New adventures and old roses

Roses
You are right of course. Heritage roses never get old. They’re a vital ingredient in an English country garden, scenting 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 some of the best rose gardens in our region.

Mottisfont in Hampshire is rightly prized for its roses and is celebrating with extended opening hours, daily ‘ask the gardeners’ sessions and even rose ice cream. Climb a corner of the rose garden at Cliveden in Buckinghamshire for a picnic and chat with the gardeners about how they create the phoned display of sunset colours. Basildon Park in Berkshire also has a small but perfectly tended rose garden with more than 40 varieties, each in memory of Lady Hille who loved them.

Summer walks
On a warm day, you might want to amble out into the 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 Isle of Wight and Chilterns Countrywide are particularly rich in wonderful wildlife walks.

The routes are all easy to follow and downloadable, so there’s no fear of getting lost if there’s 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 beat the cafe queues by pre-boozing a picnic to take with you.

Now to do
The long days and hopeful mood of early summer can tempt us to explore wider 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 or our county websites to get an overview of what you can see and do there.

Highlights this year include a new sculpture exhibition and art classes in the garden at Greys Court in June. There’s also a summer of art at Sandham Memorial Chapel near Newbury. For a foodie summer, Waddesdon’s Summer Feast on 6 & 7 July showcases live music, street theatre and fabulous food. Or head to Ham House for kitchen garden tours and tasting opportunities.
Operation Hillside at Hughenden

In 1999, Nancy Astor became the first woman to take her seat in Parliament, paving the way for future generations of female politicians from all backgrounds. Notorious for her sharp wit, glittering parties and diverse social connections, she was a complex character and was surrounded by controversy for much of her life. But who was this complicated pioneer? How did she use Cliveden to entertain the great and good, make connections and further her own political aims? What hostility did she face while breaking boundaries and what legacy did she leave on her family and her home?

From 25 April, Cliveden is celebrating the centenary of Nancy's election to Parliament with a year-long programme of events and exhibits. Highlights will include the 'Astor Voices' audio tour, a unique opportunity to hear memories of Nancy from her grandchildren themselves. 'Letters to Nancy' is a display of the correspondence Nancy received at the time of her election, revealing the impact of her election on the public across the UK. Visitors can also enjoy house tours and performances from our Historical Interpreters on select dates.

Nancy Astor: Vigour, vitality and cheek runs April to November 2019.

Flora Domestica at Hinton Ampner

Throughout June, ground floor rooms are displaying beautiful floral arrangements inspired by the ones Ralph Dutton had in the house, such as fragrant roses in the dining room.

Flora Domestica: The Art of Flower Arrangement will treat visitors to beautiful scent and colour inside the house, whilst in the gardens there are more floral ‘hot spots’ to discover.
News and events for summer 2019
Berkshire | Buckinghamshire | Hampshire | Isle of Wight | London | Oxfordshire

What's on

BERKSHIRE

Basildon Park
Near Reading. RG8 9NR
Tel: 0491 6723832
Wild Play Trail 2019 upgrade
20 May - 20 Sep
Discover the Wild Play Trail with more play stations, wild art making, and a brand new area for little ones, with ball run stations.
Trail leaflet £1 added events £1 online
May half-term trail
Sat 25 May - Sun 2 Jun
Bring the whole family along and adventure through the parkland to discover clues and win a prize.
£2

Shady walks
Upl - 31 Aug
For these days in the summer that it’s simply too hot, pick up a walk leaflet from Visitor Reception and enjoy a walk in the shade.

Arts classes with Paul Robbens
Every Wed at 10.30am - 11.30am
Join the wonderful Paul for an art class, learning the basics and using different materials.
Lunch provided.
£50 online

Big Bug hunt
1 Sep - 31 Oct
The creepy crawlies have returned to Basildon Park to wreak havoc. Help the conservation team to find them all.
£2

Maidenhead and Cookham Commons
Maidenhead
Tel: 01628 605069
Arachnology and wildflower walk
Sun 2 Jan 11.30am - 12.30pm
Join a Ranger and ramble across Cook Marsh discovering wildflowers and the history beneath your feet. Meet at Winter Hill Viewpoint SL5 7TT - OS Map grid ref: SU 856961
Adult £8 Child £4 B 01344 249 1895

Begum's Birthday Garden Party
20 Oct - 21 Oct
A special celebration in the garden for our beloved Begum. £2

Breadfruit at your service
14 Jan - 31 Dec
Visit the Begum's Kitchen to taste delicious breadfruit dishes.
£2

Berks Haywards Heath
Near Reading
Tel: 0491 6723832

OXFORDSHIRE

Ashdown
Nr Ashbury. RG7 8RE
Tel: 01795 762209
Children's tour
Wed 14 & Thu 15 Aug 2.30 - 5.20pm
Find out more about Prince Rupert being a pirate, Queen Bohemia and her pet monkey and other fascinating facts.
The Buscot and Coleshill Estates
Near Faringdon. SN6 7PT
Tel: 01795 762209
Second World War walks
Thu 4 Jan - Thu 31 Mar 6.45pm
Discover Coleville's hidden Second World War history on this autumn walk through village, woods and parkland at the home of the British Resistance.
Adult £3 Child £2.50 B 01344 249 1895 or online

