



National Trust

News and events for summer 2019
Herefordshire | Shropshire | Staffordshire
Warwickshire | West Midlands | Worcestershire

Near you



©National Trust Images/John Miller

Summer's here at last

Summer is the season of warmth, longer days and an abundance of wildlife – you just want to be outside. There are many summer adventures to be had at a National Trust place near you.

Why not set your children free with our '50 things to do before you're 11¾' activities? At Croft Castle and Parkland in Herefordshire you can watch birds in the hide located in the picturesque Fishpool Valley, while Wenlock Edge in Shropshire is perfect for hunting for fossils. Tick off lots of challenges at Baddesley Clinton in Warwickshire with their Summer of Wildlife (check website for details) with discover what's in a pond, make friends with a bug, den building and the chance to make your own bug hotel.

For more summer fun why not try nature and craft activities (Wednesdays in the summer holidays) at Wightwick Manor and Gardens in Wolverhampton, boating on the lake and playing cricket

at Berrington Hall in Herefordshire and duck racing (every Tuesday in the summer holidays) at Coughton Court in Warwickshire?

If you like things a little more serene, head to the gardens at our places to see flowers in full bloom and borders at their best. In the Walled Garden at Attingham Park in Shropshire see cottage garden favourites, foxgloves, lavender and hollyhocks and don't miss the veg patch with lettuces, French beans and melons growing in the refurbished Melon House. At Hanbury Hall in Worcestershire the Parterre becomes a riot of colour and texture

with the addition of summer bedding and the bowling green will be open for games. Take a stroll through the 'Capability' Brown parkland at Croome in Worcestershire which reveals statues, temples and follies around every corner and follow the spiral path at Packwood in Warwickshire to the magnificent yews.

Follow us...

or your local National Trust place on social media. Share your days out with us and get the latest updates on summer events and activities

#NTMidlands



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Meal times in the summer are al fresco and having a picnic is the quintessential British way to eat outside. At Greyfriars House and Garden in Worcester you can find your own little picnic oasis in the Walled Garden and escape the bustle of the busy streets, while at Shugborough in Staffordshire enjoy your picnic in the shade of one of the historic monuments dotted around the parkland and at Sunnycroft in Shropshire, the croquet lawn is the perfect spot for a picnic and why not have a game?

Nature flourishes in the summer, there's so much to see. Dudmaston in Shropshire is a great place to see damselflies

and dragonflies and the Big Pool is home to over 10 species. While at the Clent Hills in Worcestershire listen out for birdsong from thrush, nuthatch, redstart and warblers and see if you can spot the brown trout in the river at The Weir Garden in Herefordshire.

The highlights for this season are hazy days, borders in bloom and wondrous wildlife, sure signs that summer is here. You help us protect these signs of summer.



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



From the Director for the Midlands



© National Trust

Welcome to the summer edition of Near You. My enthusiasm for nature began with a cloud of butterflies across a meadow. We are trying to make sure that the land that we care for offers that experience to everyone – whether that is through dedicating land for nature, or nature friendly farming. This can make a positive change really quickly and I hope that you will see some of the impacts of that this year at our places.

We also have a number of new exhibitions exploring different stories about our places. At Croome in Worcestershire, the What is Home exhibition explores the stories of its history as a catholic boys school in the words of former pupils and contemporary children in care. Meanwhile Attingham Park in Shropshire and Upton House in Warwickshire will show works in partnership with the National Portrait Gallery.

If you manage to visit us, I hope that you will also see some of the new investments that we have made in visitor facilities to ensure that we are meeting the needs of everyone. The new Wood Yard café at Charlecote Park in Warwickshire is a great example.

© National Trust/Peter Young



What is Home at Croome, Worcestershire

However you spend your summer, I wish you all the best for the season.

Andy Beer

Andy Beer



© National Trust/ Jack Nelson

What is Home opens at Croome

A new contemporary art installation entitled 'What is Home' has opened at Croome in Worcestershire.

Artist Kashif Nadim Chaudry has worked sensitively with ex-pupils of St Josephs' Special School for Boys which was housed at Croome 1948 to 1978 and children currently living in the care system in Worcestershire, to bring this poignant project to life.

Ordinary items with an extraordinary story have been selected to signify What is Home to those who donated them. Possessions which include the teddy bear that helps take the memories away, pennies that can finally pay for a lost mother's trip to visit her sons, the rosary that began a lifelong devotion and a pink bootie that represents safety and warmth, along with personal testimonies, bring

the childhood memories to life. Rachel Sharpe, Croome's Creative Partnerships Manager explains, 'What is Home is the culmination of two years of very careful work and close collaboration with ex-pupils and children in care at each stage of the project, learning from their unique life experiences. Kashif Nadim Chaudry has collected and curated these extraordinary testimonies through expertly crafted workshops and conversations, which have resulted in a thought-provoking artwork.'

Specialist advisors inside and outside of the Trust have been consulted to support the participation work and to help them sensitively understand how the story might affect those children and adults undergoing similar experiences within the care system today.

Croome will also be presenting works by international contemporary artist, Grayson Perry, well known for chronicling modern life through ceramics, tapestries and other art forms.

The exhibition will include three tapestries and two etchings centred around the theme of landscapes and identity.

The exhibition is open now and runs until Sunday 29th September.

For more information visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/Grayson-Perry



Art Fund

You can see What is Home at Croome until July 2020. Visit

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/what-is-home for more details.

See World-class portraits of nature's champions

Attingham Park, in Shropshire, and Upton House and Gardens, in Warwickshire, will soon be hosting artworks from the National Portrait Gallery. The exhibitions will include portraits depicting champions of nature and the natural world.

On show will be works from the 19th century to the present, including outstanding paintings, sculptures, photographs and recent commissions. The selection of portraits includes environmental activists, poets, artists, politicians, campaigners, gardeners, broadcasters and scientists.

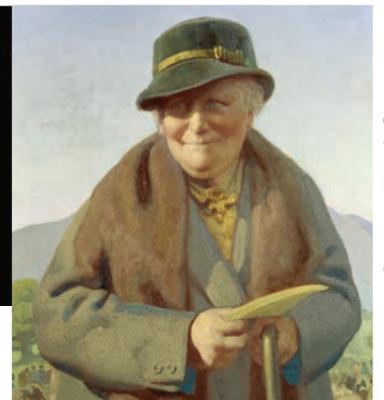
Jane Gallagher, Lead Curator for the Midlands, said: 'Working with the National Portrait Gallery is a really exciting partnership for us as it gives local people the chance to view world-class portraits closer to home.'

At Attingham, staff, volunteers and local school children have contributed to the exhibition by sharing their personal reflections on nature and the work of the portrait sitters. The exhibition is part of a year-long visitor programme 'Grow Your Green Roots', a year long celebration highlighting the work to conserve and protect nature on Attingham's 4,000 acre estate.

National Portrait Gallery



Whereas at Upton, the exhibition will complement the exhibition of 1930s Shell advertising posters including the See Britain First campaign, which showed an idealised view of the English countryside. There will also be a focus on landscapes for Upton's 'picture in focus' display in the house, bringing together paintings from the collection to see how artists' vision of the natural world changed over time.



Faces of Change: Nature's Champions' will be on display in the Picture Gallery at Attingham Park from 22 June to 8 September, then at Upton House and Gardens from 21 September to 9 December.

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/natureschampions

Love the countryside? Love nature?

Then join us this summer at BBC Countryfile Live

This year's Countryfile Live takes place at Blenheim Palace from 1-4 August and Castle Howard from 15-18 August and we'd love to see you there!

Special National Trust passes for members start at £44* for two adults at Blenheim Palace and £35.20* for two adults at Castle Howard and include a car parking pass, making this great value for money. Use code NT19 to book.

For more information about this year's offer visit

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/countryfile-live

To book tickets visit www.countryfilelive.com *including 10% booking fee.



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A day in the life of...

Nick Lloyd, Tenant farmer, Brilley, Herefordshire.

