the way? We need to understand what works and what doesn't so that we can adapt the way we're managing the land accordingly.

At Polesden Lacey our priority habitats are chalk grassland, ancient woodland, woodland pasture and parkland. Our surveys consist of going through these areas looking for 'indicator species'. The abundance (of) these plants or animals tells us what condition the habitat is in. We can then compare these results over time to see if the habitat is getting better or worse.

Every survey has the potential to flag up an unusual record. Our recent butterfly transects have recorded 28 different species of butterfly on the estate. This is way higher than I thought. There were some really rare ones like the white-letter hairstreak. I find wildlife monitoring really satisfying, as do our volunteers, who we couldn't do without.

How can I get involved?

Wildlife monitoring can be anything from a few notes in the back of a notebook listing things you've seen that day to a carefully organised and managed system of surveying. It can be just you sat in your living room watching a bird feeder or a mass butterflies with dozens of other people where you get active out into the countryside. There's a BioBlitz at Sheffield Park on 1 June that you can get involved in.

It is so important to share wildlife monitoring findings. Our rangers have their own databases, but survey results are also shared with other nature charities, monitoring bodies and government organisations. Databases like i-Record receive thousands of records which allow scientists to conduct in-depth research into particular species using massive samples from across the country.

You could spot wildlife at our places and register it with i-Record. Or there are annual Citizen Science initiatives like the Big Garden Birdwatch in January and the Big Butterfly Count, running this year from 19 July to 11 August.

I've been surveying wildlife for the National Trust as a volunteer since 2010. It's been incredibly rewarding. Focussing was cleaned from a commercial conifer plantation at that time and I've been able to see how quickly wildlife has responded to the Trust's work in restoring the area to rare lowland heath.

Birds such as woodlark, Dartford warbler (above), tree pipit and linnet have all moved back in and begun breeding. In fact, when I think about it, recorded bird species have gone up from 46 since the site was first cleared, to 103 in 2018. If that doesn’t show increased wildlife diversity, then I don’t know what does.

'We're only about ten years into a 25 year project, so the results in the next fifteen years could be truly spectacular. This summer I’ve got high hopes that a pair of whoobats may return to raise a family, and that would be magic.'

- Alan Snook, bird volunteer surveyor, New Forest

nationaltrust.org.uk/seastreet

Make…

Scotney Castle has a different scone recipe each month. This one is aromatic with fresh summer flavours.

Scotney Castle Apricot, Lemon & Thyme Scones

Prep 22 minutes

125g self-raising flour
310g margarine
250g caster sugar
660ml milk
5 lemons (zest and juice)
310g dried apricots (chopped or use food processor to blitz)

One third of a bunch of thyme (ground using pestle & mortar)

For the decoration:
300g lemon curd
225g icing sugar

Method:

Pre-heat the oven to 180°C, 360°F (gas mark 4).
Place margarine, flour and sugar in a bowl.
Rub in until it turns into fine crumbs.
Mix in lemon zest and two thirds of the juice.
Add the thyme.
Add milk to form a firm dough ball.
Place on a floured surface and roll out to 2cm thick.
Cut out circles with a cutter.
Place on a lined tray and bake for 20-25 mins.

Warm the lemon curd and brush over each scote.

In a bowl mix the icing sugar, remaining lemon juice, and a little cold water if needed, and mix until the icing has a dropping consistency.

Once the scones are cooled, pipe or drizzle the icing on top.

Sprinkle with thyme.

Why not send us a photo on Twitter @southeasts NT or Facebook? Or email lee.customercommunications@nationaltrust.org.uk
What your support means to us...

says Regional Director, Nicola Briggs

"It's a wonderful time to enjoy the efforts of our garden teams. All of their hard work last year on planting schemes really comes into its own right now.

The new design of Hatton House formal gardens revitalizes the 17th century plots. A magnificent renovation of the Italian Garden at Monk's House in the Sussex Downs really captures the essence of a trip to Tuscany, offering a place to dream the day away. And extensive work in the moat garden at Scolton Castle has opened up magnificent picturesque views of the castle ruins.

I love gardens – there's just so much to fuel your imagination wherever you go. So why not pop in and talk to our garden teams to learn more and get inspiration and ideas to take home with you."

Conservation in action

Meet like-minded members

If you like making the most of your National Trust membership and enjoy some company on your outings, why not join your Local Supporter Group? These are groups of Trust members who live near you and get together for talks, walks, outings, day trips and even holidays.

Wherever you live, there’s a group within reach, waiting to give you a warm welcome.

Search 'supporter groups LSE' on the National Trust website or phone Viv Johns, Supporter Group Co-ordinator on 09923 399496.

Go behind the scenes at Knole

"Many visitors comment on the lovely pink flowers of the Himalayan balsam and are surprised when we tell them we spend hours pulling it up," says Mark Walker, Head Longshotman for the River Way Navigations. Historically, backside grasses and flowering plants along the towpath were kept short by the constant friction of the ropes of horse-drawn barges.

"The problem is that balsam grows and spreads rapidly along waterways – each plant can produce roughly 800 seeds. It will out-compete other native plants, which is why we want to keep it under control," says Mark.

Nowadays, the towpath along the River Way is edged with a variety of plants supplying habitats for a wealth of wildlife, like cockle flower, meadowsweet and purple loosestrife.

"We couldn't keep this biodiversity without the help of our volunteers. Anyone can join us on Balsam Bash days and get a feel for outdoors conservation work," says Mark.

Balsam bash

Nationaltrust.org.uk/southeast

For a large print version, please call us on 0344 800 1895 or email ise.customerenquiries@nationaltrust.org.uk

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