



National
Trust

Events and activities for spring 2020
The Lakes | Cheshire, Lancashire & Merseyside

What's on

This is just a taster of the events coming up – visit nationaltrust.org.uk/north-west for more events and activities happening near you.



Wordsworth House & Garden

Lakes

Look out for...

Wordsworth House & Garden

Wordsworth 250 14 March–8 November

2020 is the 250th anniversary of the birth of William Wordsworth, one of the world's best-loved nature poets and a pivotal figure in the creation of the National Trust. Join us at his birthplace and the childhood home he shared with his parents, brothers and sister Dorothy, for a year of special events, centred around a new exhibition exploring how William was shaped both by the emotional trauma of his early years and his wild, outdoor upbringing.

Saturday–Thursday from 14 March
The Child is Father of the Man
11am–4pm

This special exhibition explores how Wordsworth was shaped by the events of his early life. Alongside insights from Wordsworth expert Kathleen Jones and poet Helen Mort, evocative photographs by Simon Mooney focus on the ephemeral nature of childhood objects and what their loss or preservation means to us.*

Monday 17 February, 30 March, 6 & 13 April, 25 May

Every hat tells a story
11.30am–3.30pm
Inspired by Dorothy's baby bonnet, on show in our new exhibition, craft a cool paper cap or a handsome hat that says something about you.*

Wednesday 19 February, 1 & 8 April, 27 May

Become a natural artist
11.30am–3.30pm
Let nature awaken your creativity and make a piece of wild art from found objects or create a poem out of stones.*

Every Wednesday 26 February–25 March & 15 April–20 May
William warts and all
2.30pm

Listen to a talk to discover – and make up your own mind about – the husband, brother, father and hypochondriac behind some of our best remembered poems.*

Tuesday 7 April
William's 250th birthday
11am–4pm

Help us celebrate Wordsworth's 250th birthday with cake, music, tours and poetry.*

Thursday 23 April
Sister of my soul
7.30pm

Torn apart as children, after William Wordsworth was reunited with his sister Dorothy, she became the centre of his world. Wordsworth expert Kathleen Jones discusses the unique sibling relationship that shaped the poet and the man. **£10** incl. glass of wine **BE**

Thursday 21 May
Loved and lost
7.30pm

Simon Mooney, whose photographs are at the heart of our new exhibition, talks about visiting the places that were special to Wordsworth and creating artwork to evoke the emotional power of childhood objects. **£5** incl. coffee and cake **BE**

Regular events & exhibitions

Daily from 15 February
Hill Top
Tom Kitten's children's trail
10am–4pm
Follow in the paw-prints of Tom Kitten's adventures as you explore Hill Top's garden.*

Daily from 15 February
Beatrix Potter Gallery
Friendship by Post exhibition
10.30am–4pm
A new exhibition for 2020, exploring the relationships that influenced Beatrix Potter's world. From Canon Rawnsley, founder of the National Trust, to Millie Warne, sister of the fiancée she lost, find out how important correspondence by post was to Beatrix throughout her life.*

Daily from 15 February
Hill Top
The Spirit of Hill Top trail
10am–4pm
Slow down in the orchard and experience the sights, sounds and spirit of Hill Top in the same way as Beatrix Potter. Follow this new trail and begin observing Beatrix's landscape in different ways.*

Daily from 14 March
Townend
William Taylor Longmire exhibition
1–4pm
See original pieces of art by local Troutbeck artist, William Taylor Longmire, including Lake District landscapes and animals.*

Daily throughout March
Aira Force
Wildflower planting
11am–4pm
Help wildflowers this spring by potting up a seed mix to take home and start your own wildflower patch of British blooms.

Daily during school holidays
Sticklebarn
Nature trail
11am–4pm
Become a nature explorer by picking up a trail that will lead you on an adventure to find bugs, birds and beasts.* **£2**

Thursday–Sunday (plus daily during school holidays) from 14 March
Fell Foot
Rowboat, paddleboard and kayak hire
10am–3.30pm
Get out on the water and see Windermere and Fell Foot from a new perspective.* **£**

Every Monday from 21 March
Sizergh
Guided walk: Sizergh Fell
11am–12.30pm
Join a 1.5-mile guided walk on Sizergh's estate to discover important archaeological sites and glimpse the incredible views over Morecambe Bay. **Free**, booking advisable