Coleshill open evenings
Sun 9 Jan, Sun 30 Mar, Sun 31 Aug & Sun 3 Sep 5.30 - 7.30pm
See our restored water mill to find out how flour is produced and explore a Second World War replica bunker.
Donations welcome.
Coleshill nature Big Camp
Fri 28 - Sun 30 Jun
Join us at our first ever Coleshill Big Camp with bug hunting, nature exploring and river dipping.
Adult £3 Child £2 B 01344 249 1895 or online

Outdoor theatre:
A Midsummer Night's Dream
Fri 5 Jul 7.30pm
Join us on Buscot Weir field for a night of merriment with a classic Shakespeare play. Production by The Lord Chamberlain's Men.
Adult £13 Child £10 (under 16) B 01344 249 1895 or online

The Great Big Tree Climb
Sat 10 Jul 10.30am
Join instructions from the Big Tree Climbing and climb into the canopy of a tree in Coleshill Parkland.
£20 online

Secrets and Spies
Tue 6 Aug 2.45pm
Become a spy for the afternoon with kids activities and find out all about Coleville's secret army.
Children's tickets B 01344 249 1895 or online

Bug hunt
Tue 13 Aug 2.45pm
Discover what bugs can be found in Coleshill Parkland with this family activity.
Child £3 (adults free) B 01344 249 1895 or online;

River dipping in the River Cole
Tue 20 Aug 2.45pm
Child £3 (adults free) B 01344 249 1895 or online

BBC Countryside Live
Blenheim Palace
Woodstock. OX20 1PP
Fri 4 August
National Trust passes for members start at £4.40 for 2 adults and include a car park pass (includes booking fee). Use code NT19 to book. For more information about this year’s event at Blenheim Palace, visit nationaltrust.org.uk/countryside-live and to book tickets visit countryside-live.com

Chastleton House and Gardens
Near Moreton-in-Marsh. GL56 0SU
Tel: 01608 674981
Behind closed doors:
Conserving Chastleton tour
Tue 25 Jan, Thu 30 Jan & Tue 24 Sep 10.30am - 11.30am
Spend the morning discovering our unique approach to conservation, starting with tea, coffee and pastries.
£20 B 01344 249 1895

Greys Court
Near Henley-on-Thames. RG9 4PG
Tel: 01491 628529
May half-term trail
Sat 25 May - Sun 2 Jun
Venture out with your little explorers this May and discover clues along a trail to win a prize.
£2

Arts season: Paul Robbens art classes
Every Wed at 10.30am - 11.30am
Join Paul for a day of painting, drawing and creativity at Greys Court. Lunch provided.
£50 Online

Natural Play at Greys Court
Every day Mon - Sat
Start the summer holidays at Greys Court and get stuck into nature on the brand new play area for all the family.

Exhibition: Sir John Brunner
Upl - 31 Aug
Walk around the house and learn more about the last family who lived at Greys Court.

Harvest celebrations at Greys Court
1 Sept - 31 Oct
Help us celebrate the hard work of the gardeners this harvest, with house displays, apple tasting and short talks.

Nuffield Place
Near Henley-on-Thames RG9 3RY
0491 642857
Car group visits
Find out about the classic car groups visiting this summer on our website.

Father's Day celebrations
Sun 16 Jun
Celebrate with classic car displays, brass band, pulled pork rolls and much more.

Art classes at Nuffield Place
Every Wed at 10am - 11am
Join expert Paul Robbens on an art class and learn some new skills.
Lunch provided.
£30

White Horse Hill
Uffington. SN7 7QJ
Tel: 01793 762209
Secrets and Legends walk
Sun 23 Jan 10.30am - 2.30pm
Discover the secrets and legends of White Horse Hill with our Ranger.
Adult £5 Child £2.50 B 01344 249 1895 or online

White Horse Chalking
Sat 6 & Sun 7 Jul
Sun 26 & Mon 26 Aug 10am - 4pm
Come and join us with our annual tradition of re-chalking this ancient horse.

Nature walk
Sun 20 Jul 10am
Ranger led walk to see the flora and fauna of the chalk grassland.
Adult £3 Child £2.50 B 01344 249 1895 or online

Key

Family Fun
Activities for children or families.
Open air stage
Pack a picnic and enjoy live drama or music in beautiful surroundings.
Dogs welcome
There may be places at the property where dogs cannot go, so please check websites before your travel.

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 £3 when booking through the box office (01344 249 1895).
Family booking: This includes 2 adults and 2 children or 1 adult and 3 children.

Please note: We do our best to ensure details are correct when we go to press. We reserve the right to cancel or change events if necessary. Tickets are non-refundable.