The farm at Fernhall is nestled in the Herefordshire countryside and has been home to my wife and I for the past two years. It has 300 acres of mainly permanent pasture and wildflower meadows. We also grow around 40 acres of arable crops for feed and bedding and run a holiday cottage on the farm. Conservation is very important to us, we are custodians of this land and we must look after, and protect it and the wildlife for future generations. Our farm is very traditional and has changed little in over 150 years. Hares, roe deer, red kites, barn and tawny

owls, skylarks and snipe all make their home here.

Summertime is my favourite time of year, lambing is over and the shearing is done. The cattle are all out grazing the meadows but we still have a couple of cows to calve. The morning routine starts by checking all the stock. At this time of year we are busy making hay and round bale silage to feed our animals for the coming winter – preparation is key. No two days are the same, so afternoons can be spent sat on the tractor turning hay or on the quad with my dogs, Belle and Molly, gathering lambs for market



© National Trust

and moving sheep. Whatever the day brings, I always try to take time out to look over the land to see the hay fields in full flower with orchids, oxeye daisies, trefoils, vetches and yellow rattle which are alive with bee's and butterflies – a sure sign of summer.

To find out at bit more about the farm and what we do here, visit

www.fernhallfarm.co.uk



National Trust

Events for summer 2019

Herefordshire | Shropshire | Staffordshire
Warwickshire | West Midlands | Worcestershire

What's on



© National Trust Images/Arnd de Siera

Herefordshire

Berrington Hall

Kite Festival

Sat 13 Jul & Sun 14 Jul, 10am-4pm
Kite flying has been popular for many centuries and this year we'll host another year of the Hereford and Leominster Kite Festival. Bring your own kite, fly with experts and see Berrington's sky lit up with colour.

Red Riding Hood Trail

Sat 20 Jul - Sun 1 Sep, 10am-4pm
Grab your red cloak and step back in time to follow the footsteps of the big bad wolf. See if you can take up the challenge and defeat this scary beast as he hides in the gardens.
£2.50 per trail, includes a prize

Berri Fest

Sun 28 Jul, 11am-4pm
To raise funds for our Berrington Garden Project, we have decided to get everyone out into the gardens for a day of music. Enjoy performances from a series of different bands and musicians.
Adult £5, child £2.50

Key to symbols

- Booking advisable. Call individual property
- Booking essential. Call individual property
- Booking essential. Call Central Box Office on 03442 491895 (5% booking fee applies)
- Booking essential online only at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/<insert property name here>
- Event repeated on other dates, check website for details
- School holiday event

Summertime Gardens - Evening Opening

Sat 3 Aug - Sat 31 Aug (Sats only), 5.30pm-8.30pm
Every Saturday evening in August, Berrington's gardens will be open for visitors to explore. We will be holding special events on some of these evenings, including 'Gardener's Question Time' on Saturday 10 August.

Party in the Pleasure Grounds

Sat 3 Aug, Sat 24 Aug & Sun 25 Aug, 10am-4pm
Join us in the walled garden and pleasure grounds as we celebrate our Berrington Garden Project. Show your support and help us raise funds for our vital conservation work with live music, games and much more.
Adult £2, child £1

Boating on the Lake

Mon 5 Aug - Fri 30 Aug (Mon - Fri only), 12noon-4pm
The best way to see the 14-acre lake is by boat. Hire a boat for a trip around parts of the lake and see some of the hidden spaces in the 'Capability' Brown designed water habitat. Boat hire is for half an hour per session.
Adult £6, child £3

Berrington 10K

Sun 22 Sep, 10am-4pm
Get your running shoes on and take part in our first ever 10K around 'Capability' Brown's final landscape masterpiece. You'll also be directly contributing to our ambitious conservation project to revive Brown's iconic walled garden and pleasure grounds.
All £15 + suggested sponsorship amount TBC
Price TBC

Brockhampton

Father's Day BBQ, Beer and Ceilidh Band

Sun 16 Jun, 12noon-3pm
Feast on delicious burgers and sausages with vegetarian and vegan options, join in with the dancing and give Dad a treat on his special day.

Orchard Walk

Sun 30 Jun, 2pm-4pm
The walk will be through orchards over undulating terrain, covering approximately three miles and will be mildly strenuous. Participants will be able to discover how they can join in with the Reimagining Orchards project. Visit website for details.
All £5

Fruit Rhymes Trail

Fri 19 Jul, 11am-4.30pm
Fun for all ages, how many of the nursery rhymes do you know? Which fruits can you identify and how many of the fruits featured have you tried? Complete the trail and win a prize.
£2.50 per trail

Minecraft Building Day

Tue 13 Aug & Sat 31 Aug, 11am-4pm
How many trees can you plant and how many can you harvest? Build an awesome orchard from Minecraft blocks and see where our new orchards will grow. Discover how we will be helping nature and growing delicious fruit for the future.
All £2

Croft Castle and Parkland

Croft during the Second World War

Sat 8 Jun & Sun 9 Jun, 10am-4pm
Discover more about Croft during the war, including how the castle was used as a school for evacuated children and the family's link to Churchill, with authentic wartime recipes, archive material, memorabilia, uniforms and weaponry.

Second World War Home Front Cooking

Sat 6 Jul & Sun 7 Jul, 10am-4pm
Step back in time to the Second World War and taste authentic Home Front recipes cooked on a traditional Soyer Stove outside the castle.

Swallows and Amazons Trail

Sat 20 Jul - Sun 1 Sep, 10am-4pm
Imagine you're sailing away from dastardly pirates, learn some much-needed outdoor survival skills and reconnect with nature and the outdoors on our summer holiday trail.
All £2.50

Immersion Theatre present 'Alice in Wonderland'

Mon 5 Aug, 2pm-4pm
Pack up your picnic and something to sit on and relax on the front lawn as Immersion Theatre bring you their wonderful performance of 'Alice in Wonderland'.
All £1

Bushcraft Survival Weekend

Sat 31 Aug & Sun 1 Sep, 10am-4pm
Reconnect with nature and the outdoors with our bushcraft survival weekend. Learn all about bushcraft and outdoor survival skills, including den building, foraging and wild animal tracks.

Reviving Croft's Fishpool Valley

Sat 7 Sep & Sun 8 Sep, 10am-4pm
Try our new walks through the valley, see the dam repairs in action and meet the team. Find out more about the project and see the industrial history of the valley brought to life with horse logging, pole lathing, chestnut splitting and other traditional woodland crafts.

Forties Music Weekend

Sat 21 Sep & Sun 22 Sep, 11am-3pm
Step back in time and enjoy live forties music in the Saloon. While you're here, discover more about Henry Page Croft's role as Undersecretary of State for War and Edward Croft Murray's vital contribution to the Second World War as one of the Monuments Men.

The Weir Garden

River Folklore Trail

Fri 19 Jul - Sun 1 Sep (excl. Weds), 10.30am-4pm
Discover the ancient legends of Water Dragons, Nymphs and other magical creatures who have lived here alongside the river for hundreds of years.
All £2.50

1920s at The Weir Garden

Fri 19 Jul - Sun 1 Sep, 10.30am-4pm
Practice those throwing skills as we take you back to traditional fairground games of tin can alley and our coconut shy. Who can score the most points?

'50 things to do before you're 11¾'

Wed 31 Jul - Wed 28 Aug (Weds only), 11am-4pm
Come along every Wednesday for self-led activities to complete your '50 things' list. Build a den, toast a marshmallow and even fly a kite.

This is just a selection of our events. To find even more great things to do visit us online at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/midlands

Shropshire

Attingham Park

Faces of Change: Nature's Champions
Sat 22 Jun – Sun 8 Sep, 11am-4.30pm
This partnership exhibition with the National Portrait Gallery features portraits of environmental activists, poets, artists, politicians, campaigners, gardeners, broadcasters and scientists from the 19th century to the present day, depicted in outstanding paintings, sculptures, photographs and recent commissions.

Guided Walk - Gardening in a National Trust Walled Garden

Tue 25 Jun, 2pm-3pm
Grow Your Green Roots and re-discover the Walled Garden on a walk around its walls. Learn how it was gardened historically and how it's gardened today. Free guided walk, any donations will go towards the Glasshouses Restoration Project. Assistance dogs only.

