



National Trust

News and events for Spring 2020
Derbyshire | Leicestershire | Lincolnshire |
Northamptonshire | Nottinghamshire | Rutland

Near you



©National Trust Images/Steve Franklin

Step into Spring

With the festivities of Christmas long forgotten, and the bleakness of winter starting to fade, spring is a welcome change of the seasons. Nature awakens from its slumber and the signs of spring begin to emerge with buds on the trees, bulbs pushing through the ground and new life beginning.



Follow us...

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



#NTMidlands

In Derbyshire, stimulate the senses with the sight and smell of the wild garlic in Lady Spencer's Woods at Hardwick; at Longshaw, Burbage and the Eastern Moors in the Peak District, the woodlands of Hay Wood and Jubilee are blanketed with fragrant bluebells and at Ilam Park also in the Peak District, the planting of 15,000 bulbs last October will come to fruition as they bloom in the garden.

New life is synonymous with spring with lambs being one of the seasonal highlights. At Calke Abbey in Derbyshire, at the end of March and beginning of April see the Portland flock with their new born lambs at Home Farm - you might even see a lamb being born; while at Kinder, Edale and the Dark Peak also in Derbyshire keep an eye out for the curlew returning to their ground nests and soaring above the gritstone crags and at Tattershall Castle in Lincolnshire see the Egyptian geese returning to roost, ready to raise a brood later in the year.

At Gunby Estate, Hall and Gardens in Lincolnshire the gardens are awash with white and pink clouds of blossom in early May and flower arrangements in the house are picked straight from the garden, while at Belton House in Lincolnshire the wildflowers are special, and you can learn more about them with tours and talks (check website for details).

During the school holidays don't forget to tick off those '50 things to do before you're 11¾' activities that are happening at lots of our places.

The highlights for this season are spring flowers, new life and trees in bud, a sure sign that spring has arrived. You help us protect these signs of spring. Thank you.



©National Trust Images/John Miller



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

It's our birthday! 125 years ago three individuals established an institution to stand up for the simple idea of nature, beauty and history for everyone.

We have decided to mark the year by doing something simple, which is to celebrate nature through the year, following the passing of the seasons and getting outside for a walk as much as possible.

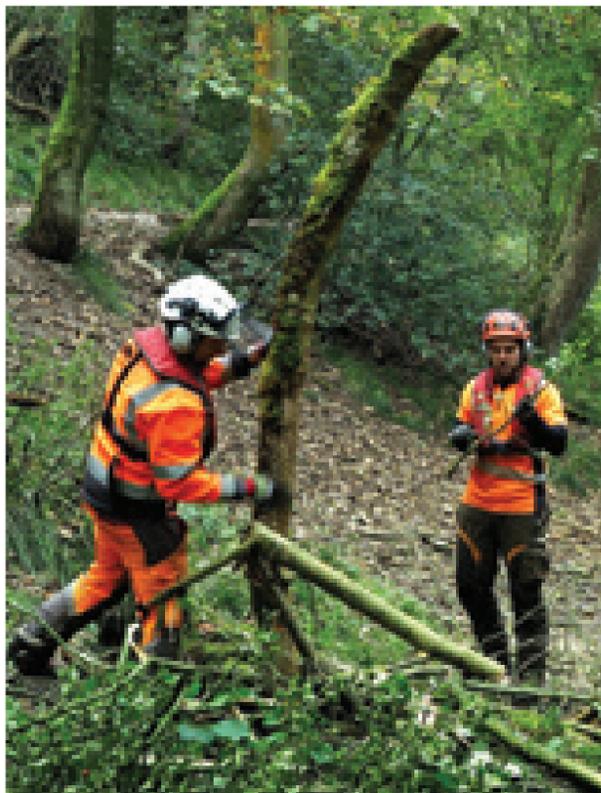
Our founders were really forward looking people, responding to the needs of the time and trying to anticipate what future generations would value. They thought big but didn't let big thoughts get in the way of taking action.

Our present concern is the environmental crisis and our response to it is also to take action:- to create new landscapes as well as restoring degraded ones, whether that is creating new hay meadows near the Long Mynd or responding to environmental changes such as ash dieback that is badly affecting Wenlock Edge and Dovedale.

This bigger perspective is not a new thing, as is wonderfully illustrated by the return of the Ogilby Atlas to Belton, one of our most exciting new acquisitions.