Every Monday from 21 March
Sizergh
Guided walk: Helsington Church
1.30–3pm
Enjoy a 1.5-mile guided walk through the historic landscape and be rewarded with breathtaking views out over the Lyth Valley and Lakeland Fells. **Free**, booking advisable

Every Tuesday from 2 April
Tarn Hows
Guided walks
11am–2pm
Join us for a guided walk and explore the history and landscape of Tarn Hows and the surrounding area. **Free**

Every Tuesday during school holidays
Allan Bank
Grow your own
10.30am–4pm
Be inspired by the Kitchen Garden and plant your own little seed to take home and nurture.*

Every Wednesday 26 February–25 March & 15 April–20 May
Wordsworth House & Garden
Undressing the Wordsworths
11.30am
From louse-filled bigwigs to loose women, join the maid as she strips back the layers to reveal how Georgians dressed and cared for themselves.*

Every Wednesday & Thursday from 21 March
Sizergh
Opening of the Strickland family chapel
12 noon–3.30pm
Still used by the Strickland family after 750 years, the chapel will be open for the first time in 2020. The Strickland's Catholic faith has been integral to the history of the family and now you can experience the spiritual heart of this home for yourself.*

Every Thursday
Townend
Taste of Townend
1.30–4pm
The Brownes' family recipe book is full of great recipes, from meaty mince pies and macaroons to medicines dating back to the 17th century. We'll be cooking all afternoon to recreate some of them.*

Every closed Friday
Hill Top
Reflection and respite: an alternative tour of Hill Top
1–2pm
Pause and connect with the relaxing atmosphere of Beatrix Potter's Hill Top, the place where she found respite and inspiration. **£20 BE**

Every Saturday 29 February–21 March & 18 April–16 May
Wordsworth House & Garden
How green was my Georgian?
11.30am
In the Wordsworths' time, everything from leftover food to teeth and hair was recycled. Find out from the maid if we could learn some useful lessons today.*

Every Sunday from 16 February plus Saturday 15 & 22 February, 28 March, 4 & 11 April, 23 & 30 May
Wordsworth House & Garden
Pastimes from the past
11am–4pm
Think outside the Xbox and try your hand at some of the indoor and outdoor games William and Dorothy Wordsworth would have enjoyed.*

First Sunday of every month
Sizergh
Gardener's tour
11am & 1.30pm
Join our gardeners to discover the delights of Sizergh's garden in spring and get top tips for your own garden.*

Every Sunday
Sticklebarn
Quiz night
8pm
Get your thinking caps on for our weekly quiz night – the winning team takes home the kitty! **£1**



Hill Top

February

February half term

Saturday 8 February

Tatton Park (until 23 February)
Scarecrow Festival
10am–4pm
Meet our themed scarecrows during half term. There'll be over 30 scattered throughout the gardens waiting for you to find.*

Saturday 15 February

Lyme (until 23 February, closed 19 & 20 February)
Bugs and beasts
11am–4pm (last entry 3pm)
Did you know that some bugs and beasts make their home in the nooks and crannies at Lyme? Find out more from the house team.*

Dunham Massey (until 20 March)
All in a day's work
11am–3pm
Step back in time and discover what life was like for the workers on the estate. Meet new characters and get hands on with traditional activities every day.*

Speke Hall (until 23 February)
Natural Speke: the underground adventures of mini beasts and busy bugs
10.30am–4pm
Join us this half term to discover the bustling mini beasts and busy bugs beneath our feet. Help create mini homes for our wiggly friends and have some bug-inspired fun.*

Rufford Old Hall (until 23 February, closed 21 & 22 February)
Treasures of a Lancashire home
11am–4pm
Explore the rooms of a 500-year-old hall. Imagine what it was like to live here and get up close to the faces of Rufford's past.*

Monday 17 February

Hare Hill (until 21 February)
Family fun for half term
10.30am–4pm
Borrow a Nature Pack and see if you can spot the early signs of nature awakening after a winter sleep.*

Formby
Make a bird box
1pm, 2pm & 3pm
Make a bird box with our rangers, to take home with you. **£5 BE**

Lyme (until 24 February; also 25–29 May)
Get Active Outdoors
11am–3pm
Get your game on and have a go at fun activities in the garden.*