Sense and Sensibility with the Pantaloons

Thu 4 Jul, 7pm-10pm
Join us for an evening of outdoor theatre as The Pantaloons share their unique and hilarious take on Sense and Sensibility. This funny, fast-paced and faithful new adaptation features live music, audience interaction, romance and heartbreak.
Adult £15, child £10 

Deer Park Safari

Tue 23 Jul – Tue 27 Aug
(Tues only), 10.30am-4.15pm
(on the half hour, lasts 45 mins)

Find out about our deer and take a seat on our tractor and trailer safari ride to see if you can spot them.

Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.
All £4 



Gangsta Granny with Heartbreak Productions

Sat 3 Aug, 7pm-9pm
Join Ben and his caring (but unpredictable!) Granny in an outdoor theatre production of this popular David Walliams' story. Suitable for 7 - 77 years old, enjoy an evening of fun and interaction delivered in the inimitable Heartbreak style.
Adult £15, child £10 

Whispering Woods

Fri 30 Aug, 2.30pm-4pm & 7pm-9pm
Get closer to Attingham's trees with a promenade theatre production including aerial performances high up in the tree tops. Capturing the magic and enchantment of the woods with a glimpse into another world through masterful storytelling.
Adult £15, child £10 

Summer Nights Film Festival 2019 - films to be announced

Fri 6 Sep – Sun 8 Sep, 8pm-11pm
Set up your picnic next to the historic Mansion and enjoy a late summer evening watching an all time classic or modern feature film on the big screen.
Adult £15.50, child £10.50, group £12.50
Booking essential through the Summer Nights Film Festival website
www.summernightsfilm.co.uk/



Carding Mill Valley and the Long Mynd

Bird Watching Walk

Thu 13 Jun, 6.30pm-8.30pm
Bird enthusiast and expert Dave Pearce will be your guide for a walk to find and identify a range of species that call the Long Mynd home.
All £7.50 

Solstice Sleepout

Thu 20 Jun – Fri 21 Jun, 8pm-8am
Join our Ranger and Engagement staff for an unforgettable night of wild camping on the Long Mynd. Our team will be supplying a warming fire. You will need a small tent, sleeping bag, torch, food and drink.
All £20 

Stars in Your Skies - Moon Landing at 50

Sat 20 Jul – Fri 26 Jul, 10am-5pm
On 16 July 1969 three astronauts, Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins were launched on an historic trip to the moon. Stars In Your Skies are providing an exhibition to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the moon landing. 

Lecture Lunch

Thu 12 Sep, 10am-12noon
Join Patrick, our Area Ranger for an illustrated talk about the important conservation work the Volunteer Rangers carry out through sun, wind and snow to manage the beautiful yet looming wilderness of the Long Mynd for all to enjoy. Tickets include soup and roll.
All £10 

Meet The Grazers - Walk and Talk

Thu 19 Sep, 10am-12noon
Area Ranger Patrick will lead this walk, sharing stories of the sheep who graze the Mynd. Meeting in the Batch Valley, Patrick will get you up close to our flock of Hebridean sheep to tell their tale of conservation grazing.

Dudmaston

Outdoor Theatre - 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'

Wed 19 Jun, 7.30pm-10pm
Bring a chair and a picnic and spend a glorious summer evening watching Shakespeare's most famous comedy. Performed in the open air, by an all male cast with Elizabethan costumes, music and dance. Gates open at 6.30pm.
Adult £15, child £10 

Bowl Turning Workshop with Amerton Arts Studio

Tue 2 Jul & Wed 3 Jul, 10am-5pm
Step by step instruction will be provided and the finished bowl can be taken home. The course is suitable for total beginners and more experienced individuals wishing to refine their craft. All materials, tools and equipment are provided.
All £70 

Outdoor Theatre - 'Gangsta Granny'

Tue 30 Jul, 4pm-6pm
David Walliams' much-loved modern classic comes to the outdoor stage at Dudmaston. Performed in the open air by Heartbreak Productions. The gates to the performance area open at 3.30pm.
Adult £12, child £10, family £40(2A+2C) or £42 (2A+3C) 

Outdoor Theatre - 'Alice in Wonderland'

Sun 1 Sep, 2pm-4pm
Join us for a summer afternoon on the top terrace of the garden. Watch this magical production perfect for the whole family. Performed in the open air by Immersion Theatre. The gates to the performance area open at 1pm.
Adult £10.50, child £9, family £32.50(2A+2C) or £34(2A+3C) 

Spoon Carving Workshop with Amerton Arts Studio

Tue 10 Sep & Wed 11 Sep, 10am-4pm
We'll provide all the tools and techniques you need. The finished work can be taken home at the end. The course is suitable for total beginners and more experienced individuals wishing to refine their craft.
All £70 



Sunnycroft

Sunnycroft '50 things' Trail

Fri 7 Jun – Tue 3 Sep
(Fri's – Tues only), 10.30am-4pm
Explore summer in Sunnycroft's garden and see how many '50 things' you can tick off your list. Pick up a trail map and have an adventure with nature. 

Artisan Expo

Fri 14 Jun – Tue 18 Jun, 10.30am-4pm
This weekend Sunnycroft is showcasing the amazing talents of local artisans. With demonstrations of traditional handcrafting skills including rag rugging, embroidery, quilling and many more. Childrens activities at the weekend. See website for more details.

Apple Pressing Month

Sat 7 Sep – Sun 29 Sep
(Sats & Suns only), 11am-3pm
Throughout September find out about traditional apple pressing. Using apples from our orchard, see how apple juice is made. Small charge per bottle. See website for more details.

Wenlock Edge

Mindfulness Walk

Sun 16 Jun, 10am-12noon
We will discuss the health and wellbeing impacts before doing some mindfulness exercises in the woodland making use of the natural environment and the benefits it brings. This will be outdoors, including a short walk across uneven terrain, please wear appropriate outdoor clothing and footwear. Meet at Presthope car park - TF13 6DQ
All £3 

Wenlock's Wildflowers

Thu 27 Jun, 6.30pm-8.30pm
Join the rangers and explore the variety of wild flowers at Ballstone Quarry and the woods surrounding it. Meet at Much Wenlock car park - TF13 6DH
All £3 



Little Trackers

Thu 8 Aug, 11am-1pm
Our ranger team will lead you on a route around the woods from Presthope car park to find the living things on Wenlock Edge. Involves a 1-mile walk, wellies recommended. Meet at Presthope car park - TF13 6DQ
Child £3 

Wild Food Foraging Morning

Sun 15 Sep, 10am-1pm
Learn how to identify different edible and poisonous species. This will be a short walk, foraging as we go, before heading back to the manor house to taste a variety of wild treats. Meet at Wilderhope Manor car park - TF13 6EG
All £15 



Staffordshire

Biddulph Grange Garden

Mr Magnolia - Outdoor Theatre

Sat 10 Aug, 2pm-3.30pm & Sun 1 Sep, 11am-4pm
Folksy Theatre return to Biddulph Grange Garden with a perfect family afternoon performance of family favourite Mr Magnolia. Bring a chair or a rug to sit on and join in the singing.
Adult £12, child £10, concessions £10
Booking essential via www.folksytheatre.co.uk

Kinver Edge and the Rock Houses

Rag Rug Workshop

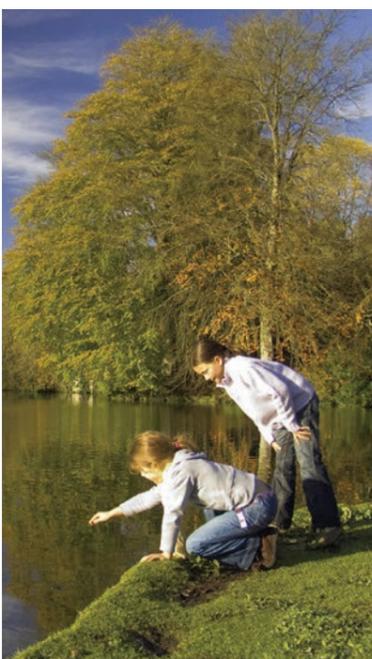
Tue 11 Jun, Tue 3 Sep & Tue 17 Sep, 11am-1pm
Fuelled with tea and cake, you'll try different techniques, learn a little of the history of this skill, take home your new rag-rug tool and your first rag rug which you can finish at home. All materials provided and refreshments included.
All £25 

Marvellous Moths and Breakfast Baps

Sat 20 Jul, 9am-11am
Members of Kinver Moth Group and the local branch of Butterfly Conservation will run a moth light the previous night, and will show you their catches before they are released unharmed. Hearty breakfast bap and drinks included.
All £6 

Forest School at Kinver Edge

Tue 23 Jul – Fri 30 Aug, 11am-1pm
Forest School takes place in the beautiful woodlands of Kinver Edge, delivered by Open Trail. Activities are different every week but always involve an open fire and natural play. Suitable for ages 5-14 - a variety of age appropriate activities.
Child £5 



Moseley Old Hall

The Three Inch Fools: A Musical Take on Shakespeare

Tue 18 Jun, 7pm-9.30pm
Watch The Three Inch Fools perform their highly imaginative and vibrant musical take on Shakespeare's Much Ado About Nothing, equipped with all manner of musical instruments, in the farmyard.
Adult £16, child £8, group £40 

Midsummer Wool Fair

Sat 22 Jun & Sun 23 Jun, 11am-4pm
It's Midsummer! Come to Moseley Old Hall to celebrate with a festival of all things wool - old and new. There will be historic displays, family activities and stalls, plus you can have a go at spinning and weaving. 