Andy Beer

Everyone needs nature



With its steep sided valley, towering spires of limestone and iconic stepping stones, Dovedale is a much loved and popular place in the Peak District, where four out of five trees are ash. Every year, as part of their tree health surveys, rangers monitor the spread of the deadly fungal disease ash dieback and over the last three years afflicted ash trees that have been felled in the White Peak for public safety have jumped from 10 to 80 to 200 with numbers likely to increase further.



© National Trust/ David Becking

Ash dieback is a fungal disease which originated in Asia. Although we can't stop the spread of the disease, which is expected to kill up to 85% of the ash trees in the White Peak, we do have a plan in place. We are two years into our five-year Woodland Conservation Project that aims to help our woodlands be better equipped to face climate change and diseases like ash dieback. We'll do this by selectively felling ash in small areas to create space to plant native trees such as oak and hazel to improve biodiversity and age structure of the woodland. We're also installing nest boxes to give endangered birds like willow and marsh tits a helping hand.

Catastrophic diseases like ash dieback can happen in nature but if we act now, future generations will continue to enjoy the kind of countryside we see in Dovedale and the White Peak today.

Ted Talbot,
Countryside Manager at the Peak District

You can help the Peak District by donating or organising an event for the National Trust's 'Woods for the Future' Peak District Appeal, which aims to raise funds for native tree planting in the White and High Peak.

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/peakdistrictappeal

The National Trust was founded on 12 January 1895 by Octavia Hill, Sir Robert Hunter and Hardwicke Rawnsley, with the first Midlands place, Duffield Castle in Derbyshire, following shortly after in 1899. That first acquisition has grown to where we are today in the Midlands; including managing 30,000 hectares of land, providing access to 31 countryside estates, caring for over 30 historic mansions and houses, working alongside over 11,000 volunteers and having the valuable support of just under one million members. We're also playing a role in looking for new and innovative ways to care for local, everyday, historic and natural places in urban areas, like the Roundhouse in Birmingham.

This year is a special year for the Trust as we mark our 125th anniversary and we'd like you, our Midlands supporters, to help us celebrate.

Life today is busy with many obligations, sometimes too many obligations, so time out to focus on our happiness and health are essential. Octavia Hill once said: 'The need for quiet, the need of air, the need of exercise, and, I believe, the sight of sky and of things growing, seem human needs, common to all'. This connection between nature and our wellbeing is never truer than today.

For those simple pleasures in life the sound of bird song must be one of the best. In Derbyshire, catch the woodpecker drum at Kinder, listen for the enigmatic cuckoo at Longshaw and experience the sheer joy of swallows flying in the sky at Ilam.

A walk is a great way to spend some quality time with family and friends.

At Clumber Park in Nottinghamshire, a walk in the Pleasure Ground is rewarded with views across the lake. While at Canons Ashby in Northamptonshire, you can find solace in the gardens and the parkland with the spring flowers adding to the tranquillity, and at Kedleston in Derbyshire search out the ancient trees and see the spring sun filtering through the leaves.

Make 2020 the year to look after your wellbeing. For much more information on how you can get closer to nature visit

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/MidlandsNatureMoments

A day in the life of... James

Volunteering at
Longshaw Estate,
Derbyshire.



© National Trust Images

I always know that it is a volunteer day when I see my red polo shirt and fleece ready for me to put on in the morning and I am really excited. Andrew, my carer, picks me up and we head out to the Longshaw Estate. I am part of visitor experience and my tasks include sweeping the outside café area, washing and filling dog bowls, testing the trails and picking litter.

I have been a volunteer at Longshaw for two years. I started when I was working for my Duke of Edinburgh silver award and used my volunteering hours towards this. I am now working towards my gold award.

I have downs syndrome, autism and severe learning difficulties and am unable to communicate verbally or understand more than a two-word instruction. This means that for me to be a volunteer I need a bit of extra help.

My tasks are given to me in picture form and I work through them removing each picture once the task is complete. Andrew helps me and makes sure I do everything properly. During my time as a volunteer I have met lots of people, I always greet them with a smile and a thumbs up which is my way of saying hello.

Longshaw is one of my favourite places to visit – I love being outdoors.

I feel lucky to be able to volunteer here and help to keep this part of the Peak District looking its best.