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

Ascott
Wing LTL OPP
Tel: 01296 688342

Outdoor theatre:
Much Ado About Nothing
Sat 8 Jun. 7.30
Musical performance by The Three Inch Fools
Adult £15 Child £8

Outdoor theatre:
Gangsta Granny
Fri 9 & Sat 24 Aug. 6pm
Adaptation of David Walliams’ book performed by Heartbreak Productions.
Adult £16 Child £11 Family £42

Outdoor theatre:
Alice in Wonderland
Sun 18 Aug. 7pm
Imagination Theatre production
Adult £13 Child £11 Family £42

Ashridge Estate
Near Berkhamsted. HP4 1LT
Tel: 01442 851327

May half-term trail and craft
Mon 27 – Fri 31 May 10am-4pm
Spring tree trail followed by crafts at the visitor centre.
Child £3

Canine capers
Sat 12 Jun. 10.30am Watch the ProDog team demonstrate agility with their dogs before having a go with your own.

Gentle stroll: Ashridge House gardens
Mon 21 & 28 Jun. 9.30-10.30am
Join volunteers and the head gardener of Ashridge House for a special tour.
Adult £8 Child £5 B 01442 851327

Dovecot
Sun 5 Jun. 1-4pm
See inside the historic dovecote. Park at the recreation ground car park on Stocks Road, Aldbury, HP3 3RX

Gentle stroll: Chalkland flowers
Mon Jul 1-2.30pm
Guided walk through wildflower chalkland. Meet at Beacon car park.

Totally hazy
Fri 12 Jul. 8:30-10:30pm
Try to catch a glimpse of these amazing creatures flying through the woods.
Adult £8 Child £5 B 01442 851327

Blublitz
Sun 14 Jul. 10am-4pm
Join wildlife experts at this family-friendly blubitz to see how many different plant and animal species we can find on live hog casen Beacon.

Ashridge adventures
Tue 30 Jul, Tue 1 & 8 Aug, 11, 13, 20, 22, 27, 30 Aug, 10am-12pm & 1:30pm Enjoy a morning or afternoon session of led activities and crafts and learn more about Ashridge’s plants and animals.
Child 4-8 B 01442 851327

Big Camp
Sat 17 – Sun 18 Aug
Camp at Ashridge for the night and take part in family activities.
£30 per pitch for 4 people
B 01442 851327

Boarstall Duck Decoy
Boarstall. HP18 9UX
Tel: 01280 817756

Make and take: Nature crown
Sat 5 & Sun 6 May 2-3pm Make your own nature crown.

Natural play area
(Sat, Sun & Mon)
Sat 25 May – Sun 2 Jun 11am-5pm See how many 50 things you can do in our new nature play environment.

Kooly dog
Mon 26 Aug 12noon-1pm
Speak to Kooly and find out about dog breeds and their role within duck decoys.

Chilterns Countryside
Near High Wycombe. HP14 4LA
Tel: 01494 755737

Breda ham butterflies
Thu 11 Jun. 12noon-2pm
Find out how the rare moths and butterflies are faring on this woodland walk with our rangers.
Adult £10 Baby £0

Woodland crafts walk
Thu 11 Jul. 10am-12noon
Ranger-led walk. Discover the history of traditional working beech woods.
£10 Baby £0

Hugheaden watch
Thu 11 Jul. 7pm
Find out about the buzz nats and try out a bat detector.
£10 Baby £0

Secret landscapes walk
Mon 6 Jul. 2-3pm
Explore the hidden landscape of the Chilterns on a ranger-led walk at Bradenham or Hugheaden.
£10 Baby £0

Wild food walk
Wed 4 Sep. 10am-12noon
Ranger-led walk to learn about traditional edible plants.
£10 Baby £0

Historic New Inn Parlours reimagined for this year. Locally brewed ales, traditional games and new experiences in nature.

Mid-day half-term trail
Sat 25 May – Sun 2 Jun
The Mouse Mission Family trail is a series of nine different challenges; solve them all to complete the mission.
£2

Volunteer week
Sat 31 Jul – Sun 2 Aug
Opportunities for people to get involved and have a go volunteering in the garden. Mix of drop-in and bookable sessions.

Cobham’s Secret View
Sat 11 & 18 Aug. 11am-3.30pm
take a rare chance to climb the 140 steps of Lord Cobham’s Pillar. You’ll be rewarded with a 360 degree view of the garden and beyond over five counties.
£5

Bat walks
Wed 9 & Sat 12 Jul. 8-10pm & Wed & Sat 14 & 21 Sep 7-9pm Join Rangers Lee and Isabel on an evening wander to learn how to use a bat detector and spot Stowe’s wildlife after dark.
£7.50

Secrets of Stowe:
The Garden Time Forest
Sat 20 Jul. 8-10pm Group challenge for fans of mind games and escape rooms. Travel back in time to solve the many secrets of an abandoned garden before it is lost forever. Will Stowe survive in your hands?
Adult £10 Child £5

Big Camp
Wed 31 Aug. 9am-4pm
Exciting chance to camp out by the Temple of Friendship for two nights. Food and a host of activities for friends and families.

Father’s Day
Sat 5 & Sun 6 Jun
Treat the dads in your life to a day out in the countryside with a BBQ lunch and artisan market stalls.

Junior rangers:
Operation countryside
Fri 21 Aug. 8-10:30am – 11:30pm Explore the hidden secrets of the woods, find the buds female and help build a shelter for them.
£4 B online

Top secret Hugheaden
Mon 8 – Fri 12 Aug
Activities, trails and crafting in our summer family programme of events.