Wednesday 19 February

Formby
Outside Arts
10–11am
Enjoy family fun with Outline Arts and explore our beautiful woodlands in a new way. Have a go, sketch, find and create – get your artistic juices flowing with the guidance of an expert. Age 7+. Adult **£5**, child **£3 BE**

Wednesday 19 February

Speke Hall (also 4, 11 & 18 March)
Spooky Speke
5.45pm & 7.30pm
Prepare for a scare as the Lady in Black returns to Speke Hall. Enjoy a hearty dish and sweet treat to calm your nerves, followed by a torchlight tour of the hall to discover the tales of its previous inhabitants. **£25 BE**

March

Saturday 7 March

Dunham Massey (until 8 March)
World Book Day: Percy the Park Keeper storytelling
12 noon–3pm
Celebrate World Book Day with a weekend of storytelling in the garden. Escape to Percy's park and discover all the things that he and his woodland friends have been getting up to.*

Saturday 21 March

Lyme (also 22 March)
Mother's Day afternoon tea
11am–3pm
Celebrate Mother's Day with afternoon tea, including a glass of bubbly, sandwiches, soup, and sweet treats.* **£24.95 BE**

Speke Hall (until 19 April, except 10–13 April)
Natural Speke: celebration of Mother Nature
10.30am–4pm
Join Flora the bluebell and Fauna the bunny rabbit on their fantastic adventures around the grounds of Speke Hall. Take part in planting activities, creative crafts and more family-friendly fun this spring.*

Sunday 22 March

Formby
Family fun run
10am
A guided run along the coast, with a Mother's Day treat for any mum that runs. No experience required. **£3 BE**

Speke Hall
Mothering Sunday
11am, 1pm & 3pm
Tuck into a delicious brunch or afternoon tea, followed by a walk in the spring gardens with our gardener. **£25 BE**

April

Cadbury Easter Egg Hunts

Follow the trail and crack the clues to earn a Cadbury chocolate reward!

Dunham Massey Saturday 28 March–Friday 17 April, 10.30am–4pm * **£2.50**

Hare Hill Saturday 4–Sunday 19 April, 10.30am–4pm * **£2.50**

Little Moreton Hall Saturday 4–Sunday 19 April, 11am–4pm * **£2.50**

Lyme Saturday 4–Sunday 19 April, 10.30am–4.30pm * **£2.50**

Quarry Bank Saturday 4–Sunday 19 April, 10.30am–4pm * **£2.50**

Rufford Old Hall Saturday 4–Monday 13 April, 11am–4.30pm * **£2.50**

Speke Hall Friday 10–Monday 13 April, 10.30am–4pm * **£2.50**

The Hardmans' House Friday 10 & Saturday 11 April, 11am–3.30pm * **£2.50**

Wednesday 8 April

Gawthorpe Hall
Pace egging
1–4pm
Get involved in the Lancashire tradition of decorating and rolling eggs. Bring a hard-boiled egg to decorate and then roll. **£2 BE**



© National Trust Images/Amelide Serra

Sunday 12 April

Gawthorpe Hall (also 13 April)
Easter Bunny trail
1–4pm
Hop around the grounds to hunt for the hidden Pendelfin bunnies. **£2.50**

Alderley Edge (also 26 April, 10 & 24 May, 7, 14, 21 & 28 June)
Guided walks
2pm
Learn about the history and legends of Alderley Edge as you explore with one of our walks guides. **Free**

Saturday 25 April

Formby
Den building
10am–12 noon
Ever fancied building your own home? Give it a go in a prime seaside location. Child **£3 BE**

Tuesday 28 April

Formby
Formby footprints walk
9.30am–12.30pm
Discover the fascinating story of Formby's prehistoric footprints and search for traces on the foreshore with one of our archaeology experts. **£5 BE**

May

Saturday 2 May

Lyme (also 3 May)
Dawn chorus walk
5.30–8am
Join the rangers for an early morning walk to hear some of Lyme's more vocal residents.* **£13.50** incl. breakfast **BE**

Dunham Massey (also weekends until 19 July, except 30 & 31 May)
Music in the garden
12 noon–2.45pm
Relax with family and friends with live music in the garden. Dig out your picnic blanket and let the music carry you away.*

Thursday 7 May

Formby
In search of Formby asparagus
3–5pm
Discover how generations of farmers grew asparagus in the Formby dunes and find out how we're helping to keep the asparagus tradition alive. **£5 BE**