To find out a bit more about volunteering, visit

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/volunteer

Get out into nature this Easter



Bring the whole family together this Easter and treat your loved ones to the magic of our Cadbury Easter Egg Hunts!

Get ready for a long weekend of fun and discovery as you spot the first signs of spring and experience nature bursting into life at the special places the National Trust looks after.

Become a nature detective to follow the clues and finish your adventure with a delicious, chocolatey treat.

In partnership with

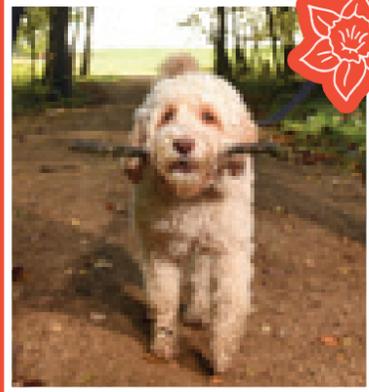


TOP FIVE

DOG-FRIENDLY WALKS

We are a nation of animal lovers and dogs are our best friend. Dogs are welcome at many of our places, below is our pick of walks to bring your four-legged pooch.

To find out more visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/dog-walks-emids



1 Calke Abbey, Derbyshire

Starting at Calke Explore, enjoy a leisurely walk with your four-legged friend along the Tramway Trail, passing through woodland, farmland and peaceful pasture. Hard paths are ideal for avoiding muddy paws, while a figure-of-eight route allows for long and short walks. Calke Explore is the perfect base for exploring nature with your dog – in spring, look out for cowslips and bluebells, and discover how nature has reclaimed this once-industrial highway.

Kedleston Hall, Derbyshire

Go wild this spring and explore the lesser-known parkland at Kedleston by taking your dog on the Wilderness Walk. See the North Park in all its glory as some of Kedleston's oldest trees emerge from their wintry slumber. With plenty of shady nooks and long grass, this walk is perfect for creating muddy paws and lasting memories. Please be mindful of sheep and Dexter cows grazing in the park by always keeping your dog on a lead.



3 Hardwick, Derbyshire

Explore Bess of Hardwick's grounds and take in stunning views of the surrounding landscape, then look at the woodland around you to search for different wildlife and flora. If your furry friend is a little more energetic, choose the 6-mile trail through Hardwick's wider estate to appreciate the scale of this beautiful place. After 'paws-ing' for a snack on the South Terrace, your dog can enjoy a refreshing bowl of water at the Gatehouse. There are working farms on the Estate and our living lawnmowers include long horn cattle and sheep so please keep dogs on leads.

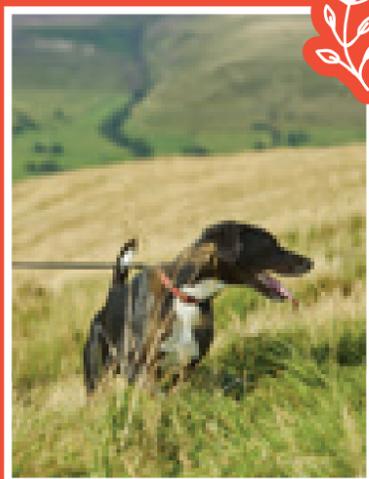
Clumber Park, Nottinghamshire

Take in the beautiful views at Clumber Park, come rain or shine, with our weekly dog walking groups. Lasting around 45 minutes, join us at 10am on a Wednesday, or 10.30am on Sundays at our dog-friendly café, Central Bark. We've got treats for dogs, as well as hot food and drinks for visitors.



4 Peak District, Derbyshire

The Peak District bursts into life with spring's arrival of new lambs, ground nesting birds like the curlew and woodland floors carpeted with swathes of bluebells. The sights, sounds and fragrances of spring awaken the senses and make for invigorating adventures with your four-legged companions. Lead in hand, a pocket full of dog treats and walking boots on, the vast open spaces of the dramatic Peak District landscape bode well for memorable dog walks. Take the lead this spring when exploring the countryside with your dog and help to keep wildlife and livestock safe.



Peak District to receive a facelift through Estée Lauder donation

The beautifully dramatic moors of the High Peak boast landscapes adorned with rocky tors, spectacular valleys and cloughs, and miles of wild and remote peat bog. They are a place loved and valued by all who live, work and play there for so many reasons; whether it's to exercise, to witness wildlife, to catch a view, or where people work.