40s weekend
Sat 6 & Sun 7 Sep
Experience the 1940s with military and civilians display, living history re-enactments, food, music and dancing.

Stowe
Near Buckingham. MK18 1SQ
Tel: 01280 817756

Secrets of Stowe
25 May – 16 Aug
Visit throughout the year to discover the hidden tales and triumphs of this historic English landscape and the work of the National Trust as we celebrate 30 years of restoring Stowe.

The New Inn Experience
10am – 4pm
Historic New Inn Parlours reimagined for this year. Locally brewed ales, traditional games and new experiences in nature.

Wild Wednesdays
Wed in Kids school holidays. 10am-4pm
Drop in for different 50 things activities each week with our nature team.
Child £2

Hidden Histories
Wed 2nd Aug
Join Stowe and its partners for 5 Local history Month celebrating the diverse histories we have to share in and around north Bucks.

Mid-day half-term trail
Sat 25 May – Sun 2 Jun
The Mouse Mission Family trail is a series of nine different challenges; solve them all to complete the mission.
£2

Volunteer week
Sat 31 Jul – Sun 2 Aug
Opportunities for people to get involved and have a go volunteering in the garden. Mix of drop-in and bookable sessions.

Outdoor theatre: Treasure Island
Sat 5 Aug. 4pm
From Chapter House Theatre Company.
Adult £16 Child £0 B 01444 249185

Summer fayre
Sat 5 Aug. 4pm
Traditional village fayre with music, stalls and entertainment in the grounds of West Wycombe Park.
Child Under 12s free

Outdoor theatre: Pride and Prejudice
Sat 27 Jul. 7.30pm
Chapterhouse Theatre Company production.

Outdoor theatre: A Midsummer Night’s Dream
Sat 20 Jul. 8-10:30pm Group challenge for fans of mind games and escape rooms. Travel back in time to solve the many secrets of an abandoned garden before it is lost forever. Will Stowe survive in your hands?
Adult £10 Child £5

Big Camp
Wed 31 Aug. 9am-4pm
Exciting chance to camp out by the Temple of Friendship for two nights. Food and a host of activities for friends and families.

Adult £16 Child £0 B 01444 249185

Waddesdon Manor
Near Aylesbury. HP18 0JH
Tel: 01296 620414

Exhibition: Eliot Hodgkin
Thu 25 May – Sun 20 Oct
See beautifully detailed still life and landscape paintings by this 20th century British artist.

May half-term: Colourscape
Sat 25 May – Sun 5 Jun
Enter a labyrinth of light, colour and sound.
Adult £5 Child £3

Mid-summer maze
Fri 21 Jun
Maze grown into the lawn.

Butterflies and brunch
Sat 6 & Sun 7 Jul 10am-5pm
Guided walk about butterflies in the gardens with brunch at the Stables.
Adult £7.50

Summer fayre
Sat 25 Jul – Sun 4 Aug
Enjoy different children’s activities each week inspired by Waddesdon.

Photography school
Sat 4 & Sun 5 Aug. 10am-4pm
Learn to take professional camera shots on this children’s three-day course.
Child £80

Jazz on the Parterre
Fri 2-3 Aug. 6:30-8:30pm
Stroll around the summer gardens with live jazz.
Adult £20 Child £10

Big Camp
Sat 5 & Sun 6 Sep 10am-4pm
Live music and family fun plus the hottest products out there.

West Wycombe Park and village
Near High Wycombe. HP14 3AJ
Tel: 01444 335069

Musical Sundays
Sun 5 Aug – Sun 26 Oct
Performances on the South Colonnade from a wide repertoire of instrumental and vocal music.

Outdoor theatre: Treasure Island
Sat 5 Aug. 4pm
From Chapter House Theatre Company.
Adult £16 Child £0 B 01444 249185

Summer fayre
Sat 5 Aug. 4pm
Traditional village fayre with music, stalls and entertainment in the grounds of West Wycombe Park.
Adult £1 Under 12s free
Hampshire

Hinton Ampner
Near Medstead, SO24 0LA
Tel: 01962 771305

Bulbs and bluesbells at their best
Sat 27 Apr - Fri 28 May 10am-4pm
Pick up our map to discover the spring treats our garden and woodland have for us on this self-guided visit.

Flora domestica:
The art of the flower arrangement
Sat 14 - Sun 15 July 11am-3.30pm
Floral displays complementing the art collection and special floral ‘hot spots’ in the garden.

Conservation close up
Mon 4 Jan - Sat 8 April 10am-1pm
Find out more about conservation in the house and the recent reopening of the first-floor rooms.

Summer holidays: Tudor trail
Sat 20 Jul - Sun 28 Sep 10am-4pm
Discover fun facts about Tudor life and Henry VIII’s former Tudor house.

Outdoor theatre:
Blythe’s Frankenstein
Sat 3 - Sun 4 July 2023
Enjoy Blythe’s fully orchestrated score, spectacular stage effects and puppetry in this classic tale.
Adult £30 Child £15
B 0344 249 1895

Objects in focus: Hardstone
Sun 1 Sep - Sat 17 Nov 11am-3.30pm
The second display in this series highlights the hardstone collection in the house.