Summer Activities

Mon 29 Jul – Tue 20 Aug (Mon & Tue only), 11am-3pm
Join us each week for family fun in the garden and woodland. With a different theme each week including Lamma, Map Quest, What's Wild Where?, Civil War Camp and something to make and take home.
Child £1.50

Pole Lathe Bowl Making with Amerton Arts Studio

Mon 2 Sep, Tue 3 Sep & Wed 4 Sep, 10am-4.30pm
Have a go at turning your own wooden bowl from start to finish using a pole lathe. Suitable for both beginners and more experienced individuals who want to refine their craft. All materials, tools and equipment are provided.
Adult £70 

Michaelmas Harvest Fair

Sat 28 Sep & Sun 29 Sep, 11am-4pm
It's the time of year to see if our wassailing worked! Find out the stories behind our heritage variety of apples, pears, quinces, medlars and more. There will be stalls, activities and fun things to learn, marking the seasonal changes.



This is just a selection of the hundreds of National Trust events and activities taking place in the West Midlands.

Shugborough Estate

Beginner's Photography Workshop: In Focus

Sat 1 Jun, Sat 31 Aug & Sat 12 Oct, 11am-12.30pm

Spend the morning familiarising yourself with the basics of photography. These special 'in focus' workshops will give you the opportunity to look at some aspects of the estate in more detail: 1 Jun - Foliage in the Formal Gardens; 31 Aug - Food and flowers in the Walled Garden; 12 Oct - Autumn leaves in the Arboretum **All £5** **B**



Stone Carving 1, 2 & 3 Day Courses

Fri 7 Jun, Sat 8 Jun - Mon 10 Jun, 9.30am-4.30pm

Take inspiration from Shugborough's unique architecture for a one, two or three-day course where you will learn the traditional skill of carving stone. Suitable for complete beginners with individual tuition. 7 Jun one-day: **£70**; 8-9 Jun two-days: **£120**; 8-10 Jun three-days: **£180** (prices incl. all materials and light refreshments on each day).

Booking Essential, call Amerton Arts Studio on 07761 999522

Pole Lathe Bowl Turning

Fri 28 Jun, 9.30am-4.30pm

The one-day course will provide step-by-step instruction. The finished bowl can be taken home. The course is suitable for both total beginners and more experienced individuals wishing to refine their craft. All materials tools and equipment will be provided. **All £70, Booking Essential, call Amerton Arts Studio on 07761 999522**

Introduction to Watercolour

Sat 13 Jul, Wed 17 Jul, Sat 10 Aug & Fri 16 Aug, 10am-12noon

Learn the art of watercolour painting with professional artist Sue Chatterton, taking inspiration from the dahlia display in the Walled Garden on 13 & 17 July, or our historic livestock breeds on 10 & 16 August. All materials are supplied. **All £25** **B**



Pathways to Paradise

Sat 20 Jul - Sun 8 Sep, 11am-3pm

With journey stick in hand, little explorers can discover all the pathways, waterways and train tracks that allow people to pass through this paradise, adding mementos to your journey stick to take home with you. **All £2**

Children's Wand Making Workshop

Tue 23 Jul & Wed 24 Jul, 10am-3.30pm (each session lasts 1 hour)

Join local crafters from Amerton Arts to learn how to use a shave horse and a spoke shave to make your very own magic wand. This activity is suitable for children 5+. **Child £5** **B**

Open-Air Theatre: 'Much Ado About Nothing'

Sat 27 Jul, 7pm-8.30pm

This year's production is brought to you by Shakespeare's Wanderers, an outdoor theatre company that is passionate about creating bold, inventive and - above all - fun productions of Shakespeare that everyone can enjoy. **Adult £14, child £9, family £42** **B**

Warwickshire

Baddesley Clinton

Outdoor Cinema

Fri 26 Jul & Sat 27 Jul, 7pm-11pm

An exciting opportunity to watch one of your favourite films against the backdrop of the moated manor house. Don't forget to bring a picnic. Please note that the time is subject to change due to light levels and will be confirmed when tickets are booked. **Early bird rate before 1 Jun: Adult £12.50, child £8.50 (under 12s); Rate from 1 Jun: Adult £15.50, child £10.50 (under 12s), under 5s go free.** **Booking essential via <http://summernightsfilm.co.uk>**

Charlecote Park

Bat Walk

Fri 7 Jun & Sat 6 Jul, 9.30pm-11pm

Join us as we try to spot some of our resident bats. Stroll around the grounds with a member of Warwickshire Bat Group to find out a little more about them and, hopefully, see a few. Detecting equipment will be provided. **£7.50** **B** **G**

Weave a Willow Heron

Sat 8 Jun, 10am-2pm

Willow weaving is an ancient traditional craft. Join our workshop to weave your very own heron out of willow. All materials will be supplied and you'll be able to take your unique creation home with you. **£45** **B**

An Introduction to Beekeeping

Thu 13 Jun & Thu 20 Jun, 9.30am-4.30pm

Find out all about beekeeping and Charlecote's own honey bees. You'll have the opportunity to don bee suits and head to our apiary to see the bees in action. **£50** incl. lunch and refreshments **B**

Ceramic Hare Workshop

Sat 15 Jun, 10am-12.30pm

Join local ceramics artist Ros Ingram to create your own unique clay sculpture of a hare. Designed for all levels of artistic ability, you will be guided, step by step, through the process of sculpting using stoneware clay with slip decoration. **£45** incl. refreshments and all materials **B**

Weave a Willow Pig

Fri 28 Jun, 10am-4pm

Willow weaving is an ancient traditional craft. Join our workshop and weave yourself a willow pig during this 6-hour workshop. All materials will be supplied and you'll be able to take your unique creation home with you. **£70** **B**

Much Ado About Nothing - Outdoor Theatre

Sat 10 Aug, 7pm-9.30pm

The Three Inch Fools return to Charlecote to present William Shakespeare's Much Ado About Nothing. Performing a highly imaginative and vibrant musical take on Shakespeare's plays. Bring along a picnic and blanket and settle in for an evening of entertainment. **Adult £16, child £8, group £40 (2 adults and 2 children), under 10s go free** **B**

Macbeth - Outdoor Theatre

Sun 11 Aug, 7pm-9.30pm

The Three Inch Fools return to Charlecote to present William Shakespeare's Macbeth. Performing a highly imaginative and vibrant musical take on Shakespeare's plays. Bring along a picnic and blanket and settle in for an evening of entertainment. **Adult £16, child £8, group £40 (2 adults and 2 children), under 10s go free** **B**

Coughton Court

Father's Day

Sun 16 Jun, 2pm-3pm

Celebrate by getting all the family together to sponsor a duck on Coughton's traditional duck race down the River Arrow, plus traditional games for families to enjoy. The race will start at 2pm so please arrive early to buy your duck, on sale from 11am. **£2.50**

Outdoor Theatre: Pride and Prejudice

Fri 5 Jul, 7.30pm-10pm, gates open at 6.30pm

Take a step back in time with Chapterhouse Theatre Company to meet Elizabeth Bennet, Jane Austen's notorious heroine. **Adult £16.80, child £10.50, family £42 (2A 2C), family £48.30 (1A 3C), family £52.50 (2A 3C)** **B**

Coughton Village Summer Fete

Sat 13 Jul, 12noon-4pm

Traditional stalls, games and competitions on the lawn to raise money for local causes. Free admission to the gardens.