The National Trust team in the Peak District have continued to make great progress with their High Peak Moors Vision - a project that is committed to protecting and restoring the health and diversity of the moors and keeping them special for ever for everyone. As part of this ambitious 50-year project, the team have planted over 18,000 trees in the autumn and winter last year and plan to plant 60,000 trees in the next two years.

By planting more native trees in the valleys and cloughs of the Peak District, we hope to encourage areas that are more diverse in insects, birds and mammals – making our countryside rich in wildlife, and our woodlands more sustainable and resistant to climate change.

To help us achieve our goals, the project sees a collaboration with grant funders, the Woodland Trust, partner organisations, local tenants, staff and volunteers. And now Estée Lauder, the cosmetics company, have made an incredible donation of £5,000.

This generous contribution will help us to plant 1,000 trees this year - a sincere and heartfelt thank you goes out to the team at Estée Lauder, who have also offered to join us for a team building weekend to help plant some of the trees.

Discover more about our High Peak Moors Vision

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/the-high-peak-moors-vision

and how you can help support our work through our Peak District Appeal



Seventeenth century SatNav returns to Belton House after almost 50 years

Belton's book collection is considered second only to that of Blickling in its significance. The 11,000 plus library shows the reading and collecting habits of the Brownlow family over a period of more than 350 years.

Now for the first time in almost 50 years, two superb Ogilby atlases - auctioned by Sotheby's back in 1971 before the National Trust acquired Belton - have been reunited once more.

Ogilby was one of the most significant English publishers of atlases. His 1675 road atlas, which was sold at auction in 2010, was the first ever produced for England and Wales. It was essentially a book in the form of 'strip maps' guiding the traveller from A to B, just like the modern-day SatNav.

In November last year, we successfully purchased the Brownlow's original copy of Ogilby's 1671 atlas of the Americas, then held at Arader Galleries auction house in the USA, by bidding over the telephone to ensure its return home to Belton House. Now, you can see both atlases side by side together once more.

The maps were based on on-the-ground research facilitated by a wheeled contraption to measure distances. Ogilby's work set the standard for later atlases and was pivotal in standardising the English mile.

"While today we might worry about heavy traffic on the motorway" says Simon Chesters-Thompson, National Trust Curator, "these fascinating atlases are from a time when roads were muddy. Rutted tracks and all travel could be extremely dangerous."



© National Trust Images/John Millar/Robert Thrift

Having recently re-acquired the late 17th century Ogilby book of America, Belton's house and collections team have reunited the atlases, which can now be seen on display in the Ante-Library. For more information please visit

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/belton-ogilby-collection

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

@NTMidlands @NTmidlands #NTMidlands

Rediscovering the Clumber Daffodil

The nodding yellow heads of daffodils in bloom signal spring's arrival and the start of the gardening year.

In the 1960s, a local specialist daffodil grower, Barbara Abel-Smith, developed an eye-catching hybrid white-petalled flower, based on historical evidence describing what is now known as the Clumber Daffodil.

As stock increased, hundreds of bulbs were planted at Clumber Park in Nottinghamshire and the flower thrived, but now unfortunately the daffodil hasn't been seen in the park for many years.

After the Royal Horticultural Society confirmed that the daffodil was no longer commercially available in the UK, the hunt began to return this significant flower to the park.

During a visit to Clumber Park, renowned garden designer, Jacqueline van de Kloet, suggested other avenues on the continent to explore.

After tracing the bulbs to Holland, Eric the nursery owner offered to donate six bulbs to Clumber Park, as part of a propagation programme to build up stock.

These special daffodil bulbs are now being prepared for tissue culture propagation at the National Trust Plant Conservation Centre in Devon, in partnership with Clumber Park.

Due to the slow nature of bulb growth and careful nurturing techniques, it is unlikely the daffodils will be flowering for several years, so you won't be able to see them at Clumber Park for a while, however, this adds to the wonderful narrative of conservation in action, which is something the team are so passionate about at Clumber.

By Jack Pitts,
Senior Gardener, Clumber Park



© National Trust Images/Michael/Austini/Adrian Woods

If I could talk, I would tell you stories

A thought-provoking and insightful new exhibition created through the eyes of local school children brings a voice to some of the colonial objects housed in the Eastern Museum of Kedleston Hall in Derbyshire.

This exhibition is part of Colonial Countryside, a child-led writing and history project in partnership with University of Leicester, Peepal Tree Press and the National Trust.

