



National Trust

News and events for spring 2020  
North East | Yorkshire



# Near you

## From little acorns mighty oaks grow...



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Fountains Abbey

We're celebrating this year – it's 125 years since the Trust was set up. It's a momentous occasion and we'd love the year ahead to be momentous for you too.

This January we're challenging you to create your very own bucket list – perhaps watching the sunrise on a beautiful beach, spotting your first red squirrel or discovering something fascinating about the past.

The more time you spend with us, the more we can do to look after the places that bring us peace, relaxation and enjoyment.

To get you started with that list, we've suggested some must-see places. Here's to you and your year.

### Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal

It's just an abbey, right? Wrong! There's so much more to this World Heritage Site, and that's why it's at the top of our list.

Carve out a full day to explore the atmospheric ruins and elegant water garden with its temples, follies, views, canals and bridges. It's perfect for nature lovers, with 500 wild deer roaming the medieval park. There's a large adventure playground to burn off that last bit of energy too, before picking up a freshly baked cake for the road.

### Farne Islands

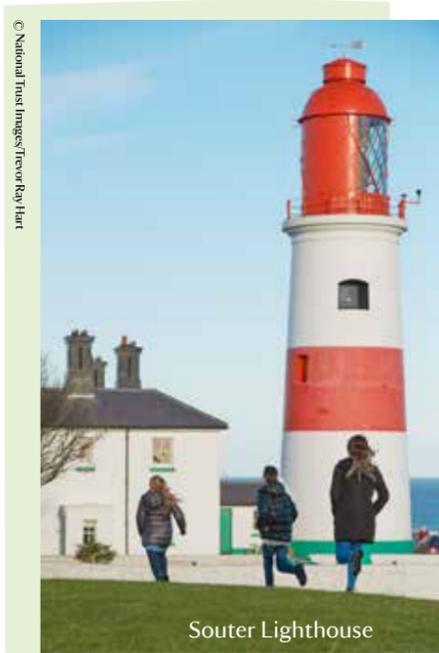
There is arguably no better place in the UK to immerse yourself in nature than the Farne Islands. The Islands are home to puffins, terns, shags, guillemots and eider ducks – all of which can be seen at close quarters. Out to sea you can spot grey seals and if you're lucky, whales and dolphins. The sights, sounds and smells of this seabird city will stay with you for a long time.

### Hill Top



© National Trust Images/James Dobson

For an ultimate nostalgia trip, head to Hill Top in the heart of the Lake District to follow in Beatrix Potter's footsteps. This is the special place that inspired Beatrix to create her much-loved characters such as Jemima Puddle-Duck and Tom Kitten. Filled with her personal possessions, including Lakeland furniture and trophies for her prize-winning Herdwick sheep, the house is a true reminder of Beatrix's legacy.



© National Trust Images/Trevor Ray Hart

Souter Lighthouse

### Must-sees near you

Cross the causeway to explore **Lindisfarne Castle** and see this year's exhibition.

Try a slice of chocolate orange cake at **Goddards House and Garden**, family home of the creator of Terry's Chocolate Orange.

Walk in the footsteps of the Romans along the World Heritage Site of **Hadrian's Wall** to the iconic tree at Sycamore Gap.

Discover **Nostell's** recently restored dolls' house in a new exhibition uncovering the stories of this mini treasure house.

Climb the 76 steps to the top of the first lighthouse in the world designed to be lit by electricity at **Souter Lighthouse**.

Journey into pre-history as you explore the eye-catching rocks, sculpted by millions of years of ice, rain and wind, at **Brimham Rocks**.

Explore Lord Armstrong's ingenuity at **Cragside**, where the house is stuffed with gadgets and the designed landscape is full of drama, with five man-made lakes and one of Europe's largest rock gardens.