Outdoor Theatre: A Midsummer Night's Dream

Fri 19 Jul, 7.30pm-10pm, gates open at 6.30pm

Join the Lord Chamberlain's Men as they perform this Shakespeare classic amongst the trees on the lawns at Coughton Court. Don't forget your picnic! **Adult £16.80, child £10.50, family £42 (2A 2C), family £48.30 (1A 3C), family £52.50 (2A 3C)** **B**

The Duck Race

Tue 23 Jul - Tues

27 Aug (Tues only), 2pm-3pm

Celebrate the summer by getting the family together to sponsor a duck on Coughton's traditional duck race down the River Arrow, plus traditional games for families. The race will start at 2pm so please arrive early to buy your duck, on sale from 11am. **£2.50** **G**

Outdoor Cinema

Fri 9 Aug & Sat 10 Aug, 7pm-11pm

An exciting opportunity to watch one of your favourite films against the backdrop of the house. Don't forget to bring a picnic! Please note that the time is subject to change due to light levels and will be confirmed when tickets are booked. **Early bird rate before 1 Jun: Adult £12.50, child £8.50 (under 12s); Rate from 1 Jun: Adult £15.50, child £10.50 (under 12s), under 5s go free.** **Booking essential via www.summernightsfilm.co.uk**



Packwood House

Outdoor Theatre: A Midsummer Night's Dream

Sat 8 Jun, 7pm-10pm, gates open at 6pm

The Lord Chamberlain's Men perform this Shakespearean classic in the beautiful gardens of Packwood. Don't forget your picnic! **Adult £16.80, child £10.50, family £42 (2A 2C), family £48.30 (1A 3C), family £52.50 (2A 3C)** **B**

Head Gardener's Evening Tours

Wed 12 Jun & Wed 10 Jul, 7pm-9pm

Join Head Gardener, Mick Evans, as he reveals the history and planting secrets of Packwood gardens. Glass of wine included. **£17.50** **B**

Outdoor Theatre: Wuthering Heights

Sat 15 Jun, 7pm-10pm, gates open at 6pm

Join Heartbreak as they perform Emily Jane Brontë's classic novel in the beautiful gardens of Packwood. Wuthering Heights is a wild, passionate story of the intense and almost demonic love between Catherine Earnshaw and Heathcliff, a founding adopted by Catherine's father. **Adult £16.80, child £10.50, family £42 (2A 2C), family £48.30 (1A 3C), family £52.50 (2A 3C)** **B**

Outdoor Theatre: Frankenstein

Fri 26 Jul, 7pm-10pm, gates open at 6pm

Join Illyria this summer for their brand new musical performance of this gripping tale in the beautiful gardens of Packwood. Brilliant young student Viktor Frankenstein discovers how to endow dead organic matter with life itself. Don't forget your picnic! **Adult £16.80, child £10.50, family £42 (2A 2C), family £48.30 (1A 3C), family £52.50 (2A 3C)** **B**

Outdoor Theatre: Gangsta Granny

Wed 14 Aug, 3pm-6pm, gates open at 2pm

David Walliams' novel beautifully adapted for live outdoor performance, Gangsta Granny is the tale of a bored boy who discovers his kindly grandma was a former jewel thief. Together they hatch a plan to steal the Crown Jewels... what can go wrong! **Adult £16.80, child £10.50, family £42 (2A 2C), family £48.30 (1A 3C), family £52.50 (2A 3C)** **B**

Upton House and Gardens

Edge Hill, Shenington and on to Upton long walk

Mon 10 Jun, 10am-3pm

Starting out from the church in Tysoe join an experienced guide for a strenuous 8.5 mile walk stopping for a steaming bowl of soup at Upton House and Gardens. In association with the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens. **£6.50** **B**

Summertime Jazz Night

Sat 6 Jul, 6.30pm-9.30pm

The fabulous Great Central Big Band are back this summer to thrill and entertain you with some classic jazz era numbers. Bring a picnic and a blanket, treat yourself to a drink from our pop-up Pimms bar, and get ready to sing along! **Adult £15, child £7.50** **B**

Afternoon Tea Talk - The Bearsteds and the Riviera Set

Thu 11 Jul, 2.30pm-4pm

Discover the highlights of the 1930s French Riviera with house guide Victor. Hear the story of Lord and Lady Bearsted's villa 'La Serena' and the pleasures and pursuits of their exclusive Riviera lifestyle. **£10** **B**

Summer Story Time

Sat 20 Jul, Tue 6 Aug & Tue 27 Aug, 11.45am-12.30pm, 1pm-1.45pm & 2.15pm-3pm

Join critically acclaimed author and storyteller Cat Weatherill at the woodland den to hear fascinating stories. Cat will tell stories inspired by Kitty Lloyd Jones, the garden designer who redesigned the gardens for Lord & Lady Bearsted in the 1930s.

Wildlife Wednesdays

Wed 24 Jul - Wed 28 Aug (Weds only), 11am-3pm

Join us every Wednesday throughout the holidays to learn everything you ever wanted to know about badgers, bees, hedgehogs and more. From arts and crafts to quizzes and talks, there's something for all ages. See the website for more details. **G**

Family-Friendly Give It A Go Art Workshop

Thu 1 Aug, 10am-1pm

Join talented local artist Lis Mann for a special workshop. Introduce the family to peg loom weaving - a simple way to create some impressive pieces of art. Choose from a selection of materials and weave your own mat. Materials and refreshments included. **Adult £15, child £10** **B**

Outdoor Theatre - Wind in the Willows

Fri 16 Aug, 6.30pm-9pm

Join Mole, Ratty and Badger, messing about on boats and rescuing the reckless Mr Toad from his brushes with the law in this heart-warming, whimsical tale of friendship, mishap and madcap adventures in Quantum Theatre's adaptation of this timeless classic. **Adult £15, child £7.50** **B**

This is just a selection of the hundreds of National Trust events and activities taking place in the West Midlands.

West Midlands

Birmingham Back to Backs

Discover Your Family History

Thu 6 Jun, 6.45pm-8.45pm (Irish);
Sat 28 Sep, 10.30am-12.30pm &
1.30pm-3.30pm (British)

Discover how to delve back further into your family history with the help and guidance of our genealogy specialist.
£15 **B**

Conservation in Action Workshop

Mon 10 Jun & Mon 15 Jul, 1pm-3.30pm
Get a behind the scenes look at the conservation work we do on site. Enjoy some hands on tasks and learn more about how we look after the Back to Backs.

£10 **B**

Murder Mysteries at the Back to Backs

Fri 14 Jun & Fri 20 Sep, 7pm-9pm

There's been a murder at the Back to Backs. Can you get to the bottom of what happened? Interrogate the suspects, follow the clues and help the police solve the mystery.

£22 **B**

Discover Rag Rugging

Sat 14 Sep, 10.30am-12.30pm
& 1.30pm-3.30pm

Learn the art of rag rugging with our craft specialists. Learn the skills needed for this traditional and once again fashionable craft to make your own rag rug.

£27.50 **B**

Wightwick Manor and Gardens

Nicola Jarvis Embroidery Classes

Sat 8 Jun & Sat 7 Sep, 10am-4pm

Sat 8 Jun: 'Swirling Scales' - William de Morgan-inspired gold work class based on a ceramic frieze depicting swimming fishes.

Sat 7 Sep: 'Fox and Meadow Flowers' - Philip Webb-inspired natural shading class based on his iconic drawing of 1887.

All £100 **B**

Lino Print Workshop

Wed 3 Jul & Wed 18 Sep, 10am-4pm

This one-day course will teach you the skills of lino printing as you design and develop your own patterns and images, which you can then print. See website for more information, as each class will have its own technique and theme.