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

Mottisfont
Near Romsey, SO51 OLP
Tel: 01794 340757

Plants Portrait
Sat 4 May - Sun 7 Jul 10am-5pm
A selection of contemporary botanical illustrations from the collection of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

For the Time Being
Sat 4 May - Sun 1 Jul 10am-5pm
Ceramics, prints and artist books from a one-year residency by artists Ellen White and Somal Rasif.

May half-term: Garden detectives
Sat 25 May - Sun 2 June 10am-3pm
Investigate our gardens to discover some fascinating facts.

Celebrating the roses
Jun from 9am
The National Collection of pre-1900 old fashioned roses blooms just once a year. Fragrance and colour from thousands of flowers.

Rose season late openings
Thu 6 - Sun 8 Jul & Thu 13 - Sun 16 Jul 2023
Take in the 22nd-23rd-century garden laces with live music from the Pocket Orchestra on Friday evenings.

Beate Time Travellers!
Sun 20 Jul - Mon 21 Aug 9am-5pm
Exhibition of Beate’s colourful history and activity trail created by the comic with famous Beate characters.

Outdoor theatre:
A Midsummer Night’s Dream
Tues 19 July 7.30pm
A hilarious and highly accessible take on Shakespeare’s most magical and romantic comedy fromimmersion Theatre.
Adult Child £8 £4
B 0344 249 1895

Outdoor theatre:
Alice in Wonderful
Wed 28 Aug 1pm
Immersive Theatre presents a fantastical, large-than-life musical journey with novelty fun and excitement.
Adult £17.50 Child £8.50
B 0344 249 1895

Sandham Mill
Near Newbury, RG20 9JT
Tel: 01635 278394

Chapel services
Wed Sun 3 July & 7 Sept 7pm
Monthly services in the chapel, led by Rev. David Bartholomew.

Rebuilding – an exhibition
Wed 21 June 1pm-4pm
Marking the centenary of Combat Stress, art created by veterans as part of their trauma recovery.

Sandham in clay
Sat 20 June 10am-4pm
Using Spencer’s paintings as inspiration, work to create your own response in relief Materials and firing included.

Sandham observed
Sat 6 Jul 1pm-4pm
Develop your skills in watercolour and other media, using the chapel and its gardens for inspiration.

Holy Box chapel talks
Mon Jun & Mon 9 Sep 9am-11am
Hear about the origins of Stanley Spencer’s Holy Boxes and explore this incredible series of paintings
Adult £8 B 0344 249 1895

Woodland walks
Daily 10am-4.30pm
A variety of routes through ancient woodland.

Geocaching: The lost boy
Daily until Sun 25 Sep 1pm-4pm
Can you help find four ‘lost’ Victorian toys hidden in the woodland and use a trail sheet from Visitor Reception or the Geocaching® app to locate the caches.

Dress like a Victorian
Daily until Sun 25 Sep 1pm-4pm
Try on Victorian costumes in the Housekeeper’s Room.

Roof exhibition
Daily until Mon 2 Jun 1pm-4pm
Consider the practicalities of the original building.

Tapestry weaving
Mon 17 July - Sun 29 Sep 10am-12noon
While our 18th-century tapestries are off-site for conservation, thread together your own masterpiece.

ISLE OF WIGHT

Bembridge and Culver Down Near Sandown, PO36 8QA
Tel: 01983 740100

Yaverland sandstone competition
Mon 5 May - Sun 17 Sept 10am-4pm
Plot your wings against the elements for the “Last Castle Standing” or be creative in the design competition. £2 per team

Bembridge Windmill
Bembridge, PO35 3SQ
Tel: 01983 875945

Outdoor cinema: The Greatest Showman
Sat 17 Aug 7.30pm
Sing along to this magical musical against the backdrop of the windmill. Adult £10 Child £9

Compton Bay and Downs
Compton, PO30 4LB
Tel: 01983 740100

Guided walk: A changing landscape
Sun 16 July 10am-4pm
Discover the coastline and our plans for the future of the area.
B 01983 740100

Sandcastle competition
Sat 20 Aug 10am-2pm
Race against the tide to create the ‘Last Castle Standing’ or design a masterwork and enter the design competition. £2 per team

Mottistone Gardens and Estate
Mottistone, PO30 4ED
Tel: 01983 743032

Manor open days
Sun 26 May 3-6pm & Mon 27 May 10am-3pm
Visit behind the normally closed doors of the manor and discover the family home open to the public for just two days each year.