© National Trust Images/John Miller

Cragside

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

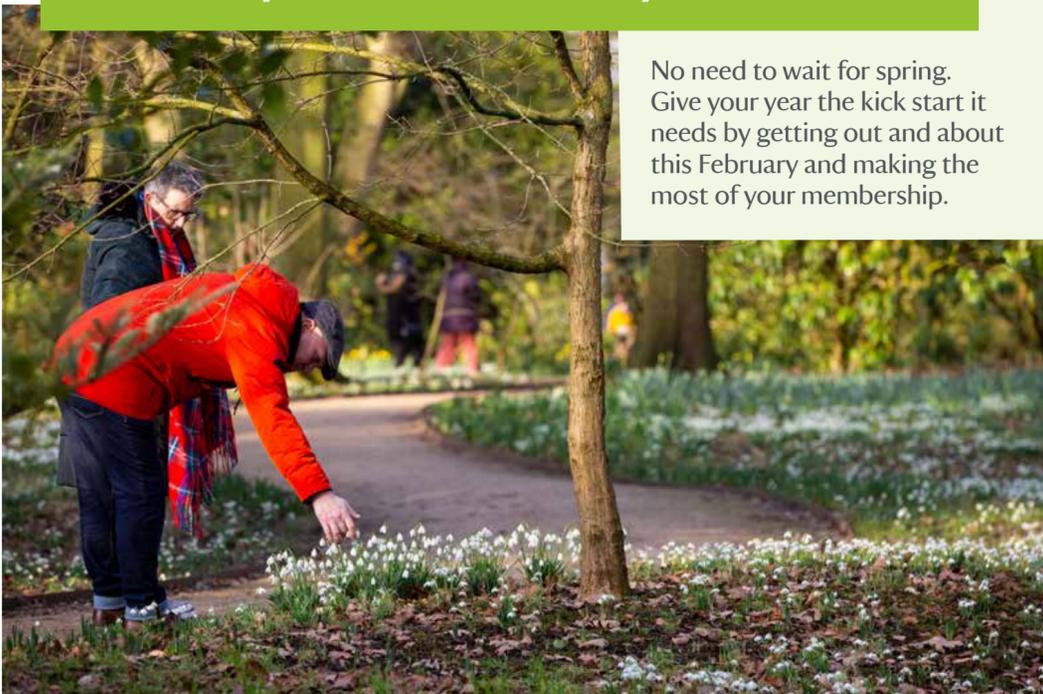
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You'll find your spring  
What's on inside

# Make your February fabulous



No need to wait for spring. Give your year the kick start it needs by getting out and about this February and making the most of your membership.

© National Trust Images/Chris Lacey

## Get active

Button up for a crisp winter walk or get the blood pumping by taking the scenic route for your run or bike ride. Many of the places we care for host parkruns, including **Gibside** and **Nostell** – a great way to get fit in beautiful surroundings.

## Awaken your senses

Nature is coming back to life this month. Get outdoors and look for snowdrops, cyclamen and winter aconite beginning to flower. Our top tip? Follow the winter trail through the East Wood at **Wallington**. The whole place is a carpet of white as half a million snowdrops have been planted in the past five years.

## Be the first in line

February is the month many of our places open up after a good winter clean. Be the first to visit this year and see what's new. We'd recommend **Nunnington Hall** where colourful tapestries designed by Turner prize-winning artist Grayson Perry will be on display. They'll be hanging in the place of the 17th-century verdure tapestries that are being conserved thanks to your generous donations.

# Unmissable art in extraordinary places

There's a packed programme of art, photography and sculpture installations across Yorkshire and the North East this spring. Here are some of the highlights:



Some of Emma Stothard's hare sculptures being created

© Terry Bartholomew

## Marking a leap year

To mark 2020 being a leap year, artist Emma Stothard has created 366 hare sculptures – one for every day of the year – for **Nunnington Hall**. Made from bronze, steel, textiles and paper, see if you can find them all.

## Kick Off at Souter folly! returns

This year at **Souter Lighthouse** we're celebrating the craft and collectivity of football. Working with artists Yara+Davina, there'll be local women's matches and a chance to see co-designed football memorabilia we've developed with the community.

## Photography at night

To mark 50 years since we started looking after the dramatic rock formations, we've commissioned renowned photographer, Joe Cornish, to capture the magical landscape of **Brimham Rocks** at night for a new exhibition.

## An immersive experience

Pop into **Washington Old Hall** to experience a new contemporary exhibition inspired by Fred Hill and local folklore stories. It promises to be darkly humorous.

## Lose yourself in art

Discover how art can help you to relax and disconnect from life's daily worries in a new exhibition at **Beningbrough Hall** in partnership with the Arts Council Collection. 'In the moment: the art of wellbeing' brings together 14 artworks from diverse artists including L.S. Lowry, Marc Chagall and Tracey Emin.