Adult £70 **B**

Summer Soiree - An Evening of Elegance and Entertainment in Wightwick's Gardens

Sat 13 Jul & Fri 9 Aug, 6pm-8.30pm

A grown-up evening to enjoy the elegant surroundings of Wightwick Manor and Gardens during a summer's evening. A classic British offer of Pimms and strawberries, croquet and bowls on the Terrace, accompanied by uplifting swing music.

Adult £35 **B**

Summer Holiday Activities

Wed 24 Jul - Wed 28 Aug (Weds only),
11am-3.30pm

Each Wednesday we will be offering a different nature or craft based activity for families.

See our website for more details.

All £1.50

Open-Air Theatre - Folksy Theatre presents 'Mister Magnolia'

Thu 25 Jul, 5.30pm-7pm

Mr Magnolia has many things; an old trumpet that goes rooty-toot, a big purple dinosaur who's a magnificent brute and two sisters who play the flute. But he still only has one boot! Bring along your picnics, blankets and folding chairs.

Adult £12, child £10, concession £10, group £38 Booking Essential via www.folksytheatre.co.uk

2-Day Stone-carving Workshop with Amerton Arts Studio

Sat 3 Aug, 10am-4.30pm

Create a stone sculpture to take home. Materials and tuition to create a finished limestone sculpture are included in the course, refreshments also included. Everyone works at their own pace with individual tuition, beginners are very welcome.

Adult £120 **B**

Open-Air Theatre - Folksy Theatre presents Shakespeare's 'The Comedy of Errors'

Thu 22 Aug & Fri 23 Aug, 7pm-9.15pm

Folksy Theatre present Shakespeare's classic tale of mistaken identities. Bring along your picnics, blankets and folding chairs to enjoy this wonderful open-air performance.

Adult £12, child £10, concession £10, group £38 Booking Essential via www.folksytheatre.co.uk

Worcestershire

Clent Hills

Ramble with the Ranger

Sun 30 Jun & Wed 14 Aug, 10am-1pm

Join our ranger for a 5-mile ramble finding out about our conservation work. The terrain can be steep and muddy so come dressed for the weather and wearing sturdy walking boots.

£4 **B**

Discover the Hills Ramble

Wed 10 Jul & Sun 28 Jul, 10am-1pm

Discover the beauty of the Clent Hills with a 5-mile guided ramble. The terrain can be steep at times; please wear sturdy walking shoes and come dressed for the weather.

£2.50 **B**

Summer Play Trails

Sat 20 Jul - Sun 1 Sep, 9am-4pm

Create your own adventures and have fun exploring the hills. A selection of trails will run throughout the holidays and each one comes with a small prize.

£2

Summer Sun Ramble

Sun 25 Aug, 10am-1pm

Enjoy the summer sunshine with a 5-mile guided ramble over the Clent Hills. The terrain can be steep at times; please wear sturdy walking shoes and come dressed for the weather.

£2.50 **B**

Hidden Histories Ramble

Wed 11 Sep & Sun 29 Sep, 10am-1pm

Join us for an invigorating 5-mile ramble on and around Clent, uncovering the hidden history of the hills. The terrain can be steep at times and sturdy footwear is needed.

£2.50 **B**

Croome

Grayson Perry: Landscape Tapestries

Sat 1 Jun - Sun 29 Sep, 11am-4pm

An exceptional exhibition of five recent works centred around landscapes by international contemporary artist Grayson Perry. Includes the epic 'Battle of Britain Tapestry' and the intricate etchings of 'Map of an Englishman' and 'Map of Days'.

Embroiderers' Guild Exhibition

Sat 1 Jun - Mon 30 Sep, 11am-4pm

The guild will produce aspects of Croome's landscape through textile art work. Working in their own unique style members will create scenes in response to the National Trust's People's Landscape theme for 2019.

£8 **B**

Bridge and Wilson: Croome's Landscape

Sat 1 Jun - Mon 30 Sep, 11am-4pm

A new painting by Antony Bridge, Croome's artist-in-residence, makes its debut using the same view as Richard Wilson's famous landscape painting. Paintings by Wilson and new images by Bridge, promise that this exhibition will be both colourful and enticing. **£**

Panorama Tower Open Day

Thu 20 Jun, Tue 16 Jul, Fri 9 Aug & Sun 8 Sep, 11am-3pm

Take a peek inside one of Croome's eye-catchers, usually closed to the public. With fantastic panoramic views of Worcester from the top of the tower you'll understand why it was chosen as a viewing platform, designed by James Wyatt. **All donations welcome.**

The Film Orchestra @ Croome Court

Sat 22 Jun, 7.30pm-9.45pm

Performing a full concert of film music favourites including, Star Wars, Pirates of the Caribbean and Harry Potter.

Conducted by TFO Associate Conductor Jack Campey with TFO Leader Marie Roberts-Watkins. Bring a picnic, gates open at 6pm. **Adult £16, child £10 (16 and under), under 5s free. Booking essential via www.priorbooking.com/e/the-film-orchestra-croome-court-worcestershire**

Dunstall Castle Open Day

Sun 7 Jul, Sat 17 Aug & Wed 18 Sep, 11am-3pm

Climb the steep staircase to the top of the tower for views across the estate to the Rotunda and surrounding countryside. As only 5 people can go up the tower at one time there may be a short wait.

'The Ministry of Wild Things' Needs You - Summer Family Trail

Sat 20 Jul - Sun 1 Sep, 10am-4pm

Become an agent for the 'Ministry of Wild Things' and help us to track and map the wonders of Croome's landscape. Who knows what you might discover? You will receive a reward at the end of the trail.

£2

Greyfriars' House and Garden

Bee Aware Day

Sat 25 May, 11am-4.30pm

Join us in the garden to celebrate nature and the bees. Meet the Hanbury Hall bee keeper and his busy hive, enjoy nature inspired activities for the whole family, and take home seeds to plant for the bees in your own garden.

The Firs - Birthplace of Sir Edward Elgar

Victorian Fun and Games

Sat 1 Jun - Wed 17 Jul, 10.30am-4.30pm

Join us in a traditional Victorian holiday with dressing up and good old fashioned toys. Play with all of our toys to find your new favourite game, or get creative and make your own kaleidoscope.

Craft £1.50, trail £2

An Audience with Corinne Frost

Fri 7 Jun, 11.30am-12.15pm
& 12.30pm-1.15pm

Come and listen to Corinne playing solo cello including Elgar and other English music. Corinne will interact with the audience with lively anecdotes. **£**

Cello and Piano Recital

Fri 12 Jul, 1pm-2pm

A lunchtime recital with Corinne Frost (Cello) and Janine Parsons (Piano) who will perform for your pleasure.

£8 **B**

Music Makers

Thu 18 Jul - Sun 1 Sep, 10.30am-4.30pm

Explore The Firs and help us put our musical instruments back together to fill the air with music. Buy an instrument kit to make your own instrument to take home.

£2.50 per kit

The Fleece Inn

Annual Asparagus Auction

Sun 2 Jun, 6.30pm-8pm

The second of the famous Fleece auctions, selling the season's best and freshest local asparagus. Make a day of it by visiting Bretforton Open Gardens first, then buy your fresh 'gras! **£**

The HandleBards Outdoor Shakespeare

Fri 21 Jun, 6.30pm-9pm

The HandleBards present Shakespeare's plays as you've never seen them before - fast-paced, irreverent and bicycle-powered.

Adult £15, child £10 **B**

National Morris Festival

Sat 22 Jun, 12noon-4pm

A colourful day of dance with traditional styles from all over the country in the pub courtyard, followed by a session and singing in the evening.

A Flavour of the Fleece - Taste & Tour Evening

Mon 8 Jul, 6pm-8.30pm

Join Nigel Smith, Landlord of the Fleece Inn, for a tour of our fascinating building, the artefacts and its long history, with tea or coffee. A two-course meal is served from 6.30pm.

£20 **B** **£**

Hanbury Hall

Father's Day Falconry

Sat 15 Jun & Sun 16 Jun, 10am-4pm

Pack a picnic, bring the whole family and enjoy an afternoon in the beautiful surroundings of the Great Garden and park. Worcestershire falconry expert, Trevor Hill will be back this Father's Day with his majestic birds of prey.