Friday 8 May

Little Moreton Hall (until 10 May)
May Day celebrations
11am–4pm
Join us over the May Day weekend, a time of celebration in the Moretons' calendar, for springtime activities and Tudor maypole dancing.*

Lyme (until 10 May)
VE Day
10.30am–5pm
Discover what Lyme was like during the Second World War throughout a weekend of VE Day celebrations.*

Friday 8 May

Speke Hall (until 10 May)
Tudor Maytide
10.30am–4pm
Join us for a historical celebration of spring, with living history, market stalls, food fit for a Tudor king and Tudor activities and crafts.*

Saturday 9 May

Gawthorpe Hall
Painting Padiham
11am–3pm
See the artists painting in the garden, create your own mini artwork and take a trip to Padiham on the free vintage bus.*

Thursday 14 May

Formby
Reading the landscape
10am–12 noon
Discover more about the history and nature at Ravenmeols, while learning to look at our landscape in a different way. **£5 BE**

Saturday 16 May

Tatton Park (until 17 May)
Tatton Park Country Fair
10am–5pm
This family country fair will have something for everyone including arena entertainment, gifts, crafts, food and drink. Adult **£9**, concession **£8**, child **£4**

Formby
Coastal run
9.30am
Join us for a 10km run on countryside paths and along stunning coast. **£5 BE**

May half term

Saturday 23 May

Speke Hall (until 31 May)
Natural Speke: swifts, swallows and the sounds of spring
10.30am–4pm
Take flight this half term and experience the sights and sounds of spring at Speke Hall. Listen out for the resident birds, bees and beautiful trees and take part in fun trails and wild activities.*

Hare Hill (until 6 September)
Art is second nature
10.30am–4pm
Bring your imagination to Hare Hill this summer and have family fun following the Second Nature trail to create art inspired by the garden.*

Lyme (until 25 May)
Kites at the Cage
12 noon–4pm
Bring your own kite to show off your skills, or buy one from our team up at the Cage, during this annual celebration of kiting.*

Monday 25 May

Dunham Massey (until 29 May)
Nature detectives
12 noon–3pm
Get closer to nature and learn some fun bushcraft skills. Create a masterpiece using natural materials, go on a bug hunt or have a go at forest bathing.*

Thursday 28 May

Formby
Treasures and castles
10am–12 noon
Explore the sandy Sefton Coast to collect amazing treasures that have been washed up, from shells to shark eggs, and decorate your own sand castle. Child **£3 BE**

Saturday 30 May

Dunham Massey (also 31 May)
Teddy Bears' picnic
12 noon–4pm
If you come down to Dunham Massey today, you're sure of a big surprise! Bring your favourite teddy and a picnic for stories, music and teddy bear fun.*

Notes

Key:
* – normal admission/car parking charges apply
£ – small charge for some activities
BE – booking essential through the property

Getting in touch

To find out more, please visit nationaltrust.org.uk/north-west or call our places on the numbers below.

Acorn Bank 017683 61893

Aira Force 017684 82067

Alderley Edge 01625 584412

Allan Bank 015394 35143

Arnsdale, Silverdale & Heysham 01524 701178

Beatrix Potter Gallery 015394 36355

Borrowdale, Buttermere, Derwent Water, Ennerdale & Whitehaven Coast 017687 74649

Claife Viewing Station 015394 41456

Dunham Massey 0161 941 1025

Fell Foot 015395 31273

Footprint 015394 88409

Formby 01704 878591

Gawthorpe Hall 01282 771004

The Hardmans' House 0151 709 6261

Hare Hill 01625 827534

BE – booking essential through our website or by calling 0344 249 1895
☐ – Part of Trust New Art, the National Trust's programme of contemporary arts

Hill Top 015394 36269

Lakes Campsites 015394 32733

Little Moreton Hall 01260 272018

Lyme 01663 762023

National Trust Holiday Cottages 0344 800 2070

Quarry Bank 01625 527468

Rufford Old Hall 01704 821254

Sandscale Haws 01229 462855

Sizergh 015395 60951

Speke Hall 0151 427 7231

Steam Yacht Gondola 015394 32733

Sticklebarn 015394 37356

Tarn Hows 015394 41456

Tatton Park 01625 374400

Townend 015394 32628

Wasdale, Eskdale & Duddon Valley 019467 26064

Wordsworth House & Garden 01900 824805

Wray Castle 015394 33250