Outdoor cinema: Bohemian Rhapsody
Sat 27 Jul 7.30pm
Against the backdrop of the magical gardens, see who can match the curtain rise on this award-winning film.
Adult £10 Child £9

Outdoor cinema: Grease
Sat 31 Aug 8.30pm
Bring a picnic and a bottle of something fizzy, and as the stars come out, settle in to watch a classic film.
Adult £10 Child £9

New Forest Commons
Foxbury, SO51 6AQ
Tel: 01794 340620

Foxbury forest school
Thurs 23 May, 6-8 July & 25 July, 6-8 July
10am-3pm
Nature-inspired learning through play. Den building, wild art, woodland, outdoor cooking, storytelling and more.
Child £8 Extra Sibling £4 Adult free
B 01794 340620

Guided walks: Nocturnal nights
Tue 28 May, 8-10 June, 9 & 25 July, 8:30-10:30pm
Look for the elusive nocturnal in the peaceful surroundings of Foxbury. Also woodcock, tawny owls and bats.
B 01794 340620

Wild play days
Thu 30 May, 8, 15 & 22 Aug 10:30am-12:30pm
Everything provided to help you complete 10 of your 50 things, including den building and making mud pies.
Adult £3 Child £6 B 01794 340620

Guided walks: Foxbury habitat restoration
Sat 22 July 10am-12noon
Take a tour of our woodland restoration project, see the progress we have made and learn land management from Foxbury.
B 01794 340620

Sandham Mill Chapel
Near Newbury, RG20 9JT
Tel: 01635 278394

Chapel services
Wed Sun 3 July & 7 Sept 7pm
Monthly services in the chapel, led by Rev. David Bartholomew.

Rebuilding – an exhibition
Wed 21 June 1pm-4pm
Marking the centenary of Combat Stress, art created by veterans as part of their trauma recovery.

Sandham in clay
Sat 20 June 10am-4pm
Using Spencer’s paintings as inspiration, work to create your own response in relief Materials and firing included.

Sandham observed
Sat 6 Jul 1pm-4pm
Develop your skills in watercolour and other media, using the chapel and its gardens for inspiration.

Newtown National Nature Reserve and Old Town Hall
Newtown, PO30 4PF
Tel: 01983 335622

Guided tour: The curious history of Newtown
Tue 5 July & 20 Sept 10:30-12:30pm
Discover the tales of this ancient building and the people who saved it.
B 01983 335622

The Needles Old Battery and New Battery
Alum Bay, PO30 0HJ
Tel: 01983 754772

Round the Island Yacht Race breakfast
Sat 29 July 6.30-7.30am
Open extra early, the tea-room will be serving a hearty breakfast to kick-start as you head into the yachts round the Needles below.
Additional charge for children.

Battery Tours and 50 things to discover in the Tennyson Trust
Fri 24-26 July & 21-29 Aug 10am-4pm
Summer holiday fun for the whole family, from guided tours for grown-ups to kite flying for little ones.
£2 per kite kit

nationaltrust.org.uk/southeasteveents

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LONDON
2 Willow Road
Hampstead. NW3 1TH
Tel: 020 7435 6166

Thursday Lasts at 2 Willow Road
Selected dates: Mar - Oct 6.30-9pm
Exclusive events with wine-growing, drinks, guest speakers and the chance to explore the house in the evening light.
B. £15 www.auriculovisitation.com

East End Manor House
Barking, IG7 9SN
Tel: 020 8227 2942

NS East End Manor House is managed by the Townleigh Braggs of Barkings and Dagenham.

Tudor May Day
Saturday 6 May
10am-5pm
Celebrating May Day in the Tudors once did, including maypole dancing.

Outdoor theatre:
Shakespeare at East End Manor House
Fri 24 May - Sun 5 May
Join us for The Three-inch Fools outdoor adaptation of Much Ado About Nothing and Macbeth
Adults £7 Child £3 Group £20 B

Eid
Sun 30 May 4pm
Celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr with activities for all the family.

Summer Bite
Sun 28 Aug 7:30pm-4am
Join us for a summer arts and crafts market and other activities.

Fenton House and Garden
Hamstead. NW5 6SP
Tel: 020 7343 3471

Fenton Garden introductory tours
Thu from April - Oct 2.23pm
Discover fascinating and newly unearthed facts in these short introductions.

Evening concerts
Wed 24 June - Sat 7pm
Invited performers perform on the Bentinck Feaster collection of early keyboard instruments. Includes a glass of wine.
£20 £30. B 0344 249 1985

Fenton’s big picnic
Sun 26 May 10.30am
Bring a picnic and while away the hours in Fenton’s beautiful walled garden.

Father’s Day Let’s go fly a kite
Sun 16 Jun 10am-6pm
Make a kite then fly it with your dad on Hampstead Heath. Light refreshments and traditional lawn games.

The Idler Festival at Fenton
Fri 12 - Sun 14 Jun
Three days of philosophical and intellectual talks, plus music and dance from The Idler Magazine and Academy. Book via the Idler website.

Wild Wednesdays
Wed in Aug 6pm-9pm
Different sessions every week from bug hunting to nature art.
Activities £2

Ham House and Garden
Near Richmond. TW10 7RS
Tel: 020 8940 1900

Kitchen garden tours
Every Wed 5 May - 2 Oct 2pm
Free thirty minute tour of our kitchen garden.

The edible flower plot
May – Sep
A feast for all the senses, our edible flower plot will be producing flowers for you to pick and taste.

May half term
Sat 25 May – Sun 2 Jun 10am-3pm
 Spend the day living the life of a servant in the 17th century. Have you got what it takes?
Activity book £2

Beyond the Walled tour
Thu 15 Jun & Sun 27 Jun, Thu 15 Aug & Sun 5 Sep 2.30pm
A one hour guided walk around the Ham House boundary to explore the history and legacy of the estate.