© National Trust Images/Chris Lacey

Find out more in What's on

# Wake up to spring with noisy nature



Farne Islands

© National Trust Images/Chris Cornish

As spring returns, new life begins to unfurl and birdsong fills the lighter mornings. It's certainly a noisy season as Mother Nature assembles her band for a performance not to be missed.

From March, nature's chorus fills the air as the **Farne Islands** come alive with the sound of 85,000 pairs of breeding seabirds. Listen out for the distinctive deep growls of puffins calling from their burrows as chattering Arctic terns and calling kittiwakes circle above. Inland, the tuneful whistles of curlews echo across the moorland surrounding **Brimham Rocks** as the wading birds arrive from the coast to nest and raise their young.

Over 100 red and fallow deer call **Wentworth Castle Gardens** home. From late spring, listen out for the high-pitched bleats of young fawns. If you're lucky enough to spot one, it's protective mother won't be far away. Remember to leave mum and baby plenty of space and admire from a distance.



Upper Wharfedale

## Make some noise

Spring is not just a great time for animals to unleash their little ones into the wild. There are plenty of places for families to get outdoors and get noisy in nature too. Head into the woods at **Gibside** and listen to the gentle drum of April showers bouncing off the leaves. Then pick up some sticks and join nature's band – number 25 on the list of *50 things to do before you're 11 3/4*. Swoosh down the slides and enjoy a barefoot walk in the wilderness play area at **Beningbrough Hall** or make some noise at **Wallington's** new Little Acorns play area.

## National Trust Curator Matthew Constantine uncovers the history of this unique landscape.

Amongst the rolling green spaces and colourful flowers of **Wentworth Castle Gardens**, there are stories of family feuds, political power and hope. You just need to know where to look.

The early history of the estate is dominated by the ambitions of its owners, the Wentworth family. With wealth gathered from political schemes and shrewd marriages, as well as the slave trade, they made their estate a showcase of status. Looking around at grand buildings, monuments and gardens, it's clear that they were designed to impress and influence.

In the 19th century, coal reserves under the land brought another fortune to the family, generating employment and community, but at a high environmental and human cost.

In the 20th century, the owners sold up and the house found new use as a place to train teachers and later providing educational opportunities for those left on society's margins. Outside, the gardens and parkland were reborn as a much-loved space to explore.

As a curator, my role is to help us all reflect on this history, as we care for Wentworth and work with local people to shape its future. What will be the next chapter in the story?

In late spring it'll be a year since we threw the gates open at **Wentworth Castle Gardens**. We've heard the rhododendrons are planning to burst out and celebrate with us. What better time to come and see it for yourself?

## Must-see gardens near you

The star of the big screen... visit **Fountains Abbey & Studley Royal** Look out for the abbey in the upcoming film *The Secret Garden*.

For a hidden walled garden... visit **Wallington**

Tucked away in the East Wood it's full of colour all year round.

For organic flavours... visit **Nunnington Hall**

Enjoy a taste of this nature-friendly walled garden in the café.

For an urban escape... visit **Gibside** Discover miles of tranquil walks and picnic spots just on the edge of Gateshead.

For true garden variety... visit **Cragside**

A rugged rock garden, towering pinetum and terraced formal garden await.

Tiptoe through a woodland carpet at **Allen Banks**.

# The hidden stories of... Wentworth Castle Gardens

## Nature's colour palette

Next time you're thinking about a paint refresh, head outside. Flowers in delicate pastels and vibrant hues are decorating gardens everywhere this spring. Search "National Trust gardens in the North" to find inspiration.

Primroses create a delicate splash of colour at **Fountains Abbey**.

### Primrose

Look out for laburnum creeping over the arch at **Seaton Delaval Hall**.

### Laburnum

300,000 snowdrops, daffs and tulips burst into life at **Beningbrough Hall**.

### Daffodil

The crocus lawn at **Wallington** is a wow moment.

### Crocus

There's nothing dull about magnolia at **Nostell**.

### Magnolia

**Cragside's** acclaimed display is a colour explosion.

### Rhododendron

### Bluebell

# Your 2020 vision



We hope that we've inspired you to explore the landmarks on your doorstep, and a little further afield. With a busy spring put to bed, it's time to start looking forward to the rest of the year. It's never too early to make plans for Christmas... is it?