Trust10

Sun 23 Jun, 9am-11am

Try something different and join us in a free monthly 10k running event. These events are held on the fourth Sunday of every month and are perfect for beginners and also suitable for those who run regularly. **£**

Outdoor Cinema - The Favourite

Sat 29 Jun, 7pm-10pm

An evening of Outdoor Cinema in the beautiful setting of Hanbury Hall. Enjoy some well earned down time with your friends and family. Bring the picnic blanket, some snacks and maybe even something with bubbles and enjoy our unique experience.

Booking essential, see website for details

Outdoor Theatre - Wuthering Heights

Fri 12 Jul, 7.30pm-10pm

The iconic tale of a timeless love affair between two restless souls as wild and untamed as the bleak Yorkshire moors. Pack a chair or blanket, a picnic and dress for the weather as this stormy narrative unfolds.

Adult £16, child £10, family £44 (1A 3C / 2A 2C / 2A 3C) **B**

Outdoor Cinema

Sat 3 Aug, 7.30pm-10pm

Join us for an evening of Outdoor Cinema in the beautiful setting of Hanbury Hall. Bring the picnic blanket, some snacks and maybe even something with bubbles and enjoy our unique experience.

Booking essential, see website for details

Outdoor Theatre

- Alice in Wonderland

Sat 10 Aug, 7pm-9.30pm

Join us for a night of family entertainment provided by Immersion Theatre. See Alice in Wonderland like you never have before in the setting of Hanbury Hall.

Adult £16, child £10, family £44 (1A 3C / 2A 2C / 2A 3C) **B**

Outdoor Theatre - Private Lives

Sat 31 Aug, 7pm-10pm

Join us for this outdoor adaptation of Noel Coward's celebrated comedy, Private Lives. Heartbreak Production promises to deliver an evening of sparkling entertainment, nostalgic music, and delicious one-liners.

Adult £16, child £10, family £44 (1A 3C / 2A 2C / 2A 3C) **B**

Your contacts

Attingham Park	01743 708162
Baddesley Clinton	01564 783294
Back to Backs	0121 6222442
Benthall Hall	01952 882159
Berrington Hall	01568 615721
Biddulph Grange Garden	01782 517999
Birmingham Back To Backs	0121 666 7671
Brockhampton Estate	01885 482077
Carding Mill Valley and the Long Mynd	01694 725000
Charlecote Park	01789 470277
Clent Hills	01562 712822
Coughton Court	01789 400777
Croft Castle and Parkland	01568 780246
Croome	01905 371006
Dudmaston	01746 780866
The Firs: Elgar's Birthplace	01905 333330
The Fleece Inn	01386 831173
Greyfriars House and Garden	01905 23571
Hanbury Hall and Gardens	01527 821214
Kinver Edge and the Rock Houses	01384 872553
Moseley Old Hall	01902 782808
Packwood	01564 782024
Shugborough Estate	01889 880160
Sunnycroft	01952 242884
Upton House and Gardens	01295 670266
The Weir Garden	01981 590509
Wenlock Edge	01694 725000
Wightwick Manor and Gardens	01902 760106

Notes

Normal property admission applies to all events unless otherwise stated.

Children must be accompanied by an adult. Family ticket includes two adults and two children.

Guided walks: Prior booking for guided walks is essential as places are limited. Contact numbers are given above. Sorry, no dogs allowed unless otherwise stated.

All event details correct at time of going to press.

This is just a selection of our events. To find even more great things to do visit us online at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/midlands

TOP FIVE

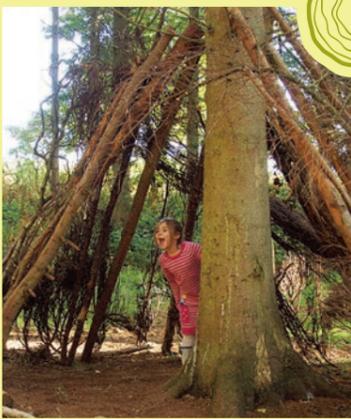


Natural play areas

When summer arrives it's time to play. Lots of our places have natural play areas – perfect for family adventures and great for ticking off some of the '50 things to do before you're 11¾.'

To find out more visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/lists/play-time

© National Trust Images/James Dobson/ Trevor Ray Hart/ Jana Eastwood



1 Dudmaston, Shropshire

Bring your bikes to Comer Woods at Dudmaston and cycle the Explorer Trail. The Scout Camp is a great halfway point to pause, climb the tree with many trunks or play stepping stones on the tree stump path. A little further along the trail, there's a great spot for den building. Collect natural materials and challenge your friends and family to build the best woodland shelter.

2 Clent Hills, Worcestershire

The Clent Hills are a great place to come for an outdoor adventure. Between the natural play area and the play trail, there are plenty of places for playing, climbing and balancing. Get off the path to explore the woods, great for a game of hide and seek, or try out the Family Fun Trails, available throughout the summer holidays. It costs £2 a trail which includes a prize!



3 Shugborough Estate, Staffordshire

Inspired by the story of George Anson's journey around the world, Explorers' Wood is a nautical themed children's play area at Shugborough for explorers of all ages. It's laid out with more challenging structures to discover the deeper you explore and natural materials have been used wherever possible to blend in with the beautiful surroundings.



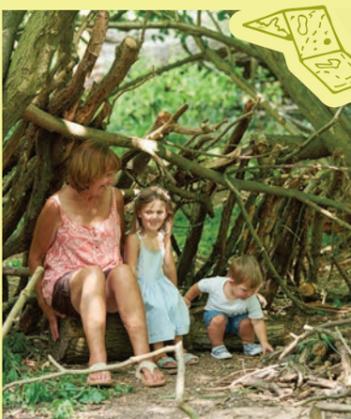
4 Brockhampton, Herefordshire

Calling all young explorers! Make nature your playground as you discover, play and create this summer in the great wide wilderness of Brockhampton. Pick up a kids only map and get trekking to the natural play area in Paradise Wood, crossing streams and climbing trees along the way. There's so much fun to be had, it's no surprise they call it the 'great' outdoors.



5 Packwood House, Warwickshire

Go on a woodland adventure along Packwood's Welly Walk. Children (and their grown-ups) can run free, spot wildlife, crash along winding paths and splash in muddy puddles – it's not called the Welly Walk for nothing! Using our map, families can have a go at activities like den building and tree trunk hopping, making memories together in the great outdoors.



Previously unseen works by Rossetti on display

A collection of early drawings by Pre-Raphaelite artist Dante Gabriel Rossetti are on display for the first time in a new exhibition at Wightwick Manor and Gardens in Wolverhampton.

'Rossetti - Pre the Pre-Raphaelites' features 30 drawings, most of which have never been on public display before, drawn by a young Rossetti between the ages of 16 and 20 (1844-1848) while studying art.

'Here is Rossetti the teenager – an artist on the cusp of what would become an astonishing career,' says Helen Bratt-Wyton, House and Collections Manager, who has curated this exhibition. 'It's great to get this glimpse of a famous artist before they became famous – to understand their development and influences. It encourages us to think about what has influenced us in life, and what young people today might draw on to inspire their own creativity.'

A total of 52 early Rossetti drawings were acquired by the National Trust which originally belonged to Alexander Munro, the sculptor and close friend of Rossetti. They were given to the nation in lieu of inheritance tax upon the death of Munro's granddaughter, Mrs Katherine MacDonal, and allocated to Wightwick Manor by the Arts Council in early 2018.

The Mander family, who owned and built Wightwick Manor, were keen collectors of Pre-Raphaelite art from the 1930s onwards, and many later Rossetti pictures and objects that he owned now form part of the permanent, ever-growing collection at Wightwick.

'Rossetti – Pre the Pre-Raphaelites' will be on display in the Daisy Room at Wightwick Manor until 24 December 2019, for more information visit

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/rossetti-at-wightwick



© Wightwick - Rossetti - Pre the Pre-Raphaelites'



© National Trust Images/ Eleanor Dobson

New café opens up previously unexplored spaces at Charlecote

Nestled in the once beating heart of the working buildings at Charlecote Park in Warwickshire is the wood yard – an area that visitors have only been able to glimpse through brown latticed gates. Now, for the first time, this space has been opened up to the public and it now houses the new Wood Yard Café.