Fathers’ Day
Sun 16 Jun 10am-3pm
Come and explore Ham House’s annual Men’s Day.

Outdoor theatre:
A Midsummer Night’s Dream
Fri 16 Jul 7.30pm
Explore Shakespeare’s most loved comedy with The Lord Chamberlain’s Men
Adults £13 Child £9 B 0344 249 1985 or online

Osteria Park and Garden
London Colney. TW7 4RB
Tel: 020 8232 5050

Cycling hire
Wed - Sat 6pm
Get on your bike in partnership with Brompton UK and British Cycling

Big Camp
Sat 8 Jun 3pm-10pm
Camping under the stars and explore Osteria after hours with fun activities.
Adult £24 Child £13 B 0344 249 1985

Osteria Park 10K
Sat 15 Jun 10.30am
Osteria’s annual race is back. In partnership with Eding-Half Marathon.
Separate prices apply, see website.

Outdoor theatre:
A Midsummer Night’s Dream
Sat 15 Jul 7.30pm
One of Shakespeare’s best-loved plays, with The Lord Chamberlain’s Men.
Adult £16 Child £8 B 0344 249 1985

Summer adventures
Wed 23 Jul - Tue 3 Sep 10am-5pm
Enjoy a range of activities from Archery to family Gardening Club

Luna Cinema
Fri 7 - Sun 9 Jul 7pm at 9.30pm
A night out under the stars come and see The Greatest Showman, Mamma Mia 2 and Ferris Bueller’s Day Off.
B www.thelunacinema.com

Roastfest
Sat 8 - Sun 9 Jun
Join a ‘gardener’s question time’ with Jim Butters, tours, talks and classes with special guests like Andrew Reynolds from David Austin. 20% off rose sales in our Garden Centre.
B 0344 249 1985 or online

Father and child woodland campfire
Fri 14 Jun 4.30pm & Sat 15 Jun 2.30-3pm
Celebrate Father’s Day with woodland crafts and cooking on an open fire.
Adult £11 Child £6 £18 B

Morden Hall Park
Summer fair
Sat 20 Jul & Sun 21 Jul 10am-4pm
Enjoy a weekend of fun with the family B www.mokleighfair.co.uk

Putka Theatre’s workshops for kids
Sat 20 Jul - Thu 1 Aug
10.30am-1.30pm
Learn puppetry, mask making, drama, storytelling and more with Putka Theatre
B 0344 249 1985 or online

The Great Big Tree Climbing
Wed 20 Jul & Wed 21 Aug 10am-3pm
Climb the tallest, oldest tree in the park for £2 per person B 0344 249 1985

Outdoors: With a Song in Her Heart
Sat 5 Aug 7.30pm
This new one-woman opera celebrates life, love and music. By Opera:Uncloseth Adult £17-22 B 0344 249 1985

Outdoor theatre:
Guigna Granezy
Sat 31 Aug 2pm & 6pm
David Williams’ best-selling adventure with Hearthbeats Productions.
Adult £8 Child £3 B 0344 249 1985

Bat walks
Sat 5 Sep 7.45-9.30pm
Learn about bats with the Ranger team
Adult £8 Child £4.50 B 0344 249 1985

Rainham Hall
Havering. RM13 5YN
Tel: 07076 325579

Exhibitions: Anthony Denney
Jun 23rd - Jan 2023
Brand new exhibition and programme of activities inspired by 900s icon, Voghera photographer and interior designer, Anthony Denney, resident of Rainham Hall.
Addional charge for some activities

Late night opening
Thu 30 Jun 3.30-9pm
Specialy curated after hours events inspired by our Anthony Denney exhibitions.
Addional charge for some activities

Gentleman’s afternoon tea
Sun 10 Jul
Celebrate Father’s Day in style in our staffed cafe. Extra treat for those wearing a bow tie, a favourite accessory of Anthony Denney.
£18 B

Summer holiday activities
Sat 27 Jul - Sun 1 Sep
Stroll around our free community gardens and join us for our summer activities.
Addional charge for some activities

Get in touch
We love to hear what you think of this newsletter. Please let us know by emailing LSE.customerequiries @nationaltrust.org.uk or write to us at: National Trust at Chilterns Hub Prospect House Chequers Street High Wycombe HP13 6LS.
You can also follow us on Twitter @southeasteast, or find us on Facebook at National Trust London and South East

nationaltrust.org.uk/southeastevents

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Red House
Beckenley. DA4 8JF
Tel: 020 8303 6389

May half term
Sat 25 May - Sun 2 Jun
Enjoy the Red House garden at its best in spring, and take the perfect portrait under our lily-size garden photo frame.

Father’s Day weekend
Sat 5 - Sun 6 Jul
Treat Dad to a day at Red House. Make him a present in our crafting room and have a family picnic in the garden.
Adult £5 Child £3 B 0344 249 1985

Community craft weekend
Sat 20 - Sun 21 Jul
A celebration of local arts, crafts, and community wellbeing at Red House with a variety of activities and workshops.