Robin Hood's Bay

## Summer checklist



Spend a day at the beach at smuggler's cove **Robin Hood's Bay**, or the golden sands of **Embleton**.

Sit among the flowers: don't miss the evolving Mediterranean Garden at **Beningbrough Hall** or fields of wildflowers surrounding **Malham Tarn**.

Book your summer holiday cottage today: how about waking up with **Fountains Abbey** on your doorstep or next to Hadrian's Wall's best-preserved Roman Fort at **Housesteads**?

School holiday season is all about fun for the family – but don't forget that means mums, dads, grandads and grandmas too. Don't sit on the sidelines while the kids tick off their list of *50 things to do before you're 11¾*, join in! How amazing does it feel to roll down a really big hill or paddle in the cold North Sea?

## Long summer days



Gibside

## Getting a taste for autumn



Wallington

Autumn is the season to get the gang together, wellies and all, and get out for a woodland walk amidst the changing colours. Wind your way around the criss-crossing paths of **Hardcastle Crags** or follow the river through the ancient wooded gorge at **Allen Banks**.

Nature busies itself this season too: head out to spot red squirrels getting their winter stash together in **Wallington's** woodland or look out for majestic red kites soaring above the colourful tree-lined Avenue at **Gibside**. At **Fountains Abbey**, listen out for the annual autumn deer rut.

In our cafés we'll be serving up the spoils from our kitchen gardens as we reach peak harvest season. At **Beningbrough Hall**, we'll be harvesting over 40 varieties of apples and pears. And **Nostell's** impressive plot is a great spot to pick up some tips to take home.

### Autumn must-sees



Spot cute and fluffy seal pups on a boat trip to the **Farne Islands**.

Enjoy a warming dish that's travelled metres from plot to plate at **Nunnington Hall**.

Take an exhilarating climb to the top of **Buckden Pike** in the Yorkshire Dales to see the beauty of autumnal colour changing the landscape below.

## Make your list, and check it twice

You may have just gotten over this year's celebrations, but Christmas will be back again before you know it. So like the big man in red, it's worth making your list early this year. Whether it's getting it in the diary to see **Fountains Abbey** aglow with a live choir soundtrack, or getting that pre-Christmas catch up planned in with friends over a mince pie, look out for Christmas listings and bookings from late summer and make your plans.

### Christmas must-sees



Get into the magical spirit of the season with Music and Lights at **Fountains Abbey**.

Pick up a present or two as you visit throughout the year – our shops are stocked with great gifts. Have you been to our shop in York yet?

Our Father Christmas experiences book up early – look out for the event bookings going live from late summer.

## News round-up

### Two new play additions at Seaton Delaval Hall

There'll be extra fun at Seaton Delaval Hall this spring with two new playful additions thanks to the National Lottery Heritage Fund-supported *Curtain Rises* project. Look out for mirror sculptures offering a different perspective on a walk in the south east woodland in late spring, while a new play area inspired by the Delavals' love of performance will have youngsters and the young at heart exploring the mechanics and merriment of Baroque theatre.



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### Cherryburn Garden Project

Nestled in the Tyne Valley, Cherryburn was the childhood home of wood-engraver and naturalist Thomas Bewick. His famous engravings were inspired by the nature and wildlife that surrounds this unassuming home and, with your help, we're looking to bring more of that nature back to Cherryburn. We'll be launching a new fundraising campaign this spring to help us transform the garden, with plans for improved paths, new seating, wildlife-friendly planting and an orchard area. Look out for opportunities to get involved and enjoy the same sights and sounds of nature that inspired Bewick.



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### Connecting the historic hydro story at Craggside

A historic walking route that has been closed to the public for over 20 years is opening this spring at Craggside. The Gorge is one of the most significant parts of Craggside; it's where the young Lord Armstrong fished as a boy, which ultimately inspired him to return as an adult and build his home.

The new Gorge Walk will take you from the Formal Garden through the towering trees of the Pinetum and past tumbling streams to emerge into the peaceful open valley where the Power House sits.

For alternative formats, please call us on 01904 702021 or email [yne.customerenquiries@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:yne.customerenquiries@nationaltrust.org.uk)



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Registered charity no. 205846

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