The project assembles authors, historians and primary school pupils to explore country houses' Caribbean and East India Company connections.

Kedleston Hall was the childhood home of George Nathaniel Curzon. He was Viceroy of India between 1899 and 1905, ruling in the name of the British monarch. Curzon travelled extensively and this 'Eastern collection' contains eclectic objects from his travels in South Asia and the Middle East.

The title of the exhibition, 'If I could talk, I would tell you stories' is taken from a poem by local school pupil, Tessa, who drew her inspiration from a silver table given to Curzon by the King of Afghanistan in the early 1900s.

Other themes explored in the children's poems include the link between an ivory carving of an elephant, and the once living animal it was made from, and the human cost of British rule in India, inspired by a portrait of Curzon in his ceremonial dress as Viceroy.

Mahsuda Snaith, writer for the Colonial Countryside project, explains what drew her to the commission, 'As a British-Asian child growing up in an inner-city council estate in the Midlands, I always felt that the countryside and its stately homes were for other people. Being a commissioned writer for the Colonial Countryside project has helped me realise that the way we look at history is personal and constantly changing and that all our histories are connected.'

The exhibition runs until end of October, for more details, visit



www.nationaltrust.org.uk/kedleston-hall

Re-building Hardwick: the sandstone house on the hill

Hardwick Hall was built in the 16th century using locally quarried sandstone. Due to its exposed position overlooking the borders of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire and the soft nature of sandstone, the building is always at the mercy of the elements and constant repair work is required to address the weathering. With a passion to maintain the building's impressive and beautiful structure, a 10-year building project began three years ago to ensure the building is wind and water tight with costs for the work anticipated to be well over £10million.

Trevor Hardy, our Master Mason, has been working on the Hall at Hardwick for over 30 years, and has a wealth of knowledge about the impressive building.

Where damage has occurred, Trevor and his team use traditional methods to stabilise the stone, and only replace parts where completely necessary.

You can help support this vital project whilst admiring the stunning views from Hardwick's heights by booking on a rooftop tour, all proceeds of which go straight back into caring for this beautiful building.

To find out more about how we're looking after the hall and book your rooftop tour please visit

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/hardwick-building-repairs-project



Volunteers help to conserve Calke's textile collection



Volunteers are photographing Calke's textile collection to update the cataloguing records and check the condition of the collection.

The Textile Store at Calke Abbey contains over 1,000 garments and soft furnishings, from military uniforms and exquisite dresses to very old curtains. This year, a team of nine volunteers is undertaking a project to photograph the entire collection for Calke's records.

Volunteer, Patrick Pilkington explains, 'Each item is assigned a unique number and the overall condition assessed to determine whether

any damage is historical or new. We then check for insects, mould or other deterioration, before the item is photographed for our records and repacked. I've worked with the conservation team for many years, but this project has been a delight – it's a huge undertaking but so rewarding.'

The textiles collection may be out of sight, but it certainly isn't out of mind. So far, the team have processed over 140 items, and it's thanks to their work that this collection will be preserved for many years to come.



If you'd like to volunteer, visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/mids-volunteering

To find out more about the textile project at Calke Abbey, visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/photographing-calke-textile-collection

News in brief

Celebrating World Book Day

World Book Day is on Thursday 5 March and there are lots of ways to celebrate at National Trust places near you. In Lincolnshire, the whole family can enjoy a Percy the Park Keeper trail in the gardens at Belton House, and Gunby Estate, Hall and Gardens is hosting a special exhibition of Judith Kerr's Mog.

Visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/belton-house and www.nationaltrust.org.uk/gunby-estate-hall-and-gardens for details.

In Derbyshire, Sudbury Hall and the Museum of Childhood is holding a dressing up event on 7 and 8 March. Youngsters can come as their favourite character from a children's book and there will be dressing up costumes at Sudbury too. There will be storytelling and children's books available for a £1 via the voucher scheme.

Visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/sudbury-hall-and-the-national-trust-museum-of-childhood for details.

National Mills Weekend

National Mills Weekend is 9-10 May and Stainsby Mill on the Hardwick Estate in Derbyshire will be marking the occasion with a special weekend of activities. The 19th century mill is a hidden gem in Hardwick's wider parkland and well worth a visit.

Visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/hardwick-estate-stainsby-mill to plan your trip.

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