Summer holidays
Wed 24 Jul - Sat 3 Sep
Discover 500 years of history at Sutton House from Tudors to 1960s squatter punks.

New family trial
Wed 2 Jul - Sun 22 Sep
Discover Sutton House from Tudors to 1960s squatter punks.

Summer exhibition
Wed 20 Jul - Sun 22 Jul
Our community-created exhibition.

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Photography © National Trust Images / Chris Lacey, Hugh McTavish, Oskar Proctor, Ian Wooton, BBC Countryfile © National Trust 2019. Registered charity no. 205846
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 as our rangers explain, 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 sites of a pixie 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 (set route) in the sunshine every week and I can’t believe that it’s actually my job to watch the progress of summer,” says Sarah Chatterley, ranger at Ashridge estate.

With the news full of headlines about the decline of nature, it’s more important than ever for everyone to be doing what they 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 23,000 hectares of priority habitat by 2025,” says Michael Andrews, ranger at Cliveden.

“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 Cliveden’s portfolio, we’re trying to maximise biodiversity. That means creating a mosaic of different niche habitats, rather than a monoculture. It’s a matter of getting the balance right,” explains Michael. The surveys consist of going through the different habitats looking for ‘indicator species’. The abundance (or not) of these plants or animals tells us what condition the habitat is in.

The rangers 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 increases, decreases or an unusual record. Our recent butterfly transects have recorded 30 different species of butterfly on Ashridge’s Hypholoe Hills, including rare finds like the Duke of Burgundy,” says Sarah. “Surveying is my favourite part of the week, as it is for many of our wonderful 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 monitored system of surveying. It can be as simple as you put in your living room watching a bird feeder or a mass butterfly with dozens of other people where you get active out into the countryside. There’s a Bioblitz at Moorland Hall Park on 31 May and June and one at Ashridge on 21 July that you can get involved in.

It is so important to share wildlife monitoring findings. Our rangers have their own databases, but other rangers have their own databases, and the results are also shared with other nature charities monitoring bodies and government organisations. Databases like iObserve 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 iObserve. 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. Feathery was cleared 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 whinchat may return to raise a family, and that would be magic.”

- Alan Snook, bird volunteer surveyor, New Forest

nationaltrust.org.uk/southeast
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 their hard work last year on planting schemes really comes into its own right now.

The new design of Hurt House formal gardens revitalises 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 quarry garden at Scotney 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."

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 RSP on the National Trust website or phone Vicki Tobit, Supporter Group Co-ordinator on 0300 3399496.

Conservation in action

Bembridge's naked windmill

Nestled in a corner of a quiet meadow in Bembridge Windmill - the site of Wight's last surviving windmill. Others have crumbled away, but this small emblem of our industrial heritage - captured in watercolour by JM Turner - remains a much-loved part of the landscape.

If you visit this year, you'll have a rare opportunity to see the mill in a state of undress. We've removed the sweeties (the sails' wooden latticework) which were beginning to rot. Now the sail stands bare, whilst we fundraise for £30,000 to have new sweeties made.

For 300 years this little gem has served its community. Poaching, milling stopped and never resumed when the men left to fight in the Great War. It's been a wartime shelter and a Home Guard HQ, and today, you can still explore its 18th-century machinery as you clamber right to the top. Halfway up there are glorious views across rolling fields.

Cliveden's epic statue cleaners

Conservation cleaning is not just about dusting house collection items to prevent damage from debris build-up. Garden statuary and sculpture are equally at risk, and they literally have a lot more thrown at them.

At Cliveden there are around 200000 statues and carvings. Before cleaning, condition surveys are carried out to establish a baseline for the future condition report. This is one of the most extensive experience, John and the team needs very little input from me, says Conservator Vicki Marland.

"Their dedication to the statues is invaluable and the visitors really enjoy speaking to John and seeing the team at work."

And John's favourite statue? "I do have one that I like cleaning. She's called Sibyl. You can tell she was carved from a real model by the tiny details. Her little toes cross over slightly as if she's been wearing tight shoes."

Cliveden's 2019 statue trail 'Politics in Art' runs throughout the summer. Pick up a trail map from the information centre or download a pdf version online.

Treemendous Mottisfont

This summer, a team of tree-loving volunteers is helping to protect ancient tree stock on the Mottisfont estate. With training, they'll identify whether a tree is ancient, veteran, or significant, record each tree's condition, then plot its location on a GPS device.

'The method we carry out maintenance on an old house, we need to health-check our trees to help them live longer,' says Ranger Ryan Scott. Historically, they survived to great ages because woodlands were managed for their materials. So trees were felled for instance, which prevented them getting top-heavy and toppling over.

A mix of techniques is used to determine a tree's age, from measuring trunk size, to looking for features like fungi and branch canyons. Then remedial action like bald-chipping is carried out. This is the removal of fast-growing young trees that are shading out a mature specimen, causing it to shut down.

'Trees play a really valuable role in our ecosystem. The older and more decayed they get, the more wildlife they support. Their crevices and rotting wood become safe havens for bats, birds, and insects like the stag beetle. They're an important link with our past too, with the people and forces that have shaped our landscape over centuries.'

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