'We know people have sometimes had to suffer long queues in the existing Orangery restaurant,' explains Kellie Scott, General Manger, 'so we're really pleased to be opening an additional café for that all important cuppa, especially in an area that's new to visitors.'

The surrounding buildings within the wood yard will be opened up over the next few years, after a specialist team of conservators has assessed the work needed to care for them.

Kellie continues, 'This is just the start of our investment in the facilities here at Charlecote. Over the summer visitors will see us working on improvements to the car park and a new visitor reception area, which will help to make your visit run more smoothly (and involve less queueing).'

'We couldn't do this work without the support we get from our members and visitors – every cup of tea you buy helps protect Charlecote for the future.'

Find out more about the new Wood Yard Café and our next steps for improving Charlecote Park at

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/charlecote-wood-yard

Developing partnerships at Berrington Hall Park

Originally designed by 'Capability' Brown just over two hundred years ago, Berrington Hall's garden and pleasure grounds in Herefordshire form part of Brown's final landscape masterpiece.

An ambitious conservation project is underway to restore Brown's final design but we also want to ensure the space remains relevant and accessible for all; a 21st century vision for an 18th century garden. We're working in close collaboration with our community partners, including Westfield School, to make sure the vision for the garden is co-created and beneficial for the local community.

Westfield School in Herefordshire is a school for pupils with severe or complex learning difficulties between the ages of two and 19. At the

beginning of this year, two sixth form students started volunteering with the garden team and since February this has expanded to a larger group. The pupils have been working on a variety of projects including creating stepping logs for the natural play area and opening up vistas in the parkland while gaining work experience and working towards qualifications in gardening and land maintenance.

Working with the school has directly supported the Berrington Garden Project, and future plans include supporting the pupils in growing plants for the Walled Garden, learning about plant health and helping establishing their own polytunnel.

To see how this partnership is being developed visit

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/westfield-school-at-berrington

...and don't forget to share your play adventures with us



@NTMidlands



@NTmidlands



#NTMidlands

Neither made of butter nor a fly!



The small pearl-bordered fritillary, besides being saddled with the longest name of any British butterfly, is an exquisitely beautiful insect of damp grassland habitats where its caterpillars eat the leaves of marsh violets.

Like three-quarters of British butterfly species, its populations have declined over the past 50 years and it is now rare in the West Midlands. The Sherbrook Valley on Staffordshire's Cannock Chase is one of its last refuges in the region. The northern end of the valley lies within the Trust's Shugborough Estate and over the past couple of years we've been working hard with a range of partner organisations to improve conditions for the butterfly, by controlling scrub which was reducing the area of grassland and blocking 'grips' (shallow ditches) to rewet the site, thus encouraging more marsh violets to grow.

The 'small pearl' responded by flying in good numbers in 2018 and we're hoping that the reintroduction of grazing by small numbers of cattle, planned for later this year, will make conditions suit them better still.

We're working to improve habitats for scarce butterflies at other sites in the region, including Comer Woods at Dudmaston in Shropshire, where the white admiral is at the northern limit of its range, and Croft Castle and Parkland in Herefordshire, where the dark green fritillary – a larger relative of the small pearl-bordered – is amongst the species which have benefitted from the wood-pasture restoration project.

By Simon Barker, Wildlife & Countryside Advisor



Raising the Roof at Moseley Old Hall

Moseley Old Hall in Staffordshire is famous for having sheltered a King on the run – Charles II hid here in 1651 after losing the Battle of Worcester against Parliamentary forces.

Now this modest Tudor farmhouse needs help to keep providing shelter to visitors after snowmelt revealed vital repairs are needed to keep the weather outside. As with many old buildings, the full extent of the work will only be revealed once work has started – the scaffolding alone cost over £20,000.

Visitor Experience Manager, Zoe Willems hopes that visitors will show their love for Moseley and support their fundraising efforts. She said: 'We've got a display to reveal construction methods, plus you can get hands-on with a 3D timber frame puzzle - tiling a model of the roof with your donations. There's also the chance to join a sponsored walk to retrace the footsteps of King Charles II and many other events throughout the year. Can you help 'raise the roof' for Moseley?'

We are inviting visitors and volunteers alike to 'show your love' for this special place, by visiting, donating to the 'Raising the Roof' appeal, and/or joining in with events to fundraise for us.

visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/moseleyoldhall for all of the details.



Make more of your membership in Birmingham

Our work in Birmingham includes a range of places, outdoor spaces and new partnerships – all of which speak of the ordinary and extraordinary lives of the people of Birmingham and the Black Country and places that are part of the city's identity. As well as the Back to Backs in the city centre, and the Clent Hills on the edge of the city, we're exploring new ways to work with partners to protect and bring alive the heritage and green spaces that are important to local communities in urban areas. At Moseley Road Baths we are leading a coalition of heritage and community partners to work with Birmingham City Council to find a new future for the internationally significant Grade II* baths in Balsall Heath. The Roundhouse is a pioneering National Lottery-funded joint venture with the Canal and River Trust to bring an important Birmingham landmark

back to life as a place from which to explore the city by foot, bike and boat (opens 2020).

And now, thanks to a new partnership between the National Trust and Birmingham Museums Trust, as a National Trust member you can enjoy a 50% reduction in the cost of admission to Aston Hall, Birmingham's spectacular Grade I listed Jacobean mansion.

One of the last great Jacobean houses to be built, Aston Hall is a magnificent 17th century red-brick mansion situated in a picturesque public park on the north side of Birmingham. Built between 1618 and 1635 for Sir Thomas Holte and home to James Watt Junior from 1817-1848, Aston Hall is steeped in history.

To plan your day out at Aston Hall visit

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/Aston-Hall

Volunteers help care for the bees

Honey bees are incredible insects. Not only do they produce the sweet stuff for our breakfast cereals, they also do a very important job of telling us about the health of our environment.

Alison Wakeman, volunteer beekeeper at Dudmaston in Shropshire, takes care of the four hives in the orchard and during summer it's a beekeeper's busiest time of year.

She said: 'Once the spring flowers are over, I come to check the hives regularly. It's common for bees to suffer from starvation in late June because the summer flowers are yet to bloom so I add syrup to

their food stores to boost their diets.' July and August sees a buzz of activity around the lavender on the garden rockery at Dudmaston. Honey bees also love herbs, particularly marjoram, and wild flowers - plants which Alison encourages budding beekeepers to try growing at home.

Are you inspired by Alison's story? There's so many varied volunteering roles on offer. For some ideas that might interest you visit

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/mids-volunteering

News in brief

Archaeological finds on display at Attingham

People have lived and worked on the Attingham Estate in Shropshire since the Bronze Age and highlights of the archaeological finds from over the years are on display in the Mansion.

Artefacts range from a Neolithic stone hand axe to a 20th-century fuel tank cap and an American Air Force military vehicle. You'll also see 'finds' found below the floorboards, or within the structure of the Mansion, such as a historic shoe which may have been concealed to bring luck to the house.

Visit the exhibition daily until Sunday 3 November, www.nationaltrust.org.uk/attingham-archaeology



Crafts on the outside at The Weir Garden

Hereford College of Arts students will be bringing culture and creativity to The Weir Garden in Herefordshire this May with an art display inspired by the Herefordshire countryside.

After spending time at The Weir, the students have been using various media to create individual pieces which will be threaded throughout the garden from Saturday 25 May until Sunday 28 July.

Visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/craft-at-the-weir for more information.

Stories from the women of Baddesley Clinton

This year at Baddesley Clinton in Warwickshire we're continuing to explore the story of four women who, despite the centuries between them, are united by their activism, faith and fight for a voice in a world dominated by men.

Discover the story of a heroine who hid priests beneath the floorboards, a devout Catholic who fought for her rights in the courts, a socialite who became a best-selling author and a prolific artist whose paintings still adorn the walls of this moated manor house.

Find out more about these fascinating and inspiring women www.nationaltrust.org.uk/voice-activism-faith

For membership queries please call 0344 800 1895 If you require this information in alternative formats, including the Talking Newsletter, please telephone 0121 224 7460 or email: mi.customerenquiries@nationaltrust.org.uk